

THE
Punjab Legislative Assembly
Debates.

From 27th February, to 30th March, 1939.

Vol. VIII.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



Lahore:

Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab.

1939.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Speaker.

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Sir Shahab-ud-Din, Kt., K.B., B.A., LL.B.

Deputy Speaker.

Sardar Dasaundha Singh, B.A., LL.B.

Secretary.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Abnasha Singh, Barrister-at-Law.

Deputy Secretary.

Khan Bahadur Hakeem Ahmad Shuja, B.A.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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The Hon'ble Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, K.B.E. (West Punjab, Land-holders).

MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Dr. Sir Sunder Singh Majithia, Kt., C.I.E., D.O.L., Minister of Revenue (Batala, Sikh, Rural).

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, Kt., B.A., LL.B., Minister of Development (Jhajjar, General, Rural).

The Hon'ble Mr. Manohar Lal, M.A., Finance Minister (University).

The Hon'ble Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, Minister of Public Works (Khushab, Muhammadan, Rural).

The Hon'ble Mian Abdul Haye, B.A., LL.B., Minister of Education (South-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

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Mir Maqbool Mahmood, General (Amritsar, Muhammadan, Rural).

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Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Revenue and Irrigation (Pind Dadan Khan, Muhammadan, Rural).

Chaudhri Tikka Ram, B.A., LL.B., M.B.E., Development (Rohtak North, General, Rural).

Thakur Ripudaman Singh, B.A., Finance (Gurdaspur, General, Rural).

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Sir William Roberts, Kt., C.I.E. (European).

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Nawabzada Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan (Karnal, Muhammadan Rural).

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani (Muzaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural).

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MEMBERS.

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Ajit Singh, Sardar (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).

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Balwant Singh, Sardar (Sialkot, Sikh, Rural).

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Chanan Singh, Sardar (Kasur, Sikh, Rural).

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Duni Chand, Lala (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural).

Duni Chand, Mrs. (Lahore City, Women, General).

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 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur (Mianwali North, Muhammadan, Rural).
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 Lal Singh, Sardar, M.Sc., LL.B. (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural).
 Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi, B.A., LL.B. (North-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
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 Mubarik Ali Shah, Syed (Jhang Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
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 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh (Multan Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri (South-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar (Dera Ghazi Khan North, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar, C.I.E. (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Hassan, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed (Alipur, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Hyat Khan Noon, Nawab Sir Malik (North Punjab, Landholders).
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Gujranwala East, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar (Chunian, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian B.A. (Oxon.) (Kasur, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir (Tumandars).
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar (Attock Central, Muhammadan, Rural).

MEMBERS—CONTINUED.

- Muhammad Nurullah, Mian, B.Com. (London) (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri (Bhalwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Shujabad, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan (Samundri, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri (Sialkot North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja (Chakwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Rohtak, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Lodhran, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (North-West Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan, B.A., LL.B. (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur Mr. (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural).
- Mula Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur West, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural).
- Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab, C.I.E. (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri (Gujranwala North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir (Toba Tek Singh, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasrullah Khan, Rana (Hoshiarpur West, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar (Sehikhupura West, Sikh, Rural).
- Nawazish Ali Shah, Syed (Jhang East, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian (Dipalpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Partab Singh, Sardar (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural).
- Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Pohop Singh, Rao, M.A., LL.B. (East Punjab, Land-holders).
- Prem Singh, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Prem Singh Mahant (Gujrat and Shahpur, Sikh, Rural).

MEMBERS—CONCLUDED.

- Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ferozepore West, Sikh, Rural).
- Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati (Amritsar, Sikh Women).
- Ram Sarup, Chaudhri (Rohtak Central, General, Rural).
- Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General, Rural).
- Rashida Latif Baji, Begum (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban).
- Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Rur Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore East, Sikh, Rural).
- Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Hissar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Sahib Ram, Chaudhri (Hissar North, General, Rural).
- Sampuran Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural).
- Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban).
- Sant Ram Seth, Dr. (Amritsar City, General, Urban).
- Satya Pal, Dr. (Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural).
- Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai (Jaranwala, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir (Ferozepore Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit (Southern Towns, General, Urban).
- Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P. (East Central Punjab, Indian Christian).
- Sita Ram, Lala (Trade Union, Labour).
- Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour).
- Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural).
- Sudarshan, Seth (Eastern Towns, General, Urban).
- Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian, B.A. (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Sumer Singh, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural).
- Suraj Mal, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Hansi, General, Rural).
- Talib Hussain Khan, Khan (Jhang West, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Tara Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural).
- Teja Singh, Sardar (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural).
- Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar (North-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).
- Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar (Kabirwala, Muhammadan, Rural).

ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

Mr. M. Sleem, Barrister-at-Law.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 27th February, 1939.

	PAGES.
Unstarred questions and answers	1
Question hour	18
Adjournment of the Assembly	18
Meetings on Wednesdays	18
Supplementary Estimates	19
Appropriation and Finance Accounts, 1937-38	19
Budget (Presentation)	19
Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill	34
Legislative Assembly (Offices) Bill	47

Monday, 13th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	49
Adjournment motions	82
Supplementary Estimates	84
Budget-General discussion	84

Tuesday, 14th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	121
Unstarred questions and answers	146
Seating arrangements	147
Budget-General discussion	147

Thursday, 16th March, 1939.

Unstarred questions and answers	183
Question hour	189
Point of Order <i>re</i> non-official business	189
Budget-General discussion	190

Friday, 17th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	249
Unstarred questions and answers	278
Hours of sitting	283
Supplementary Demand for Grants—	
Excise	283
Stamps	286
Forests	287
Other Taxes and Duties	287
Irrigation Establishment Charges	288
Other Demands	315

Saturday, 18th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	817
Unstarred questions and answers	..	..	..	845
Demands for Grants—				
General Administration	..	..	..	848

Monday, 20th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	889
Short Notice question and answer	..	..	..	411
Unstarred questions and answers	..	..	..	412
Demands for Grants—				
General Administration	..	..	..	419

Tuesday, 21st March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	468
Demands for grants—				
Jails and Convict Settlements	..	..	..	491

Wednesday, 22nd March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	517
Unstarred questions and answers	..	..	..	548
Demands for Grants—				
Jails and Convict Settlements	..	..	..	556

Thursday, 23rd March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	597
Supplementary Statements of Expenditure authenticated by Governor	..	..	..	624
Demands for Grants—				
Medical	..	..	..	626

Friday, 24th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	667
Short Notice questions and answers	..	..	..	688
Adjournment motions	..	..	..	689
Hours of sitting	..	..	..	689
Demands for Grants—				
Medical	..	..	..	690

Monday, 27th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	729
Short Notice question and answer	757
Withdrawal of objectionable expressions	758
Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill	759
Demands for Grants—	
Agriculture	760

Tuesday, 28th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	797
Unstarred questions and answers	824
Demands for Grants—	
Agriculture	883
Hours of sitting	876

Wednesday, 29th March, 1939.

Starred questions and answers	877
Withdrawal of certain statements	899
Use of unparliamentary expressions	900
Demands for Grants—	
Land Revenue	900, 910
Breach of Privilege motion—Molestation of a member of the Assembly	901
Adjournment motion	906
Question hour for 30th March, 1939	940

Thursday, 30th March, 1939.

Demands for Grants—

Land Revenue	941
Provincial Excise	975
Stamps	977
Forests	977
Registration	977
Taxes and Duties	977
Irrigation (Works)	977
Irrigation Establishment Charges	978
Irrigation (Capital)	978
Administration of Justice	978

Demands for Grants—concl'd.

Police	978
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	980
Education (European and Anglo-Indian)	980
Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian)	980
Public Health	980
Veterinary	981
Co-operation	981
Industries	981
Industrial Capital Expenditure	981
Civil Works	981
Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) Establish- ment	981
Hydro-Electric Schemes—Working Expenses	981
Hydro-Electric Establishment Charges	982
Civil Works—Capital	982
Hydro-Electric Schemes—Capital Expenditure	982
Famine	982
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	982
Commuted Value of Pensions	982
Stationery and Printing	982
Miscellaneous	983
Advances Repayable	983
Loans and Advances	983
Index	

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 1st PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 27th February, 1939.

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BANK AND CONSOLIDATION SUB-INSPECTORS.

655. Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) Community-wise the number of Bank sub-inspectors and Consolidation sub-inspectors ;

(b) the percentage of agriculturists and non-agriculturists in these services in the Ambala division ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :

(a)

Community.	BANK SUB-INSPECTORS.		CONSOLIDATION OF HOLD- INGS SUB-INSPECTORS.	
	Paid by Government.	Paid by Societies.	Paid by Government.	Paid by Societies.
Muslims ..	88	889	106	..
Sikhs ..	14	190	79	..
Hindus and others	8	108	71	..

(b) Among sub-inspectors in the Ambala division paid by Government the proportion of agriculturists and non-agriculturists is 88.8 per cent and 11.7 per cent respectively.

"RAGHBIR versus NETU"—CRIMINAL CASE IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

656. Chaudhri Prem Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that in a criminal case "Raghbir versus Netu" in the Gurgaon district one Netu,

[Ch. Prem Singh.]

son of Darsoni, Chamar of village Chandpore, tahsil Balabgarh, was fined on 25th June, 1938, by the tahsildar of Balabgarh for not skinning the Naggarah of the Biswadars ;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the tahsildar in that case held in his judgment that skinning of Naggarah was a legitimate demand of the Biswadars ;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make any inquiries in the said case of *begar* ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes, but the conviction of Netu was not for not skinning the "Naggarah," but for the beating he gave to Ragbir, complainant, who received four injuries on his person.

(b) No, but the tahsildar in his judgment observed that according to an old practice in the village the *chamars* did the work of skinning the village "Naggarah" in return for skins of dead cattle received by them.

(c) Does not arise.

SIKH RAMGARHIAS IN GURDASPUR AND OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE PUNJAB HOLDING LAND AS PROPRIETORS AND OCCUPANCY TENANTS.

657. Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number, tahsil-wise, of Sikh Ramgarhias, also called *Tarkhans*, *Lohars*, *Rajs*, etc., in the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Lahore, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepore, Jullundur and Sialkot holding land as proprietors and as occupancy tenants, and

(b) the number of those among them who are jagirdars, muafidars, zaildars and lambardars ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The local officers concerned have been consulted in the matter and their replies are awaited.

SUB-REGISTRARS.

658. Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) community-wise the number of sub-registrars who have retired since April 1, 1937 ;

(b) community-wise the number of new appointments that have been made during the same period ;

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :

(a) Muslim	..	..	..	..	1
Hindu	..	..	..	..	1
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2
(b) Muslims	..	..	..	..	6
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	4

PROMOTION OF TWO JUNIOR CONSTABLES IN KARNAL DISTRICT
POLICE.

659. Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Superintendent of Police, Karnal, promoted two junior constables during the last six months to the post of head constables over the heads of senior hands ; if so, the reasons for the same and the action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : I am not sure to what particular case the honourable member alludes, but he will perhaps allow me to refer him to the reply given to a somewhat similar question a year ago—Question *1710, reproduced, with a supplementary question and answer, at page 9 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates (Volume III, 23rd February, 1933).

INTRODUCTION OF WARDHA SCHEME IN PUNJAB.

660. Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government of Punjab are contemplating to introduce the Wardha Scheme in the province ; if so, whether they have consulted the wishes of the Muslims living in the province ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : No, Government is not contemplating the introduction of the Wardha Scheme of Education in the Punjab ; but it has had a scheme of its own prepared by a strong committee of educational experts, and the details of the syllabus are now being examined by Government. There is no necessity to consult any particular community in the matter as the new scheme is based on purely academic and utilitarian principles. The report of this committee has been published and made available to honourable members.

METERS ON HOUSE CONNECTIONS FOR WATER SUPPLY IN AMBALA
CITY.

661. Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether he has recently received any resolution passed by the inhabitants of Ambala city complaining against the hardships anticipated by the public to which they will be subjected on meters being put on house-connections for supply of water ; if so, the action intended to be taken by the Government on that resolution ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : No such resolution appears to have been received.

QANUNGOS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

662. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many qanungos were appointed in the year 1938 in the Rohtak district, how many of them were directly recruited and how many were taken from among the patwaris ;

[K. S. Ch. Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan.]

- (b) whether it is a fact that in the said recruitment 50 per cent share has not been given to the Muslims; if so, the reasons therefor, and the action proposed to be taken to redress the grievances of the Muslims in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Six : three by direct appointment, and three by promotion from amongst the patwaris.

(b) Two Muslims were recruited, one in each class. Promotion is by seniority. As regards direct recruitment, the officials in question were recruited before receipt of the orders of Government fixing percentages. Further consideration is, however, being given to this question, in which connection the question of making up deficiencies will naturally be examined.

ELECTION PETITION AGAINST A MEMBER OF KAITHAL MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

663. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that an election petition against one of the elected members of the Kaithal Municipality elected in May, 1937, was duly filed and dealt with by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Kaithal, who constituted the commission of enquiry ;
 (b) whether he submitted his report in June, 1938 ;
 (c) whether the District Judge, Karnal, who was asked by the Commissioner, Ambala, to go into certain points submitted his report on 9th October, 1938 ; if so, the action taken on that report by the Commissioner ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) I cannot say on what date the District Judge submitted his report to the Commissioner. The Commissioner, however, agreeing with the report made an order dismissing the election petition ; his order is dated the 19th January, 1939.

GRANT TO AIDED SCHOOLS IN AMBALA DIVISION.

664. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the aided schools in the Ambala division have not received any intimation of the grant which was due to be paid to them in October up to 15th January, 1939, in spite of the assurance given by the Education Minister in reply to a question put on the subject that payment of grants will not be delayed in future ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter and the steps Government intend to take to insure that such delays do not occur hereafter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The orders were issued on 10th January, 1939. The adjustment of the grants recommended by the inspecting officers (which have to be considered for all the aided schools in the Punjab as a whole and at one time) with respect to the funds available always presents difficulty and every effort is made to issue orders as soon as possible.

TACCARI LOANS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

665. Sardar Lal Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing the total taccari loans granted to the zamindars in each village of the Ludhiana district during the period from 1st October, 1938, to 31st January, 1939?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the Taccari loans granted to the Zamindars in each village of Ludhiana district from 1st October, 1938, to the 31st January, 1939.

Name of Tahsil.	Serial No.	Name of village.	Amount.
			Rs.
<i>Tahsil Ludhiana.</i> Act XII of 1884 for purchase of fodder.	1	Barewal Awanan	1,000
	2	Haibowal Khurd	390
	3	Gill	980
	4	Haibowal Kalan	330
	5	Kariana Khurd	20
	6	Fatehpur	270
	7	Jogiana	550
	8	Bukhari Khurd	50
	9	Sherpur Kalan	610
	10	Satowal	40
	11	Gadapur	40
	12	Daba	440
	13	Barewal Dogran	80
	14	Pawa	10
	15	Kolliawal	110
	16	Dheri	180
	17	Kharak	500
	18	Kanganwal	140
	19	Dad	30
	20	Lohara	100
	21	Manawal	140
	22	Barhampur	20
	23	Haidarnagar	80

[Minister for Revenue.]

Name of Tahsil.	Serial No.	Name of village.	Amount.
			Rs.
<i>Tahsil Ludhiana— continued. Act XII of 1884 for purchase of fodder—contd.</i>	24	Borah	140
	25	Rawat	220
	26	Bhaurah	30
	27	Gobindgarh	40
	28	Kanijab	190
	29	Talwandi Khurd	20
	30	Lodhowa!	170
	31	Kakkah	350
	32	Nurwala	510
	33	Baloke	80
	34	Sisrali	80
	35	Kasahabad	640
	36	Shujatwala	580
	37	Dhaura	340
	38	Sirah	370
	39	Bajrah	10
	40	Mangat	230
	41	Nurpur Beit	640
	42	Satiana	50
	43	Bhaini Salu	230
	44	Lodian Kalan	20
	45	Mangli Khas	110
	46	Phaglah	40
	47	Kariana Kalan	420
	48	Qutebewal Gujran	150
	49	Hawas	70
	50	Chhahwala	210
	51	Khawajke	80
	52	Sonet	70

Name of Tahsil.	Serial No.	Name of village.	Amount.
			Rs.
<i>Tahsil Ludhiana—</i> concluded. Act XII of 1884 for purchase of fodder—concluded.	53	Bhatian	40
	54	Kakowal	180
	55	Chaunta	10
	56	Janewal	100
	57	Sanewal Khurd	10
	58	Raur	50
	59	Pirkot	1,775
	60	Bhaini Chuhan	1,475
	61	Bhunder	575
	62	Ghoreli	575
	63	Jethuke	1,935
	64	Mianwal	260
	65	Khasi Kalan	500
	66	Matewarah	345
		Total ..	20,000
Act XII of 1884 for purchase of bullocks. Act XIX of 1893 for sinking wells.	67	Ganda Banna	100
	68	Rawat	400
	69	Mangli Nichi	400
	70	Khera	400
	71	Kullialwal	200
		Total ..	1,400
<i>Tahsil Jagraon.</i> Act XII of 1884 for purchase of fodder.	1	Jassowal	935
	2	Raqba	640
	3	Ranke	282
	4	Talwandi Nanabad	65
	5	Walipur Khurd	80
	6	Aliwal	545
	7	Lilan	730
	8	Sherpur Khurd	20

[Minister for Revenue.]

Name of Tahsil.	Serial No.	Name of village.	Amount.
<i>Tahsil Jagraon— concluded. Act XII of 1884 for pur- chase of fodder—contd.</i>			Rs.
	9	Bharowal Khurd	520
	10	Baniawal	90
	11	Badalwala	50
	12	Fidai Chak	130
	13	Kot Mana	100
	14	Talwandi Rai	320
	15	Porain	280
	16	Ramgarh	555
	17	Ghalab Ran Singh	165
	18	Ghalab Kalan	980
	19	Bhattha Dhua	260
	20	Bopa Rai Kalan	160
	21	Bhundari	150
	22	Birk	20
	23	Chimna	390
	24	Sheikh Daulat	185
	25	Katwal	78
	26	Jandi	190
	27	Sawaddi	315
	28	Sherpur Kalan	760
	29	Talwara	50
	30	Gorsian Khan Muhammad	20
	31	Kot Mana	120
	32	Malak	265
	33	Sawaddi Khurd	280
	34	Halwara	210
	35	Sheikh Qutab	80
		Total	10,000

Name of Tahsil.	Serial No.	Name of village.	Amount.
<i>Samrala Tahsil.</i> Act XII of 1884 for purchase of fodder— <i>contd.</i>			Ra.
	1	Daudpur	100
	2	Kalal Mazra	100
	3	Kotla Shampur	45
	4	Rampur Jhaloti	40
	5	Bondal	250
	6	Rahsun	629
	7	Udhowal Khurd	130
	8	Maad Jharaudi	10
	9	Udhowal Kalan	40
	10	Jassowal	170
	11	Jonewal	20
	12	Melakwal	279
	13	Lalauri	442
	14	Jaspalon	110
	15	Mahndipur	220
	16	Ghungrali	410
	17	Raipur	65
	18	Gagra Chuhami	70
	19	Seh	118
	20	Kaman	145
	21	Sainsowal Khurd	155
	22	Salaudi	320
	23	Khurd	95
	24	Manki	75
	25	Sainsowal Kalan	50
	26	Gahlewal	50
	27	Rasulra	215
	28	Kishangarh	15
	29	Sahala	45
	30	Haidon	220

[Minister for Revenue.]

Name of Tahsil.	Serial No.	Name of village.	Amount.
			Rs.
<i>Samrala Tahsil—concluded.</i> Act XII of 1884 for purchase of fodder— <i>concl'd.</i>	31	Chupki	105
	32	Mahaun	360
	33	Malakpur	15
	34	Buthgarh	375
	35	Majri	150
	36	Dadheri	30
	37	Lohar Mazra	110
	38	Gandhwan	60
	39	Rupa	100
	40	Mohanpur	355
	41	Naringarh	35
	42	Bhari	35
	43	Jalpur	20
	44	Gagar Mazra	105
	45	Kotla Ajner	15
	46	Harbanspura	340
	47	Purba	60
	48	Baghaur	50
	49	Fatehgarh Niwan	295
	50	Khanna Kalan	55
	51	Ismailpur	110
	52	Kot Sekhon	60
	53	Ratan Heri	310
		Total ..	7,780
			Rs.
<i>Samrala Tahsil—concl'd.</i> Act XIX of 1883 for wells	54	Gharkhan	300
	55	Bija	300
		Total ..	600

FREE MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF SPUTA OF TUBERCULAR PATIENTS.

666. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether arrangements exist for the freemicroscopical examination of sputa of patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis at any Government hospitals and dispensaries situated in the Punjab on the recommendations of registered medical practitioners nearest to their places of practice ; if none so far, whether the Government propose to take any such steps in this direction to combat this fell disease as a part of their anti-tuberculosis campaign ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The necessary facilities for sputum examinations exist at all district headquarters hospitals in the province and at some tahsil headquarters hospitals. A proposal that such examinations should be carried out free in the case of patients who are certified by a private doctor in attendance to be indigent is at present under consideration.

SYSTEM OF COMPARTMENT FOR PLUCKED CANDIDATES IN
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

667. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of different examinations of the University of the Punjab where arrangements for the system of compartment have already been made for plucked candidates in case of their having fulfilled requisite conditions and the names of those examinations for which these facilities have not yet been possible of having been afforded ;
- (b) the objections or difficulties which stand in the way of providing the same facilities in the case of the latter class of examinations as have been provided in the case of the former class of examinations ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret that the answer to the question is not ready.

REDUCED GRANTS-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS.

668. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that reduced grant-in-aid is being given to Government recognised and aided schools in case of their having had untrained teachers or incommensurate buildings ; if so, whether the same principle applies to local bodies in the calculation of their educational grant-in-aid out of provincial funds ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Attention of the honourable member is invited to the rules in Chapter III, Punjab Education Code, eleventh edition (Reprints 1932 and 1934) (Articles 62 (c) and (e), 69 (e) and 83 (b). The provisions of these rules are equally applicable to both the privately managed and local body schools.

REPRESENTATION OF NON-AGRICULTURISTS IN DISTRICT BOARDS
IN AMBALA DIVISION.

669. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that statutory agriculturists number more at present than non-agriculturists among elected members of all the district boards of the Ambala division ; if so, the names of districts in the said division in the district boards of which balance between representatives of different interests is being maintained by nominations ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Government have no information as to the number of statutory agriculturists amongst the elected members of the district boards in the Ambala division though the figures could be collected if the honourable member wishes to know them. As regards the last part of his question, I would inform the honourable member that Government use their power of nomination in order to secure the necessary balance not as between agriculturists and non-agriculturists, but between the adherents of the different religions.

ACCEPTANCE OF ENTERTAINMENTS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ON
TOUR.

670. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government officers are authorised to accept entertainments from their subordinate officials when they are on tour or whether they are required to report to their higher officers the circumstances under which these entertainments had to be accepted by them ;

(b) whether there are any instructions issued by Government to Government officers and their subordinates on the subject ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Reply to the first part is in the negative and the second part therefore does not arise.

(b) General instructions on the subject of accepting entertainments are contained in rule 4 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules which were amplified in a press *communiqué* issued by the present Government on the 4th May, 1937. Copies of both of these papers are laid on the table. There are no separate rules regarding entertainment by subordinates.

Press Communiqué.

The following *communiqué* is issued for the information of the general public:—

The Government Servants' Conduct Rules lay down that a Government servant shall not, except with the previous sanction of Government, attend any public meetings or entertainment held in his honour. This is the general rule ; but at the same time, subject to the provisions of any general or special order of Government, a Government servant may attend a farewell entertainment of a substantially private and informal character held as a mark of regard to himself on the occasion of his retirement or departure from a district or station. In 1927 Government issued a special order on the subject, and directed that no Government servant could attend any farewell entertainment held as a mark of regard to himself, unless the previous sanction of Commissioner or Head of the Department had been obtained for the holding of the entertainment.

2. The position, therefore, is as follows :—

The prohibition against a Government servant attending any public entertainment in his honour is absolute. Government itself, and not a Commissioner or a Head of Department can grant exemption from this prohibition. Further a Government servant may not attend any farewell entertainment held as a mark of regard to himself, whatever its nature may be, without the previous sanction of his Commissioner or the Head of his Department.

3. There have been occasions lately when Government has granted exemption from the general prohibition against public entertainments. The position has been carefully reviewed. If public parties are occasionally permitted, the result is that when permission is refused, it is taken not only as a slight on the Government servant concerned but as an affront to the would-be hosts. Government does not wish to be put in the position of being accused of either slighting its officials or of affronting members of the public, and, on the other hand, has no intention of giving general permission for public entertainments in honour of its servants. It has, therefore, been decided that as a matter of practice the sanction of Government will not be given to Government servants to attend public entertainments in their honour. Requests by Government servants for permission to attend an entertainment in their honour which is not a public entertainment, will, as formerly, be made to the Commissioner or the Head of the Department. The decision of the Commissioner or the Head of the Department will be final, and Government will not interfere.

LAHORE :

Dated 4th May, 1937.

J. D. PENNY,

Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Rule 4 of Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1935.

4. Public demonstrations in honour of Government servants—

(1) Save as otherwise provided in this rule, no Government servant shall, except with the previous sanction of the Local Government—

- (a) receive any complimentary or valedictory address, accept any testimonial or attend any public meeting or entertainment held in his honour; or
- (b) take part in the presentation of a complimentary or valedictory address or of a testimonial to any other Government servant or to any person who has recently quitted the service of Government, or attend a public meeting or entertainment held in honour of such other Government servant or person.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1) :—

- (a) a Chief Commissioner may receive an address;
- (b) a Government servant may at the request of any public body sit for a portrait, bust or statue not intended for presentation to him;
- (c) subject to the provisions of any general or special order of the Local Government, a Government servant may take part in the raising of a fund to be expended, in recognition of the services of any other Government servant or of a person who has recently quitted the service of Government, on the foundation of a scholarship or on any other public or charitable object or on the execution of any portrait, bust or statue not intended for presentation to such other Government servant or person:

Provided that no Government servant shall solicit any subscription in aid of such fund;

- (d) subject to the provisions of any general or special order of the Local Government a Government servant may attend a farewell entertainment of a substantially private and informal character held as a mark of regard to himself or to any other Government servant, or to a person who has recently quitted the service of Government, on the occasion of the retirement from the service or departure from a district or station of himself or such other Government servant or person.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TRAINED IN FIRST AID.

671. **Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the percentage of students of high classes

[L. Deshbandhu Gupta.]

having had training in First Aid both in Government and non-Government schools during the last financial year in different educational divisions of the Punjab and whether any steps are intended to be taken to increase the percentage?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret I cannot supply the information desired by the honourable member as the collection thereof will entail enormous time and labour which will be incommensurate with any advantage which could be derived therefrom.

METER RENT AND ELECTRIC RATES OF AMBALA ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION.

672. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the representation made by the Ambala Cantonment Electricity Consumers' Association to the Ambala Electric Supply Corporation demanding reduction in meter rent and electric rates; if so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter to help these consumers to have their demands met?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Yes. The Ambala Cantonment Electric Licence, 1935, was granted on 24th April, 1935. Under clause XI of the Schedule to the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the Provincial Government cannot alter the maxima rates fixed by the licence till the expiry of 7 years from that date.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS AMONG OFFICIAL RECEIVERS AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

673. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of official receivers and public prosecutors, community-wise, at present working in the Punjab;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Muslims are under-represented in these posts; if so, the action that the Government propose to take to remedy the grievances of the Muslims in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) (i) *Official Receivers—*

Hindus	..	..	..	..	12
Muslims	..	..	..	..	12
Others	..	..	..	..	2

(Three appointments are at present vacant. The above figures do not include the Official Receiver for insolvency cases in the High Court, who is a Muslim.)

(ii) *Public Prosecutors—*

Hindus	..	..	..	..	12
Muslims	..	..	..	..	18
Others	..	..	..	..	6

(b) No.

**PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION FOR THE SALARY OF PUNJABI TEACHER FOR THE
SCHOOL AT DOMELI.**

674. Sardar Uttam Singh Duggal : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what action has been taken or is intended to be taken by him on the application submitted to him recently by the residents of Domeli in Jhelum not to burden them once again with the payment of the amount of Rs. 800 demanded by the said District Board to meet the salary of the teacher of Punjabi appointed since June, 1939, on the representation of the people of that village to teach Punjabi in the school at Domeli under the control of the said District Board ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A petition from the President Singh Sabha, Domeli, was received and forwarded to the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, for disposal. Government is not directly concerned with the introduction of subjects in local body schools.

FACILITY TO J. V. TRAINED TEACHERS TO APPEAR AT THE S. V. EXAMINATION.

675. Rai Sahib Lala Sohan Lal : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under circular No. 27502-X., dated 18th December, 1935, issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, J. V. trained teachers have been deprived of the facility which they enjoyed previously of appearing at the S. V. examination privately ; if so, the reasons for so depriving the J. V. trained teachers of that facility ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : No.

**PARTICULARS ABOUT CERTAIN PRIVATE AND AIDED COLLEGES IN THE
PUNJAB.**

676. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement regarding G. N. Khalsa College, Gujranwala, Khalsa Intermediate College, Lyallpur, D. M. College, Moga, D. A. V. College, Hoshiarpur, D. A. V. College, Lahore, Islamia College, Lahore, S. D. College, Lahore, D. A. V. College, Jullundur, R. S. College, Ferozepore, V. B. College, Dera Ismail Khan, Hindu College, Amritsar, and S. A. V. College, Rawalpindi, separately for each of the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 :—

- (i) the approximate number of students in the ninth, tenth, first year, and second year classes ;
- (ii) the approximate income from fees ;
- (iii) the approximate figure of salary paid as recurring charges to the staff ;
- (iv) the approximate particulars of investment of endowment fund on mortgage, fixed deposit in banks, investment in Government papers or otherwise with rate of interest received and approximate income from each mode of investment for each of these years ;

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.]

- (v) the approximate amount of recurring grant or donation received in each year separately from any municipal committee, district board, or from the Local Government or any Indian State ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret I am unable to supply the information desired by the honourable member as the collection thereof would impose an unnecessary strain on the University Office which will be entirely incommensurate with any advantage which may accrue therefrom.

COMPLAINT BY KANAHYA LAL OF VILLAGE PUGTHALA AGAINST PAYMENT OF LAND REVENUE.

677. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Executive Engineer, Canals, Delhi Division, received a representation from one Kanahya Lal of village Pugthala (Sonipat) in the 1st week of June, 1938, to the effect that he did not get any canal water for the last so many years for his lands and yet he was required to pay land revenue every year according to rates fixed for commanded area ; if so, the action taken on that representation ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that he further represented the same grievance to the Commissioner, Ambala Division, in the month of December, 1938 ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes, an application was received requesting transfer of certain area from the Tail of Naraina Distributary to the head reach of Rohtak Distributary on the ground of insufficient supply. Irrigation of this area has steadily improved in recent years as will appear from the figures given below :—

	<i>Permissible.</i>			200 acres.
				Acres.
1933-34 (irrigated)	10
1934-35	32
1935-36	100
1936-37	101
1937-38	164

Proposals for further improvement in order to bring irrigation up to the permissible limit are, however, under consideration by the Canal Department.

(b) No such representation appears to have been received in the office of the Commissioner, Ambala division.

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS OF UNRECOGNISED SCHOOLS INTO RECOGNISED SCHOOLS.

678. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the Education Code the head masters of recognised schools admit students of unrecognised schools after test into the classes for which they are found fit ;
- (b) how many students of unrecognised schools were admitted by the Head Master of the Hindu Public High School, Rupar, from 1st April, 1936, to 30th June, 1938, with the names of boys and schools ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some boys were admitted into the class for which they were considered fit and some boys were admitted into a lower class one for which they were found fit by the order of the Inspector of Schools, Ambala division ; if so, why and under what authority—
 - (i) will the Government stop this practice in future ;
 - (ii) whether the Government proposes to make amends for this injustice and take steps to stop this practice in future ;
- (d) whether he would be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the application of the parents of students who have been admitted into lower classes with the decision of the Government thereon ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret that the answer to the question is not yet ready.

REPRESENTATION BY ZAMINDARS OF VILLAGE BAHU, DISTRICT ROHTAK.

679. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the zamindars of village Bahu Akbarpur, district Rohtak, represented to the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, on 1st December, 1938, and 20th December, 1938, to grant them taccavi loan for fodder, and arrange for test work ; if so, the action taken on their representation ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Yes. The villagers applied for taccavi, which will be given if and when necessary. But the village is situated in a canal irrigated tract, and does not appear to require urgent relief at present.

REPRESENTATION BY ZAMINDARS OF VILLAGE UMRH, DISTRICT HISSAR.

680. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the zamindars of village Umrh, tahsil Hansi, district Hissar, sent a representation stating their grievances about the distribution of taccavi of fodder to the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, on 24th December, 1938 ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : No such representation was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, from the zamindars of village Umrah.

Fodder taccavi has, however, been given to the zamindars of that village from the 23rd December, 1938.

QUESTION HOUR.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : I have three formal motions to make. The first is—

That there be no starred questions at to-day's sitting of the Assembly.

I might add that my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition, has suggested to me that we should not take up to-day adjournment motions either. I am perfectly willing to accommodate him. That would mean that the adjournment motions which were to be moved to-day will be taken up for consideration on the next working day of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That there be no starred questions at to-day's sitting of the Assembly.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : It is an established convention in all the legislatures that no other business is transacted on the day the Budget is presented, and therefore, I think, it would be a healthy convention not to have questions to-day.

As for the adjournment motions, I would say that if we are not taking them up to-day, then they should not be ruled out of order on the ground of their not being recent when they are brought up at the next meeting.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That there be no starred questions at to-day's sitting of the Assembly.

The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat Khan) : Before I move my second motion, I should like to point out that so far as the convention to which my honourable friend has referred is concerned, we have already decided to set up that convention, and a suitable rule has been incorporated in the Governor's Rules which when promulgated will achieve the object which we both have in view. My second motion is—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned till Monday, the 13th March, 1939.

The motion was carried.

MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAYS.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : My third motion is—

That the Assembly shall meet on Wednesdays, the 5th, 12th and 19th April and that the hours of sitting on those days be from 12 noon to 4-30 P.M.

The motion was carried.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1938-39.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (3rd Instalment) for the year 1938-39. The demands therein are made on the recommendation of the Governor.

APPROPRIATION AND FINANCE ACCOUNTS, 1937-38.

Minister for Finance : As required by section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the Appropriation Accounts, 1937-38 and the report of the Auditor-General of India thereon, and the Finance Accounts, 1937-38 and the report of the Auditor-General of India thereon.

Diwan Chaman Lal (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour) : May I ask my friend whether the Government is willing to grant a day for the discussion of the report of the Auditor-General, in case the House desires to do so ?

Premier : If my friend, after he has read the report, considers that a discussion is necessary, he might speak to me and we can then discuss the question of finding time for the purpose.

BUDGET.

Minister for Finance (Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : The only art of the prophet that a Finance Minister may practise is to make his estimates with scrupulous caution and minute attention to detail. But his forecasts, particularly in an agricultural province where both revenues and expenditure depend largely on nature's vagaries, are apt to be unexpectedly disturbed. Finances arranged with the utmost prudence and planned with meticulous regard for stability may be dislocated by hailstorm or drought or other visitations of unkindly nature. In the circumstances a provincial government can, during any given year or run of years, only hope in humility and prayer that its finances will remain unscathed. As these disasters are, however, far from exceptional or of infrequent occurrence, proper and well-calculated provision has to be made based over a spread of years to withstand their worst effects. The duty is also cast upon a provincial government of exercising the most vigorous vigilance in husbanding the resources of the province and of studying every possible method of securing immunity for its people from the ever possible menace of natural calamity. This is government's paramount duty. Judged thus, I trust that the watchfulness and foresight of the Ministry to-day will commend itself to the whole-hearted approval of this Assembly and of the province whose welfare it is the prime obligation of this Assembly to safeguard. The requirements of exigent finance have been fully respected and the principles of sound finance strictly observed. In the year's working famine has caused much unavoidable dislocation, and the next year's estimates are affected by this calamity even in a greater measure. But heroic efforts have been made to alleviate immediate distress, and plans have been matured to obviate its rigours in the future. I rise to-day to make my statement in the happy consciousness of these efforts and these plans.

In my statement, I propose to avoid detail, because this is gathered easily in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Finance Secretary, but I am

[Minister for Finance.]

also anxious to-day to be as simple and brief as possible for it is thus alone that honourable members can form a sure and intelligible picture of our finances.

I must address myself now, according to established usage, to accounts and estimates of the three years with which we are particularly concerned—the year 1937-38 for which final accounts are now available, the current year, 1938-39, for which revised estimates can now be exhibited, and the next financial year, 1939-40, for which the budget is to be presented.

1937-38.

The revenue accounts show a realized surplus of Rs. 32 lakhs (82·28 lakhs to be more precise). When the budget for the year was presented, the estimates showed only a small revenue surplus of Rs. 1·72 lakhs. It will be within the recollection of the honourable members that the year started with a most disastrous hailstorm in several parts of the province and large revenue remissions and other relief to the agriculturists were provided by the Government, on the very first day of their entering upon office, in a strikingly courageous manner and with unprecedented rapidity, while very substantial additions were made to expenditure on beneficent departments at the same time. It was calculated at the time that the two operations involved a sum of nearly Rs. fifty lakhs. But as the year progressed a welcome surplus came into sight, and at the time of the presentation of the current year's budget when revised figures were available for 1937-38 the position had so far improved that the surplus could be estimated at Rs. 50 lakhs in the revenue accounts. The total surplus estimated was Rs. 61 lakhs composed of our revenue surplus of Rs. 50 lakhs and the Government of India contribution of Rs. 11·04 lakhs. Eventually the actual payment by the Government of India was only Rs. ten lakhs. This large surplus was in the main transferred to the extent of Rs. 55 lakhs to that Special Development Fund which constituted a significant feature of our last budget as it strengthened the true foundations of a comprehensive programme of beneficent activity in the countryside.

Before the accounts closed, the position had so far further improved that the revised surplus of Rs. 6 lakhs, after making a provision for the big Special Development Fund within the year resulted in an actual surplus of Rs. 32 lakhs. In one word in the year 1937-38 our finances were in a most prosperous condition. Liberal provisions were made for beneficent departments registering an advance of over Rs. 21 lakhs on the previous year, a big fund was created for initiating a policy of development and reconstruction, and withal a large revenue surplus of Rs. 32 lakhs was realised. This takes no account of the Extraordinary Receipts of Rs. 30 lakhs against which there was a capital expenditure of only a little over Rs. 11 lakhs. The total improvement was thus of Rs. 51 lakhs. I venture to affirm that given normal conditions of rainfall and water supplies in our canals, this particular year's working represents a fairly true present position of our provincial finances.

1938-39.

When the budget was presented last year, we provided a small revenue surplus of a little over Rs. 5 lakhs. This did not include the amount of

Rs. 12 lakhs to be received from the Government of India. If, therefore, nothing exceptional had happened during the year, the revised estimates would to-day have shown a surplus of Rs. 17 lakhs. On the other hand, these estimates actually show a deficit of Rs. 27 lakhs. In the understanding of this disparity lies the secret of the understanding of our finances during the current year. It will be within the recollection of honourable members that they have already agreed to considerable additional expenditure as contained in the two Supplementary Estimates of June and November, 1938.

The following are some of the more important entirely new items in the Supplementary Estimates as now revised :—

	Lakhs. Rs.
(1) Forests—Final payment in connection with the acquisition of complete rights in the Jallo Rosin and Turpentine Factory	8.99
(2) Order Police—refund of excess recovery made in 1937-38	1.00
(3) Decrease in the amount recoverable under Order Police	1.18
(4) Guarantee to the North-Western Railway for the Kangra Valley and Shahdara-Narowal Railways	4.20
(This last exceptional item resulted from certain changes in accounting procedure)	
(5) Grant to the Lahore Municipal Committee	8.00
(6) Grant to the Lahore Improvement Trust .. ..	.25
(7) Survey of Lahore urban areas .. ..	.67
(8) Legislative Assembly	1.42
November Supplementary	75,000
Revised Estimate	52,000
Additional	15,000
	not included in the re- vised.
(9) Waterlogging investigations	1.00
(10) Gurgaon Settlement .. ..	.79
(11) Karol Tube-wells .. ..	.82
Total	17.22

These items are entirely distinct from expenditure due to famine. They could not be anticipated at the time of the presentation of the budget as decisions with regard to them were not reached till subsequently. It is further necessary to bear in mind that the major part of these items constitute exceptional expenditure of a wholly non-recurring nature and it was unfortunate that the expenditure was forced upon us in a year of acute distress and intense famine in a large part of the province.

[Minister for Finance.]

I must now refer to the effect of the famine conditions in a large part of the south-eastern Punjab and particularly in the Hissar district on the year's finances. It will be remembered that the winter rains in 1937 were defective in the extreme in the Hissar and Gurgaon districts, the monsoon of 1938 in that part of the province failed almost completely, and there has been a total absence of winter rains in 1938 and in the early part of this year though a little rain has fallen during the last few days. Such a continued failure of rains in a part of the province dependent almost entirely on rains began to show itself in fodder scarcity early in 1938, and as the year advanced provision for the supply of fodder and the opening of Test Works for the relief of famine stricken people had to be undertaken on an extensive scale, till, towards the close of the year, Hissar had to be declared to be a famine area, though in spite of scarcity conditions Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal have escaped from the extreme disastrous conditions technically so described.

During the year the revised estimate for direct expenditure because of famine and scarcity conditions amounts to Rs. 25·44 lakhs and to this has to be added a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs in the Veterinary Department for the purchase of fodder for the Hissar Cattle Farm due entirely to famine, making an aggregate of Rs. 27·19 lakhs (Hissar's responsibility is the largest being over Rs. 19 lakhs). This is as regards direct expenditure. But the famine has been responsible for a considerable loss in land revenue and Abiana charges. Suspensions of land revenue amount to Rs. 24·86 lakhs (Rabi Rs. 4·13 lakhs and Kharif Rs. 20·73 lakhs), while remissions of land revenue in the famine districts amount to Rs. 7·41 lakhs (Rabi Rs. 5·61 lakhs and Kharif Rs. 1·80 lakhs). In other words, suspensions and remissions in the four districts of Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal amount to no less a sum than Rs. 32·27 lakhs in the year 1938-39. If we take into account the fact that normal suspensions and remissions in these districts apart from famine estimated on the basis of an average of the last four years would be Rs. 14 lakhs, it follows that Rs. 18·27 lakhs is the direct loss in land revenue caused by famine. To this we have to add the loss during the year of water rates in these districts amounting to Rs. 11 lakhs and as the average remission in water rate is only about two-thirds of a lakh per annum, famine is responsible for a loss of no less than Rs. 10 lakhs. The total loss then in land revenue and water rates directly resulting from famine during the year under consideration is Rs. 28 lakhs. The famine thus has caused a deterioration in the year's finances of no less a sum than Rs. 55 lakhs—Rs. 27·19 lakhs in direct expenditure and Rs. 28 lakhs in loss in land revenue and water rate. As a part of the famine expenditure was met by a transfer from the Famine Relief Fund, completely exhausting the Fund of Rs. 9 lakhs beyond the normal amount provided in the budget, the net total effect on the finances of the year is Rs. 46 lakhs. As against this, the deficit in the revised estimate is Rs. 27 lakhs. If famine conditions had not obtained, the year's working would have shown instead of a deficit of Rs. 27 lakhs a surplus of Rs. 19 lakhs and the Famine Relief Fund would have also remained intact. It is important to bear this in mind to judge of our normal financial position. We would have been able to meet the whole of the additional expenditure, of which some major portions were set-

forth in our supplementaries, and yet would have had a revenue surplus of Rs. 19 lakhs but for the famine. I have not referred to the indirect deterioration which our finances suffered because of the famine. That is bound to happen in a variety of ways where scarcity conditions obtain and trade and commerce suffer.

Grave as the effects of the famine on the year's working have been, honourable members would note that we have in our extraordinary receipts a plus item of over Rs. 21 lakhs as against which there is no expenditure in the revised estimates. As these extraordinary receipts are kept distinct only for certain technical accounting purposes but are otherwise really a part of the revenues of the province, the final result on our balances is to cause a loss of only Rs. 6 lakhs.

For a correct appreciation of the financial position during the year it is also necessary to note that there are certain other items of substantial expenditure, to which no reference has hitherto been made, and this is expenditure which was not in the original budget, and provision for this expenditure had to be made in the Supplementary Estimates. These constitute an aggregate of about Rs. 16 lakhs. The major items in these are some of those in the Supplementary Estimates presented earlier in the day :—

	(Approximately). Rs. (lakhs).
(1) Interest on Debt and other obligations ..	4
(2) Superannuation Allowances, etc. ..	4
(3) Administration of Justice	2½
(4) General Administration excluding certain accounting transfers	1½
(5) Medical	¾
Total ..	12½

These could not be provided for in the budget, because they could not be anticipated with any certainty, though several of them unlike those which I mentioned earlier are of recurring nature.

To sum up : The year 1938-39 but for the famine would have yielded a surplus of Rs. 19 lakhs even after meeting large expenditure of a wholly non-recurring and exceptional nature amounting to no less than Rs. 16 lakhs. If this expenditure had not to be incurred during the year, and it has been incurred once for all our surplus would have been Rs. 35 lakhs (and this again is apart from the saving in extraordinary receipts of Rs. 21 lakhs) and our Famine Relief Fund would have remained intact.

1939-40.

An examination of the financial position during the years 1937-38 and 1938-39 establishes beyond all doubt the essential soundness of our finances. On the working of the two years taken together, there is a large real surplus but even taking the year 1938-39 by itself across which lies the heavy shadow of an acute famine of immense magnitude, there is no deficit that need

[Minister for Finance.]

trouble us if we also take extraordinary receipts into consideration ; and such deficit as is there on merely revenue account is more than explained by abnormal and heavy famine expenditure, in spite of much exceptional and non-recurring expenditure provided since the budget, there would have been a substantial surplus but for the famine.

Now I come to the year 1939-40 for which the budget is being presented to-day. The total estimated revenue receipts are Rs. 11.67 lakhs and expenditure Rs. 11.96 lakhs providing for a deficit of Rs. 29 lakhs. As can be easily foreseen, this deficit is entirely due to famine, which again dominates the finances of the year. It is estimated that the direct expenditure on famine would be Rs. 38.85 lakhs including Rs. 1½ lakhs in the Veterinary budget for the purchase of fodder for the Hissar Cattle Farm. Of this expenditure, as in the previous year, the major portion (Rs. 29½ lakhs) is on account of Hissar alone. It is difficult to estimate exactly the likely loss in land revenue and in Abiana, because the data for such estimation are not fully available. There is yet a possibility of some relief if winter rains come, and ample monsoon during the year 1939 may change the whole aspect of the situation. But even on an optimistic basis and assuming that the Kharif of 1939 will be normal, suspensions, and remissions in land revenue are likely to be not less than Rs. 16 lakhs, and allowing for a normal Rabi suspension (Rs. 5 lakhs) the estimated loss is Rs. 11 lakhs, while remissions of Abiana are likely to cost Rs. 5 lakhs. The total effect of famine in 1939-40 is thus Rs. 55 lakhs—Rs. 38.85 in direct expenditure and Rs. 16 lakhs in reduced revenue—as against a budgeted deficit of Rs. 29 lakhs ; but for the famine there would have been no deficit at all, and under normal conditions a surplus of Rs. 26 lakhs may have been expected. And, we must remember that even as it is the extraordinary receipts during the year are estimated at Rs. 35 lakhs with no corresponding expenditure and therefore the real effect of the year's working on our financial position is not in any minus direction. Taking the normal revenue receipts and the extraordinary receipts technically so called together there would on the present estimates be actually a surplus of Rs. 6 lakhs. This establishes the essential soundness of our financial position. While it is necessary to study every possible economy, and I might intimate to the House that this has been kept very strictly in view in estimating expenditure during the year, and husbanding our resources to the fullest possible extent, there is no occasion to be disturbed about our financial position.

I do not propose to compare variations in the budget estimate from the revised figures of the current year as these have been duly exhibited in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Finance Secretary. No noticeable variations of any particular significance exist. There is a fall in our net Irrigation receipts in spite of the fact that working expenses are being steadily reduced. There is a slight-increase in net land revenue, because we are proceeding on the basis of normal Kharif in 1939 ; further unlike the budget estimates of the current year we have already included a sum of Rs. 18½ lakhs as a contribution from the Government of India constituting an increase of Rs. 1½ lakhs on the revised figures. A characteristic of our revenue in recent years has been a steady decline in our income from Stamps. This is a feature which seems to have come to stay.

It is necessary further to refer only to an increase on the receipt side of Rs. 8 lakhs under Beneficent Departments due mainly to a larger transfer from the Special Development Fund. The increase under Civil Works is accounted for by a bigger contribution from the Central Road Development Fund, but a significant item to which particular attention must be drawn is under Other Taxes and Duties, where an increase of Rs. 6½ lakhs is registered. This is due entirely to the proposed duty on motor spirits and lubricants. This is a measure to secure permanent addition to our revenues and is in accordance with similar measures in other provinces. I might intimate to honourable members that we have in contemplation a number of other additional sources of revenue but they are still at the stage of examination. The main principles in regard to them that will have to be borne in view will be to secure as far as possible equity and equality in the burden of taxation.

The increase in the Provincial Excise is a result of enhancement in the issue prices of excise opium and the levy of a transport pass fee on Charas. On the other side, there is a decrease due to the Famine Relief Fund having been exhausted, there is a consequent absence of any transfer from the fund. There is also a decrease on account of smaller investments in treasury bills. In this connection a reference may be made with justifiable pride that the Finance Department itself was responsible during the year 1938-39 for an income of Rs. 1.42 lakhs by careful short period investments of all available money not required for the immediate needs of the province. The Finance Department is not an earning department and yet it has been able to add its small quota to the year's revenues. (*Hear, hear.*)

On the expenditure side a reference to the Explanatory Memorandum would show that while there is a fall of Rs. 5½ lakhs under Civil Administration and Rs. 7.39 lakhs under Civil Works, the two main items of increase are Famine (Rs. 14 lakhs) and Beneficent Departments (Rs. 17 lakhs). It is not necessary to comment on the unfortunate increase under Famine, but honourable members would note with pleasure that under the Beneficent Departments a most gratifying further increase is provided, and the total expenditure now stands at the very considerable figure of Rs. 3.44 lakhs. This is a higher figure than ever attained in the past and that such a large increase on the budgeted provision of 1938-39 is being made in a year of grave scarcity, when direct famine expenditure stands at the huge figure of Rs. 39 lakhs, and when famine is further bound to cause a big loss in revenue, is a striking proof of the real solicitude of your Ministry for the welfare of the people. The advance on the previous year is in every single branch of beneficent activity whether Education, Medical and Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation or Industries. The Schedule of New Expenditure which had to be devised with particular care in view of famine conditions was conceived in a most liberal spirit so far as these departments are concerned. Under 'Education' while there is enlargement of activity in several directions attention continues particularly to be focussed on the expansion of girls' education. Large provision is made for new schools—three new middle schools and 180 new primary schools are to be opened and additional staff for many of the existing schools has been provided. Arrangements for the training of women teachers are also being extended.

[Minister for Finance.]

Grants for vernacular education have substantially increased, and a start in attacking the problem of illiteracy definitely made. In some parts of the province, particularly in the Multan Division, noticeable work in the campaign against illiteracy appears to be already done. Plans also for raising the standard of at least one school in each tahsil to furnish a model for other schools have been carried a stage further. Under 'Medical' there is an increase in the staff of qualified women doctors, and the Hospital for Women at Hazro is to be provincialised. Three Tahsil headquarters hospitals are also to be taken over by Government and placed on a satisfactory basis. Due to the philanthropy of a donor at Lahore a Radium Institute, a very necessary adjunct to a therapeutic establishment, is to be opened. (*Hear, hear.*) Several fresh schemes for more extensive medical aid are contemplated, such as opening subsidized dispensaries in rural areas and the employment of part-time private practitioners, as also a scheme for making pure quinine available in rural and urban areas. Public Health continues to enage the special attention of the Ministry, and in the new expenditure a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made for sanitary schemes. Schemes for the improvement of drinking water supply have received particular attention, and a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been specially earmarked for wells for Scheduled Castes. Attention is also to be invited to the fact that arrangements for drainage and paving of streets in 286 villages are also to be made. Under 'Agriculture' the work of demonstration is to take a more intensified form, and research in the water requirements of various crops is to be undertaken. The important Veterinary needs of the province have also been kept in view; four new Veterinary hospitals are to be established by increase in the grants to the district boards. The Co-operative Department will be able to carry forward its good work in the consolidation of holdings by further grants and its other activities are also to be helped by increased assistance. Under 'Industries' we have to note a departure which I trust will be welcomed in this House and throughout the province. We have to have a Provincial Stores Purchase Department of our own and not rely any longer on the good offices of the Central Stores Department. (*Hear, hear.*) This would enable larger attention being paid to our own industries—a matter of no small importance to a province like ours. A scheme for improving the pottery industry, for which this province is favourably situated, is also to be initiated. Organisation of industrial work in the province is being helped by an increase in the number of Assistant Superintendents, while provision is being made for normal assistance under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, as also under the Industrial Loans Act.

References have frequently been made in this House and outside to the necessity of grappling with the problem of corruption. Apart from the steps taken to meet individual cases of corruption with the utmost severity, a regular machinery is being now established to investigate complaints generally in the public services so as to attack the problem in a more comprehensive and effective manner. It is hoped that the appointment of an officer for the special purpose would go at least some distance in removing the worst features of this old malady in our public life.

TRANSFER FROM GRANTS AND FUNDS.

On page 3 of the Finance Secretary's Explanatory Memorandum there is an important statement showing transfers from certain grants made by the Government of India and from certain funds created by the provincial Government. These transfers tend to swell our normal annual revenue position and have to be borne in view in determining the year's actual revenues.

FAMINE EXPENDITURE.

Much information has been made available to honourable members in answer to Assembly questions about finance in connection with the famine. I have made references to it in part while dealing with the current year and the estimates for 1939-40. It would be an advantage if the whole position is put together as follows :—

		1938-39.	1939-40.
		Rs.	Rs.
		(in lakhs).	(in lakhs).
Direct expenditure	..	27	39
Remissions and suspensions	..	28	16
Taccavi Loans	..	37	38
		—	—
Total	..	92	93
		—	—

The total for the two years taken together amounts to Rs. 1,85,00,000-
(Hear, hear.)

THE THREE YEARS.

Some authorities on budgetary procedure have emphasized the desirability of conceiving estimates over a period of three years rather than proceeding on the basis of annual estimates. Whether Governments can adopt such a course or not is a matter that is still in the region of unsettled controversy. But Governments have to plan ahead and Governments have undoubtedly to consider their position over a period of years. In this connection we might well reflect on our three budgets : in 1937-38 a surplus of Rs. 32 lakhs was realized while providing for a Special Development Fund of Rs. 55 lakhs ; in 1938-39 we were confronted by a terrible famine in a large part of the province and our finances permitted a direct expenditure on the famine of Rs. 27 lakhs and a direct loss in our revenue caused by the famine is Rs. 28 lakhs and yet the deficit was all but wiped out by our extraordinary receipts, even though we were able during the year to meet heavy exceptional non-recurring expenditure of the magnitude of Rs. 16 lakhs. In the year 1939-40, were it not for the persistence of the famine causing a loss of Rs. 16 lakhs in revenue and involving a direct expenditure of Rs. 39 lakhs there would have been a revenue surplus of Rs. 26 lakhs, not taking into account extraordinary receipts amounting to Rs. 35 lakhs. Taking the three years, of which the two are famine years, our finances show, after making most liberal provisions for beneficent expenditure, a real and substantial surplus ; abundant proof of the soundness of our finances judged by whatever standard

[Minister for Finance.]

we may choose to apply and tested by whatever theories we may hold about provincial finance. (*Hear, hear.*)

I must, however, strike a note of warning. The satisfactory position that has been obtained on the whole is due in a very large measure to drastic reductions in expenditure. As soon as it was realised that famine was going to place serious and heavy burden on provincial finances, the urgent problem of retrenchment was immediately taken in hand. During the current year it was not possible to do much as the exact magnitude of famine expenditure could not be gauged till some time late in November, 1938, and the time then left to effect economies was too short to permit of any extensive or radical steps. All that was possible to do was to reduce Irrigation working expenditure including Maintenance and Repairs to the extent of Rs. 7½ lakhs and to curtail expenditure on Civil Works by postponing certain works and by slowing down progress on other works. The saving thus effected came to about Rs. 14 lakhs. In 1939-40 economy has been pursued with greater vigour and has afforded larger results. These can be briefly stated as follows :—

	<i>Lakhs.</i> Rs.
Reduction in leave salary, travelling allowance and contingencies	12·80
Lump sum cuts in certain departments	3·12
Reduction in Irrigation maintenance and repairs	4·50
Postponement of civil works and saving in repairs	11·13
Total	31·05

It is obvious that drastic reductions of this character applied at short notice in a large number of directions must affect administration and reduce efficiency, but the circumstances left no option and I trust that the action taken will fully commend itself to the House. So narrow and inelastic are the finances of a province in India that the imperious need of conserving resources cannot be ignored for an instant without serious consequences. The margin of safety is always small, and the demands for additional expenditure persistent and pressing. The path of financial rectitude in these circumstances is beset with difficulties and pitfalls.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES.

The net receipts under the Hydro-Electric Schemes have steadily gone up since the year 1933 when the period of 'construction' was over and that of 'operation' actually started. To take into consideration only the more recent years—in 1936-37 the net receipts amounted to Rs. 15·09 lakhs, in 1937-38 they rose to Rs. 18·36 lakhs. In the year 1938-39 a change was introduced in the system of accounting and from the net receipts deductions were made on account of depreciation charges duly transferred to receipts under the deposit head "Depreciation Reserve Fund for Hydro-Electric Scheme". In the year 1938-39 (revised) the real net receipts were Rs. 13·90 lakhs plus Rs. 7·42 lakhs (transferred as depreciation charges to the deposit

head " Depreciation Reserve Fund for Hydro-Electric Scheme"), that is, an aggregate of Rs. 21·92 lakhs. As against this, an interest charge of Rs. 26·95 lakhs is payable, leaving a gap of only Rs. 5·08 lakhs. This shows an improvement on the figures as presented in the budget of 1938-39 of Rs. half a lakh.

In the budget estimate of 1939-40 the real net income is Rs. 14·67 lakhs plus Rs. 11·23 lakhs (transferred as depreciation charges) making an aggregate of Rs. 25·90 lakhs with an interest liability of Rs. 27·77 lakhs, leaving a gap of only Rs. 1·87 lakhs. The hope entertained by me when the budget for the year was presented that the time is not distant even with a slower rate of progress when the Hydro-Electric Schemes would cease to be even an indirect burden on the finances of the province is all but realized. If economy in husbanding our resources receives watchful attention and all due care is exercised in regard to future extensions, there can be no doubt that the date when the scheme may enter upon the stage of genuine profit is not far.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

In July, 1937, when presenting this Government's first budget I said, " The Haveli Project has now emerged as a finally sanctioned enterprise and this year the stage of actual ' construction ' is to be entered upon. " The total cost of the project was then estimated at Rs. 5·86 lakhs and it was then anticipated that construction would be completed in four years. The project was sanctioned by the Government only in April, 1937, that is, after the present Government came into office, and earthwork in the Weir area actually started in September, 1937, and the foundation stone was laid by Sir Herbert Emerson as recently as the 10th of February, 1938. By the end of next month, that is, in about four weeks' time from now, all works in connection with the Barrage, the main line including lining, the remodelling of the Sidhnai Weir, the remodelling and linking of the Sidhnai and Chenab Inundation Canals, the Rangpur Canal on the right bank including the distributaries will be completed as also the Montgomery-Pakpattan link. The opening ceremony of the Barrage and the canals is to take place on the 2nd of April, 1939. No commentary is needed on the expeditiousness with which our Engineers have completed this large project which had been previously under consideration for years. Every credit is due to Mr. J. D. H. Bedford, the Chief Engineer in charge and his many enthusiastic associates, (*Hear, hear*) who have established an uncontested claim to the gratitude of the province. Instead of the four years which I was able to mention in July, 1937, when not a sod had been broken and no work was actually in hand, in less than a year and eight months from the starting of the earthwork and a little over a year from the laying of the foundation stone, water will actually be running down these canals. This is a notable enough achievement, for it brings the blessings of water more than two years earlier than originally contemplated to an arid and thirsty part of our province. But another fact is even more striking and fills the heart of the Finance Minister with rejoicing. On the original estimates of Rs. 5·86 lakhs reached after the minutest examination and as a result of the study by our whole engineering faculty, a saving in money of Rs. one crore and eighty-six lakhs has been effected and this after spending no less a sum than Rs. thirty lakhs on the lining of the canals not included in the original project. In other words, a

[Minister for Finance.]

project of the utmost importance and of the highest benefit to the State has been completed in less than half the time originally contemplated and with a remarkably large saving in expenditure. This is a record, I am sure, unparalleled in the annals of irrigation not only in this province but anywhere in the country—I think I might almost say anywhere in the world. It is not for me to say what share of credit for this achievement might be claimed by your Government—you would be able to judge better, but it is a matter of the highest gratification to this Government that it should have been given to them to assist in the accomplishment of such a big enterprise thus expeditiously and so economically. This one proof of the solicitude of the present Ministry for the welfare of this province in the study of those needs which would bring permanent and enduring solution of some of our economic difficulties cannot fail to leave an indelible impress on the history of modern Punjab. I wish to enter upon no details as regards this project, if an achieved fact need be called a project any further. Every Punjabee interested in our advance is familiar with the magnitude of good that it is going to bring to us.

THE THAL AND THE BHAKRA.

I would refer now to the two other projects—the Thal and the Bhakra. It is the keenest desire and the most cherished ambition of the present Ministry that in the remainder of the term of the present Assembly definite and substantial steps may be taken in proceeding with these projects.

In July, 1937, referring to the Thal Project I said that it was still at the stage of examination, with a view to seeing if it was likely to prove remunerative and the Government was carrying on the examination with the utmost of expeditiousness consistently with its magnitude and complicated character. To-day I am able to intimate that we have moved far beyond that position. The stage of examination might well be said to be over. The execution of the project is to be taken in hand and the construction is going to begin at a very near date. It was thought at one time that this might begin as early as next May but technical considerations have stood in our way, but even so the competing dates are no further than October this year or April, 1940. In the meantime as an earnest of our determination to see that the project is not delayed even by a day a Survey Party has already been employed to carry out detailed enquiry as to the final location of the various parts of the canal and the survey is expected to save several months in the actual starting of construction work. The estimates of the cost of the project vary as they depend in part on a consideration of the proposals for lining of the main canal and of some of the branches. But these are matters which will not be allowed to cause any delay. When this project is executed, it will bring the blessings of water to some of the most arid parts of the province—the districts of Mianwali and Muzaffargarh and the Khushab tahsil—and offer an effective solution of the many problems caused by what might be called the normal scarcity of rainfall in these districts.

THE BHAKRA DAM.

On the occasion of the last budget in February, 1938, no definite reference could be made even to the Thal Project, the position had not advanced much

beyond what I had stated it to be in July, 1937. Now I am happy to be able to speak in definitely hopeful terms even of the Bhakra Dam Scheme. The plans to-day bid fair to emerge into a stage when construction may be said to be well in sight. (*Hear, hear.*) The Project, it will be recollected, was originally prepared in 1919, and the estimated cost was Rs. 14½ crores. In 1926, the estimate was revised in the light of the rates that obtained during the execution of the Sutlej Valley Project, and it went up to Rs. 23 crores. Later, suggestions were made to raise the height of the Dam from 400 to 500 feet. Now for reasons of practical policy, the scheme for the higher Dam has been abandoned, and the whole scheme has been so revised that agreement with regard to its actual adoption by all the various parties concerned may be shortly completed. The scheme has been fully examined by geological experts and engineering authorities and is free from all technical objections. Among other things it has been found on a thorough examination of data available over a long period that the construction of the Dam will not affect adversely the Inundation Canals in Sind. Thereby the objections to the scheme by a neighbouring province have disappeared. Negotiations are now on foot with one of the Hill States into the details of which I cannot enter, but I hope they would result in a manner satisfactory to both parties. As soon as this happens, it is the earnest desire and the firm determination of this Government to take all necessary steps immediately to proceed to the work of construction. In fact in order that no time may be lost a Survey Party has already been deputed to conduct preliminary surveys, and experienced engineers are being sent to America in a few weeks to familiarize themselves with problems of engineering involved in the designing and construction of dams.

In the final form as now contemplated the Project is estimated to cost Rs. 12 crores ; incidentally I might remark that the reduction in the revised estimates makes the Project financially more feasible.

The scheme is to provide irrigation for areas where no irrigation exists at present and where the lack of irrigation has been strikingly brought home to us during the past twelve months. When the Bhakra scheme materializes, famine shall have lost its worst terrors in the districts of Hissar and Rohtak, and the settled populations of those districts will be able to proceed with the even tenor of their lives undisturbed by the fear of sudden seasonal privations.

Sir, the Haveli Project is an accomplished fact within a short part of the life of this Assembly, a period of less than two years. The position with regard to Thal and Bhakra is as I have briefly described it. With these three achieved, it would be literally correct to say that every available ounce of water in our rivers shall have been utilized ; the Punjab will then for the first time bear truly and fully the title of the land of five rivers. The theme can be interpreted only in the impassioned utterance of a poet, it lies beyond the powers of a Finance Minister in the course of a budget speech to depict. It is said that the new Jerusalem cannot be built overnight in the wilderness. In many of the vast desert tracts of the province the saying is about to be falsified. While the dust of discontent is being raised by the thoughtless in many quarters, the good work proceeds apace bringing hope and contentment and rejoicing to myriads of Punjabee families. These schemes will

[Minister for Finance.]

bring untold relief to east and west and even the favoured centre. What a record of actual achievement, and of further blessings about to arrive. Is it too much to affirm that these constitute this Government's unchallengeable title to be regarded the most loyal and efficient servants of the province that history has known, I was going to say that history shall ever record? Certain it is, that no finer proof of the high possibilities of Provincial Autonomy can be adduced, and if the goal of freedom is gained or won for India, the record of your present Government in this great and beloved province of ours shall mark the most effective milestones in the march of advance. And this first Assembly shall have its full share of the honours, for in our shining endeavour to build and to serve we all stand shoulder to shoulder.

I should say here that with the completion of these projects, the future irrigation schemes will have to depend entirely on storage

3 P.M.

arrangements and on tube-wells. That apart from Bhakra which probably is the best storage site on our rivers, other suitable sites exist on the various rivers and their tributaries—they are within Government's view, and these sources of water supply would be developed as occasions arise or circumstances favour. Tube-well schemes in more than one district are already in operation, and with time may be largely extended.

POPULATION AND STANDARD OF LIVING.

Sir John Megaw speaking recently in London on the pressure of population in India drew attention to the alarming fact that over half the Indian people, at least, in the rural areas, fall below a minimal standard of nutrition even on the frugal scale of a warm Oriental country, and he stressed the need of improvement in economic output in default of which the increasing pressure of population is likely still further to depress the average standard of life. It is well known that the standard of nutrition is higher in the Punjab than elsewhere—the best evidence is in the physique of the Punjabee and his mode of life. But persistent endeavour is being made here to improve the economic output, whether in the main cereal crops or in the principal commercial crops. The Agricultural Department that is responsible for so much remarkable achievement in this direction in recent years continues to add to the wealth of the province in introducing improved seeds and by breaking fresh ground in resisting plant disease and showing the way to newer and more effective methods of cultivation. Our industries also are showing marked signs of progress—Government is keen to help, and enterprise among the people is rapidly developing. These are encouraging features of our economic life, particularly as problems of industrial labour have not assumed here the disquieting aspect that they bear in other parts of the country. In the comparative quiet of our freedom from disturbing movements we yet have a chance to attend to vital economic questions. Is it too much to hope that with our attachment to the realistic and our appreciation of the practical we may continue to build up true strength?—for political advance and true freedom must wait on such strength and to think otherwise is to build upon sand and indulge in vain imaginings.

Our fiscal system, because of the inevitable force of circumstances, provides for little elasticity. It is necessary therefore to preserve our resources unimpaired and not part with revenues while greater strength has not been firmly secured and at any rate not till our proposed big irrigation projects are completed. The Thal and the Bhakra are estimated to cost anywhere between Rs. 20 and 24 crores—the heavy interest charge during the period of construction and for several years after has to be borne by our ordinary finances. As I read our finances in their broad and essential lineaments, I hear the call of Thal and of Bhakra, the extension of hydro-electric power, and of tube-well irrigation. May I as one who reflects anxiously and every day on our provincial finance warn the House that this imperious call is the voice of wisdom, let none of us be deflected for one instant from the clear path of prudence by empty and false promptings howsoever alluring. Let us build surely and gain strength and security before we listen lightly to the voice of any temptress—for then alone shall we be able with certainty to pursue the many ideals which lie close to our heart. We want to win success and eschew failure; to this end let us strive unremittingly with our whole energy and courage.

My last words must be an expression of appreciation of the work of the officers and the staff of the Finance Department. It is to their trained application and zealous devotion to duty that we owe the accurate picture of our finances presented to-day. Their work is onerous and of the highest responsibility, though it is unpretentious and lies beyond the ken of honourable members. Were it not due to their daily minute attention to detail, the danger of falling into error that might prove at once embarrassing and expensive could not be averted. During the year the destinies of the department have remained in the capable and thorough hands of Mr. H. D. Bhanot, (*Hear, hear*), and his well-known qualities of hard and unsparing work and close application to minutiae have been of great value in the discharge of the duties of his office. In a year when scarcity and famine conditions have prevailed over a large part of the province, raising frequently revenue questions of much complexity with their inevitable repercussions on finances it has been a great advantage to us that our finances were immediately watched over by one who had recent and expert knowledge of our revenue problems. I have been able throughout to rely unhesitatingly on his judgment and advice, and I look forward with his help to enforce those traditions of respect for sound exchequer control that are essential for the proper functioning of all governments. (*Hear, hear.*)

I must refer to two other officers by name. Their work is unobtrusive; honourable members are probably not familiar even with their faces, as they are seldom in evidence, and are completely immersed in the dry and uninspiring details of financial precedent trying laboriously to discover some helpful principle in this confusing labyrinth. Our Deputy Secretary, Mr. H. J. Pearson, is an expert in our Public Works Finance, and he owes our special gratitude for the quickness with which he prepared cases in connexion with the Haveli Project. Rai Sahib Lala Lal Chand, the Assistant Secretary, had his services recognised by the grant of a title during the year. His abundant knowledge of procedure, his general familiarity with past tradition, his unbounded desire to help continue to be of great advantage to the department.

[Minister for Finance.]

My appreciation of the excellent work of our Superintendents and Assistants continues unabated. I have come to know several of them personally, I have established direct relations with them in connexion with the larger questions in their particular charge—though I am afraid that thereby I might be offending against the narrow susceptibilities of the Secretariat. They have given us of their best, and as I said last year no small part of the successful functioning of the department is due to their zealous co-operation, sense of duty and efficient work.

Before I resume my seat, I must record the Government's tribute to the help received from the two Accountant-Generals who have presided during the year over our accounts. Mr. J. G. Bhandari retired soon after the year's budget was presented after a distinguished career in the service of the Crown in India. His counsel and guidance, I was going to say continual admonition, was of great value to us in the initial stage of the introduction of provincial autonomy. His successor, Mr. Brij Lal Nehru, now exercises a vigilant watch over our accounts and practises the role of an unbending critic. On our part we do not surrender our position readily, and I trust the examination that emerges from the controversy is of benefit to the Province. I am anxious once again to say that the advice and authoritative counsel of Sir Ernest Burdon, the Auditor-General for India, has throughout been of the utmost advantage to Government. Our thanks are also due to Mr. A. C. Badenoch, who acted during a part of the year as Auditor-General in Sir Ernest Burdon's place. He was particularly helpful in a conference on the accounts of the Haveli Project.

Sir, I beg to present to the Assembly the budget for the year 1939-40 (cheers).

MOTOR SPIRIT AND LUBRICANTS (TAXATION OF SALES) BILL.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : I beg to intimate to the House, in the first instance, that the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill is being introduced on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor. I beg to introduce the Bill.

I also move—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Pir Akbar Ali.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali.
Rai Bahadur Binda Saran.
Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh.
Thakur Ripudaman Singh.
Chaudhri Faqir Hussain Khan.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Het Ram.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khawaja Ghulam Samad.
Sufi Abdul Hamid.
Lala Bhim Sen Sachar.
Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam.
Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.

It is not necessary to say much in commending this motion to the House. We took up the question very early of a sales tax with particular reference to the possibility of a tax being imposed on the retail sale of petrol and lubricants in this province. Very soon after, however, the Government of the Central Provinces had a Bill on the subject passed and a controversy arose between that Government and the Government of India on the question whether a duty of this kind constituted a sales tax or an excise. In one case it would be beyond the powers of a provincial government to proceed with a measure of this kind. Ultimately the matter was a subject of reference to the Federal Court. It is now within the knowledge of everybody in this country that the Federal Court held that a duty of this character was a sales tax and not an excise and so lay within the powers of a provincial government. Further, it would also be remembered by honourable members that since that decision similar measures have been undertaken by a large number of provincial governments. It is not therefore necessary to canvass opinion on this subject to any large extent. It is perfectly obvious that a measure of this kind is, if further revenues are to be secured, open to least objection. Honourable members would remember that quite recently various provincial governments have put forward a series of taxation proposals. But invariably this particular measure has not suffered any very serious criticism. In these circumstances I have no hesitation in commending this particular measure to this House.

I wish to say only two words more in connection with the Bill. We have, it will be seen, actually prescribed in one clause of the Bill the exact amount of duty that is proposed to be levied, while the procedure adopted in several other provinces is not to prescribe the exact amount of duty, but to leave the matter entirely to the discretion of the Government. We feel that it is but right that in a matter where we have no past experience it will be as well to come up to the House if we want at any stage to increase the duty. The present proposal is to take the definite sanction of the House as to the pitch of duty that should be levied. In this respect we stand apart from other provinces. The other thing that I have to mention is this, that our duty, except perhaps as in one other province, is lower than in any other provinces. In one province, which I do not propose to mention here, the duty proposed is two annas per gallon. In another province the duty is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per gallon of petrol. I think, in the Central Provinces where the measure has passed into an Act, the duty is exactly like ours. They take five per cent. It will be seen that five per cent of Re. 1-9-0 which is about the price of petrol per gallon in this province, comes to exactly $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas. There is little else that one need consider at this stage in connection with the Bill. We have closely followed the Central Provinces Act and we have been carefully watching what is being done in other provinces and if any changes are required in the Bill they can be set right in our discussions in the select committee. With these words I move that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Mian Abdul Rab : I rise on a point of privilege. A day or two before the Assembly adjourned in January I made a written request to the Secretary of the Assembly to allot me a seat on any side of the House other than the present one. I do not know what other steps I should take to get my seat changed.

Mr. Speaker : Had the honourable member referred the matter to me I would have tried to do the needful.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On this question of privilege I wish to ask what action has been taken by the Secretary on the request of the honourable member ?

Mr. Speaker : I disallow the question. The arrangement of seats is made by me. The Secretary is only my assistant.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I have no intention to raise the question on the floor of the House. I only wish to know whether the matter was not brought to your notice by the Secretary ?

Mr. Speaker : This question will be answered when the Secretary is on his trial. Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Pir Akbar Ali.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Risasat Ali.
Rai Bahadur Binda Saran.
Lieutenant Sardar Neunihal Singh,
Thakur Ripudaman Singh.
Chaudhri Faqir Hussain Khan.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Het Ram.
Rai Shahadat Khan.
Khawaja Ghulam Samad.
Sufi Abdul Hamid.
Lala Bhim Sen Sachar.
Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam.
Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour) : I have an amendment to this motion which reads as follows :—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st October, 1939.

The reason why I desire to move this amendment is in short this—that it has already become a public matter even before my honourable friend, the Finance Minister, mentioned it in his budget speech. I do not know how the newspapers already obtained information that a duty of this nature was going to be levied. In my opinion it is a grave dereliction of duty on the part of the Finance Minister or his department that taxation proposals so sacrosanct and secret should have been allowed to become public property even before the Finance Minister placed them before the House. I am sure my honourable friend will agree with me that it is a grave wrong to allow taxation proposals to see the light of day before my honourable friend stands up on the floor of the House and proposes them in his budget speech. It is for that reason that I have time and again pressed my honourable friend to bring in, as other provinces do, a Finance Bill for the purpose of bringing forward taxation proposals, levying new taxes or altering existing taxes from year to year. The Finance Minister said just now that he was leaving it to the good sense of the House to decide the amount of duty to be levied and not taking power for the executive authority to fix the amount.

This departure from the past practice is a very desirable thing. How much would it have been better if my honourable friend had accepted my suggestion of bringing forward all taxation proposals before the House in the form of a Finance Bill !

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do think that since this matter has already been made public, it is necessary that the public should be consulted as to whether, first of all, it is desirable that this taxation should be levied and secondly, whether it is desirable that this particular method should be adopted for levying this taxation. It is necessary that the people who are going to be affected by this legislation should be consulted and my honourable friend thinks that the burden which is going to be placed is possibly a burden which is not going to be placed upon the shoulders of the very poor classes. But let him remember that there is to-day in the Punjab a great deal of activity in the transport line and transport by motor car and by motor bus is utilised to-day by the poorer classes (*hear, hear*) and they utilise this in preference to the railways, because, firstly, it is cheaper and secondly, it is more convenient. Let him also remember this that the taxation that he is desirous of levying will be passed on by the necessary vested interests to the shoulders of the poorer classes who avail of this transport. Therefore, it is necessary to go most carefully into this matter and consult all the interests involved before launching upon a scheme of taxation which will fall directly upon those classes which can ill-afford to bear a burden of this nature. I do not think my honourable friend is going to lose a great deal by circulating this measure for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. The date that I have fixed in my amendment is the 1st of October. I do not think, even if my honourable friend gets this measure passed by the end of this present budget session, he will be losing a great deal of revenue that he seeks to collect. The total that he thinks he will collect as a result of this measure during the course of a full financial year is only 6½ lakhs. It is a little over Rs. 50,000 a month and for a period of let us say, four months, he will be losing only a revenue of two lakhs and I submit it is worth while consulting the public in regard to a measure of this nature and not hurry it through by referring it to a select committee now and thereafter passing it during the budget session. My honourable friend may well say that it is a financial measure which should not be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. But I submit that it is necessary that measures which burden directly or indirectly the poorer classes should be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon and I think my honourable friend will be well advised to elicit public opinion on this matter. He will not lose anything by such a course. He will be merely postponing for a few months the collection of revenue which might come in as a result of this measure.

Further, another reason I have for proposing this delay in the passing of this measure is this. I think it is possible after a careful consideration of the budget to come to the conclusion that there are other avenues of getting these 6½ lakhs instead of burdening the entire province with an extra taxation of this sort. Now my honourable friend will say, 'what other avenues?' One particular avenue comes to my mind. I think it is time that my honourable friends submitted themselves to a cut in their own salaries and in their

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

own allowances. I think by effecting a cut in the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries and the Honourable Ministers and their travelling allowances and other allowances that they take, this province would be saving comfortably about 1½ lakhs if not more even if they were to halve their present salaries and if they would reduce their salaries to the level of the salaries received by the ministers of other provinces, in the Congress provinces particularly, I think my honourable friend will be able to save a great deal more. If they can save an important portion of this sum by the reduction of their salaries, I see no reason why they should pass on a burden, which they themselves should bear, on to the shoulders of the poorer classes. What is there to prevent them from doing that right thing by this country and saying that as a measure of self-sacrifice they will accept reduced salaries, that they will accept a salary of Rs. 500 a month from now onwards and thereby avoid the burden on the poorer classes? What is there to prevent my honourable friends from doing that? I know one reason that has been advanced by one of the honourable members which is that the dignity would suffer if they were to receive a lower salary. I hope I am not in any way misquoting my honourable friend when I suggest that that was one of the reasons advanced by him. But I do hope that my honourable friends do not rely upon their finances for the preservation of their dignity. Dignity is not a matter which is connected with—

Mr. Speaker : At this stage the honourable member is entitled to discuss only the principle of the Bill. The honourable member is going too far in bringing in Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and proposing a reduction of their salaries.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Mr. Speaker, what I am attempting to do is merely this, to show the reason why this Bill should be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon because if it is circulated for this purpose my honourable friend will soon know that the public will demand that my honourable friend's salaries should be reduced rather than that this Bill should be imposed upon the public.

Mr. Speaker : I invite the honourable member's attention to rule 86 which says—

On the day on which any of the motions referred to in rule 84 is made or on any subsequent day to which the discussion thereof is postponed, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principle.

The principle of the Bill is clear. The honourable member may discuss it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am not discussing any details. I am not going beyond the rule. I am discussing merely the principle of the Bill, the principle being taxation. The one principle I am discussing is that if this Bill is circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon, the public will inform my honourable friend that there are other methods by means of which he can raise his 6½ lakhs of rupees rather than burden the poorer classes. That is the reason why I have presented this amendment before the House and I ask my honourable friend to remember that he is not likely to lose anything but gain a great deal by collecting the necessary evidence from the public which will convince him that it is inadvisable in

the present state of the Punjab finances to proceed with a measure of this kind but rather inflict some sort of sacrifice upon themselves and rather explore other avenues whereby they can retrench their expenditure and thereby save these 6½ lakhs and prevent burdening the poorer classes. That is the sole principle that I have been discussing and that is the sole reason why I have moved this amendment which I commend to my honourable friend.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under discussion, amendment moved is—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st October, 1939.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) :

Sir, a similar amendment stands against my name too. I agree that it is not possible for the provincial governments to spend greater sums on beneficent departments without imposing fresh taxes on the rich. I also agree that it is not possible for them to tax the poor. Further, I am in perfect agreement with the principle that only the luxuries should be taxed. Notwithstanding all these considerations, we have to see whether the Bill which has now been introduced and which it is proposed to refer to a select committee, is a sound and sensible measure. We cannot fail to recognise the patent fact that for some people keeping of a motor car is not a luxury but a positive necessity. It may be considered a luxury for some fat-salaried Government officers who keep motor cars to drive daily to their offices. Such people may be taxed. I shall raise no objection. But the thing to which I wish to draw your attention is this. I have great pleasure in being able to say that the roads in our province are most well kept in this country, better at any rate than in other provinces. (*Hear, hear.*) Consequently there is a good deal of lorry traffic on these roads. These lorries ply mainly for conveying commercial commodities from one *mandi* to another. It goes without saying that the transportation of agricultural produce by means of motor lorries is comparatively less expensive than by railway trains. If the growers send their corn to distant markets in motor lorries it is because they want to effect a reduction as far as possible in their expenditure. The present financial condition of the growers can better be imagined than described. The less we say about it the better it is. I need hardly say that the agriculturists of to-day are unable to bear the comparatively heavy freight charged by the railway authorities. And that is why they generally resort to a much cheaper course and engage motor lorries for the purpose.

I am really surprised to see the mentality of the Government. On the one side they urge the advisability of curtailing the heavy expenditure incurred by the growers but on the other they increase it by levying quite a new taxation unheard of before. We often hear from the Treasury benches that out of every rupee the grower gets only 9½ annas, and the remaining amount is pilfered out of his pocket by the clever middleman. But they lose sight of the fact that the amount lost to the grower includes the transportation charges also which generally form the biggest item in the list of his expenditure. I admit that apparently there is no occasion for pleading the cause of the growers here but my apprehensions and fears appear to be well-founded and genuine when I feel that in actual practice the real brunt of the measure would fall on the poor growers. The proposed tax would

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

undoubtedly be levied on the retail dealers and paid by them to the Government, but they would pass this charge on the lorrywalas by raising the price of petrol and the lorrywalas in their turn would increase the rate of fare and freight. In other words the whole of this fiscal burden would eventually be shifted on to the growers. With this point in view we have moved an amendment to the effect that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. We want those people who are likely to be affected by this measure to have their say in the matter. It is just possible that by affording such an opportunity to the public the Government might be in a position to find out ways and means for helping the dealers in buying cheap petrol, and thereby minimise the magnitude of the havoc that is expected to be done to the poor agriculturist.

I may point out here, that the amendment which stands against my name proposes the date of 31st May, 1939, and even if this appears to be much far off, the Government is free to fix any nearer date for the purpose. But anyhow it is highly essential that the public should be taken into confidence while enacting such a measure which tends to affect various interests. The Honourable Minister for Finance was pleased to remark that the proposed taxation was expected to bring in a big sum of 6½ lakhs of rupees during the coming financial year. But my submission is that if the Government were to postpone the imposition of the tax for a month or two it would make a difference of only 50 or 60 thousand according to his estimates. And so I do not find any justification in depriving the people of the opportunity of giving their opinions on the measure simply on the ground that the Government would lose a little amount of tax by resorting to any postponement. The Government cannot advance the argument that the dealers would store petrol in the meantime. Here any amount of storage cannot save them from the tax which is sought to be levied only on the sales. Even now no one can store petrol without a valid licence duly granted by the Government. Anyhow I do not consider it a strong and valid argument that the State Exchequer would suffer heavily by any delay in the enactment of the proposed measure. With these words, Sir, I press the need for circulation of the Bill to the acceptance of the House.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural) : Sir, before any legislative provision is enacted by this House I have always maintained that it is desirable that persons who are likely to be affected by that provision should be consulted. In this matter we all know that lorry traffic has come to stay in this country not only as a means of carrying passengers, but to a very large extent of transporting goods from one part of the country to the other. Therefore this increased taxation is likely to fall both on poorer classes who prefer to travel by lorries and also on the carriage of goods, and is thus likely to affect the prices of commodities which are again consumed by the poorer classes and which are ultimately provided by the growers. Again it is a well known fact that the price of petrol is unconscionably and abnormally high in this country as compared with the price of petrol in other countries. I am told that the price of petrol per gallon in England is about a shilling or a shilling and two pence while in America it hardly exceeds three or four annas a gallon. In this country and especially in this province we pay Re. 1-9-0 per gallon.

Therefore it is necessary to enquire as to how this taxation is likely to affect the various classes connected directly or indirectly with this industry, and also as to what the Punjabees will have to pay for a gallon of petrol as compared with other countries and provinces. I am told that the price of petrol in Calcutta is only Re. 1-2-0. We are already paying seven annas per gallon more at Lahore. If this taxation were to affect the richer classes alone and were to affect only those people who keep motor cars for luxury or for convenience, it may not perhaps be necessary to probe into this matter any further, but the facts are that this revenue of 6½ lakhs is not going to be raised from these rich classes alone or even mainly. It is to come out of the pockets of the poor classes and it is likely to be a burden on an industry which has the prospect of being established as a major industry in this province. The transport industry is one of the main industries in other countries and even other provinces and it is still in its initial stages of growth here and it is a question for consideration whether it is desirable to put additional burden on it in its earlier stages. It is possible that further enquiries might confirm the Government in its view of persisting in this legislation, but it is quite possible that further enquiries may tell a different tale and the Government might be induced to take a different view and abandon this taxation altogether or at any rate to vary its rate and if possible its incidence. After all no harm would be done in circulating a new measure like this for public opinion. It is quite possible, although I do not expect that it is likely, that the Government might be placed in possession of facts which might induce it to place a higher taxation. Why does this Government always adopt the method of relying upon its judgment unaided by the opinion or by the advice of others? This legislative proposal, as has been pointed out by Diwan Chaman Lall, has been talked about in the press for the last few days, although officially it was not given out. If the Government wanted to have any further enquiries made it might have published it in the form of a Bill, three or four weeks ago, and although officially the Bill may not have been circulated for eliciting public opinion and the Government may not have obtained opinion which it usually does by sending the Bills to the deputy commissioners, tahsildars, various societies, chambers, motor unions and others, still these people who are likely to be affected by this piece of legislation might have made representations to the Government pointing out the various difficulties which they are already suffering, the defects of the Bill and also the difficulties to which they are likely to be put to by the passing of this legislation.

Another important consideration which ought to weigh with the Government is that the present price of petrol, which is Re. 1-9-0 per gallon, already includes ten annas of taxation. How far is it desirable, I beg to ask the Government, to levy additional taxation on an article which is already so heavily taxed? Further enquiries might reveal that there are other articles on which such taxation could be levied. Therefore, the Government would be well advised in following the normal procedure and not following the abnormal procedure of not circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. Sir, as I said on another occasion, the Government has, of late, practically decided not to follow the normal procedure in carrying out their legislative programme and it is high time that they gave an indication to this House and to the province of following the normal procedure which is

[R. B. Mr. Mukand Lal Puri.]

usually adopted with respect to new legislation and for which there is provision in the rules. Every one is aware of the fact that such a duty was introduced in the Central Provinces. The legality of that duty was called in question. It was pointed out that the imposition of that duty was against the provisions of the Government of India Act. The matter was referred to the Federal Court and it has only recently been decided that such a duty is legal. So far as this province is concerned, the people have had absolutely no opportunity of giving any thought to this matter and, therefore, it is necessary that the Government should circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion.

Lala Bhagat Ram Choda (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I propose to say a few words only. In the first instance I want to point out that the rate per gallon of motor spirits is already higher in the Punjab than in other provinces of India. For example the rate per gallon of petrol is Re. 1-5-0 in Delhi while it is Re. 1-8-0 at Karnal which is not very distant from Delhi. The proposed measure will make the rate still higher and the poor classes who generally travel in motor lorries will have to bear the brunt of it.

My second point is that the Punjab Government will, by imposing the proposed tax, help the railways at the cost of the poor motor drivers. This is hardly fair. Briefly put, my contention is that the proposed tax will hit the poor population hard and the pity of it is that the people know nothing about it. They are taken unawares. It is but fair that the Government should circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. With these words, Sir, I strongly support the motion for the circulation of the Bill.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) : There are certain amendments standing in the names of my honourable friends on this side of the House. According to one amendment of theirs the Bill is required to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 1st of October, 1939. According to amendments Nos. 2 and 3 it is required to be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st May, 1939. My amendment is that the Bill be circulated for the purposes of eliciting opinion thereon by the 10th April, 1939. The Honourable Minister for Finance has put forward an objection that if other amendments are accepted, then the Bill in question would not be passed during the Budget Session. That objection of his can very well be removed if the amendment standing in my name is accepted. According to the revised programme this session has been extended upto the 19th of April, 1939, and I want that public opinion should be obtained by the 10th of April, 1939. There would thus still be time, after the public opinion is elicited, for the Bill to be referred to the select committee and passed before the 19th of April, that is, in this very session. It is extremely important that the Government should give up the extraordinary practice of not referring the Bills to the public for eliciting opinion thereon. So far, numerous Bills have been introduced by the Government and you would see that not a single Bill has been circulated for eliciting public opinion. There is no denying the fact that it is an important piece of legislation. It affects not only certain banias (*A voice, Lalas*)—I should say Lalas—but it mostly affects the agriculturists because

it will be seen that the people who consume petrol are either motor-drivers or owners of motor-lorries or those persons who have got cars. It will be seen that most of the persons who own motor lorries are agriculturists. (A voice : Jats) I cannot say 'Jats' for there may be *Arains* too among the agriculturists. It is a pity that the Minister for Development has so far been saying that he wants in a way to relieve the burden of the agriculturists but the first Bill imposing taxation upon the people that comes from this Government, indirectly taxes the agricultural classes only. According to this Bill, the drivers, who are agriculturists, will be affected as also those people who travel in these lorries and who are agriculturists coming from the villages. I expect my honourable friend, the Minister for Development, to see whether this Bill is going to give some relief to the agriculturists or is going to put more burden upon those poor people. I, therefore, hope that the Bill would be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 10th April, 1939, so that we may be able to judge what the opinion of the public or motor owners, who have mostly to pay, is about this Bill.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural) : Mr. Speaker, I have failed to see the soundness of the reasons, advanced by my honourable friends from that side of the House, for pressing their amendments to circulate this Bill. Some gentlemen have come forward to say that the Government has never before agreed to a motion for circulation and therefore they ought to accept this amendment and circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. On the very principle I am against this amendment—for the simple reason that this Bill is a purely fiscal Bill and you cannot expect the Government to go every time to the country for eliciting public opinion when a measure for taxation is brought forward. I wonder if my honourable friend's argument can hold water if, for instance, Government wants to increase income-tax—this Legislature has of course no power to do so but the Central Legislature has—or if Government wants to come up to this House with any fresh form of taxation, then according to my friends every time they will have to elicit public opinion before they can levy a tax. That in itself is something very wrong and a precedent which we should not create. My friends are always in the habit of drawing our attention to what happens in Parliament. There, as you know, nobody knows about any new form of taxation except the Chancellor of the Exchequer, until the day when the budget is introduced. (*Sardar Sampuran Singh* : That is not so here.) That is why I ask, what have we to gain by going to the public and seeking their opinion? What advantage will be derived if we circulate this Bill for public opinion? I fail to see any. We all know that this taxation is going to be met by the people—either the passengers or the persons whose commodities move from place to place or the companies who own lorries or the petrol companies. I am personally very strongly in favour of the petrol companies coming forward to shoulder this burden of additional taxation. I absolutely fail to see any advantage that would be gained by circulating the Bill and, as I have already said, the public will naturally say that they will not be prepared to shoulder this additional form of taxation. After all, my friends both on this side of the House as well as that side of the House represent the public. If the people cannot bear any additional taxation I am sure my friends over there can voice those sentiments and feelings either in the select committee or when this Bill comes up before

[S. Amjad Ali Shah.]

the House. Therefore, I personally think that the motion for reference to the select committee is quite enough. There, experts who have any interest in the transport of the province or in its economic aspect can discuss this question threadbare and that is the place where these technical questions should be discussed, rather than let interested people move about the country and do propaganda either in the press or on the platform against a measure which is purely fiscal as is clear from the opening sentence of the Honourable Finance Minister's objects and reasons. The Finance Minister and other honourable members sitting on this side of the House have already pointed out that this form of taxation has already been levied in the Central Provinces and is being brought forward in the other provincial Assemblies by the various Congress Governments. The Honourable the Finance Minister has already stated that one of the provincial governments has gone as far as to suggest two annas per gallon on petrol.

Minister for Finance : They have already passed it.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Yes, they have already passed it. Therefore I would submit to my honourable friends on that side of the House that this taxation is neither novel nor higher than that levied elsewhere and hence the only thing which they will obtain is delay, and as our finances at present are not in a position to play with a sum as much as 6½ lakhs I hope they will agree with this motion.

There is one more point which was advanced by Diwan Chaman Lal and stressed by the Leader of the Opposition. They said that if the Government wants 6½ lakhs and if this Bill goes to the public, the public will be able to tell them from which other source these 6½ lakhs can be recovered. I cannot understand this reasoning at all. If this motion is referred to the public, surely the public will concentrate only on this particular question and will say that this tax should not be levied at all as no people bear taxation willingly. Do my friends like them to say that tax should be levied on 'elephant rides' or 'camel rides' and 'sight seeing'? I really did not expect such reasoning from my two able friends. If it is a question of sources then we have already got the Retrenchment and Resources Committee that will tell us what else to tax. In this case we are utilising the resources we know. With these few words I support the motion of the Honourable Finance Minister.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved is—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

I will put it first. As regards the date I will put it afterwards if this motion is carried, otherwise it will be useless.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 87 ; Noes 78.

AYES

Abdul Aziz, Mian.
Abdul Rab, Mian.
Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harjab Singh, Sardar.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishan Singh, Sardar.

Lal Singh, Sardar.
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
Chaudhri.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Muni Lal, Kalia, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sar-
dar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Satya Pal, Dr.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
Sudarshan, Seth.
Uttam Singh, Dugal, Sardar.

NOES

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gur-
daspur).
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Akbar Ali, Pir.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur
Nawab Malik.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.
Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable
Chaudhri Sir.
Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
Dina Nath, Captain.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major
Raja.
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.

Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab
Chaudhri.
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
Few, Mr. E.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Baha-
dur Maulvi.
Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib
Sardar.
Habib-Ullah Khan, Malik.
Hans Raj, Bhagat.
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
Jafar Ali Khan, M.
Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
Jalal-ud-Din, Amber, Chaudhri.
Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The
Honourable Nawabzada Major.

Kishan Das, Seth.	Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.	Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.	Pohop Singh, Rao.
Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.	Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.	Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.	Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.	Roberts, Sir William.
Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.	Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.	Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.	Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.	Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab, Sir.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.	Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.	Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian.
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
Muzaffar Ali Khan, Qizilbash, Sardar.	Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.	Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.	Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
Naunihal Singh, Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.	Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : The question is that—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill be referred to a select committee.

4 P.M.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The next question is—

That the select committee do consist of more than 15 members.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Again, the question is—

That the select committee do consist of the following :—

Pir Akbar Ali,
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali,
Rai Bahadur Binda Saran,
Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh,
Thakur Ripudaman Singh,
Chandhri Faqir Hussain Khan,
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Het Ram,
Rai Shahadat Khan,

Khawaja Ghulam Samad,
 Sufi Abdul Hamid,
 Lala Bhim Sen Sachar,
 Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam,
 Sayed Amjad Ali Shah, and
 three *ex-officio* members.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly fixed the quorum of the select committee at 5.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (OFFICES) BILL.

Premier : Sir, I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Legislative Assembly (Offices) Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Monday, 13th March, 1939.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 13th March, 1939.

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER CRIMINAL LAW IN THE PUNJAB.

***3722. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of prosecutions under sections 124-A and 158-A respectively pending at the end of October, 1938, in the Punjab;
- (b) the number of prosecutions under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, pending at the end of October, 1938;
- (c) the number of prosecutions under the Criminal Law Amendment Act pending at the end of October, 1938, with the number of other political prosecutions;
- (d) the number of persons interned in and out of the province till the end of October, 1938?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Two each under section 124-A. and 158-A., I. P. C., respectively.

(b) Two.

(c) Nil so far as the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act is concerned.

(d) Will the honourable member kindly indicate the date from which this information is required?

UNTRACED MURDERS.

***3724. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of murders committed during the first eight months of the year 1938, that have remained untraced, so far?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): 148 cases so far untraced, out of 844 reported.

INCREASE IN CRIMES IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***3855. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether there has been an increase in crimes during the last three months in the Ludhiana district; if so, the names of the thanas and of the officers in charge thereof where there has been considerable increase in crime during this period, with the reasons for this increase?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): A statement is laid on the table. (It does not seem necessary to give the names of the station house officers.) Except in the case of Ludhiana City the increases are not large and too much should not be made of them; but so far

S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

as they appear to be due to the agitation which has been conducted in the district recently against *thakri pahra* and other measures of watch and ward ; the economic depression, aggravated by the poor monsoon ; and the insistence of the present Superintendent of Police on the registration of all crimes. In Ludhiana City the difficulties of the police are accentuated by the fact that there has been no expansion of the force to counter-balance the large growth of the population in recent years.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : What particular measures were adopted by the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, for the prevention of crime ?

Parliamentary Secretary : All possible measures were adopted.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will you give one particular measure adopted by the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, for the prevention of crime ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is for the honourable member to say what steps the Superintendent of Police ought to have taken which he has not taken. I say that he has adopted all the measures possible.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : It is not for me to say what measures he ought to have adopted. I want to know what measures he actually did adopt.

Parliamentary Secretary : If the honourable member were to give notice, I will give him a detail of the steps taken.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : May I know whether any action in taken against a sub-inspector of police in whose time there is an increase in crime in a particular station of police ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is a hypothetical question, but if the officers find that the increase in crime is due to the negligence of the officers, then action is taken against them.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Will the Parliamentary Secretary state whether the fact that there was an increase in crime in the time of a certain officer is taken into consideration while giving promotions to police officers ?

Parliamentary Secretary : All matters are taken into consideration.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has any action been taken against any of the police officers for the increase of crime in their districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not necessary to take action against officers simply for the reason that there has been an increase in crime.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Is not an increase in crime a proof of an officer's inefficiency ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Not necessarily.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has the Superintendent of Police investigated the causes of crime ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He has asked for more police force for the town of Ludhiana and in the new Budget more police force has been provided.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is that the reason why crime has increased ?

Statement.

Month.	Police Station.	Increase.
August, 1938 ..	City Ludhiana	24
	Sadr Ludhiana	12
September, 1938 ..	City Ludhiana	9
	Sahnewal	8
October, 1938 ..	City Ludhiana	17
	Dehlon	9
	Jagraon	9

COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICERS IN
LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***3856. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- the names of the police officers in the Ludhiana district against whom there are complaints of corruption during the period from March 1937 to November 1938, in the Ludhiana district and whether inquiries were made into those complaints; if so, the result of those inquiries, if any;
- the names of the complainants and their witnesses;
- whether there was any magisterial inquiry held into the allegations of corruption against police officers in the Ludhiana district?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : It is not clear whether the honourable member refers to complaints made to Government or to the Inspector-General of Police; or to complaints preferred to the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police; or to petitions addressed to the other gazetted officers and upper subordinates in the Ludhiana police; or to all of them. Moreover the phrase "complaints of corruption" is a vague one which might be held to cover anything from a positive charge that a certain official had taken a cash bribe, to a vague allegation that a case was being badly investigated by the police from ulterior motives. For these reasons I regret that it is impossible to give a direct answer to the question in its present form. It has, however, been ascertained that proceedings have been taken against thirty police officers in the Ludhiana district on complaints or petitions preferred during the period mentioned. In twenty-four of these cases there were allegations of actual bribery; the remaining six were cases involving other forms of

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

corruption. In four out of the total of thirty cases the proceedings were judicial. One of these cases was finally cancelled ; in a second the accused police officer was acquitted on appeal ; the other two are still pending. Of the twenty-six cases dealt with departmentally, eighteen were found to be false, and four are pending. One, not fully proved, ended with a warning to the constable concerned. In the remaining three cases the officers concerned were dismissed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that in certain cases of corruption action was taken deliberately at a very late stage ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Not at all.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that against a head constable enquiry was complete by the end of July but he was dismissed only after the receipt of this question ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware of it, but I would require notice for that question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to say how many cases of corruption have been reported to the Punjab Government, either to the Inspector-General of Police or the Superintendent of Police or to the Deputy Commissioner ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not possible to give an answer to this question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has the Parliamentary Secretary made enquiries from the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have made it clear in my answer to the original question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will he please state whether there are any cases still pending relating to this period in question ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated in reply to the question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that an enquiry was made into the case of a head constable accepting Rs. 70 as bribery ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware of it. It may be true possibly.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has it come to the notice of the Parliamentary Secretary that constables from the Beit Ilaga are not cared for ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member has put a number of questions regarding recruitment of constables and allied matters in Beit Ilaga but I have already stated in reply to them, that such complaints are entirely unjustified.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : It is not recruitment. The Parliamentary Secretary should read the question. It is about sending police constables to Phillaur.

Parliamentary Secretary : Nor is his complaint regarding this matter justified.

POLICE CONSTABLES SENT TO PHILLAUR FOR TRAINING IN LOWER AND UPPER CLASSES.

***3857. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of all those police constables in Ludhiana district who were sent to the Phillaur Fort during the period from March, 1937, to November, 1938, for training in the Lower Class ;
- (b) the educational qualifications of each of them, their home addresses and castes ;
- (c) the names of all those who were sent to the Phillaur Fort for training in the Upper (Assistant Sub-Inspector) Class during the period mentioned in (a) ;
- (d) their educational qualifications, home addresses and castes ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh):
A statement is laid on the table showing the educational qualifications and district of origin in each case.

Statement.

—	Educational qualifications.	Home district.
A.—Assistant Sub-Inspectors—		
1	Middle	Shahpur.
2	Up to First Arts	Ambala.
B.—Head Constable—		
1	Matriculation	Ludhiana.
C.—Foot-Constables—		
1	Middle	Ludhiana.
2	Middle	Amritsar.
3	Matriculation	Jullundur.
4	Ditto	Ludhiana.
5	Ditto	Rohtak.
6	Appeared in Matriculation Examination unsuccessfully.	Hoshiarpur.
7	Matriculation	Rohtak.
8	Ditto	Hoshiarpur.

MURDER OF BELA SINGH, ZAILDAR OF VILLAGE JIAN.

***3889. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any pension or remuneration in any other form was given to the relations of one Sardar Bela Singh, zaildar of village Jian, district Hoshiarpur, who was murdered in 1933; if so, the services rendered by Sardar Bela Singh in consideration of which the pension or remuneration was given to his survivors;

(b) whether any reward was also given to the prosecution witnesses in the case instituted on the murder of Sardar Bela Singh, if so, the details of such rewards?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

(a) Yes. The deceased had a record of service to all departments of the administration extending over many years.

(b) It is not the practice to disclose particulars of rewards given for assistance to the criminal administration but I should like to make it clear that in no case are rewards paid in consideration of the evidence given by any person.

COMRADE KARTAR SINGH GILL, M. SC., OF V. BRARKI GILL, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

***3906. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state if it is a fact that Comrade Kartar Singh Gill, M. Sc., now interned in his village Brarki Gill, district Amritsar, applied to the Government of the Punjab for an adequate allowance; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes. Government rejected the application as the claim was based on inadequate grounds and was untenable.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Which grounds were regarded as inadequate?

Premier : Grounds like this, that the internee had nothing to eat, etc.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : The internee is an M. Sc., is an American returned gentleman and his standard of living is fairly high. He has a very strong case for allowance.

Premier : Even if he had 90 per cent of his present means and property, there would have been no necessity for giving him an allowance.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I should like to know whether the Government has satisfied itself that it should not make any allowance.

Premier : The reply is that the Government was satisfied after enquiry that no further allowance was necessary.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that in all cases in which persons are arrested and detained under Regulation III for instance, Government as a matter of fact makes an allowance in spite of the fact that they may have some means of livelihood of their own ?

Premier : Those who are detained under Regulation III come under a different category.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Remembering that those who are interned in their own villages are thereby prevented from earning a living outside, is it not incumbent on the Government to provide for them ?

Premier : Government does take all these matters into consideration in fixing the allowance.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the Government satisfied itself in the present case that this man has got his own means of livelihood ?

Premier : Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What are his means of livelihood ?

Premier : I am afraid I cannot go into all these details now, but I can assure the honourable member that these factors are generally taken into consideration and were also taken into consideration in the present case.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the honourable member satisfied himself in this respect ?

Premier : Yes, I sent for the papers and satisfied myself on the point.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has this allowance ever been given to any internee or externee ?

Premier : I cannot say at present.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it true that the previous Government, of which our Premier was also a member, gave adequate allowances to Maulana Zafar Ali Khan as well as to his ex-friend Sayed Habeeb of (the *Siasat*) during the Shahidganj agitation ? What is the difference between the present Government and the previous Government ? Why cannot the present Government give allowances to the political internees ?

Premier : I have not been able to follow the honourable member. Perhaps you, Mr. Speaker, might have followed him better. The honourable member seems to have some grudge against Maulana Zafar Ali Khan but that does not concern me. I may, however, inform him that there is a vast difference between the present and the previous Government. But I do not want to make my honourable friends feel the difference. If, however, my honourable friend opposite will press me I can make him feel the difference between the present Government and the previous Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : In view of the opinion expressed by the honourable Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan in this connection, may I ask if a man who was educated in America and who is not supported by his parents is not entitled to receive an allowance from the Government as such internees used to receive from the previous Government ?

Premier : It is not obligatory for us to follow the old Government.

INTERNMENT OF COMRADE HARNAM SINGH OF VILLAGE KASEL, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

***3907. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Comrade Harnam Singh of village Kasel, district Amritsar, who has spent above twenty years of his life in foreign countries, has been recently interned by the Punjab Government in his village for one year; if so, the reasons for the same;
- (b) whether the Government has ascertained whether the said internee has any means of subsistence; if so, with what result?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes, for having acted and being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and peace;

(b) Yes, Government are satisfied that he has sufficient means of subsistence.

TRANSFER OF THE AMBALA DIVISION TO DELHI OR UNITED PROVINCES.

***3913. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Government is contemplating to transfer the Ambala division to the Delhi or United Provinces; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay the correspondence in this respect, if any, on the table of the House?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): *First part.*—No.

Second part.—Does not arise.

CALLING OF 'AZAN' AT RAJA JANG.

***3915. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the state of affairs now at Raja Jang village in Kasur sub-division, district Lahore, with regard to the calling of *Azan*?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the Press *communiqué* on the subject issued on the 28th July, 1938. Since then there has been no interference in the calling of *Azan* in Raja Jang and the compromise reached between the Sikhs and Muslims on the 19th May, 1938, is being observed.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in a leading newspaper that at the time of *Isha* prayer lots of Sikhs assaulted the persons who were saying their prayers in the mosque?

Premier : My honourable friend is referring to a case which is *sub judice*. I cannot therefore answer his question. But I may tell my honourable friend that he should not always take as gospel truth what is said in the newspapers.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I took it as gospel truth as it was not contradicted by Government by means of a Press *communiqué*.

OBJECTIONABLE ARTICLES ON CHOHA SAIDAN SHAH AFFAIRS.

***3918. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the articles published lately in some newspapers regarding Choha Saidan Shah affairs which were likely to produce hatred among the two communities; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against those newspapers for writing these articles?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes. As the newspapers which published objectionable articles on the subject had been dealt with for other articles about the same time, no action was considered necessary.

ARREST OF SARDAR KARTAR SINGH, PRESIDENT AND SARDAR GURBACHAN SINGH, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE KISAN CONFERENCE HELD AT LYALLPUR.

***3953. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is true that a Kisan Conference was held at Lyallpur on 16th and 17th October, 1938;
- (b) whether Sardar Kartar Singh, president, Sardar Gurbachan Singh, vice-president and Sardar Teja Singh a member of the executive committee of the District Kisan Committee, Lyallpur, have been arrested;
- (c) the reasons for their arrest and the action taken against them;
- (d) whether the prosecution of Khan Gul Sher Khan, general secretary of the District Kisan Committee, Lyallpur and Sardar Kulbir Singh, president of the reception committee of the said Kisan Conference under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code, has been recommended by the District Magistrate, Lyallpur, and, if so, on what grounds?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) For disseminating seditious matter. Action under section 108, Cr. P. C., was taken against them.

(d) No.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it a fact that these gentlemen were arrested because they had dared to organise a conference of their own and did not attend the conference held under the patronage of the Honourable Premier and other ministers?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the terms of section 108 and also whether this is the first time that that particular section has been utilised for the purpose of taking action against a person on grounds stated by him ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, this is not the first time that section 108 has been applied to such cases.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that the Parliamentary Secretary is not aware of this ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, the interpretation put by courts on this section justifies its application in such cases.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether these gentlemen have been actually convicted under that section ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot answer this without notice.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What are the orders of the court ? Do they say that these persons have been convicted because they disseminated seditious matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the honourable member is so keen to enquire into that matter he can get a copy of the judgment and if he wants any further information thereafter he may give notice.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend whether it is not his own duty when answering questions on the floor of the House, to enlighten the House in regard to the actual truthful statement in reference to the answer given ? May I ask my honourable friend, since he has made this statement on the floor of the House, whether action was taken because these gentlemen were disseminating seditious matter ? May I ask him whether any order has been passed by any court in reference to these gentlemen on the ground stated by my honourable friend, and, if not, where does he get the statement from, that they were convicted because they were disseminating seditious matter ?

Premier : My honourable friend has probably himself not understood the question. Part (c) of the question asks for "the reasons for their arrest and the action taken against them" and the answer is "For disseminating seditious matter, action under section 108, Cr. P. C., was taken against them."

Diwan Chaman Lall : Therefore may I ask my honourable friend to remember the reply given by his honourable colleague behind him in which he stated that this action was taken for disseminating seditious matter ? Do I take it therefore that there is no order of the court to this effect and that it is only my honourable friend's own opinion in regard to this matter ?

Premier : Nothing is mentioned about the action in court. The answer merely states that they were arrested for disseminating seditious matter and action under section 108, Cr. P. C., was taken against them. Therefore further supplementary questions do not arise.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Therefore may I ask this, if my honourable friend has the actual facts regarding this case before him, whether the court had actually taken this view that my honourable friend takes, that the conviction was for this reason that they were disseminating seditious matter?

Munshi Hari Lall : What was the finding of the court? Did the court find?

Premier : Let the court find by all means.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the court found?

Premier : That was not asked in the question. Had it been asked I would have given the information.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The question was what was the action taken?

Premier : The answer is that action under section 108, Cr. P. C., was taken against them.

Diwan Chaman Lall : And what is the result?

Premier : As for the result, if you give me notice, you will get the answer.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it, therefore, that it is my hon'ble friend's own opinion that it was for disseminating seditious matter?

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it that the opponents of my honourable friend are being proceeded with in this fashion? May I ask my honourable friend whether he does not consider it unwise to start proceedings of this nature against his political opponents merely because they happen to be his political opponents?

Premier : I am afraid it is a most unjustified and uncharitable view. I have not taken any action against any political opponent merely because he is my political opponent.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend whether these gentlemen referred to in this question are his political supporters or his political opponents? May I ask him whether a large number of his political opponents are not actually in jail to-day?

Premier : No.

NUMBER OF MURDERS, DACOITIES AND COMMUNAL RIOTS IN THE PUNJAB.

***4024. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of murders, dacoities and communal riots that took place, district-wise, in the Punjab during the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : A statement is laid on the table.

Murder Cases.

District.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Hissar	40	41	37	25	29	41	45	54
Rohtak	30	35	34	22	33	24	38	37
Gurgaon	20	17	18	17	14	16	15	15
Karnal	23	19	15	22	22	18	18	22
Ambala	14	8	7	12	13	22	9	20
Simla .. ..	..	..	3	1	2	..	3	..
Hoshiarpur ..	10	12	12	11	15	13	10	10
Jullundur ..	21	25	24	19	23	16	28	31
Ludhiana ..	17	30	25	19	20	17	21	33
Kangra	17	9	6	6	10	14	12	6
Ferozepore ..	57	83	69	74	59	63	79	117
Lahore	100	95	119	124	122	154	138	148
Amritsar ..	52	50	56	78	74	75	63	83
Gurdaspur ..	16	26	24	36	23	26	38	32
Sialkot	12	20	25	19	38	27	23	29
Gujranwala ..	25	31	29	27	24	31	37	56
Sheikhupura ..	32	27	32	28	37	35	36	46
Lyalpur	35	56	34	44	45	58	64	45
Montgomery ..	64	48	55	31	54	41	44	72
Jhang	13	12	21	18	24	22	27	21
Multan	23	17	27	30	40	40	31	46
Muzaffargarh ..	10	14	18	25	25	28	18	15
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	50	42	52	55	44	33	43	57
Gujrat	19	34	22	34	42	37	42	31
Shahpur	30	50	27	38	55	48	46	53
Jhelum	46	43	63	43	47	40	33	46
Mianwali	42	36	27	26	25	27	23	37
Rawalpindi ..	46	34	42	42	33	38	32	45
Attock	59	58	74	67	63	58	71	66
Total	923	981	997	993	1,055	1,062	1,087	1,273

Dacoity Cases.

* District.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Hissar	17	17	9	12	7	8	8	24
Rohtak	15	11	7	3	3	..	2	6
Gurgaon	7	5	3	2	3	5	3	5
Karnal	22	14	12	7	4	4	16	9
Ambala	6	2	5	4	8	2	2	4
Simla .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hoshiarpur ..	4	4	..	3	5	2	5	7
Jullundur ..	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	1
Ludhiana ..	13	17	8	8	8	4	1	8
Kangra	1	4	..	2	2	..	1	1
Ferozepore ..	31	54	29	28	8	16	12	21
Lahore	13	10	10	10	10	12	9	12
Amritsar ..	11	14	7	6	5	6	5	2
Gurdaspur ..	7	3	3	3	8	6	9	4
Sialkot	4	6	..	..	..	1	3	8
Gujranwala ..	5	3	2	2	1	..	1	5
Sheikhupura ..	3	5	3	3	2	2	4	2
Lyallpur	6	6	6	1	1	6	4	6
Montgomery ..	11	6	5	6	8	6	3	1
Jhang	3	4	2	1	5	7	1	3
Multan	6	6	10	9	8	2	5	7
Muzaffargarh ..	2	1	3	2	2	1	..	..
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	11	4	2	6	5	2	4	1
Gujrat	2	4	12	8	4	7	8	4
Shahpur	3	5	4	..	1	1	1	7
Jhelum	3	3	2	4	2	2	..	4
Mianwali	3	1	4	1	1	..	1	3
Rawalpindi ..	2	3	5	4	..	1	1	6
Attock	3	4	3	1	2	3	1	1
Total	216	221	157	138	115	108	112	162

Communal riots in the Punjab during the years 1931—1938.

District.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Hissar	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rohtak	2	2	..	..	..	2	..
Gurgaon	2	..
Karnal	1	1	..	..	..	1	2
Ambala	1
Simla
Hoshiarpur	1	..
Jullundur
Ludhiana	2
Kangra
Ferozepore
Lahore	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
Amritsar ..	1	1	..	..	..	1	2	..
Gurdaspur ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sialkot	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gujranwala	1	..	..	..	..	..
Sheikhpura	3	..
Montgomery
Lyallpur	1	..	..	..	..	1
Jhang	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Multan	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Muzaffargarh
Dera Ghazi Khan
Gujrat	1	4	..
Shahpur	1
Jhelum	1	..	1
Rawalpindi ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Attock	1	1	2
Mianwali
Total	5	10	5	..	1	5	16	18

FIREARMS, ETC., CAPTURED BY POLICE.

***4025. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state how many guns, rifles, pistols, revolvers, spears and *akhavris* in unauthorised possession were captured by the police district-wise, during the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : A statement is laid on the table showing the number of revolvers, pistols and rifles recovered by the police during the years mentioned. Figures in respect of other weapons are not on record at headquarters and their collection would entail an expenditure of time and labour out of proportion to the results to be secured.

Revolvers.

District.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Hissar	3	..	2	2	1	..	1	..
Rohtak	2	..	1	2	3	3	3	3
Gurgaon .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Karnal	4	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
Ambala	7	3	..	1	2	1	1	1
Simla .. ..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hoshiarpur ..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..
Jullunder	1	3	3	3	..	2	1	2
Ludhiana	2	4	8	5	5	5	3	6
Kangra .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ferozepore ..	10	13	12	10	8	8	5	6
Lahore	14	23	15	10	7	3	2	8
Amritsar	4	2	12	4	3	3	3	5
Gujranwala ..	1	1	1	1	2	1	..	4
Sheikhpura ..	3	..	2	4	..	1	..	..
Sialkot	4	2	2	..	..	1	..	..
Montgomery ..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	6
Lyallpur	3	1	3	2	..	2	3	2
Gurdaspur	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	2
Jhang	5	..	..	..	1	1	2	..
Multan .. ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Muzaffargah ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..
Gujrat	50	1	1	1	1	3	..	..
Shahpur	12	13	2	1	5	4	5	13
Jhelum	5	20	6	1	7	3	2	8
Mianwali	5	21	1	2	..	1	3	1
Rawalpindi	57	51	24	13	16	10	6	8
Attock	18	11	6	7	23	20	7	2
Total	215	189	106	70	89	75	50	79

Pistols.

District.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Hissar .. .. .	..	2	..	2	3	5	3	4
Rohtak	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Gurgaon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Karnal	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ambala	2	1	1	..	2	1	..	1
Simla .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hoshiarpur .. ..	..	4	1	2	..	..	..	1
Jullundur	2	6	..	1	2	1	..	1
Ludhiana	2	5	2	13	17	14	2	2
Kangra	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Ferozepore	11	16	30	24	28	30	35	28
Lahore	3	16	8	11	3	5	4	4
Amritsar	6	2	1	4	4	..	1	2
Gujranwala .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	17
Sheikhupura	2	2	..	..	2	..	1	3
Sialkot .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..
Lyallpur .. .. .	..	..	1	1	2	1	6	4
Gurdaspur .. .. .	..	..	2	1	1	3	..	3
Montgomery	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	14
Jhang	2	..	..	2	..	..	3	1
Multan .. .. .	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Muzaffargarh .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	2
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..
Gujrat	15	..	..	2	..	1	1	2
Shahpur	6	3	1	1	1	2	20	12
Jhelum .. .. .	..	7	1	1	6	..	2	..
Mianwali	11	31	1	20	2	4	3	3
Rawalpindi	16	17	9	12	5	5	4	6
Attock	5	4	2	3	8	5	3	1
Total	94	120	66	104	80	80	94	115

Rifles.

District.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Hissar	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Rohtak .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Gurgaon .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Karnal .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ambala	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	1
Simla .. ..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hoshiarpur ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Jullundur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ludhiana ..	1	..	2	..	5	3	1	..
Kangra .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ferozepore ..	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1
Lahore	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	2
Amritsar ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Gurdaspur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sialkot .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Lyallpur ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gujranwala ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Sheikhupura ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Montgomery ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Jhang	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Multan .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Muzaffargarh ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	..	..	5	..	1	1	..	..
Gujrat	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Shahpur	2	2	5	2	..	..	7	6
Jhelum .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Mianwali	3	66	1	28	15	33	24	6
Rawalpindi ..	1	5	..	1	..	..	2	2
Attock .. ..	..	2	1	4	2	5	6	2
Total	15	86	23	40	30	53	43	28

MURDER OF SAHDA SINGH AND NAND SINGH.

***4036. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that two persons named Sahda Singh, son of Nand Singh, aged 24 or 25 years and Nand Singh, son of Ram Singh, about 60 or 65 years old, were murdered in Kaddowal, police station Kartarpur, district Jullundur, by some unknown persons at ten o'clock during the night of 18th and 19th May, 1934; if so, whether the murderers have been traced and challaned and if not, the special steps that are intended to be taken by the police to trace out the murderers?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Yes. (The offence took place in May last, not May 1934). The murderers have not yet been traced, but the case is still under investigation.

PUNITIVE POLICE IN VILLAGE CHIMA KHUDIAN.

***4063. Shrimati Raghubir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punitive Police has been posted in village Chima Khudi, thana Gobindpur, district Gurdaspur, and that a sum of Rs. 14,000 has been realized from the adjoining villages, namely, Mudhowal, Bhikiwal, Hardowal, Khijala and Harpur by the Government, as "Tawan";
- (b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will the Government lay the statement of expenditure on the said Punitive Police on the table of the House?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : (a) Yes. A body of additional police post has been quartered, for two years from the 1st August last, in an area comprised of villages Chima Khudi, Bharth, Mathola, Bhem, Khujala, Harpura, and Bhatiwal in the Srigobindpura police station area, at a total cost of Rs. 9,848-8-8 (not Rs. 14,000 as stated in the question). No recoveries have so far been made. The Commissioner was informed, when the orders were issued, that if the inhabitants showed genuine signs of reformation it would be open to him to submit proposals for the withdrawal of the post before completion of the full two years.

- (b) A statement of giving the detail of the cost is laid on the table.

COST OF THE ADDITIONAL POLICE POST LOCATED AT CHIMA KHUDI AND CERTAIN OTHER VILLAGES IN THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

Cost for the first year from 1st August, 1938, to 31st July, 1939.

			Rs.	A.	P.
1 Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police at Rs. 49 per mensem	..	..	588	0	0
1 Head Constable at Rs. 35 per mensem	..	..	420	0	0
9 Foot Constables—					
2 Foot Constables, selection grade, at Rs. 21 per mensem each	..	..	504	0	0
6 Foot Constables, time-scale, at Rs. 18 per mensem each	..	..	1,296	0	0
1 Foot Constable at Rs. 18 per mensem, i.e., $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the total number of Constables on account of contingency reserve	..	..	216	0	0
Total pay of establishment	..	..	3,024	0	0

	Rs.	A.	P.
Contingencies at 1/10th of pay of establishment	302	6	4
Leave contributions, 12½ per cent. of total (average) pay of establishment, i.e., ¼th total pay of establishment	378	0	0
Pension contributions 8½ per cent of maximum pay of 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector (Rs. 50), 1 Head Constable (Rs. 45) and 9 Foot Constables (Rs. 252), i.e., Rs. 357	349	14	0
Conveyance allowance for 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector at Rs. 15 per mensem	180	0	0
10 Clothing allowances at Rs. 15 each	150	0	0
10 Equipment allowances at Rs. 5 each	50	0	0
Total	4,434	4	4

Initial charges.

Uniform allowance for 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector at Rs. 200 (clothing Rs. 75 plus equipment Rs. 125)	200	0	0
10 clothing allowances at Rs. 15 each	150	0	0
10 equipment allowances at Rs. 5 each	50	0	0
10 beds and boxes at Rs. 15 each	150	0	0
Hutting charges	200	0	0
Total initial charges	750	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	5,184	4	4

Cost for the second year from 1st August, 1939, to 31st July, 1940.

1 Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police at Rs. 49 per mensem	588	0	0
1 Head Constable at Rs. 35 per mensem	420	0	0
9 Foot Constables—			
2 Foot Constables at Rs. 21 per mensem each	504	0	0
6 Foot Constables at Rs. 18 per mensem each	1,296	0	0
1 Foot Constable at Rs. 18 per mensem, i.e., ¼th of the total number of Constables on account of contingency reserve	216	0	0
Total pay of establishment	3,024	0	0
Contingencies at 1/10th of pay of establishment	302	6	4
Leave contributions at 12½ per cent. of total pay of establishment	378	0	0
Pension contributions	349	14	0
Conveyance allowance for 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector at Rs. 15 per mensem	180	0	0
10 clothing allowances at Rs. 15 per annum	150	0	0
10 equipment allowances at Rs. 5 per annum	50	0	0
1 clothing and equipment allowance for Assistant Sub-Inspector at Rs. 25 per annum	25	0	0
Hutting charges	200	0	0
Total	1,635	4	4
GRAND TOTAL	4,659	4	4

UNLICENSED ARMS RECOVERED BY POLICE.

*4075. **Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of unlicensed arms recovered by the police from the possession of people in the Punjab in the year 1938 and whether it is a fact that the number of unlicensed arms recovered by the police during this year is much larger than those recovered in any preceding year?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): The honourable member is invited to refer to the reply given to question *4025¹, put by the honourable member for Ferozepore North (Sikh) Rural. The figure for 1938, taking revolvers, pistols, and rifles all together, is a little higher than the figures for the preceding five years but considerably lower than those for 1931 and 1932.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: May I enquire if the increase in the number of unlicensed arms recovered by the police has affected the crime in any way? Is the crime on the increase or on the decrease?

Parliamentary Secretary: I have stated that as a matter of fact the figure is much lower than those for 1931 and 1932.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: But it is higher than the figure for the preceding five years.

Parliamentary Secretary: Slightly higher.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: Has it affected the total number of crimes?

Parliamentary Secretary: It is not possible to gauge its effect on crime.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: Does it not affect the crime?

Parliamentary Secretary: It is difficult to state exactly the causes contributing to increase or decrease in crimes, i.e., how much is due to the recovery of unlicensed arms and how much to other factors.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: Does it affect the crime at all?

Parliamentary Secretary: To some extent.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: How is it that the number of unlicensed arms recovered by the police is larger this year and still the crime is also on the increase?

Parliamentary Secretary: There are other factors which should be taken into consideration and which have a great effect on crime.

REPRESENTATION OF MAYO COMMUNITY IN THE PUNJAB POLICE.

***4076. Chaudhri Abdul Rahim:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of persons belonging to the Mayo community at present employed in the Punjab Police and whether their number is proportionate to their population in the province and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan: Figures regarding the communal proportions in the services are given in the Consolidated Statement which is supplied annually to all members of the House. Government cannot undertake to allocate shares to particular tribes and castes.

DR. ABDUL HAFEEZ.

***4081. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar:** Will the Honourable Premier kindly refer to his speech, dated the 20th July, 1938 (reported in the Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume I, No. 25, Official Reports,

on pages 1777), and state whether it is a fact that Mian Abdul Aziz, M. L. A., had written to him, giving a brief history of his brother Dr. Abdul Hafeez, who is at Ankora (Turkey) at present; if so, the result of the consideration of the Honourable Premier in this respect?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): *First part.*—Yes. *Second part.*—The result of the consideration of the matter by the Premier was conveyed to Mian Abdul Aziz direct.

MALTREATMENT OF ATA MUHAMMAD JAN BY RAWALPINDI POLICE.

***4096. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether at any time during the last few months he received any representation from one Mr. A. M. John alleging maltreatment meted out to him by the Police authorities of Rawalpindi in February, 1938; if so, whether any inquiry was made into the allegation made; and if so, what was the result of that inquiry?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): The honourable member doubtless refers to a representation made by one Ata Muhammad Jan of Rawalpindi, in which he alleged that a sub-inspector of police had used abusive language regarding him. There was no complaint of physical maltreatment. Inquiries made by the City Magistrate of Rawalpindi, as well as by the sub-inspector's departmental superiors, show that Ata Muhammad had no cause for complaint.

MURDERS COMMITTED IN JHANG DISTRICT.

***4092. Munshi Hari Lal:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many murders were committed in the Jhang district from January, 1935, to December, 1938;

(b) how many were traced out resulting in conviction?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) 120 (cases reported).

(b) 92 cases resulted in conviction, 30 ended in acquittal, 19 remained untraced, 6 were cancelled and 93 are still under investigation or trial.

ENROLMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTE CONSTABLES AND HEAD CONSTABLES IN THE POLICE.

***4093. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to—

(a) lay on the table of the House a statement showing the figures of the enrolment of constables and head-constables in the Police throughout the Province ever since the present Government took office, community-wise, specially giving the number of the members of the scheduled castes so enrolled;

(b) give the proportion of representation at present enjoyed by different communities and the scheduled castes in the Police force in relation to their population?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan: ¹To collect the full figures desired by the honourable member would entail an expenditure

¹This answer was laid on the table.

[Premier.]

of time and labour out of all proportions to the result. Figures showing the communal proportions in the police, as in the other services, are given in the consolidated statement supplied annually to all honourable members. So far as the scheduled castes are concerned, I may say that in addition to certain number who were already in the Force, thirteen new recruits have been taken into the service since the 1st April, 1937.

***4116.**—*Cancelled.*

APPLICATION BY MR. JAG PARVESH, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
MONDAY MORNING, LTD.

***4117. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether an application was filed in the middle of November, 1938, by Mr. Jag Parvesh, Managing Director, 'Monday Morning', Limited, for permission to act as printer and publisher of the *Monday Morning*, an English weekly at Lahore; if so, what action has been taken by the Government so far on that application?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes. The District Magistrate, Lahore, authenticated the declaration on 7th February, 1939.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know what was the cause of so much delay?

Parliamentary Secretary : He had to make enquiries.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : What enquiries were made?

Parliamentary Secretary : Enquiries whether security ought to be demanded or not.

PROPORTIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN SERVICES.

***4120. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state what proportions are now fixed for the recruitment of different communities to various branches of service, provincial and subordinate, in the Punjab and whether these proportions are different from those of 40 per cent. for Muslims, 40 per cent. for Hindus and 20 per cent. for Sikhs fixed by the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain in his capacity as a member of the Government for recruitment to what were then called the transferred services?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : I am only asking about the principle and the proportions fixed for various communities in the making of appointments.

Premier : The principle which has been decided is roughly this: fifty per cent. Muslims and fifty per cent. non-Muslims. Of the non-Muslims 20 per cent. goes to the Sikhs, 30 per cent. to the Hindus and others including scheduled castes.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Where do the Christians and Europeans come in?

Premier : They come under the heading 'others.'

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether in the definition of 'others' is also included the term 'agriculturists'? What is the definition of the word agriculturists in regard to this?

Premier : So far as the definition of agriculturists is concerned, my honourable friend will have to refer to several books of reference because it varies. But so far as the definition for the purposes of recruitment is concerned, the next question will answer it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am not worried about reference books. I am only asking this question with reference to recruitment.

Premier : Then please wait for the answer to the next question.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if orders have been passed that in all groups, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, agriculturists should be given preference over non-agriculturists?

Premier : Proportions for agriculturists and non-agriculturists have been laid down in practically all the cases.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What are those proportions?

Premier : They vary from 80 per cent. to 66 per cent. or may be even less.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Eighty per cent. so far as others are concerned?

Premier : So far as all are concerned.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Do I understand that 80 per cent. agriculturists are to be taken and 20 per cent. non-agriculturists are to be taken?

Premier : Out of the total number recruited, Muslims, non-Muslims and others, the proportion of agriculturists normally is 66 per cent. and in one or two cases like the Veterinary Department and the Co-operative Department, I think the figure is higher, perhaps 80 per cent., but in other departments 66 per cent. agriculturists is the proportion for all communities combined.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Do I understand my honourable friend aright when I say that standing instructions are that in all future recruitments whether amongst Muslims or non-Muslims 80 per cent. agriculturists should be appointed? If this is so, what was the proportion between agriculturists and non-agriculturists at the time these orders were issued?

Premier : I am afraid that is a question which would involve an enormous amount of labour but actually proportions were laid down in 1919. There is a resolution to that effect which my honourable friend would find in the Assembly Library laying down certain proportions for agriculturists and non-agriculturists. It was said in that resolution that these proportions would be varied in the light of experience and according to the needs of the time by increasing or decreasing these proportions. That resolution still holds good and so far as agriculturists are concerned in one or two cases, as I have already said, a very high figure was laid down initially in 1919 and we have not altered that to any great extent, but so far as division, community-wise, is concerned we have certainly departed from the previous instructions and generally speaking there are 50 per cent. Muslims and 50 per cent. non-Muslims.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that my honourable friend is sticking to the terms of the resolution of the Punjab Government passed in October, 1919, regarding the meaning of the word 'agriculturist'?

Premier : Normally speaking.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that the definition of the word 'agriculturist' used in the Resolution of October 1919 is not the same as is sought to be given to that word by my honourable friend now?

Premier : My honourable friend is merely anticipating the answer to the next question.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if this is the policy of the Government that this proportion is to be maintained at all costs and if square men are not available then round men are thrust in?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Are they going to be put into holes?

Premier : No. As a matter of fact what my honourable friend means is that sometimes square pegs are thrust in round holes.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if this is the policy of the Government that if good doctors are not available, then engineers are to be appointed in their place, as is sometimes done in some States? (*Laughter*).

Premier : I know that this is done in the Indian States, but this is not done in the Punjab.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know what further action Government proposes to take to see that these orders are carried out and that they are fully complied with by all the departments?

Premier : In departments where there is some kind of difficulty, instructions have been issued to the effect that six-monthly statements should be sent to the Government so that they may be kept informed of the proportions of the various communities and it has been laid down that no departure shall be made in any case from these instructions without the sanction of the appointing authority or the local Government.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Are these six-monthly statements always correct?

Premier : If my honourable friend brings to my notice any specific instance that they have been deliberately cooked, I shall be glad to take action?

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : May I ask if fresh recruitments are also being made in the same proportions?

Premier : Yes. Generally speaking this is the ratio on which appointments are being made.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Is it not a fact that in order to remove what are called inequalities in the existing cadre 70 per cent or 80 per cent men of one community are recruited even for fresh appointments?

Premier : No, Sir. The honourable member is hopelessly incorrect.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether he has taken any note of section 298 (1) of the Government of India Act which says—

“No subject of His Majesty domiciled in India shall on grounds only of religion, place of birth, descent, colour or any of them be ineligible for office under the Crown in India.”

May I ask if he has taken legal opinion in reference to section 298 (1) ?

Premier : Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether he has any objection to laying on the table of the House the contents of that legal opinion taken by him ?

Premier : It was not necessary for me to take legal opinion. When I said ‘yes’, I meant that section 298 (1) of the Government of India Act has been taken into consideration. Why should we take legal opinion into consideration, when we know that two and two make four.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I tell my honourable friend that when he puts 2 and 2 together it may become 22 and not 4. May I ask him whether, in view of the explicit terms of section 298 (1) of the Government of India Act, which says that “no subject of His Majesty domiciled in India shall on grounds only of religion, place of birth, descent, colour or any of them be ineligible for office under the Crown in India”, he is justified legally in making a division in this way ? Has my honourable friend taken legal opinion with regard to this point ?

Premier : As a matter of fact the position is quite clear (*Interruption*).

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend if he has visualised this state of affairs that, when the particular quota of percentage is filled up and then a Muhammadan candidate comes and applies for a job which is vacant, it is not in order that he should be given that job because his own quota is complete and he cannot walk into the quota of the other two communities ? Does this not debar him on the ground of religion ? Has that point been taken into consideration or not ?

Premier : My honourable friend has put a hypothetical question. As a matter of fact recruitment is made in units and each community gets the due quota out of that unit, and, therefore, the question which he has just now put forward does not arise.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that the proportion that he has been pleased to enunciate on the floor of this House is not being observed in certain offices under the Punjab Government ? Is he aware of that fact or not ? And in this connection I draw the Honourable Premier's attention to the recruitment recently made in the Legal Remembrancer's office where not a single agriculturist has been recruited.

Premier : My honourable friend did not follow my answer. I said, “generally speaking, in all departments” but not in every department. There are certain technical departments where you cannot possibly have agriculturists because none may be available but my honourable friend has generally referred to several departments. If he will bring any specific instances to my notice I will look into them. My honourable friends are very much misinformed with regard to this matter.

Mian Abdul Rab : I will certainly bring it to your kind notice.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the definition of one being an agriculturist or a non-agriculturist for the purposes of Government terminology is governed merely by a man's birth?

Premier : If he would wait for some time, he would get a very complete reply to this question in the reply to the next question which relates to that particular subject.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that district judges in the Punjab do not follow the practice of having the proportion of 50 per cent. Muslims in the matter of recruitment of subordinate establishment?

Premier : I am not sure whether these instructions have gone to the offices of the district judges or not, but if my honourable friend would draw my attention outside the House, I will make enquiries and let him know. (After a little pause) I have just now learnt that instructions have been issued and if my honourable friend would bring to my notice any specific instance, I will look into it.

DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURISTS FOR RECRUITMENT IN SERVICES.

***4121. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the definition of agriculturists as given in the proceedings of Punjab Home Department No. 4572-S., dated the 3rd October, 1919, is still adhered to in appointing agriculturists to the various services under the Government and, if not, whether any recent orders superseding the proceeding referred to above and declaring agriculturists for the purpose of recruitment to services as equivalent to statutory agriculturists have been issued, if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of these orders on the table of the House?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : The definition of the term "zamindar" given in Punjab Government resolution No. 4572-S., dated the 3rd October, 1919, has been altered so as to include—

- (a) all members of tribes notified as agricultural under the Alienation of Land Act; and
- (b) all hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly dependent thereon and residing in rural areas, as well as actual cultivators of such land.

A copy of the orders issued in this respect is laid on the table.

Copy of a letter No. 4615-P. G.-38/38737, dated the 21st November, 1938, from J. D. Penny, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, to all Heads of Departments and the High Court, Commissioners of Divisions, Deputy Commissioners and District and Sessions Judges in the Punjab.

Subject:—POLICY IN THE MATTER OF RECRUITMENT OF ZAMINDARS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

I am directed to inform you that the Punjab Government has had under consideration its policy in the matter of recruitment of zamindars to the public services, as laid down in the

resolution No. 4572-S., dated the 3rd October, 1919, and has decided to alter the definition of the term "zamindars" so as to include—

- (a) all members of tribes notified as agricultural under the Alienation of Land Act; and
- (b) zamindars as defined in the existing definition, viz., all hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly dependent thereon and residing in rural areas, as well as actual cultivators of such land.

Diwan Chaman Lal : When were these orders issued ?

Premier : They were issued on the 21st November, 1938.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Are the members of statutory agricultural tribes, who do not mainly depend upon agriculture and do not reside in rural areas, entitled to the benefit of being called agriculturists under the new rules promulgated by this Government ?

Premier : All agriculturists who are notified under the Land Alienation Act as such are assumed to be agriculturists for this purpose.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Does not my honourable friend realise that the definition of agriculturist, as given in part (b) will serve no better than a mere eye-wash because it creates a clear definition in favour of agriculturists who do not live in rural areas and who do not have anything to do with agriculture except that they are big landlords ?

Premier : My honourable friend must have a very big eye which I cannot possibly wash if he has not followed the second part of the answer. It says—

"(b) all hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly dependent thereon and residing in rural areas, as well as actual cultivators of such land."

That means that they must be agriculturists and must possess land. They must derive income from the land unlike somebody who has got an acre of agricultural land inside Lahore municipal area and has got properties worth lakhs and does insurance business. (*Laughter.*) Lest they should migrate into cities and because we want them to remain in rural areas we have made the addition of "as well as actual cultivators" and I am sure my honourable friends, like Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and Master Kabul Singh and others, appreciate it. (*Laughter.*)

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Is not my honourable friend aware that even those who claim themselves to be agriculturists live in urban areas and do not mainly live on agriculture and still they get the benefit ?

Premier : Eventually they have to go back to their homes.

Lala Duni Chand : In order to give due share to the agriculturists in the Government of this province has the Honourable Premier ever considered that some of the ministers should make room for an agriculturist minister ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : We find in the red pamphlet, called the Consolidated Statement, that a certain number of agricultural tribes and non-agricultural tribes is given separately. We find that so many are agriculturists and so many non-agriculturists holding offices. If such is the case, where is the necessity of having a statement prepared at all ?

Premier : Why not ? Even then my honourable friend would perhaps often like to make sure how many non-agriculturists, whom he represents, get into service.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : I represent agriculturists.

Premier : So my honourable friend would like to know how many agriculturists get the appointments. (*A voice :* He is an agriculturist as well as a non-agriculturist. He is both.)

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : It does not mean statutory agriculturist but agriculturists as you have just defined. If such is the case, then where is the necessity of putting them caste-wise ?

Premier : So as to distinguish between those who are mainly dependent on agriculture and those who are not mainly dependent on agriculture.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Premier enlighten the House if a member of a notified agricultural tribe, who is not mainly dependent on agriculture and who is living in an urban area, like Lahore, is included within the definition of an agriculturist as now promulgated by the Punjab Government ?

Premier : It is quite clear. Every notified agriculturist is included whether he lives in Lahore or in Baghbanpura.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : What is the justification for giving this privilege to such a person who is not dependent upon agriculture and who does not live in rural areas ?

Premier : According to what my honourable friend wants, if I understand him correctly, 80 per cent of notified agriculturists would be ruled out.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Not at all. If they are dependent on agriculture and live in rural areas, they should be treated as agriculturists as the old bureaucratic Government treated them. I want to know what is the justification, in equity or otherwise, for giving this preferential treatment to persons born of certain parents irrespective of the profession that they follow and irrespective of the place where they live ?

Premier : My honourable friend has probably not followed me. What I was going to say was that if what he wants were incorporated in this rule or this definition, then 80 per cent. of the notified agriculturists would be debarred because they are not mainly dependent on agriculture. They are mostly dependent on other funds derived from other sources like my honourable friend opposite.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : If the Punjab Government wants to lay down qualifications of dependence mainly on agriculture and residence in rural areas for the rest of the population what is the justification of the Punjab Government for giving this privilege to persons born of certain parents or born of certain tribes ?

Premier : To restore them to their previous economic condition.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether the action taken by the Punjab Government in laying down this definition was in pursuance of paragraph 9 of the Instrument of Instructions or of the resolution of the Ministry.

Premier : I have not got the Instrument of Instructions before me.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Under paragraph 9 of the Instrument of Instructions special responsibility falls on the Governor. Was it in pursuance of paragraph 9 of the Instrument of Instructions or *suo motu* by the Punjab Ministry?

Premier : I am afraid I cannot possibly give a reply to this question. If he wants to know about something which took place between the Governor and the Ministry then it is a secret matter and I am not prepared to disclose it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is not a matter of my trying to probe into anything secret. All I ask is this, whether it is in pursuance of a resolution of the Punjab Government or whether action was taken under paragraph 9 of the Instrument of Instructions.

Premier : The resolution is published ; that is merely an amendment published as a notification in the *Gazette*.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it under paragraph 9 of the Instrument of Instructions or is it a resolution of the Punjab Government?

Premier : It is by a resolution of the Punjab Government that all acts are done but all notifications are issued under the name of the Governor.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Did the resolution of 1919 include members of the notified agricultural tribes as such?

Premier : Yes.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Did the resolution of 1919 confer this privilege on members of notified agricultural tribes irrespective of their main dependence on agriculture?

Premier : Yes, they were included in the term 'tenure holders'. It has been made quite distinct.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Was that class specified as such?

Premier : Yes, they were included in that term.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Premier look at the notification and enlighten the House if members of the notified agricultural tribes were included in that definition?

Premier : Yes, except for the definition which was followed by the High Court and that definition so far as the High Court is concerned, has been altered, special proportions have been laid down and the position has been made clear. ●

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Is not the present Government widening its scope?

Premier : We are restricting it.

COMPLAINTS BY PUNJAB MOTOR UNION AGAINST S.-I. OF POLICE,
MANWAN.

***4124. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the allegations recently made in the Press by the Punjab Motor Union, Registered, against the Sub-Inspector of Police, police station Manwan to the effect that he travels free in public motor vehicles ;
- (b) if answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the senior officers have made inquiries into the matter ; if so, with what result ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) Enquiries made under the orders of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, have failed to establish that the station house officer has himself travelled free in public motor vehicles. It has, however, been proved that in a certain number of cases the subordinate police of the station have travelled on duty in buses without vouchers being issued. For this the station house officer has been censured. Departmental proceedings are also being taken against the muharrir who appears to have been primarily responsible.

INQUIRY AGAINST SUB-INSPECTOR, PUNDRI.

***4135. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that an inquiry was instituted in September last by the Deputy Superintendent, Police, Kaithal (Karnal), against the sub-inspector, Pundri, on an allegation of bribery made by an honourable member of the Assembly ; if so, what has been the result of the said inquiry ;
- (b) whether Government have so far taken any action on the result of inquiry ; if so, what ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : Yes. Inquiries were made executively, and these are complete. It is understood, however, that a complaint on the same facts has been filed in the criminal court, and so long as this is pending I must refrain from making any statement.

INQUIRIES MADE FROM BURMA GOVERNMENT ABOUT SARDAR LAL
SINGH, M. L. A.

***4148. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any inquiries were recently made from the Burma Government by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, about me ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons or the occasion for doing so ;

- (c) whether the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, addressed these references direct to the Burma Government or through any channel, and if through a channel, the name of the channel?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CONVICTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH MULTAN RIOTS.

***4149. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of accused challaned by the Police before the magisterial courts in connexion with the last communal riot in Multan which took place in October, 1938, for (i) arson, (ii) murder, (iii) grievous hurt, (iv) rioting, (v) receiving stolen property, (vi) theft;
- (b) the number of those who were convicted under each count and the minimum and maximum punishment awarded to the accused?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan :

(a)	(i) Arson	..	..	..	Nil.
	(ii) Murder	..	..	..	One.
	(iii) Grievous hurt	..	..	..	Nil.
	(iv) Rioting	..	..	..	Nil.
	(v) Receiving stolen property	..	..	..	Nine, under sections 454/411, I. P. C.
	(vi) Theft	..	..	..	Nil.
(b)	(i) Arson	..	..	..	Nil.
	(ii) Murder	..	..	..	Accused acquitted by the Sessions Judge.
	(iii) Grievous hurt	..	..	..	Nil.
	(iv) Rioting	..	..	..	Nil.
	(v) Receiving stolen property	..	..	..	Three discharged, two convicted and sentenced to six months and four months' imprisonment, under section 411, I. P. C., respectively. Cases against the remaining four are pending in court.
	(vi) Theft	..	..	..	Nil.

LOSS SUFFERED BY PEOPLE DUE TO COMMUNAL RIOTS IN MULTAN.

***4152. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the authorities have estimated the total loss suffered

[Munshi Hari Lal.]

by the people on account of the communal riots at Multan in October, 1938 ; if so, the estimate thereof and the compensations, if any, proposed to be given to the sufferers ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : *First part.*—The total loss has not yet been fully estimated. A special officer has been deputed for the purpose.

Second part.—Does not arise.

TIPPING OF CHAPRASI OF OFFICERS.

***4154. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in various parts of the Punjab several chaprasi of several touring officers still demand tips (termed *inams* by them in their terminology) from subordinate officials on the annual or periodical inspection of their work ;
- (b) whether several chaprasi of high placed Government officers still demand customary dues from outside visitors seeking interview with their chiefs ; if so, how their exactions are now intended to be stopped ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) and (b) No specific complaints have been brought to the notice of Government ; but if the honourable member brings any instances to the notice of the Government and makes any suggestions to stop such practices they shall receive the fullest possible consideration.

MOVE TO SIMLA OF THE REGISTRAR OF OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, PUNJAB.

***4169. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Assistant Secretaries in the Punjab Civil Secretariat and Financial Commissioners' offices and Registrars of the Irrigation and Buildings and Roads branches move to Simla during the summer with their offices ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for allowing the Registrar of the office of Director of Public Instruction to move to Simla during summer ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret that the answer to the question is not ready.

TRANSFER OF I. C. S. OFFICERS FROM EXECUTIVE TO JUDICIAL BRANCH.

***4174. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Nawab Singh, I. C. S. and Mr. Sachdeva, I. C. S., have recently been transferred from the Executive to the Judicial side and that Mr. Ormerod, I. C. S., has, on transfer from the judicial side, been appointed as Deputy Commissioner ; if so, the reasons for these transfers from one branch to the other ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : *Part I.*—Yes.
Part II.—These transfers were made in the public interest.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I ask whether it is in the public interest to transfer a European sessions judge to the executive branch and an Indian deputy commissioner to the judicial branch?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that such transfers from the judicial branch to the executive branch are in the public interest?

Premier : I can assure my honourable friend that all transfers are made in the public interest.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Was this particular transfer made in the public interest?

Premier : I have already said that all transfers are made in the public interest.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I know the reason why an agriculturist Khalsaji, Sardar Nawab Singh, has been transferred from the executive to the judicial branch?

Premier : My honourable friend should not have mentioned any name. He is very indiscreet in that respect.

REPRESENTATION FOR REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF VILLAGE
CHAUKIDARS IN VILLAGE NADALON IN HOSHIARPUR
DISTRICT.

***4179. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has recently received a representation, which has also been addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, from the inhabitants of village Nadalon in district Hoshiarpur, requesting reduction in the number of village Chaukidars ;

(b) if answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : A representation has been received by the Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur and is under his consideration. No representation seems to have been received by me, but I may mention that under the Chaukidara Rules the number of watchmen to be appointed in each village is a matter for decision by the Deputy Commissioner, subject to the revisional control of the Commissioner.

ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICE POSTS AT CHIMA KHURD AND OTHER
PLACES IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

***4182. Sardar Harjab Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether new police posts have recently been established at Chima Khurd, Bhatiwai, Harpura, Khujala, Mathola, Bham, Huehowal in the jurisdiction of the Hargobindpur police station in district Gurdaspur ;

[8. Harjab Singh.]

(b) if the answer to the above (a) be in the affirmative, the reasons for establishing the same;

(c) whether these posts have been established permanently or only for a period?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) With effect from the 1st August last, a body of additional police has been quartered in an area comprised of villages Chima Khudi, Bhatiwal, Harpura, Khujala, Mathola, Bham and Bharth in the jurisdiction of the Sirigobindpur (not Hargobindpur) police station.

(b) The establishment of the post was necessitated by the record of the villages, which have been the scene of a number of murders in the last three years, as well as cases of illicit distillation, canal cutting and other serious crime.

(c) The post has been established for a period of two years from the date mentioned. The Commissioner was informed when the orders were issued, that if the inhabitants showed genuine signs of reformation it would be open to him to submit proposals for the withdrawal of the post before completion of the full two years; but up to the present he has not been able to make any recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

Mr. Speaker : I have received notices of 30 adjournment motions.

3 P. M. But as the general discussion of the annual budget and the voting of demands for grants would afford ample opportunity for the discussion of matters proposed to be discussed by these motions, according to Parliamentary Practice, all motions are out of order.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I want to be enlightened with regard to the Parliamentary Procedure which you have just mentioned.

Mr. Speaker : According to Campion, page 133—

The matter upon which an adjournment motion is based must not be postponable until an opportunity is provided by Supply, etc.

But in the present case there is no question of postponement, as the general discussion of the budget begins to-day.

According to Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice, page 248 top, "motions for adjournment regarding matters for the discussion of which the committee of supply or other appointed business would afford an early opportunity are out of order."

Diwan Chaman Lall : But we have no committee of supply. There is no such thing here.

Mr. Speaker : Yes. We have no committee of supply; but we have a Legislative Assembly which considers and passes the annual budget.

Lala Duni Chand : Sir, I want to put one question.

Mr. Speaker : No questions can be put to the Speaker.

Lala Duni Chand : In view of your ruling a very important question has arisen.

Mr. Speaker : In my opinion there is no such matter as cannot be discussed either in the course of a general discussion of the budget or when the demands for grants are considered and voted upon. But if any honourable member, who has given notice of an adjournment motion, contends that the subject matter of his motion cannot be discussed either in the course of the general discussion or when demands for grants are discussed and voted upon, I shall be only glad to consider his point of view.

Lala Duni Chand : This was what I was going to say.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Sir, I do not stand to question your ruling and I shall be the last person to do so. You have just now told us that if we can prove that a certain matter cannot be taken up either under the general discussion or on the voting of demands, then you will be pleased to consider it. My submission is that as far as the question of the general discussion of the budget is concerned, no matter can be voted upon and, therefore, I would submit that if the question can be discussed under the general discussion, it should not be ruled out by way of an adjournment motion. If there is any item, which can be discussed or talked about during the general discussion, it should not be ruled out as an adjournment motion, because there is no voting on the general discussion.

Mr. Speaker : The main object of a motion for adjournment is discussion. It is not meant to express and does not express in terms any judgment upon the subject matter of the debate. Its object is not voting but discussion.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : An adjournment motion is not only discussed but also voted upon.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I would request you to bear in mind also this thing. As far as the House of Commons is concerned, there the committee of supply sits practically continuously for months on end, and, therefore, the opportunity, that is given to the members of the House of Commons, is almost a continuous opportunity and this restriction may be observed there because of that ; whereas we are restricted to a few days for the general discussion of the budget. If there are 30 adjournment motions, they cannot be easily accommodated in the discussion of the ordinary budget.

Mr. Speaker : Adjournment motions are not moved in the committee of supply, but in the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Yes, quite true. But it gives a continuous opportunity for months to the members.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Sir, an adjournment motion may be by way of censure and voting then would not be a mere formality but would be a necessity, as indicating the opinion of the House or any particular part of the House. In the general discussion there is no question of voting. So, it is not always that an adjournment motion is only a discussion.

Mr. Speaker : In the words of our rule 41 " a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly " is made " for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance ". According to Parliamentary practice also a motion for the adjournment of the House can be made only " for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance ". The motion, that is put to the vote of the House, is " that the House do

[Mr. Speaker.]

now adjourn", not "that so and so be censured". Therefore, its acceptance or rejection by the House is not, in so many words, a judgment on the subject of the debate. It is one of the expedients of parliamentary tactics and as such is a "dilatatory motion", i.e., one meant to cause delay. Speaking generally its object is to deal with some situation which has suddenly arisen. Its object is not always censure or condemnation.

Lala Duni Chand : On a point of order, Sir. Those adjournment motions which relate to the events that have taken place since the budget was presented, must be held as good even in view of your ruling.

Mr. Speaker : All motions regarding matters, which may have occurred before the general discussion and voting of demands, shall be governed by my ruling.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (4TH INSTALMENT),
1938-39.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (4th Instalment) for the year 1938-39. Demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to discuss the budget.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) : Mr. Speaker, I was not expecting to-day to initiate the discussion of the budget, but my Leader has approached me to initiate this debate, so I deem it an honour as well as a privilege to open the discussion on behalf of the Opposition and I do so with a full sense of responsibility. I quite realise that sometimes the discussion on the budget is merely fireworks and that the budget sometimes is not considered on its merits and very few useful suggestions are made during the discussion both by the Opposition as well as by the other side. It is, therefore, with a full sense of responsibility that I am initiating the discussion to-day.

Mr. Speaker, I listened the other day to the lucid exposition of statement of accounts in this province with interest and admiration. I appreciate the intelligent efforts of the Honourable Minister and, I should say, the diligent efforts of the Finance Secretary and his staff in the preparation of this budget. May I, Mr. Speaker, say outright that I am more of a mug-wump—an independent—in politics despite my predilections in favour of the Congress. Therefore I have always considered myself capable of discussing a subject on its own merits, and to-day I propose to discuss the Budget on its merits, eschewing sentiment and passion. My dispassionate view is that in certain respects the Punjab budget is not bad. It is even satisfactory—and in certain other respects it is sorely disappointing. I can well realise that that may not be the personal fault of the Honourable the Minister for Finance because I am one of those persons who are in a position to appreciate and understand his difficulties and handicaps. Besides the handicaps inherent in the Constitution, the greatest handicap which he

suffers from or which impedes his way is a set of colleagues who are thoroughly unsympathetic and reactionary—I should say hide-bound reactionaries—and who act as a stone round his neck. So far as any progress is concerned, I think it is his colleagues who are a stone round his neck, because all those who know him and who have heard him speak or who have read his speeches in the papers know that he being a student of Economics, has got that sympathetic outlook which a broad-minded and unorthodox economist has. There is no doubt that I have differences with him on certain questions. For instance, before I proceed any further, I would draw the attention of the House to the views of the Finance Minister in the matter of exchange ratio. The views expressed by the Finance Minister on the subject on behalf of the Punjab Government in a letter to the Bombay Government were views of an orthodox reactionary economist which could not be expected of him. In expressing the views that he did at that time he played the role of Sir James Grigg and borrowed arguments given from time to time by the Finance Members of the Government of India like Sir Basil Blackett, Sir George Schuster and Sir James Grigg. He copied all those arguments and I consider that those arguments were not only fallacious and unpatriotic but were reactionary.

Despite that, I say that one can honestly differ and I know that here we honestly differ. I do not say that he holds certain views deliberately because of his re-actionary attitude towards this province or this country. I know that in this respect he is an orthodox economist who at this stage does not want any change in the ratio or exchange policy. But I think it my duty that I should preface my speech with these remarks that so far as I understand, all sides of the House were in the heart of their hearts against the views expressed in the letter that he sent to the Bombay Government. I know that there are quite a number of people on these benches who have given expression to their resentment against the present policy which is being followed by the Government of India in the matter of the exchange ratio. There is Sardar Bahadur Ujjal Singh who in this very House gave expression to his opinion and urged upon the provincial Government to recommend to the Government of India that so long as the present exchange and currency policy of the Government of India continued there could not be any improvement in this country. We cannot fight unemployment, we cannot advance the cause of our export trade, we cannot improve the prices in this country, we cannot ameliorate the condition of the agriculturists, we cannot further the cause of industry in this country unless and until we devalued our currency. It was on these grounds that Sardar Bahadur Ujjal Singh urged upon this provincial Government to approach the Government of India on this question of ratio. Now he is a Parliamentary Secretary. If he had any solicitude for self-respect—and I hope he had—he should withdraw his support to the Government. In any other country under similar conditions, he would have been the first to resign his office and leave those benches.

It is with a feeling of regret that I have to say that in this province unfortunately democracy is treading on dangerous grounds. Groups are formed on personal grounds. This budget has not been discussed on merits, but on personal grounds. Very few gentlemen and very few newspapers in this province have discussed the budget on other than personal grounds.

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

I do not mean to attach motives to them. It is quite probable that they were occupied otherwise in more important all-India questions. But so far as I have been able to see, the Punjab budget which is considered to be a very important document has been discussed only on personal grounds and not on its own merits. While I am prepared to offer my hearty felicitations to the Honourable Minister on personal grounds, I cannot congratulate the Government on its achievements.

Now I shall consider the budget on personal and ideological grounds. When I consider the budget on personal grounds, I am really tempted to offer my hearty felicitations to the Finance Minister for his very able speech and for the lucid statement of the finances of the province. I am prepared to concede that he has got a sympathetic outlook on the finances of the province and that he brings to bear this sympathetic outlook on certain questions. Not only am I prepared to concede all this, but I am prepared to appreciate it, and more than that I appreciate the work of his Finance Secretary and his staff who are the real people behind the budget. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now, I shall come to the budget proper. Mr. Speaker, there are three outstanding features in the budget which in my opinion do credit to the Government. The first is the substantial help for the conditions, the very tragic conditions arising out of famine in the Hissar district and in other parts of the province. (*Hear, hear.*) The second feature in my opinion which does credit to the Government is the expeditiousness with which the Haveli Project has been put into operation. The third feature is the reduction and retrenchment in expenditure of 14 lakhs in the current year and over 31 lakhs in the coming year. But there are other factors in the budget which are so disappointing both to the Congress members of this House and others with independent opinion. Last year when the Finance Minister presented the budget he gave expression to what I might call robust optimism regarding the finances of this province. But as I listened to his speech the other day, that cheerful note which he struck in his last budget speech was lacking in his present speech. He is not now so enthusiastic, he is not so optimistic as he was some time ago. Why? Because this time he has produced a deficit budget, not only a deficit budget for the current year, but a deficit budget for the coming year also. Last year when he presented the budget he provided for a small surplus of rupees 5 lakhs. Later on an inspired news agency got it published in the newspapers that this time the surplus was not going to be 5 lakhs but a good many more lakhs. But what is the position now? The result is that there is a large deficit. According to the revised estimate for the current year there is a deficit of about 27 lakhs. For the coming year 1939-40 in spite of the reduction and retrenchment, there is a deficit of 31 lakhs. I think this is a matter which has caused disappointment and even some concern and anxiety. One can of course ignore this deficit for any particular year if it is due to certain extraordinary circumstances. But if the Finance Minister is going to produce a deficit budget year after year, then the province will be only heading towards bankruptcy. A succession of deficits, as most of the economists are agreed, would lead to serious financial and economic consequences.

I think the Honourable Finance Minister must have read the statement of Leroy Beaulieu, a French Economist who said, "there are lofty and serene sciences which leave unperturbed those people whom they do not affect but finance is not one of these; it takes a terrible revenge on nations and individuals who despise and ignore it." What I have begun to suspect after two deficit budgets is that the Punjab Government is not paying proper attention to the finances of the province. I think that if this policy continues, this policy of overlooking the expenditure and overlooking what are called unforeseen, but not unforeseeable factors, then the finances of this province are not in safe hands. The Honourable the Finance Minister being an economist should be expected to know certain things which are responsible for the deficit not only in the current year but also in the next year. I know, Mr. Speaker, that he has blamed Hissar famine for all this. I have carefully read his speech and I have studied his budget and I am not going to ignore any fundamental part of them which may ever do any injustice to the Honourable Finance Minister. The plea under which he has taken protection for these deficits, for these two successive deficits, is that the Government have lost about 55 lakhs of rupees in the current year and that the Government is likely to lose another 55 lakhs in 1939-40. May I remind him of the opening paragraph of his speech wherein he says that no Finance Minister in a country like India or in a province like the Punjab which is predominantly agricultural, can assume the role of a prophet and therefore, it is very often that all his calculations are upset? Why? Because it is very difficult to depend upon nature, it is very difficult to rely upon nature. I use to-day the same argument for his condemnation, which he has himself used for his own defence. The very argument under which he takes protection, I am going to use for the condemnation of the Punjab Government for their utter disregard of the finances of the Punjab. And what is that? It is that in an agricultural country where the revenue receipts and expenditure depend upon the whims and caprices of nature, upon the cruelties of nature, a Finance Minister should have the foresight and the breadth of vision to picture to himself all those unforeseen factors, to take into account all those things while preparing the budget. That is a fundamental point which I have to put forward to-day. Does he not know that the Punjab is an agricultural province? Does he not know that it is a victim of the cruelties of nature? Does he not know that the finances depend upon the vagaries of nature? Then why did he not take into account all those things and make provision in advance for all these things while preparing the estimates? Having failed to do that, he now comes before us and very solemnly declares that the finances of the Punjab are very sound and it is only on account of Hissar that we have suffered this loss and that otherwise we would have had a substantial surplus in the current as well as in the next year. Mr. Speaker, we cannot get rid of these cruelties of nature with the present knowledge of science. It may be that some time later when science makes rapid progress, we may be able to control even nature to the extent that we may have rains to order and then we might be able to fare better or adopt the present policy of the Punjab Government which lacks foresight. But now when we are dependent upon nature, we should always take that fact into account, we should take into consideration that this year or next year we are going to have some famine somewhere, we are going to have some

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

shortage of rain somewhere and, therefore, we should be able to provide in hand for such emergencies. The blame should not rest on the shoulders of Hissar famine. It should lie on the top-heavy expenditure of the Punjab Government which has crushed the average tax-payer to death in this province. I remember the articles which the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram wrote some time ago and I was reading those articles even last night and in spite of the fact that he would get up and say that since then some retrenchment has been made, a number of those items of retrenchment which he recommended in those articles yet remain unattended to. No attention has been paid to them. Now that he has power in his hands, he has done nothing to put into practice what he preached. I say with a full sense of responsibility and I declare with a full sense of responsibility that if the question of retrenchment is taken in hand very seriously and very earnestly, there is scope for retrenchment to the extent of at least two crores in the expenditure. So, Mr. Speaker, it is not Hissar which is responsible for this deficit. It is not Hissar which should give sleepless nights to the Honourable Finance Minister, but it is the top-heavy expenditure of the Punjab Government which should engage his attention. You know that in 1924-25 the expenditure of the Punjab Government was something like 809 lakhs of rupees or say 8 crores, excluding about 175 lakhs of provincial contribution. That 8 crores of expenditure has jumped up to about 12 crores to-day. It should be a matter of shame to us, it should be a matter of shame to the Government and when the Honourable Minister Sir Chaudhri Chhotu Ram wrote those articles, he said that the Punjab agriculturist was not in a position to pay, that the Punjab agriculturist was not in a position to bear all this expenditure and he put in a very strong and a very eloquent plea for reduction in expenditure. But now when he has got responsibility in his own hands, he is sitting absolutely mum and quiet. I do not know whether he has forgotten those articles or he is handicapped by certain circumstances which are inexplicable to me. I know that the Honourable the Finance Minister will get up in reply to this discussion and say that the Punjab Government has taken a very practical step towards retrenchment and it has appointed a Resources and Retrenchment Committee. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is being done in that committee. But I would remind the House that the Retrenchment Committee has already been guilty of an inordinate delay in concluding its deliberations and submitting its report. Not only that, but the Retrenchment Committee has itself become a burden on the revenues of the Punjab Government. (*Hear, hear.*) That committee which was, I should say, set up for the purpose of reduction in expenditure, has now itself become a great burden on the revenues of this province. I would remind my honourable friend of another thing in this connection. What is 55 lakhs, he says—55 lakhs of loss in Hissar in the current year and the same amount in the next year. And then he comes and says "we are prepared to be judged by any standard of provincial finance". He is prepared to be judged by any standard of provincial finance and declares "we are the most efficient and loyal servants of the people that history shall ever record". I have never listened to a more preposterous, a more audacious, a more irresponsible statement from a responsible gentleman like the Finance Minister. I had thought that

the Honourable Finance Minister was a very responsible man and that he did not indulge in hyperboles or exaggerations, but, look, we are told that this cabinet, this set of Ministers are the most loyal and most efficient servants of the Punjab and not only now but which history shall ever record.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : This is very modest.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : But let us ignore the past and the future history. Let us see the current events not only in this province but in other countries. Let us see what is actually happening in other provinces. I would remind the House that he has made much the loss due to Hissar famine, but in the United Provinces, the Government have undergone a voluntary loss of forty lakhs in Excise and in Bombay, the Bombay Government has undergone a voluntary loss of thirty lakhs in the current year and 150 lakhs in the coming year over and above thirty lakhs of the current year. He comes out and says that the Government has suffered a loss of fifty lakhs and in spite of that they have given huge sums to the beneficent departments. Now, let us compare and see whether he really comes out with flying colours out of this test which he has himself imposed upon him and which he has himself placed before us. I have got before me some figures. Figures for Education. In the Punjab in 1929-30, the Government spent 172 lakhs on Education. In 1930-31 it spent 172 lakhs and in 1939-40 the Government proposes to spend 165 lakhs. This is the progress that we have made since 1930-31. In 1930-31 the bureaucratic Government set apart 172 lakhs for education but now we have only 165 lakhs. The Honourable Minister for Education has come and said that we are doing everything possible for educating this province and that they have opened 88 new schools and this and that, but the net amount that they propose to spend on this department is 165 lakhs as against 172 lakhs in 1930-31 and 172 lakhs in 1929-30. Is that a progressive or a retrograde step? Now let us compare what is being spent by the Bombay Government on Education. In 1936-37 when they were not responsible for the budget, it was 159 lakhs, in 1938-39 it was 190 lakhs and in the coming year the Bombay Government has provided two crores for Education, despite the fact that the Bombay Government is undergoing a voluntary loss of 150 lakhs over and above 30 lakhs during the current year. In the United Province, the Government has provided 215 lakhs despite the fact that the United Provinces Government has provided for a voluntary loss of 40 lakhs as a result of the policy of prohibition which they are pursuing very steadfastly. Now let us refer to Public Health. The Honourable Minister seems to have some solicitude for the suffering of the people, for the ill-health of the people, but what do the figures reveal? The figures reveal that in 1937-38, the Punjab Government spent 22·5 lakhs and in 1938-39 the Government spent 21·9 lakhs and in the coming year they have provided 24·4 lakhs for Public Health. What is the situation in Bombay? In Bombay before the present Government took charge the bureaucratic Government used to spend 22 lakhs on Public Health, but in the coming year they are spending a sum of 31·48 lakhs on Public Health, much more than what the Punjab Government has done and, to repeat, that in spite of 150 lakhs of voluntary loss as a result of the prohibition policy. Now coming to the Industries, I should perhaps say that the present Minister is perhaps incompetent to further the cause

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

of industries. It is believed that without rapid industrialization and without improvement in Industries, the average income of the people cannot be increased, prices cannot be increased and the prosperity of the province or of the country depends on the progress which the province or the country makes in industries. Even agriculture depends on industry and *vice versa*. What are the figures for industries? The figures for industries are these. In the current year according to the revised estimates the Government has provided 20 lakhs and in the coming year the Government has provided 21·5 lakhs. What an achievement, what an improvement? It seems to me that the Punjab Government has meted out a step-motherly treatment to the industries of the province. Let us now take the figures for United Provinces. The United Provinces Government used to spend before the advent of the Congress Government 14 lakhs on industries and now the United Provinces Government has provided 29·4 lakhs, five lakhs more than what the Punjab Government has done, in spite of the fact—and that factor is fundamental, just as the Finance Minister said about understanding the Punjab Finances, that factor is fundamental in understanding the finances of the United Provinces Government—that they have undergone a voluntary loss of 40 lakhs, the United Provinces Government has provided 29·4 lakhs for industries, while the Punjab Government has provided only 21 lakhs. I am judging the Government by the test which the Honourable Finance Minister has himself placed before us. I do not want, as I said, to be unfair to him and I do not want to indulge in any hyperboles or exaggerations. I am going to quote facts and I am eschewing all sentiment from the discussion of this budget. Mr. Speaker, you will be surprised to note that we were expecting that the Punjab Government would certainly do something for the poor peons and *chaprasis* not only in this Assembly, but also in the entire secretariat.

I will now refer to the pay of the poor people like the *chaprasis*, the pay of the constables, the pay of the *patwaris* and all that. I am now going to tell you what the United Provinces Government has done for them. With your permission I will read out to you what they have done :—

Ever since the Government assumed office the question of improving the condition of service of inferior Government servants including low-paid non-ministerial officials has engaged its attention. It would be unfair to defer the matter any further. Government has not been quite happy over its postponement so long and has now made a careful calculation of the cost involved in giving them relief in the matter of pay, leave and pension. It proposes to introduce an incremental scale of Rs. 10 rising by biennial increments of eight annas to Rs. 14 per mensem with a selection grade of Rs. 14-8-0 rising by annual increment of eight annas to Rs. 16 per mensem for all permanent inferior servants paid from the Establishment section of the budget whose pay at present is less than 13 rupees per mensem. For those already drawing Rs. 13 and over the following scale will be introduced :—

Existing Rs.				Proposed Rs.
13 }	..	..	..	.. 15—1—8
14 }				
15 }	..	..	..	.. 16—1—9
16 }				
17 }	..	..	..	.. 17—1—2
18 }				
19	..	..	..	.. 20—0—0

Chaprais, orderlies, peons and *jama-dars* of the Secretariat including the Legislative Council and Assembly departments will be allowed an additional pay of Rs. 2 per mensem. Moreover, inferior servants serving in the cities of Lucknow, Cawnpore, Allahabad, Naini Tal and Mussoorie will be given an allowance of Rs. 2 per mensem for dearness of living and those serving in far away districts and Dehra Dun and other nineteen big cities of the province will be given allowance of Rs. 1 per mensem. The Government has also decided to abolish the existing Rs. 11 and Rs. 12 grades of posts and to put all *patwaris* in these grades in the Rs. 13 grade. Similarly the minimum pay of jail warders will be Rs. 15 per mensem and all of those now getting Rs. 12 or Rs. 13 will be admitted to the new grade of Rs. 15. Police constables will be given the same treatment and the pay of all constables at present drawing Rs. 13 or Rs. 14 per mensem will be raised to Rs. 15 per mensem. It is intended to liberalise the rule about the leave and pension of inferior Government servants. The cost of all these measures will come to 13 lakhs in the first year.

Minister for Finance : They will reach our position in eight years.

(*An honourable Member :* Not even in eight years.)

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : When you have achieved anything practical please let me know. I crave the indulgence of the House for referring to another very important matter. The Punjab Government has almost ruined agricultural credit in this province on account of certain very controversial measures which they have passed in the teeth of opposition. It was the imperative duty of the Punjab Government to provide for cheap credit. I have studied the budget and I have found, and I am proving it, that this budget is not a poor man's budget. That is what I am proving. I have referred to the improvements made by other governments so far as the pay of the poor people is concerned but that does not seem to be the concern of the Punjab Government. I am now taking up the question of cheap credit. The dire need of the agriculturist of to-day is credit and I am sure that the Government will realise the seriousness of the situation in due course of time. If the threats held out by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and his friends come out to be true, if the non-agriculturists put into operation all the advice which has been tendered to them by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, then I am one of those who believe that there would be a catastrophe in this province. I am not here now to pass an opinion on those resolutions but the fact remains that those resolutions have been passed. Whether those resolutions should have been passed, whether they were advisable, whether they were in the best interest of the province or not, is not my primary concern at this stage. My contention is that the Punjab Government has perhaps lightly treated those resolutions. The most that I can say is that whatever Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has done—I have my differences with him—I am prepared to concede that whatever he has done, he has done in self-defence. What self-defence? The Honourable Minister for Development and not only he but the Premier also goes out in the province and spreads the cult of hatred; they preach class hatred in the province. What class hatred? Agriculturists against non-agriculturists, non-agriculturists against agriculturists. Thereby the entire economic fabric of the province is in danger and when the question of realisation of land revenue and water rates comes up before the Government and the friends of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang do not provide any money to these people, the Government, I hope, will then come to their senses. I do not believe in this class hatred. I do not see any distinction whatsoever between the agriculturist and the non-agriculturist. If there is any difference it is this that

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

there are conflicts of interest among the non-agriculturists as well as among agriculturists. There are capitalists and labourers among non-agriculturists. There are capitalists and labourers amongst agriculturists. The interests of capitalist agriculturist and capitalist non-agriculturist are common and similarly the interests of the proletariat among the agriculturists and non-agriculturists are common. Therefore, I say that it is folly of the greatest magnitude on the part of the Punjab Government to go out in the province and say that it is the zamindara government. It should neither be a zamindara government nor a non-agriculturist government. It should be a Punjab Government. Democracy does not mean rule by majority so far as classes are concerned. That is the meaning of democracy which the Punjab Government has taken into its head. We have a peculiar and unjust system of franchise in this province and therefore they are trying to avail of that because agriculturists are in a majority and, therefore, they say that it is the zamindara government. To-morrow, if there is radical change in the franchise, even Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram will come to his senses and he will go to non-agriculturists begging for votes. The problem in this province is that the Punjab Government has shaken the very foundation of democracy. The Punjab Government has made impossible the working of democracy in this province. Democracy does not mean the counting of heads as Desile Burns has said; if that were democracy a flock of sheep would form the best democracy. Democracy means rule by the best among the people. If it means the rule by best in society, then in that sense it has got an element of aristocracy in it.

Mr. Speaker : May I invite the honourable member's attention to Rule 131 (1) of the Rules of Procedure? According to that rule the honourable member can discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, so the honourable member cannot discuss the ministers personally.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Thank you for the interruption Mr. Speaker. The point that I was developing was that the Government have not provided cheap credit to the agriculturists. There is dire need of it in the province particularly under the circumstances which have been created by the Government and as a result of the defensive measures about to be adopted by the non-agriculturists. That was the main point and I was going into a little bit of details so as to substantiate what I said. Almost all the Congress provinces, I make bold to say, have taken active steps in the matter of providing cheap credit. If you go through the United Provinces budget you will see that they have set apart a sum of Rs. 75,000 for this purpose. (Ministerial benches : Oh such a big sum ?) That is only to begin with and that is going to be spent on a preliminary survey for a scheme to open a Provincial Co-operative Bank and that is the step they have taken in this direction. Honourable members opposite have treated this statement very lightly, as to what is Rs. 75,000. I think this Government may be ashamed that while they are treating the sum of Rs. 75,000 lightly they have not provided a single pie for the purpose. Is it not a matter of shame for the Punjab Government that while they have shed crocodile tears over the Hissar famine, not a single Minister has come out voluntarily for a

4 P. M.

reduction in his salary? They are keeping quiet now. They will hold their tongues. That is the most brazen-faced policy which the Punjab Ministers follow. I will now read out from the United Provinces budget and you will find what schemes they have in hand. The question is of taking active steps in a certain manner :—

“ With a view to promoting rural development in all its aspects speedily we are introducing a Rural Development Bill which will be helpful in securing necessary amenities for village communities. Legislation will also be soon introduced to remove the deadweight of debt and it is hoped that the agriculturists will no longer be crippled by interminable liabilities. In order to provide for rural credit Government has several schemes in view and a provision of Rs. 75,000 is being made in order to organise and set up a Provincial Co-operative Bank on a big scale. The whole scheme will be brought before the House at a later stage. The present provision is meant for a preliminary survey. Bankers have been consulted and the question is being examined.

That is what the Honourable Minister forgot. This sum of Rs. 75,000 has been set apart for preliminary survey only. This sum of Rs. 75,000 is not all that is going to be invested in the provincial bank for providing cheap credit to the agriculturists. While other governments have done something in the matter, the Punjab Government has not taken any step in this direction.

I would not take more time of the House but I would like to refer to another important matter, namely, the question of meting out justice to the innocent as well as the culprit. What I am referring to is the question of relations between the judiciary and the executive. The Punjab Government which considers itself or professes itself a socialist government, and which in my opinion is a pseudo-socialist government, has not taken any steps to re-organise the relations between the judiciary and the executive. I am giving expression to the general belief in the province that the courts are not meting out justice. I believe that the courts are at the back and call of the executive, and I think it should be the primary concern of the Punjab Government to see that this impression is removed and the only way to remove this impression is by the separation of the executive and the judiciary. I refer to this matter because the Honourable Finance Minister says he is prepared to be judged by any standard and compare himself with the Finance Ministers of other provinces, that he is prepared to compare his own budget with the budgets of other provinces (*Finance Minister* : Not with the Finance Ministers of other provinces). That is an allegory. The Honourable, the Finance Minister said that he was prepared to be judged by any standard; that is why I referred to the separation of the executive and the judiciary. The United Provinces Government is the first Government in India to have taken an active step in that direction. It set up a committee and that committee have submitted a report which will mean a loss of Rs. 25,000 to the United Provinces Government. From all the points of view which I have placed before the House the Punjab Government budget does not compare favourably with the budgets of the United Provinces and Bombay Governments. Mr. Speaker, you sometimes express a thing with a flourish of language and not only you but most of us here do it. The Finance Minister has delivered his speech couched in beautiful words and with a flourish of language. I want to impress upon you and through you upon this House and through this House on the province that behind the flourish of language, lies the staggering poverty of

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

the province and nothing tangible has been done and no practical steps have been taken to eradicate it. There was an opportunity for the Ministers to express personal sympathy so far as the Hissar famine was concerned. In order to help the sufferers it was the primary duty of the Ministers to forego one thousand or even two hundred from their pay ; but such a tragic and devastating famine does not appear to have produced any effect on the hearts of the Ministers. What right have the Finance and other Ministers got to ask us to make a sacrifice from the revenues of the province ? What right have they to ask other poor people to make sacrifices when these Ministers have no heart and have no sympathy and courage to undergo a reduction in their salary and yet they shed crocodile tears. (*Cheers.*)

Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann (Sheikhupura West, Sikh, Rural): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Finance Minister deserves to be congratulated for his very lucid exposition of the financial picture of the province. Ostensibly our Budget is a deficit Budget, but as a matter of fact our financial position is both very good and sound. Sir, the year 1938-39 will go down in the history of the province as a year in which our finances were put to a severe test. The Government in the second year of its existence was faced with a critical situation in the economic life of the province. An extensive part of the province comprising four big districts, Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal were thrown in the grip of an acute famine. The continued failure of rainfall for the last two years in these districts, where rainfall is the only source of irrigation, brought about an unprecedented scarcity of grain and fodder. Extensive tracts of barren land where not a blade of grass was grown, were starving and yearning for water. Large herds of cattle were facing extinction for lack of fodder and drinking water. Human beings were facing starvation. Such were the conditions prevailing in those parts of the country which our Government had to tackle. Words are inadequate to admire the political sagacity, foresight and humanitarian steps taken by the Government to meet the situation. The promptitude and the generosity with which the relief was carried to the needy is most commended and our Government has earned the most enviable place in the hearts of the people for enthusiastically and equitably meeting the situation. Sir, it is with a feeling of pride I observe that it was the solid financial resources of this province alone that have stood the strain of such unexpected and sudden drain on its revenue. I must confess that as a layman it is difficult for me to fully understand the complicated manipulations of figures and accounts embodied in our budget. But one feature of our budget stands prominently. It is gratifying to note that in spite of such a heavy and unexpected drain on our provincial revenues, the allotment for the beneficent department have not only not been reduced but increased allotments of 17 lakhs have further been made to these departments in the new budget. This increase is most welcome under the most critical conditions prevailing in our province on account of the vagaries of nature. The total expenditure for the beneficent departments, which now stands at a considerable figure of 3,44 lakhs, is perhaps the biggest allocation of the revenue ever made to these departments and our Ministry deserves to be congratulated on this notable achievement. (*Hear, hear.*) It is further gratifying to note that in the Department

of Education special attention has been paid to female education and a special grant has been set apart for the training of women teachers and for spreading girls' education. No efforts should be spared to bring the light of education into every family and to dispel the clouds of illiteracy amongst the masses. Efforts should also be made for adult education, because this may facilitate the education of our younger generation by conveying enlightenment to the ignorant parents. Lack of education amongst parents leads to lack of appreciation of the manifold advantages of education and retards the progress of the measure adopted to dispel illiteracy.

There is another notable feature of our budget in the Department of Industries. Sir, the decision of the Government to have a Stores Purchase Department of our own is evidently a very welcome step for the promotion of our provincial industries. Efforts should be made to encourage local industries by giving preference to purchase the articles manufactured in our own province. The Stores Purchase Department, in my opinion, marks a distinctive step forward for the industrial advancement of this province. It is hoped that the commercial class, who have always been finding fault with the present Government for their solicitude for the benefit of the zamindar, will not at least be slow now to appreciate the endeavours of the Government for industrial advancement. (*A voice: Huge endeavours*). Yes, that is what I think personally, but you might differ from that.

The decision of the Government to set up a regular machinery to uproot the demon of corruption from our public services will also meet with general approval. The sooner it is eradicated the better it will be for the stability and prestige of the administrative efficiency. The Government has earned the gratitude of every fair-minded man and well-wisher of the province by the completion of the Haveli Project in less than half the scheduled time for its construction. It is really difficult to understand how this miracle has been accomplished. The huge saving of 186 lakhs from the estimated cost of the project is the standing example of foresight and wide awake supervision of all branches of the administration. It is hoped that the Bhakra and the Thal projects will also be taken in hand immediately and that their completion will also be expedited both economically and efficiently.

Allow me to say that on the whole the record of the services rendered by the Government for the last 2 years is both creditable and commendable. The Government by their repeated solicitude for the welfare of the province have justified their claim to be the most efficient servants of the public. I have no doubt that the public will not be slow to lend their whole-hearted co-operation and support to those who guide the destinies of this province for the benefit of all classes and creeds. I now once again congratulate the Government on their efficient and beneficent administration of the province.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I will not take long. I will make a few remarks on the principles only. The first thing I would like to discuss is the question of framing the budget. The budget is an estimate of the income and expenditure of our Government for the coming year. From this point of view, we have to look at the whole thing. The budget therefore should be exact and correct. During the last few years I have been a member of this House and I know that there was a

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

year when the actuals were only 2½ lakhs off the estimates as compared with the total budget of 11 crores or so. Now, Sir, if you look at our budget from this point of view—and may I draw the attention of the House to pages 2 and 8 of the talented speech of the Honourable Finance Minister—you will come to know that in the year 1937-38, when early our new Government came into power and when they were sympathetic, the surplus was estimated at Rs. 1.7 lakhs or so. Then they gave remissions due to hailstorm and other calamities. They were rather liberal. The result of that liberality and sympathy was that, when the actuals were completed, in spite of remissions of 50 lakhs through the year, there was a surplus of 50 lakhs, a difference of one crore. Compare this with 11 crores or so. Is that what you call budgeting? It is just like asking an old zamindar outside in a village—

بابا تیری عمر کتنی ایہ۔ بس چالیس پانچ سال ہوئی اے۔ جیڑوں نہر
آئی سی اردوں دی تو ایہو کہندا سی۔ ہاں جی ہاں۔ تان تو ہن ستریا
ایہی سالن دا ہويا نہ۔ ہاں جی ایہو سمجھہ لو۔ بس ستر اسوان
سالن دا۔

(Hear, hear from the Opposition Benches.)

He does not make any difference between 80 and 40 or 70 and 80. He is just like our Honourable Finance Minister.

Coming to the next year, I might point out that things were much better. In spite of extraordinary expenditure that we have just granted by way of supplementary estimate of 16 lakhs, there was a deficit of about 27 lakhs and this happened due to the unfortunate famine that had come about. Why has famine come about? That is the point on which I must lay some stress. Our Ministry was sympathetic and the deficit budget grew into a surplus budget in 1937-38. Now the Ministry has become unsympathetic with the zamindars, with the result that the Almighty has got displeased with them. They had forgotten that there is a much bigger force also above them that controls the whole show. Instead of the Government giving remissions in *abiana* and land revenue and earning the gratitude of the teeming millions they have now their *bad dua* and famine is the result.

I must come to other points of importance. In the next year's budget there is a deficit of about 29 lakhs, and this deficit, judging from the last two years' budgets, might turn out to be a surplus or might develop into a deficit of 50 lakhs. Therefore from this day I have lost all faith in this Ministry's budgets and estimates. The first thing that they should have done was to reduce the expenditure. The efficiency of the Finance Department or as a matter of fact of the whole Government is not to be judged by how much it gets and how much it spends, but by finding out the efficiency of every penny that it spends. You have to see how far each penny that you spend goes, whether it goes as far as it should go. I feel that if proper re-organization, proper economy and proper retrenchment are effected, we could reduce our total expenditure of 12 crores to 10 crores and give remissions of *abiana*. In this connection may I suggest the appointment of a committee of experts to go into the matter of office routine and the organisation of the machinery of

Government in districts so that they could tour all the districts and after holding consultations with the heads of departments concerned, the committee should devise a scheme by which we could run the government as efficiently as we are doing now and save something? I am afraid I am suggesting another committee. Before I do so, I had better ask what has happened to the committees which were appointed long ago? What has happened to the Land Revenue Committee? I am sure that that committee submitted its report to the Government over a year ago and still they are sitting tight over it. I do not know whether it is going to be shelved or brought and discussed here. I feel that it is being shelved for the time being simply to enable the Ministry to say next year at the time of taking votes: "Here you are, we are going to do something, we are going to give a remission of a few annas in the rupee to those who pay land revenue of less than Rs. 5 annually or something like that, but I can assure you: *Ta taryaq az Araqawurda shawad, marguzida murda shawad*. I may ask the Government, what have they done for the benefit of the general public? (*A voice*: What have you done?) I have come to these benches simply to be able to do something, to express my feelings according to the wishes of those who have sent me here, and you will only come to know what I do during the discussion of the grants. I am not going to sit quiet as you are without being allowed to express your views.

The next important question that I ask the Government is, what has happened to the recommendations of the Unemployment Committee? That Committee spent about a lakh of rupees and yet the result is not in sight. I am astonished that our Government does not do what it preaches. On the one side you find the committee sitting and spending money from the exchequer for the solution of unemployment and on the other side Government is not doing the least thing to reduce unemployment. May I give an instance? During the last year many conciliation boards have been appointed and practically all the presidents of those conciliation boards are *lakh-pattis*. They are people who have put in their whole life in Government service and have now retired and are over 55 years of age. Is that the way to reduce unemployment in the country? Is that what you preach and what you do? Is there no difference between the two? I am afraid that our Party plays more to the tune of those who can approach, who can make or unmake the party. (*A voice*: Which Party?) I mean the Unionist party in which I was for two years and which I have left now for these reasons.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member should discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein and not the Unemployment Committee.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: I shall explain in a minute what I mean. In the budget of 1939-40 we are budgeting for the pay of these presidents of conciliation boards and it is the pay of those people that I am criticising. In this budget we are giving the pay of conciliation boards. Therefore I am entitled to discuss the question of removal of unemployment by giving the specific instance of conciliation boards.

Similarly I find that another committee has been appointed to go into the matter of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1878. There I find that not a single non-official has been appointed, and therefore I cannot expect much from that committee.

(Mian Muhammad Nurullah).

Instead of suggesting any committees, I must come to the most important point. I have to gauge this budget not from the point of view of what Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt has been discussing, but I have to see whether the budget has or has not anything to do with the capacity of the tax-payers who pay. The zamindars in this province are very hard hit, due to one depression following another, with the result that their economic condition has grown from bad to worse. Now they have sold everything. Considered from that point of view I find that the budget is absolutely out of tune with the prevailing conditions. It is different if you give me 15 lakhs and ask me to spend it. The question is how much return I get for it and I am afraid, looking from that point of view also, we are hopelessly disappointed.

Sir, Now I come to the new projects. I think that that is the only redeeming and bright feature. In this respect looking at the Haveli Project I think we have to thank Mr. Bedford and his officers and the staff for the marvellous saving they have shown by carrying out the project of four years in 2½ years. But is not the praise-worthy saving of Rs. 2 crores a bad reflection upon those who make estimates? They should be taken to task for having so much over-estimated. Would not Government take a lesson? Would not Mr. Bedford's services be adequately appreciated, by following his methods and reducing our expenditure from 12 crores to 11 crores and giving a remission of *abiana*? There is no remission of *abiana* or land revenue in this budget and that is what was needed. I do not want all the Honourable Ministers to stand up and say we are unable to do so and thus earn the certificate of unfit and incapable hands. They should be able to accomplish something in this direction also.

From the zamindar's point of view this budget is very disappointing. The Government has in view the execution of the Thal Project and the Bhakra Dam. Before I sit down I should like to suggest one thing. These projects will benefit the people of those tracts and the unearned wealth and income of the people of that *Ilaga* is bound to jump up very greatly and it is this unearned income of those people that should be taxed first. I should not like to hear later, after three or four years, that these canals have proved unproductive and that therefore the resources of the province and the people should be taxed for the benefit of those people. They must be properly taxed now with a view to make those projects paying. One project is estimated to cost 12 crores and I shall be very glad if somebody like Mr. Bedford were to take up the project and reduce the expenditure to 8 crores or so.

Looking at this budget from these four points of view, namely, budgeting capacity of the people to pay, the preachings and doings of the Government and how every rupee squeezed out of the people goes, I am sorry to say that it is very disappointing.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab Land-holders) : The budget of a Government is not a mere statement of income and expenditure. It indicates the policy of Government, what steps it is going to take in regard to the welfare of the people entrusted to its care. Keeping this in view I think the Government has achieved a marvellous success. The budget is said to be a deficit budget of about 9 lakhs. But if we take into consideration the extraordinary receipts, it will be found that it is a surplus budget of

six lakhs. This is indeed an achievement for which the Government deserves to be congratulated. The Government has tackled the famine problem very boldly. The amount which was to be spent on famine was only 9 lakhs, but the Government went further and spent 18 lakhs and also gave remissions to the extent of 28 lakhs. Thus the total amount spent on famine comes to about 55 lakhs. If we do not take into consideration the non-recurring expenditure, then the budget would be a surplus budget of 85 lakhs. If there had been no famine the budget would have been a surplus one to the extent of 19 lakhs. So, it is a great achievement of which the Government may be proud.

Side by side with the great depression that we find in the province, Government has not lagged behind in feeding the nation building departments. It has got a record in giving as much money as possible for the nation building departments. For the present it gives 3 crores and 44 lakhs for the beneficent departments out of a total revenue of 11 crores and odd, that is, 32 per cent. I think this is the highest percentage for the whole of India. I may here refer to what is being done in other provinces. In Bengal the money spent on nation building departments is 3 crores and 81 lakhs or a percentage of 26·2; in Bombay the amount spent is 3 crores and 29 lakhs or 28·4 per cent. In Madras the percentage is 29·4; in the United Provinces it is 30. Therefore it is really a matter for gratification that even in the present situation the Government is going to spend another 17 lakhs on these departments. The main departments are Agriculture, Veterinary and Co-operation. On these departments the Government is spending 78 lakhs. That means that the Punjab stands second in the whole of India. In the United Provinces the money spent is 98 lakhs. As regards industries, again we are second only to the United Provinces. As regards education our budget is next to Madras.

As regards economy I must praise the Finance Minister for effecting economy to meet the extraordinary expenditure with regard to famine. He did not raise any tax, but made a cut in expenditure and has spent the saving on famine. Then again, economy effected in the Haveli Project is a marvellous one. The original estimate for the scheme was five crores, but a saving of one crore and 62 lakhs has been effected in actual construction.

Coming to the projects which the Government is going to take in hand, the Bhakra Dam and the Thal Project are going to be started very soon. When these projects are completed, millions of barren land will become fertile and millions of people who are now unemployed will find employment and will be able to earn their bread. Thus the Government will be doing a great service to the Punjab as a whole.

In conclusion, I would say that the budget is a very sound and stable one and in spite of the step-motherly treatment meted out to us by the Neimeyer Award, our position is very sound. I must therefore congratulate Sir Sikander and his Government on this remarkable achievement. *(Cheers.)*

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) *(Urdu)* : Sir, at the very outset I would like to submit that I am a student of Economics and in this capacity I feel no hesitation in saying that I am a great admirer

(Mr. Dev Raj Sethi.)

of the Honourable Minister for Finance who is admittedly an economic expert of great repute. But in order to avoid any confusion that may arise out of my remarks, I would like to submit that these praises that I am showering upon him are only due to his being an academic expert and nothing else. But so far as the practical aspect of his expertness on the subject is concerned, I think the preparation of the annual financial statement of the province speaks for itself. However, I would like to place before the House a few facts with regard to the economic conditions of the province. According to the Census Report of 1881 the population of the province was 178 lakhs. Then in 1931 it rose up to 235 lakhs and now it is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 278 lakhs; which means that the population of our province is increasing at the rate of 5 lakhs per annum. The population of our province is multiplying at such a rate as would enable a new Lahore to be inhabited every year in the Punjab. It is evident, therefore, that this alarming yearly increase in our population is exerting a good deal of pressure on the standard of living in the Punjab. Fifty years ago, only 60 per cent. of the population depended on agriculture for livelihood, but now 70 or even 75 per cent. of the population of the Punjab is depending on agriculture. This is an alarming state of affairs and must cause anxiety to all concerned. It is high time that Government should make a great headway in the industrial development of the province. But we find that whatever the Government have done in this behalf is inadequate and unsatisfactory. Experts like Mr. Darling and the Director of Agriculture have declared that the fertility of the soil is on the decline and industrial development must come to the rescue of the population of the Punjab. Let us see what the Government has done. It is no doubt, spending a sum of 21 lakhs of rupees every year but most of it is spent on administration, direction, supervision and other things of the kind. Very little indeed is spent on industries as such. If we calculate aright, a sum of 4 or 5 lakhs will be found to be actually spent on industries proper. It is true that some expenditure is justified for technical schools but we should not forget the broad and general development of industries. In view of the small holdings of the agriculturists more attention should be given to the industrial development. If you take the average, you will find that only 1·3 or 1·2 acres of cultivated land is possessed by every Punjabi in the land which is said to be the richest province in the country. In fact it has become the poorest province in India. I have grave doubts about the future of the Punjab. It appears to be very dark indeed. In spite of that when we cast a glance over the budget, it becomes clear that what the Government have done for the industrialisation of the Punjab, is almost nil. If the Government were serious, rapid strides could be taken because we have got electricity in every town of our province and it can be used with profit. We can easily develop the industry of bulbs and electric goods. Far from doing this, the Honourable Minister for Development goes from town to town and cries *Inqlab zindabad* but it does not occur to him that he should bring about some revolution in the industrial situation of which he is the Minister in charge. This department follows under him the old rut of running a few technical schools in which young ironsmiths and carpenters are trained. This is a useful work so far as it goes. But

my complaint is that it does not go very far. New programmes should be chalked out for the industrial development of the Punjab. Dozens of students should be sent abroad on state scholarships to receive training in modern industries and then start industries on return. But our present position is thoroughly disappointing. Paints, varnishes disinfectants, chemicals and other industries should be developed forthwith.

Let us now review what the Government has done. It appointed a Retrenchment Committee some two years back. Instead of retrenchment, it has added to the expenditure by spending about three-fourths of a lakh of rupees. This is strange retrenchment. Instead of reducing the expenditure, it has added to it. This three-fourths of a lakh must have come from the pockets of the poverty stricken agriculturists whom the Unionist Ministry is out to protect. What retrenchment this committee has suggested so far, we know nothing about. What we see is that previously where there used to be one Financial Commissioner, now there are three. If we add the Famine Commissioner, the number comes up to 4. Perhaps, the Unionist Ministry have brought about a change in the meanings of the plain words like reduction and retrenchment which now mean addition and more employment.

Again, the number of debt conciliation boards has been increased. Now every district is provided with a debt conciliation board. In my own district of Jhang, previously there was only one debt conciliation board but now there are two. With the establishment of these boards the number of civil cases must have gone down but it is strange that the number of sub-judges has not been reduced. Their number is the same as it was in 1928. They have usually no work after 12 o'clock and the lawyers too have little work and yet there is no retrenchment. Nobody is serious about it. Nobody feels about it. The Unionist Ministry has been in office for two years now and we want to ask what progress the province has made under it. Mere lip sympathy would not do. Practical work and not bluffing can help the poverty-stricken people of the Punjab.

Again, the Unemployment Committee was appointed two years ago and it has not submitted its report so far. Instead of doing any substantial work, it spent about Rs. 19,000 in 1937-38 and an equal amount to 1938-39 thus bringing its total expenditure to 38,000 rupees. This is the achievement of the unemployment committee during the last two years.

Next, may I ask what have the Government done about the Darling Committee Report? This committee too has spent a sum of Rs. 50,000 and when we asked in the last Simla Session about it, the reply given was that the report was in the press. Again in 1938, we were told that it was still in the press. How long will it remain in the press? In this connection, may I invite the attention of the House to Professor Brij Narain's view put before the Land Revenue Committee that the future prosperity of the Punjab lies in the reduction of land revenue? This is not an irresponsible statement of an irresponsible man. May I ask if the Government is prepared even to grant us such a modest and reasonable demand, that is, that the land revenue of uneconomic holdings may be abolished in future? At least the Government should exempt all those areas from the payment of land revenue which

(Mr. Dev Raj Sethi.)

are assessed to pay Rs. 5 or less. How long can the Government sit over the recommendations of the Darling Committee or how long will they be able to neglect the very modest demand that I have made to-day?

Let us compare the working of the various departments in this province with the working of those in other provinces. Take, for instance, the Forest Department. The expenditure of the Forest Department of the United Provinces is 24 lakhs and the income therefrom is Rs. 51 lakhs. In Bombay Presidency the expenditure of the Forest Department is Rs. 27 lakhs and the income amounts to 41 lakhs. But against it the expenditure of our Forest Department is 25 lakhs while the income is only Rs. 23 lakhs. It is interesting to note in this connection that about one-tenth of our province is under forest and the administration of this department is very deplorable and requires a sifting inquiry. There is surely 'something rotten in the state of Denmark.'

Now I would like to make a few observations in connection with the Haveli Project. I belong to that very district. I wholly associate myself with what has been said about it by the honourable members over there. I have been watching with interest its progress at every stage. I was there when that terrible flood overtook the people by surprise and we remained in suspense till 2 A.M. This project has been most economic and most expeditious. The Sukkar Barrage Scheme took as long as nine years for its completion and was only 25 per cent more in magnitude as compared with the Haveli Project. But while 5½ crores of rupees were spent on the former, the latter cost us only three crores, and it is being finished within twenty-one months. I really feel proud of this project which is in fact a truly Punjabi project in the real sense of the word. I have been in touch with this project from time to time and I can say without any fear of contradiction that the labours of Mr. Malhotra, Mr. Kanwar Sen, Mr. Khosla, Mr. Saeed, Mr. Chopra, Mr. Kapoor and others were really praiseworthy. I have a vivid recollection of what Mr. Khosla and his team as also the Deputy Commissioner with his staff did on that eventful night when the life and property of the people were in peril. The flood raged till 2 A.M. and these officers left no stone unturned to supervise the works and to give assistance to the people wherever it was required by them. The Haveli Head was tried and it stood the test well. We never grudge paying tributes to really deserving officials. Good and honest work is rather the exception than the rule with the Government officials. We want to improve the general tone of the administration. We have very often urged upon the Government the desirability of checking corruption. In response to that the Government have appointed a special staff under the charge of a superintendent of police to combat the evil of corruption. This is not the way to deal with this evil which is of a very long standing. This is like making the goat the gardener. If perchance you go to courts you will see notices hanging against the walls to the effect that illegal gratification is a very serious offence, but this has produced no effect. Corruption is as rampant as ever in the departments of Police, Jails, Justice and in fact every Government department. I for one cannot understand the principle on which a police officer and not a judicial officer has been appointed on anti-corruption work. There is corruption everywhere. Even at Hissar Famine Works

relief is afforded to the people who provide illegal gratification to the officials concerned.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.) I, therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, submit with all the force and sincerity at my command that the presence of corruption in all spheres of governmental activities amounts to a slur on the fair name of the province. This corruption is seriously demoralising our public life. I therefore request that serious step should be taken to root out this evil. Unless you do that you cannot expect the province to make any progress.

Now I would like to say a few words about public debts. You are paying one crore of rupees as interest. The payment of fifty thousands rupees for underwriting charges for the last year's loan of one crore is a reflection on the credit of this province. You could have very easily avoided this expenditure. The total state debts amount to 26 crores out of which 16 crores are consolidated debts on which the Government of India is charging interest at the rate of 4 per cent. The remaining ten crores are unconsolidated debts on which we are paying interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I hope that the Honourable the Finance Minister will bear me out when I say that at present the credit of this province stands high and the bank rate is fairly low. Why do you not approach the Government of India with the request that they should either reduce the rate of interest or permit us to float loans with interest at the rate of 3 per cent? We should try by all means at our disposal to improve the economic position of the province. We are feeling a pinch at the present exchange ratio. We cannot impose protective duties on goods. But where there is a will there is a way to do things. You can write to the Government of India to make a change in their policy with regard to exchange ratio. If they agree to that we will be able to encourage our industries.

I would also like to make a few submissions with regard to the question of the consolidation of holdings. The work done so far is not sufficient. At present the work is being done in 7 or 8 districts and that too in two ways. At some places this work is being done by the Revenue Department and at others by the Co-operative Department. Experience shows that the work done under the supervision of the latter is of a better type.

When in 1937 the present ministry presented the budget my friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, while quoting Lord Hailsham, the then Minister of War, remarked "You should treat the new Government and myself like a shy maiden and give me the usual 9 months to show the results (laughter)." But since then a period of two years has elapsed and no tangible result has come out. And now it is generally felt by her friends that probably this shy maiden of the Unionist Government is barren and would never be found capable of bearing the promised child. Undoubtedly the Government is prompt enough in appointing committees but this act on its part never yields any satisfactory and beneficial result, and these committees almost in all cases result in failure. Their activities are very

(Mr. Dev Raj Sethi.)

faithfully depicted in a well-known Persian saying which runs as follows :—

نشستند و گفتند و برخاستند

Sir, it is a matter of great concern to those public-spirited persons who hold everything subordinate to the national cause that to-day there is an alarming disparity between the trend of the Government activities and the general conditions prevailing in the province. The activities which the Government is so proud of are absolutely inadequate and admittedly unsatisfactory. The economic problem in the province is deteriorating into disturbing proportions. If the agricultural prices have of late stabilised, it is definitely due to the war menace which is strongly felt at present in every country. These 11 or 12 crores of ready money that are drawn from the pockets of the Indian agriculturists would, I am sure, never assume the form of a permanent feature of our economic condition. So long as this menace is there we are sure to benefit by it, but the Government should bear in mind that as soon as the world situation is relieved the inflow of this huge sum would never follow the present course. I most earnestly appeal to the Honourable Premier and his colleagues that they should take the earliest opportunity for industrialising the province. We have still enough time for making efforts in this direction. The Government should see to it that this golden opportunity is not thrown away for party considerations. I have already categorically stated and I again submit by way of warning to the Government that there are certain unavoidable forces that are working at present to the detriment of our agricultural profession. Great pressure is being borne by the soil, and the general condition of our agricultural lands is risky enough. It is, therefore, my earnest advice to the authorities concerned that they should impatiently make haste in industrialising the country. I do not at all exaggerate when I say that should we fail to avail of this opportunity the day is not far off when there would neither remain land revenue nor this opportunity. At present only wheat and cotton form the two staple crops of the country. So far as the wheat is concerned, not only has its export been stopped, but the import of Australian wheat has been checked by the heavy duty that has been imposed on its import. And our second staple, i.e., cotton is neither now required by Japan nor by any other country. The general condition of an average agriculturist is growing worse day by day. He has been constrained to spend even his distress gold, and strictly speaking he is penniless to-day. And I am sure that due to the poverty of the teeming millions a revolution of an unprecedented magnitude and of an alarming nature is not a far cry now.

In the end, Sir, I again lay stress on the point that without effecting revolutionary changes in our budget the industrialisation of the province would never be achieved. I do admit that something is being done in this direction and so I do not think it proper to condemn the Government on that score, but I must submit that the work done by the Government is inadequate, unsatisfactory and requires a thorough overhauling. The gravity and seriousness of the situation impels us to point out to the Government that if it really seeks to ameliorate the condition of the people it should make constant endeavours towards the industrialisation of the province. It

would be in the fitness of things to transfer those huge amounts of money to this head which have been earmarked for the maintenance of the Police Department. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Pir Akbar Ali (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, there is a well known Arabic saying which runs as follows :—

الفضل لا شهدت به العدو

It means that real greatness is that which is even admitted by one's enemies. To-day it is a matter of gratification that well-deserved praises have been showered on the Honourable Minister for Finance by all those honourable members who stood from the other side of the House. They were at their best when they in their speeches praised the Honourable Minister for the commendable services rendered by him in compiling the present budget. But when they digressed in their speeches and mentioned certain other things they exposed themselves to the ridicule of all fair-minded persons. They uttered not only certain half-truths but also tried to intensify the enormity of their falsehood by associating various unfounded and baseless things with it. An honourable member has attempted to enlist the support and sympathy of the patwaris and constables by vainly advocating their cause. He remarked that in the United Provinces the pay of a patwari has been raised to Rs. 18 from Rs. 11 per mensem. But he has lost sight of the fact that in the Punjab the pay of a patwari is Rs. 26. A patwari working under the United Provinces Government would get Rs. 26 as his salary after putting in service for a long period of 11 years whereas a Punjabi patwari would be entitled to draw that salary even from the first month of his appointment. I fail to understand as to how the honourable member had the cheek to disapprove of the latter case in which a Punjabi patwari is 11 years ahead of his confrere working in another province. I think the honourable member had a mind to condemn the Government on the score that it offers proportionately higher pays to its patwaris, but since he had not the courage to face the resentment that might emanate from that quarter he beat about the bush and tried to approach the matter from quite a different way. Again, he remarked in the course of his speech that the pay of a foot constable has been raised to Rs. 15 per mensem in the United Provinces, but here in the Punjab we pay him Rs. 17. He intended to urge upon the Government to reduce the salary of the foot constable but he could not openly and plainly say so and took great pains and resorted to several such circumlocutions. But I would like to submit for his benefit that if we pay a much higher pay to our constable it is because we feel that he deserves it. In view of the great difficulties that a Punjabi constable has to face in discharging his duties we definitely hold that he is worthy of his salary. But it is a matter of regret that the same honourable member did not think it fit to make comparisons between the Punjab and the United Provinces with regard to other departments. In the United Provinces there are 52 districts whereas here in the Punjab we have only 29. But inspite of the fact that 29 districts of the Punjab yield smaller amount of revenue to their Government than the 52 districts of the United Provinces, the Punjab Government spends double the amount that is being spent by the United Provinces Government

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

on education, health, rural dispensaries, roads and several other departments. The awfully bad condition of the roads in the United Provinces can better be imagined than described and similar is the case with the dispensaries. It was incumbent on the honourable member opposite to make comparisons in this respect too. Again, the comparative study of the Bombay budget shows that the revenues of that province are 50 per cent greater than those of our province. And if the Bombay Government spends sums equal to those that are being spent by our Government on beneficial departments, I think there is nothing extraordinary about it.

Sir, it is a matter of satisfaction that we to-day find a notable change in the mentality of the Opposition. Previously their brains used to run only to Bombay and Madras and could only appreciate the activities of the Governments of those provinces, but thank God they have now learnt to admire and appreciate the miracles wrought by a Punjabi brain. In fact no one can excel this Punjabi brain whose remarkable achievements are to-day receiving glowing tributes from both sides of the House.

Now, Sir, I would like to submit that it is not an easy job to balance a budget. The manner in which this particular budget has been prepared is commendable. Due to certain unforeseen events we found a great strain on our resources. It is humanly impossible to avert or escape any uncontrollable natural forces. Those who are aware of the general condition of our province know that the Punjab experienced an utter failure of its *Kharif* crop in 1938. Moreover an acute fodder famine prevailed in the Ambala division and in some other districts of the province. The Government had therefore to provide fodder not only in Ambala division but also in some other districts like Jhelum, for instance. In spite of this it has not imposed new taxes in order to cope with the conditions of scarcity. Nothing has prevented the Government from making a liberal provision in all spheres for the famine-stricken areas. Could you compare, for instance, what the United Provinces Government did with what has been done by the Punjab Government? Remissions, taccavi loans and other concessions have been given by the Punjab Government in a most generous way. Remissions in the neighbourhood of Rs. 50 lakhs for *Kharif* crop have been given. All these things go to the credit of Government.

Then, the *Rabi* crop did not prove to be an ideal crop. In spite of this, liberal arrangements have been made for feeding the poor in the famine-stricken district of Hissar. My honourable friends on those benches, who have waxed eloquent in their criticism of the Government, should consider for a while as to how generously Government has met all these demands of the famine-stricken area. But in spite of this heavy drain the budget shows a deficit of only 29 lakhs and a few thousands. This is a pleasant surprise. I imagined that with about 50 lakhs of remissions for which the Government has provided in the budget and with a lot of expenditure necessary to be incurred in connection with famine relief, the deficit would run into a figure of two crores. But my fears had been set at rest when I saw the budget, I am, therefore, of the opinion that the framer of this budget should be congratulated. Should I not congratulate the Finance Minister? (An honourable member: Yes, yes. Why not?) This is the true way

of appreciating the budget. The Honourable Finance Minister has not only not closed down the beneficent works but has generously financed more beneficent schemes. For instance, he has provided for seven or eight thousand rupees to give mosquito nets to the poor Government servants. But I want to draw his attention to another case deserving of his generous consideration. In Fazilka and other tahsils of Ferozepore, scarcity of drinking water is badly felt. The first thing to which one should address himself in this twentieth century is the necessity of providing drinking water to human beings. The learned Finance Minister ought to have found money for this purpose even at the cost of delaying some other useful work. I know that he has provided for the grant of two lakhs of rupees for wells. But that is for the repairing of old wells. You know the people fall a prey to a disease which is called *narvay* (guinea worm) on account of drinking filthy water out of ponds. I hope and expect that the generous Finance Minister will address himself to this growing need of the dry parts of the districts of Ferozepore. We have seen that he has provided 70 lakhs of rupees for beneficent departments although one's head reels when one takes stock of the situation and wonders as to how he has found that sum in spite of the stress and strain to which the famine subjected our finances.

I hope I shall be excused for a little bit of selfishness as I have to draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Minister to the drinking water problem which has assumed threatening proportions in my home district. In the part of my district bordering on the Bikaner State territory people have to fetch water from distances of five to seven miles. They carry water on camels' back or on donkeys. Arrangements should be made for digging up wells for them. If wells cannot be dug out "*duggies*" can be dug out at lesser expense. But something must be done to meet the menace of water scarcity.

For some time past crime has been consistently on the increase in the Ferozepore district. In the Fazilka tahsil of that district there is an average of four crimes per week. Life in villages has become full of danger. Every day you hear that in some village some one was murdered for no greater consideration than Rs. 100 or even less than that. That is the reason why people from the rural areas are flocking towards cities. Life and property in the cities are much safer because the police is always near at hand and that is one of the reasons why there are so few cases of dacoity in big cities. But in the rural areas the police cannot be so useful on account of the villages being at a great distance from police stations, and there are no roads worth the name. For instance, on the Fazilka-Malout road village Mollianwali is situated at a distance of 28 miles from the Fazilka police station and even a man on horse back will take full one day to reach there to make a report. Then if any police officer wanted to accompany him one more day will have passed before they reach the village and in the meantime anything might happen to the village and its inhabitants at the hands of dacoits. Improvement of Fazilka-Malout road is therefore urgently needed. Similar is the condition of roads between Moga and Nathana, between Abohar and Dabwali and between Jalalabad and Muktsar or Giddarbaha, and, what is more, there are no roads at all in some of these areas. It is clear from these facts that unless and until good roads are

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

constructed in the rural areas and the various police stations are connected with one another by telephone the danger to life and property in these areas cannot be removed. Let me make it quite clear that we the inhabitants of the Ferozepore district are not responsible for this state of affairs. The fact is that our district is surrounded by Indian States like Nabha, Patiala, Jind, Bikaner, etc., and dacoits and other criminals are always paying their unwelcome attention to our unfortunate district. I have no complaint to make against the Faridkot State because it has always tried to be sympathetic and helpful. Not only has it been helping the district authorities in running the dacoits and criminals to earth but has set a good example by providing a poor house, stopping corruption and by liberally giving land for building mosques and temples. But so far as other States are concerned the dacoits not only find shelter in those States but also get the necessary ammunitions for their nefarious activities. Thus it is clear that we are not to blame for the unfortunate state of affairs in our district. Let it be understood once for all that unless ample facilities are given to the people of the district in the matter of obtaining licences for rifles and guns, this state of affairs is sure to continue. At present no such facilities are given. Nay, even those who obtained licences were not allowed to purchase such cartridges as could be of any use for defending one's life and property against dacoits. I need hardly say that No. 4 cartridge is absolutely useless for this purpose. I would, therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps in this direction without further loss of time.

I may also draw the attention of the Government to another fact which is to a great extent responsible for the conditions obtaining in the district. It is the practice of posting to it officiating police officers. These officers, in order to display their efficiency adopt measures to call back some absconders with the result that instead of absconders the dacoits enter the district to pester the inhabitants.

Then coming to the domain of education I want to impress upon the Government the necessity for paying more attention to vernacular education. You are more solicitous so far as English education is concerned but not so in the case of vernacular education. I know the reason for that but I do not want to give expression to it on the floor of the House. We are all of us Indians and let us remember that English has to go one day or the other and that it is the vernacular education that is going to have permanent stay in the country. I will mention only one aspect of the matter. The language of the books written in Urdu is simply awful. It is anything but Urdu. The learned author goes on writing nonsense and the publisher continues filling his coffers under the patronage of an obliging Government. Then, Sir, it is not only the language of the books that is defective but even the standard of the ability of the children for whom those books are meant is not taken into consideration. More often than not you will find a book prescribed for the sixth class of a much higher standard than the one prescribed for the eighth class. Then even in the same book you find the earlier lessons more difficult to understand than the later ones. Again, the courses are altered every year so that the publishers may get richer at the expense of the poor parents. Another objectionable aspect of the matter is that undue stress is laid on whether a book is or is not included in the approved list,

Even the district boards are compelled to purchase only those books which are included in the approved list. Now let us see what is the result of this practice. Suppose there is a map of the Punjab. There cannot be any difference between the maps prepared by different publishers but in spite of that one firm sells it for Rs. 8 while another is prepared to offer it for Re. 1 only. Now if you ask a district board to purchase the one that costs Re. 1 only it will, while admitting that it is as good as or even better than the one priced at Rs. 8, plead helplessness because the latter happens to be included in the sacred approved list. This is how certain firms are allowed to grow fat at the expense of poor parents. I would request the Government to do away with this obnoxious and objectionable practice. The people whom they are helping to grow rich have already got enough and to spare. They have earned enough to last them for many generations. Let the Government, therefore, try to make education cheaper by abandoning the policy of enriching the rich publishers.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the unnecessary stress laid on female education. Let me make it absolutely clear that I am not opposed to female education. But I must sound a note of warning against making a headlong rush towards inefficiency and chaos by appointing women to carry out such duties as they are physically and temperamentally unfit to perform. You say if there is a Commissioner of Rural Reconstruction there must also be a "Commissioneress", but I would request you to take note of the fact that in our country all the initiative has to be taken and all arduous duties have to be performed by men. There is no harm in handing over the teaching work to women. They are quite capable of doing that work properly. But they cannot be trusted with the supervision and inspection of schools and it will be too much to expect them to judge properly the educational requirements of a particular locality. As I have already stated they are physically and temperamentally unfit to undertake the necessary journeys to the localities concerned as well as to perform the various duties pertaining to supervision and inspection of schools.

Next, it is claimed by the Government that the additional police is for our benefit. That is, no doubt, true, but my complaint is that when once additional police is recruited, the police department tries to prolong its existence and seeks justification for its continuance. If there are no dacoities and riots, there will be no justification for keeping additional police. Thus the police becomes instrumental in furthering crime in order to justify its existence.

Coming to the Haveli Project Scheme which has now materialised, I may strike a note of warning that the Chief Engineer who is responsible for having accomplished this miracle, should not be allowed to deprive the province of his experience. He should be kept in some post here either as a canal adviser or in some other capacity. His services must be secured for sometime, otherwise attempts will be made to undo all he has done with exceptional pains. He has accomplished in 2½ years what was to be done in four years. Other officers must have become jealous of his position. The contractors complain against his strictness in allowing them only the minimum profits. If he is allowed to go away, I am afraid other people will try to find fault with his work but if he is kept here he will be responsibly

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

for all he has done. I know how such things are done everywhere. I remember how a tonga-driver told me sometimes ago that the engineers had managed to appropriate the sum of Rs. 3½ lakhs by reporting that the bed of the weir of Ferozepore headworks was in a dangerous condition. The study of the new expenditure shows that the tonga-driver was right. I would therefore strongly appeal to the Finance Minister and the Government to retain the services of this officer and I assure them of our support in the House when they make a demand for his retention.

Now a word about my honourable friend, Lala Gopal Das. He never likes to listen to the good points of the Government. (*Interruption.*) I will proceed to deal with his remarks and those of certain other honourable members who have complained about the outcome of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. (*A voice : Are you a member of it ?*) Yes, I am a member of that Committee and am thus better able to speak about it. One of the causes of the delay in its proceedings is that the Chairman of the Committee is very busy and has had to devote considerable time to the preparation of the budget and other business. He cannot devote more than two hours every day to this Committee. Even if he could give two hours daily, the work can proceed speedily. But it is a pity that he cannot give this much time every day. At the same time I am sure that the House does not want a haphazard report but would demand from us a genuine report which should not be merely a copy of the previous reports with changes here and there. We want to thoroughly examine the position before submitting our report to the Government. Nobody, I am sure, will like us to proceed with indecent haste. We are slow and steady. But one point I must bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Government. The Government are incurring further expenditure in those very lines in which the committee want to make reductions. In particular I would refer to the increasing number of commissioners while the Committee wishes to reduce their number. We are making a thorough investigation of the possibilities of retrenchment by consulting the heads of the various departments. We do not want to hasten with retrenchment which may deal a severe blow to the efficiency of a particular service. For instance, I would not recommend that a *kisan* should, in view of economy, sow his lands without first tilling it. If he did that, his seed will be wasted. False economy is not favoured by us. We want to bring forward a report that may not be jeopardised by the honourable members of the Opposition.

As for the Revenue Committee, I am not in a position to say much about it. I too want to know from the Government what they have done about it. It is perhaps under the consideration of the Government. But I want the Government to beware of their incurring new expenditures—may be at the instance of Mian Sahib or other Ministers—which afterwards we may wish to abolish and about which the Finance Minister may tell us in the future that he is already committed to these expenditures. The Government should move with caution. I may here refer to the conduct of Rai Bahadur Binda Saran who appears to be in the opposite group now but in reality he is with us.

There is yet another serious matter to which I must draw the attention of the Government. This relates to the consolidation of small holdings.

At present the work is being done by three different departments. The Revenue Department, the Co-operative Department and the Rural Reconstruction Department. I say there must be one and only one department to which the work of the consolidation of holdings should be entrusted. The scheme ought to be centralised and entrusted to the Revenue Department which alone is competent to accomplish it. Other departments merely cling to it in order to justify their existence. At present 50 thousand are given to the Co-operative Department and another 50 thousand to the Rural Reconstruction Department for the consolidation of holdings. This is sheer waste of money. Other departments than the Revenue carry on their own propaganda with this sum and do no substantial work of consolidating the small holdings. If the Co-operative Department is serious about its business, let it prove its worth in the Gurgaon district. The department should recruit capable persons to run the department. It is no use turning away from their real business and taking to new business.

I would like to make a further submission. It has been said that this Government cannot continue for long unless they curtail their expenditure. But how can this be done? You put a question and when it is answered, a volley of supplementary questions begin. You ask how many benami transactions have taken place so far? The Government thereupon starts inquiry which in some cases involves an expenditure of forty to fifty thousand rupees. This is how you do your duty. Much time is wasted because of you. Unless you co-operate nothing can be done. If you are sincere and earnest in your professions you should co-operate with us and see that the sittings of the Assembly are curtailed to twenty days where usually you sit for forty days. This will save time and money. But you are in the habit of making pious professions and doing no more. It appears that you are concerned only with making propaganda in newspapers.

Let me now turn to the question of communal riots. Is it that the whole responsibility lies upon the Government? Just consult your conscience and point out where the responsibility lies. The Government is not so much responsible as we, the Hindus, the Sikhs and the Muslims, individually and jointly are responsible for them. And unless we all take a concerted action against this evil, we cannot improve matters, neither curtail expenditure nor run the administration efficiently. I know all Rai Bahadurs, with a few exceptions are enamoured of British Raj. If you want to have a right sort of government established in your province you will have to live peacefully as if you are real brothers. (*Hear, hear.*) Otherwise do not talk of responsible government, you are sure to see insults and disgrace every now and then. In such a case there will be police rule of which we are not afraid being poor and indigent people. The people having a greater stake will have to suffer. It appears that communal riots are the order of the day. Very often minor things lead to these riots and the most innocent way-farers are victimised. (*An honourable member: Shameful.*) Then again, it has been urged that corruption should be put an end to. It can be stopped only when the public is determined to stop it. The Government cannot stop this evil completely. They can at the most reduce its rigour. I understand that a police staff is going to be appointed to stop corruption. I do not think that the police can do that nor have they ever succeeded in that. It is only the public who can effectively root out this

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

evil. To a great extent we are responsible for corruption. I think there can be only two ways of stopping corruption. First, that people should cease paying respects to dishonest persons and secondly, the Government should appreciate the services of honest persons and give them promotions unmindful of their number in the seniority lists. If you do that, you will see many Bedfords coming forward. There is still another way of stopping corruption. Those who have a bad reputation and have put in sufficient service and have accumulated wealth by unfair means may be retired and young graduates, who are generally honest, may be appointed in their places. Further, make it a rule, a stringent rule, that in future no extensions shall be granted. I do not say that even experts should not be granted extensions. You would do well in granting extensions to an expert in connection with the Haveli Project. But ordinarily no extensions should be granted to Government employees.

The very first speaker was pleased to remark that the speech made by the Honourable Minister for Finance while presenting last year's budget was marked by 'robust optimism' which is conspicuous by its absence this year. May I enquire if the honourable member expects the Government to control natural forces or does he mean to say that if somebody takes it into his head to create mischief and there are communal riots, the Government should not send police to control the situation? Similarly if an epidemic breaks out or if crops are spoiled by hailstorms involving an enormous expenditure, are the Ministers to blame for that? I would, therefore, appeal to my honourable friends not to hold the Government responsible for natural phenomena but let us pray to God to have mercy on our province. With these words I again congratulate the Honourable Minister for Finance for preparing and presenting the budget in such a commendable manner.

Rai Bahadur Binda Saran (Punjab Commerce and Industry): Sir, allow me to join in offering my felicitations and congratulations to the Honourable Finance Minister (*Hear, hear*) for very ably managing the finances of the province. We know that in spite of the very serious famine we had in Hissar he has been able to show a very small deficit only without imposing any big taxation upon us, whereas in other provinces they have to impose a lot of taxation. Therefore so far as the budget is concerned we stand above all other provinces.

I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the Industries Department. They have not paid proper attention to this department. The progress as regards industrial survey is very slow. The expenditure on industrial education is decreasing instead of increasing. From Rs. 18 lakhs in 1937-38 we find that this expenditure has come down to Rs. 10,04,000. The expenditure proposed is the lowest expenditure for a very large number of years now. There is one point. Whatever expenditure is allotted to industrial education I think there is some defect; it is not properly spent. There are a number of schools opened in different localities where the cost per student is something like Rs. 60 per month. I consider it a very heavy expenditure and efforts should be made that more students come into these schools. I do not want that these schools should be closed. Instead of making propaganda for other university education, bring more students

into these industrial schools and instead of producing more B.As. and M.As. produce more industrial scholars. I know that we have in the present Director of Industries a very competent man and he deserves our praise or the way in which he is managing the industries. The expenditure on these schools, I am sorry to note, has fallen from Rs. 5,31,000 to Rs. 4,79,000 this year.

I heartily welcome the idea of the provincial stores purchase department. I only wish this idea had come about a long time before. In the United Provinces they have made tremendous progress in this line. The present Punjab Government is paying something like Rs. 80,000 as subsidy or as commission to the Government of India and now by spending only Rs. 21,000 they will be making a good saving. We wish—and it may not be only a pious wish—that only the products of the Punjab are used. This policy should be observed in spirit and every effort should be made so that preference is given to the products of the Punjab.

In the next place I welcome the provision of Rs. 50,000 for the development of pottery industry. There are several other items which need the patronage of the Government. I regret to note that the expenditure on cottage and small scale industries has been reduced from Rs. 45,100 to Rs. 10,900. Similarly on handloom industry the expenses which were once Rs. 67,800 have now come down to Rs. 1,100 in the present budget. Last year's budget has turned out to be a tale of unspent balances. Rupees 1,00,000 was provided for rural water supply and out of that only Rs. 84,800 is spent. I wish the entire amount could have been spent and more provided. In industries out of the special development fund of Rs. 50,000 allotted, only Rs. 25,000 was spent and it is a matter for regret that instead of having this grant of Rs. 25,000 in the re-grant, they have given only Rs. 11,800 and the balance wiped out. I do not see the reason for this. A very meagre grant is allowed for research work. I do not think any profitable purpose will be served by providing only Rs. 4,700 for research. More sum should be provided for this purpose so that we can have some substantial good out of it. Similarly in regard to the Hydro-Electric scheme the amount is reduced by 50 per cent.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House a very important matter, namely, the unjust restrictions on building schemes in Lahore. Last year I tabled a resolution on this subject and I secured the second place in the ballot and on the assurance given by the Honourable Minister in charge and the Honourable Premier that they would appoint a committee to investigate into these things, I withdrew my resolution. They actually appointed a committee and that committee held a number of meetings. Where I feel the disappointment is that though that committee appointed by the Government has come to certain unanimous decisions, nothing has so far been done. I may like to mention the personnel of that committee. It was presided over by the Honourable Minister himself. The other members were the Secretary to the Local Self-Government Department, the Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads Branch, the Government Architect, the Administrator, Lahore Municipality, who is also the chairman of the Improvement Trust, four Parliamentary Secretaries, the Resident Secretary to the Unionist Party and four other members, namely, Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendranath, Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das, Begum Rashida Latif Baji

[R. B. Binda Saran.]

and myself. I can say that no Government committee can possibly be as this was and in spite of the fact that its decisions were unanimous, no heed is paid to see that they are carried out. I do not know in whose drawers or on whose tables those recommendations are lying and who is sitting tight over them. Probably they are thrown into the waste paper basket. Several questions were tabled regarding this, but a stereotyped reply was given that they are receiving consideration at the hands of the Government. I do not know how long they will continue to receive the consideration of the Government.

6 P. M.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

I will give you an example of the treatment meted out to the people. One of the European members of my own Chamber who cannot be called an exploiter or a speculator submitted a plan in the year 1937. That plan was returned after six months on account of certain irregularities. The gentleman saw Mr. Sullivan who was then the Government Architect and after consultation with him he prepared another plan according to his design and when he brought that plan to Mr. Sullivan, he told him that that was the best plan ever prepared by anybody. The plan was passed by the Lahore Improvement Trust and was sent to the office of the Commissioner who after approving it, sent it for public criticism but no public criticism came forth. This happened in April 1938 and though over one year has passed I do not know what has happened. The plan is there lying at somebody's table. (*An honourable member* : To wait for three years more.) I think public opinion is being flouted in this matter. It is simply ridiculous. Nobody is caring how much loss the public of Lahore is suffering in not getting their plans passed. Other towns like the Model Town and the Garden Town are gaining at the expense of Lahore. I agree entirely with my honourable friend, Pir Akbar Ali, in whatever he has said in regard to the Retrenchment Committee and I assure my honourable friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, that we are making every effort, we are examining each and every detail which requires time because we want to give a report that is acceptable to the Government and to the public so that we may thrash out every possible source of retrenchment and revenue. We are meeting almost every day now. (*An honourable member* : That is why it should be prolonged.) (*Laughter*). I beg again to offer my congratulations to the Honourable Finance Minister on the way in which he has presented his budget.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh Rural) : The Honourable Finance Minister has presented his budget with his usual lucidity and eloquence. He has proved the soundness of the provincial finance by meeting the unexpected expenditure required for affording relief in the famine-stricken districts. In spite of this unforeseen demand he has not stinted expenditure in the beneficent departments, rather it is on the increase, and the total figure stands at a height which it had never attained before. I, therefore, offer my sincerest congratulations to the Finance Minister for his brilliant achievement. These beneficent departments were once called the nation building departments and it is to be hoped, that they will bring all the people together making larger happiness.

more universally possible and when the people are prosperous there would be less conflict over loaves and fishes. It is a Finance Minister's privilege to husband resources and to spend them wisely. He has shown both courage and vision in his readiness to finance the Thal and Bhakra Dam projects. Both these schemes were once considered uneconomical and I hope that the soil survey has been carried out of Thal area, and that steps will be taken to re-acquire the land which the Government surrendered at the time of abandoning this scheme. The prices realised from this area, will no doubt meet a substantial part of the capital cost as indicated in the original project. As regards Bhakra Dam I believe another scheme of releasing water in the Jamna Canal was prepared by a former Chief Engineer in an area where water level permitted economic pumping and to serve that area by means of tubewells and taking the water thus released in the canal to the parts which would be served by the Bhakra Dam. The comparative capital cost of these two schemes deserves a very careful and expert examination. As regards economy the credit goes to the Honourable Minister for Revenue whose careful watch has effected a saving of nearly two crores in the construction of the Haveli Project which was estimated at a cost of 5½ crores. It is a striking achievement and I hope that if similar economy is effected in other departments, the day for lessening the burden of the zamindars is not far off. Next I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Public Works for changing the angle of vision of the Hydro-Electric Department by starting real rural extension schemes and I hope that the supply of energy will not only be restricted for luxury purposes, but that it would be freely made available for agricultural and industrial development. (*Hear, hear.*) I would again appeal to the Government with all the emphasis at my command that it should educate the zamindars in the uses of electricity by providing energy at a concession rate and also by providing other facilities.

I cannot pass on without drawing the attention of the Honourable Minister for Public Works to the need of improving village communications. Last year a small amount was provided for this purpose. But in the new budget I have looked in vain for any such provision. I strongly feel the great need of improvement in this direction, particularly helping villages who have made a co-operative effort to build kacha roads. These small sections ought to be metalled from the road fund. Sir, the holdings in the Bist Doab are very small and uneconomical, and the people are in a very bad plight. Unless some lands are provided in the new or old colonies, their condition will go from bad to worse. The policy followed in colonising the Sandal Bar should be revived and the congested districts relieved by moving the population to the new areas. This policy has already proved its success and the departure from it in the Nili Bar is responsible for the delay in its development. No doubt our appeals to the Government for preventing subsidence of water level in the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts did have some effect last year and they established a sub-division to prepare a contour map of this area, but I regret very much that though I hoped that some provision would be made for doing something practical for these people of Bist Doab to prevent subsidence of water level, this budget is as empty as the two previous ones. Our ministers, while touring in this part of the province, themselves promised to the people, at more than one

[S. S. Gurbachan Singh.]

place that the Government would take immediate steps to combat this evil, still there is no provision in this budget.

I also want to draw the attention of the Government to the Land Revenue Committee's Report which is long overdue. In this connection a member of the Opposition said that he wished that the land revenue up to Rs. 5 should be abolished and that uneconomical holdings should also be made free of land revenue. Supposing there are such recommendations in the report, then the Opposition cannot claim credit for that as they boycotted this committee and did not give evidence before it. If any relief is afforded to the zamindars on the recommendations of this committee, the credit will go to the Government, that is, the present ministry and to the persons who gave evidence before the committee. Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a very important fact and that is that they should relieve the burden of taxation on the zamindars by reducing the land revenue and water rate and abolishing *chahi* rates. I hope and I am sure that this is receiving Government's urgent attention.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I am free to admit that the budget speech of the Honourable Minister for Finance was couched in perfect King's English and was delivered in such a fine manner that if the Minister were speaking from behind a screen every listener would have mistaken him for an Englishman. But when I come to the subject matter I find that he has displayed hopeless ignorance of the conditions obtaining in the province. The Honourable Minister and his colleagues are often on tour but it appears that either the people do not co-operate with them or the Ministers are not endowed with the ability to understand the people and their requirements. First of all let us take the question of corruption. Nobody knows better than the Honourable Minister that our financial position is none the best, but in spite of that a new department has been created on the pretext of fighting and eradicating corruption. I am prepared to congratulate the Honourable Minister for his jugglery of words and figures by which almost all the members sitting on his side have been taken in but I must say that the Government is far from being desirous of eradicating corruption. Our Government cannot change the mentality of the officers serving under them. The Honourable Premier has told us in clear terms that he is handicapped in this respect because he has to deal with such disappointing stuff as we have to offer him. He has said,

”چہ کم مردمان ہمیں ہستند—با ہمیں مردمان بپاید ساخت“

But I may add that if his Government is incompetent to improve their subordinate officers, how does it lie in their mouth to make loud profession of sympathy with the poor cultivators of the province? The main cause of their being unable to reform their subordinate officers is that they fight shy of reforming their upper grade officers on whose support they rely. Again, how can one, who himself is misguided, guide another? They themselves draw fat salaries and huge allowances. They have never uttered a single word which may give some indication of their sacrifice for the good of the country. Without sacrifice of some personal conveniences and comforts, they cannot help the poverty-stricken peasants of the Punjab.

Their lip sympathy and the jugglery of words will not help them in future. People have seen enough of them for the last two years. They have received no reduction in the land revenue so far. What kind of other support can the poor people expect from the Punjab Government? The budget shows a provision of Rs. 50,000 for taccavi loans. By putting questions we got the reply that where ten rupees were given to a certain zamindar in the Bait ilaga 8 were deducted and the remaining 2 were given to him. This is no substantial help. This trick would not help the Unionists any longer. The province is passing through darkness created by the Unionists. (*At this time lights in the Chamber became dim.*) Just as there is darkness in the House at present, similarly the dark shadow of the Unionists has overtaken the province and I may assure them that this darkness is sure to go away. The Honourable Ministers waste the time and money of the public by undertaking extensive tours in the Punjab and requiring the people to attend the meetings arranged in their honour. Moreover, the public servants are required to waste their valuable time in making necessary arrangements for their processions and other meetings. The officers neglect their own duty and waste time in waiting on the Ministers. There is no agriculturist in the Punjab to-day who can be said to be quite able to pay land revenue in time. Nonetheless, the Ministers never bother about the reduction of land revenue. Sir, the budget has been admired by almost all sections of the House. No doubt it is admirable from one point of view, that is, that it comprises beautiful theories which may well serve as a treat to students, but it has got no practical value inasmuch as the hard facts have altogether been ignored. You may extol Mr. Bhanot or for the matter of that any other officer to the skies but the fact remains that they are not at all conversant with the true state of affairs in the villages. In fact it is a matter of great regret that while the province is an agricultural one, the preparation of its budget was entrusted to the people who were non-agriculturists and as such had no sympathy with the agriculturists. In fact the compilers of the budget were not apprised of the real wants of the zamindars. It may be that some agriculturist and some non-agriculturist members of this House are with the Honourable Finance Minister but this fact alone cannot improve the lot of the poor zamindars.

I would like to invite the attention of House to page 216 of the Budget where provision has been made for the rank and file of the Provincial Legislative Assembly. The subordinates are suffering from sheer want of consideration even though they work for as many hours as their superiors do. It is a matter of regret and shame that these subordinates have not been treated properly even though they are more polite than their superiors. Here a huge expenditure has been shown on account of allowances of members. But unless the Ministers agree to a reduction in their salaries how can the allowances be curtailed? Generally speaking there is a deficit of 29 lakhs and I would not wonder if the next year's budget if prepared under your supervision shows a deficit of 53 lakhs. I am constrained to remark that you have not done anything tangible for the zamindars for whom you have always been so loud in your professions. In Congress provinces no one has been given a salary of more than 500 rupees a month. Even here our Deputy Speaker gets a salary of 500 rupees a month. This does not mean that he is not doing his work satisfactorily or that he cannot represent the

[Ch. Muhammad Hassan.]

interests of his constituents effectively. He is doing his job quite well. When this is so, how is it that our ministers cannot see their way to agree to a reduction in their salaries? It is all talk that the zamindar is your master and you are only his so many servants. I assure you that if a private servant proves to be such a juggler as you have been in the matter of finance, he would not be retained in service for another minute. At any rate you have behaved like the crafty servant of an unsophisticated country gentleman. He can do whatever he likes and the master cannot simply detect his villainy. But I assure you that you cannot go on deceiving the master for any length of time. Sooner or later he will wake up to a sense of his loss.

You have taken a good deal of pride in the successful working of the Department of criminal justice. But even here you have fallen short of everybody's expectations. No less a person than the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court supported the cause of separating the judiciary from the executive. But the Government has not come round to this view. Evidently it is anxious to perpetuate the farce of appointing its own men to judicial posts in order to further the party ends. The Government is all anxiety to see its henchmen in the position of honorary magistrates or sub-registrars. How can it countenance a policy of separating judicial and executive functions in the provincial administration? Just as it has been observed by my honourable friend, Mian Nurullah, even the conciliation boards have been overcrowded with the henchmen of the party in power. And who are these worthies who have been appointed? They are millionaires or at least have the reputation of rolling in thousands, or they are retired Government officers, superintendents of jails or deputy superintendents of police. I wonder if any stamina to work has been left in these retired officers who have been asked to do some useful work by the Government in the last days of their lives when they should be enjoying their well-earned rest leaving the Government departments alone.

Our complaint is that the Honourable Ministers are not fully informed of the situation even in places so frequently visited by them. Perhaps they are too much busy with their processions and that sort of thing. They do not simply allow themselves to be bothered with realities. For instance, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram makes it a point to visit the Ambala Division a couple of times in a week and the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye visits Ludhiana so often.

Another point to which I want to draw your attention is that 166 villages of my district were granted a remission of Rs. 166-4-0. What a princely remission! Two towns in the district claim a population of fourteen thousand and there are sixty villages with more than five thousand inhabitants in each. But the remission amounted to no more than Rs. 166-4-0 for all these 166 villages in one Tehsil. And what was the reason given for this meagre remission? Nothing better than that all the five crops had not completely failed and therefore no more remission was deserved. I am reminded of what the Collector of Ludhiana told the sufferers from the Razapur floods. They had lost everything that they possessed. Even their lands had come under water. But when the Collector was approached

with the request that he should do something for those unfortunate people, he was pleased to remark that he had no squares of land at his disposal and, therefore, the people should address their requests to the Collector of Montgomery. The Government should feel ashamed of such an unsympathetic attitude of its officers. This Government is very loud in its solicitude for the welfare of zamindars but I must say that all that is nothing but sheer hypocrisy. They could not even get a zamindar Minister of Finance who would have prepared the budget with special care to the plight and needs of zamindars. I do not grudge the Honourable Minister his fat salary but I do object to the way in which this budget has been prepared and it is a pity that the Government has left its financial affairs in the hands of an unsympathetic non-agriculturist whose only qualification is that he can speak good English.

It has been pointed out more than once that corruption is rampant in the Public Health, Education and Co-operative Departments but nothing has been done. The Government should understand that its orders in this connection are absolutely ridiculous. Investigation by five Sub-Inspectors of Police or a representation by five independent persons is not the way to eradicate corruption.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 2 P. M. on Tuesday, 14th March, 1939.

PRINTED BY
THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB.
526 PLA-520-27-4-39-SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 14th March, 1939.

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COW-SLAUGHTER IN BASTI MULTAN SAHIB, DISTRICT JULLUNDUR.

***4185. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a number of residents of Basti Multan Sahib, district Jullundur, including one Fazal Muhammad Khan, lambardar, recently made a petition to him that some butchers of the said Basti were indulging in cow-slaughter and sale of beef which had so far been prohibited in that village ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that such a petition was also submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur district ;
- (c) if the answer to the above (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the action he has taken or proposes to take to remove the tension and preserve peace in the said village ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : There is no Basti Multan Sahib. If the honourable member means Basti Mithu Sahib answer to the question is as follows :—

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Necessary preventive measures have been taken by the local officers. It is not in the public interest to give details.

TRAINING TO POLICE OFFICERS BY CHEMICAL EXAMINER, LAHORE.

***4205. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of police officers are given training periodically by the Chemical Examiner at Lahore ;
- (b) if so, the number of such students that are trained every year, the time for which they are trained and the purpose and the kind of education imparted to them ;
- (c) the method of selection of such police officers as are sent for such training ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) and (b) Six inspectors and sub-inspectors are at present undergoing a three months course of training under the Chemical Examiner. It is hoped, by practical demonstrations of the work done by the Chemical Examiner and by study in his laboratory, to supplement the medico-legal knowledge already possessed by the officers chosen for the course, and to show them what type of specimens can usefully be sent and how they should be despatched. The course is also designed to educate the police in the manner and the directions in which criminal investigation can be assisted by medical science. The present course is the first of its kind, but a further one will probably be held in the autumn.

(c) The particular officers were selected under the orders of the Inspector-General, men likely to benefit from the course being given the preference.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan: May I know from the honourable Parliamentary Secretary whether it is a fact that assistant sub-inspectors or sub-inspectors generally investigate such cases? If so, will it not be more reasonable to select them for this training?

Parliamentary Secretary: It depends upon the nature of the work. Upper subordinates are considered to be more suitable for this training.

RULES FRAMED UNDER THE RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGED LANDS ACT.

***3711. Lala Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any rules have been framed under the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act;

(b) by what time the Government intends to enforce the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No, but they are under preparation.

(b) As soon as possible.

Lala Duni Chand: May I know, whether, since the Act has been passed, any figures have been collected with the object of finding out how far this legislation is going to affect those whose main source of income is the lands, that are going to be taken away from them?

Mr. Speaker: Does this question arise out of the answer given?

Lala Duni Chand: Yes sir, it does.

Mr. Speaker: In what way?

Lala Duni Chand: Rules are going to be framed with the object of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and I want to know how far this Act is going to affect the poor section of mortgagees and whether the rules disclose any such thing or not?

Mr. Speaker: But no rules are made yet.

Lala Duni Chand: I want to know whether figures have been collected with the object of finding out those persons whom this legislation is going to affect?

Mr. Speaker: I think the honourable member's question is not meant to explain further the answer given.

RELIEF FOR DEPRESSED CLASSES IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***3730. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the action the Government proposes to take to afford relief to the depressed classes in the Hissar district in respect of unemployment and famine?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Famine-relief measures are being taken by Government in Hissar district and relief is given to deserving persons irrespective of the class, caste or creed to which they belong. Relief to people belonging to depressed classes is equally given to them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government taken into consideration the question of remitting the professional tax levied on the harijans?

Parliamentary Secretary : May I know how this arises out of this question?

Mr. Speaker : No.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I want to ask whether when remissions have been granted to the zamindars in land revenue demand and in *abiana*, as also concessions have been given to them by suspending the realisation of *taccavi* loans, whether the Government has also considered the advisability of remitting professional tax levied on the harijans who equally suffer from famine?

Parliamentary Secretary : Harijans have benefited from all the steps which have been taken by the Government to relieve distress in the famine-stricken area.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What special steps have been taken to relieve distress among the harijans?

Parliamentary Secretary : If harijans have some special distress they must be especially benefiting from the steps taken by Government to relieve distress.

Minister (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia): You are putting another question as to what relief has been given to harijans and it will be answered a little later.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Has Government considered the question of remission of the district board tax in the case of people affected by this?

Parliamentary Secretary : I would like to have notice of this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to the condition of the poor harijans in the district who do some weaving or shoe-making work or other odd jobs. What has the Government done to relieve distress among them by way of helping them in their work?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government make no distinction between a harijan or a Brahmin in the matter of relieving distress. (Hear, hear).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government done anything to help the cottage industry of shoe-making and weaving run by the harijans of the famine-stricken area?

Minister : I believe that the shoes made by these harijans are saleable in the whole of the Punjab. There is no famine in the Punjab for the purchase of these shoes.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Was any help given to the harijans by way of *taccavi* loans for purchasing fodder?

Minister : I have just said that a question on the subject as to what help has been given to the depressed classes is going to be put and as soon as that question is put we will give a reply.

STEPS TO GIVE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION TO ACHHUTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

***3731. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of those departments to which the Punjab Government has issued circulars regarding the employment of Achhut candidates, and whether they have complied with them; if so, to what extent;

(b) the steps Government propose to take further to give adequate representation to the Achhuts, in Government services?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : ¹(a) Instructions have been issued by the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, Punjab Civil Service (Judicial Branch), Education, Electricity, Police and Agricultural Departments. They are being complied with to the fullest extent possible.

(b) Government will do whatever is possible to secure to the scheduled castes their legitimate share in the services, provided duly qualified candidates belonging to that community are available.

COMPENSATION TO THE ZAMINDARS OF *ilaga* PATTOKI DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL.

***3777. Sardar Muhammad Husain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for the closure of the Upper Bari Doab Canal for the last one month or more and when the Government propose to re-open it;

(b) whether it is proposed to compensate the zamindars of *ilaga* Pattoki and some other villages in tahsil Chunian whose crops have been adversely affected on account of the above-named closure; if so, how;

(c) whether Government also intend to remit the water rate to the zamindars of the affected area by way of relief?

¹This answer was laid on the table.

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The Upper Bari Doab Canal has not been closed. The honourable member probably refers to the Main Branch Lower, which was closed from 12th to 30th October on account of rotational closures of channels necessitated by low river supply. The Branch was opened on 31st October.

(b) Remissions are being given where necessary under the rules.

(c) No special remission of water rates is intended to be given as closing of channels in rotation is being done on all canals owing to low river supplies as usual every winter.

**REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN VILLAGES OF TAHSIL JAGRAON REGARDING
WATER SUPPLY FOR RABI CROPS.**

***3812. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Jagraon tahsil of the Ludhiana district certain villages receive canal water only for the kharif crop and not for the rabi crop; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the names of the villages in the Ludhiana tahsil which receive canal water only during the kharif crop;

(c) whether any representations have been made by the inhabitants of the villages mentioned in (a) and (b) above to the canal authorities for the supply of the canal water during the rabi crop also; if so, the result of these representations;

(d) which officer of the Irrigation Department inspected the lands of the above-mentioned applicants for finding out whether their demand was justified or not?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Certain villages lying on kharif channels get supply up to 15th October for kharif crops as well as for sowing rabi crops. Supply is not given after 15th October because the area through which these channels pass has a high sub-soil level varying from 16 to 20 feet and if perennial supply were given in these channels the areas would, in course of time, become waterlogged.

(b) Practically the whole of the Ludhiana tahsil lying within the canal irrigation boundary.

(c) and (d) A request for perennial supply for Jessowal and Akalgarh Distributaries in the Jagraon tahsil was made in the Divisional Canal Advisory Committee in 1937. Observations of the sub-soil water levels of the concerned area were made and found to be high. No representation seems to have been received regarding kharif channels in the Ludhiana tahsil.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the Government investigated the causes of water-logging in this particular area?

Minister: I have already stated that a high water level always leads to water-logging.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Was an expert employed to investigate the fact?

Minister : Yes.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : What was the name of that expert ?

Minister : I am not prepared to give it.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : When was he appointed to make the investigation ?

Minister : When the necessity for it arose.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : A year ago ?

Minister : You might say two years if you so like.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Before this Government came to office ?

Minister : Draw your own conclusions.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether the necessity did arise during his ministership ?

Minister : The question is this. When there is any seepage in any area and it leads to any deterioration of land, necessary enquiries are made.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it not in the public interest to disclose the name ?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I have to invite your attention to the question. It is a definite question about a definite village ; it is not a general question that has been answered. The Honourable Minister has stated that when the necessity arises for any village then an officer is appointed. The question is definite about this village. Therefore we want to know when the necessity for an inquiry arose. When was the representation received, when was that officer appointed and what was his report ?

Minister : I would refer my honourable friend to parts (c) and (d) of the answer, where it is definitely stated that this matter was raised in the Canal Advisory Committee in 1937 when an enquiry was made.

ARREARS OF TACCARI LOANS IN DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

***3813. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that arrears of *taccari* loans have not been realised in the Ludhiana district on account of the excessive rate of interest ;
- (b) the names of all those zamindars who have not been able to pay the arrears of *taccari* loans in the Ludhiana district ;
- (c) whether the Government have ever ascertained the causes that have lead to the default in payment of the *taccari* loans ;
- (d) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please state all those causes ;
- (e) the number of wells sunk by the zamindars to whom the *taccari* loans were advanced for this purpose in each tahsil of the Ludhiana district ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No. There are no arrears at present.

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

(e) Ludhiana tahsil	..	..	..	..	3
Jagraon tahsil	..	..	..	..	2
Samrala tahsil	..	..	..	..	1

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: When were the last arrears of this *taccavi* realised by this Government?

Parliamentary Secretary: I would like to have notice of that question.

PENALTY CHARGED BY THE DIPALPUR CANAL AUTHORITIES FROM
THE ZAMINDARS OF VILLAGE ANGIWALA.

***3854. Sardar Muhammad Husain**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the reasons why the canal authorities, Dipalpur Canal, charged penalty from the zamindars of village Angiwala on the Ganja Minor for making breaches in the dam situated between their village and river Sutlej, when the complaint made by them against the said zamindars regarding the same breaches had been filed by the police after proper investigation; and the action the Government intends to take in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The area irrigated by the water from the breach in the flood embankment was entered in the Khasrah in the normal way. No penalty has been levied.

REPRESENTATION FOR FREE SUPPLY OF FODDER BY ZAMINDARS OF
VILLAGE RUPOWAL, TAHSIL PHILLAUR.

***3868. Master Kabul Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the zamindars of the village Rupowal, tahsil Phillaur, district Jullundur, recently sent a representation to the Government praying therein to supply them with free fodder for cattle as there was no fodder available in that village owing to the last draught and there was no water in the wells, and they further prayed to the Government to grant them full remission in the revenue for kharif, 1988, if so, the action, if any, taken so far, or intended to be taken by the Government in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): No such representation appears to have been received by Government. Fodder is being imported at concession rates of railway freight and the question of granting relief in land revenue is under consideration.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO INHABITANTS OF VILLAGE CHAKDANA DISTRICT
JULLUNDUR.

***3869. Master Kabul Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of the village Chakdana, thana Rahon, district Jullundur, recently sent a representation to the Government stating therein that their crops had failed

due to the draught and that they had taken loans from the banks to pay off the land revenue and prayed therein that they may be granted some relief; if so, the action, if any, the Government intends to take in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The question of granting relief is under consideration.

REPRESENTATION REGARDING THE CLOSING OF KASSI MINOR.

***3873. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a *kassi* (minor) which has been running between the village Rajuvana Kalan and Talvandi Rai and has been irrigating the lands in villages Talvandi Rai, Chajjewal and Kamalpur for a long time, was closed some time ago causing thereby irreparable loss to the landowners and tenants depending on those lands;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of representations, memorials and applications have been made from time to time to the Government by the zamindars and tenants mentioned above, requesting that the said minor may be reopened, if so, whether it is intended to reopen it and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The channel was not closed but irrigation in its first 5 miles length was stopped in 1912 on account of danger of water-logging in these and other villages lying along this reach of the channel;

(b) Representations have been received but owing to the fear of damage to the lands by water-logging it will not be in the interests of the people concerned that canal irrigation be restored; water level being even higher than what it was in 1912. For that these villages have good facilities for "chahi" cultivation, in this barani tract.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Is it not a fact that the productive power of the land near about that minor has considerably decreased?

Minister: May be or may not be.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Have you found out?

Minister: I have already given the reply.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Is this question not included in the original question?

Minister: No.

PERSONS EMPLOYED FOR GREY CANALS.

***3902. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) total number of persons employed for the working of the Grey Canals since 1930;

- (b) the names and home districts of those employed during this period ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that according to the Grey Canals Manual, preference is to be given to the agriculturists of Ferozepore district ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that outsiders have been employed during this period in preference to persons belonging to Ferozepore district ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) whether these posts were advertised before they were filled ; if not, why not and the procedure followed in filling these posts ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) 17.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Yes. But these rules have only been enforced from the 1st October, 1936.

(d) Outsiders have been preferred when they were better than the local candidates.

(e) No. The appointments are filled from among the candidates who have worked in the department temporarily.

Statements showing the names and home districts of the employees of the Grey Canals since 1930.

Serial No.	Name.	Post.	Home District.
1	B. Fazal Karim ..	Overseer ..	Jhang.
2	B. Prithvi Raj ..	Sub-overseer ..	Sialkot.
3	B. Abdul Rahim ..	Ditto ..	Hoshiarpur.
4	B. Yaqub Ali ..	Clerk ..	Ferozepore.
5	B. Abdul Hamid ..	Moharrir ..	Jullundur.
6	Latif Ahmad ..	Ditto ..	Ferozepore.
7	Nur Muhammad ..	Chaprasi ..	Do.
8	Muhammad Amin ..	Do. ..	Do.
9	Sukhai Ram ..	Chaukidar, rest-house ..	Do.
10	Ghulam Hussain ..	Khalasi ..	Do.
11	Fazal Ilahi ..	Do ..	Jullundur.
12	Sardar Ali ..	Do ..	Hoshiarpur.
13	Fazal Karim ..	Chaukidar, rest-house ..	Jullundur.
14	Fazal Karim ..	Ditto ..	Do.
15	Rahmat ..	Ditto ..	Ferozepore.
16	Ghauns Muhammad ..	Ditto ..	Do.
17	Faquiria ..	Sweeper ..	Hosniarpur.

JALSA BACHH AND SUPERINTENDENT, GREY CANALS.

***3903. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Jalsa Bachh was held in Grey Canals office at Ferozepore on the 4th October, 1938, under the presidency of Mr. Amin-ud-Din, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore; if so, the object of this Jalsa Bachh;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Mina *alias* Muhammad Bodle, President of the Grey Canal *Insadaad Nakais Committee*, sent some resolutions under a registered cover to the Superintendent, Grey Canals, to be discussed in the Jalsa Bachh and that he was not allowed to move his resolutions;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes. The object of the Jalsa Bachh is only to fix the water rates to be levied on the Grey Canals as provided in Punjab Government notification No. 96, dated the 6th March, 1910.

(b) and (c) Yes. Only such resolutions as were within the competence of the Jalsa Bachh were considered.

RELIEF GRANTED TO THE AMBALA DIVISION.

***3919. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state district-wise regarding the Ambala division—

- (a) the extent of damage done to the crops on account of scarcity of rain this year;
- (b) the extent to which relief is granted in the shape of remission, postponement of land revenue, grant of *taccavi* for purchase of seeds and cattle, distribution of fodder and relief works in famine-stricken villages in this area?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Barani kharif crops were practically a complete failure in the districts of Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal. In the Ambala district half the sown area failed while in the Simla district the damage was less than seven annas. Considerable damage has also been done to the irrigated crops in the Ambala division.

(b) A statement has already been laid on the table in reply to Assembly question No. *8799¹.

DIGGING OF A POND AT BURUWALI AS A FAMINE WORK.

***3920. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of Mauza Buruwali, tahsil Sirsa, and many other villages in Sirsa and Fatehabad tahsils have suffered from famine condition;

- (b) whether there was a proposal to dig a pond (*diggi*) in the Buruwali in the beginning with a view to give relief to the sufferers of the locality but the said relief work has been started at Mauza Derby instead; if so, what action the Government proposes to take to afford relief to the villagers of Mauza Buruwali?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) *First part*.—There never was any proposal to dig a pond (*diggi*) in Buruwali and no pond (*diggi*) is to be dug in village *Darbi*, which is a canal irrigated village.

Second part.—The people of Buruwali in need of relief can get it by going to the nearest relief work.

FAILURE OF KHARIF AND RABI CROPS IN TAHSIL BHARAULI, DISTRICT SIMLA.

***3981. Lala Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether in tahsil Bharauli, district Simla, the last two kharif and rabi crops have virtually failed;
- (b) whether this has caused a wide-spread distress in Bharauli *ilaga*;
- (c) whether it is a fact that besides agriculture the inhabitants of the said *ilaga* have no other pursuits to supplement their scanty agricultural income;
- (d) if the answers to (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the action that the Government proposes to take to relieve the distress of these inhabitants?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

Lala Duni Chand: Is it not a fact that the Ambala district has been as much affected by famine conditions as the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal?

Parliamentary Secretary: No.

Lala Duni Chand: Is it not a fact that in certain parts of the Ambala district there have been actually no crops?

Parliamentary Secretary: No.

SUPERINTENDENT OF GREY CANALS, FEROZEPORE.

***4033. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a general grievance that owing to the residence and office of the Superintendent of Grey Canals, Ferozepore, being in the same bungalow, the public experiences great difficulty in interviewing him; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): *First part.*—
No.

Second part.—Does not arise.

REMISSION AND SUSPENSION OF LAND REVENUE IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***4043. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) to what extent remission and suspension of land revenue have been allowed to the five tahsils of the Ambala district;
- (b) the nature of any other reliefs that have been granted or are intended to be granted to the agriculturists of the Ambala district?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Rs. 1,70,738 have been suspended and Rs. 18,232 have been remitted out of the land revenue demand for kharif, 1988.

(b) *Taccavi* loans are also being granted liberally for wells, bullocks and fodder. An additional allotment of Rs. 7,000 has recently been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, for this purpose.

Out of outstanding balances of *taccavi* loans, suspensions and remissions amounting to Rs. 12,606 and Rs. 992, respectively, have also been sanctioned.

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION FOR WHEAT IN MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

***4064. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the extent of the area cultivated on account of wheat in Chak No. 67/12-L, tahsil and district Montgomery, in *rabi*, 1988, and the area under cultivation for wheat in the present *rabi*, i.e., 1989, and also state whether it is a fact that the area under wheat in present *rabi* is much smaller than the area under *rabi* in 1988; if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): A notice has been served on Government through the Collector by the irrigators on Rajbah 12-L, and it is likely that the matter may go before a civil court. I regret, therefore, I am unable to give the information required by my honourable friend.

Munshi Hari Lal : Does the Government count on a suit being lodged and refuse to answer the question on that ground?

Parliamentary Secretary : I hope my honourable friend realises that if a notice is served on Government giving them a threat that a suit will be lodged, it must be presumed that there is a likelihood of the suit being lodged.

Munshi Hari Lal : Is the Government in order in withholding information to a member of the House on the mere ground that there is a notice threatening that a suit will be lodged?

Mr. Speaker : It is no doubt the right of the honourable member to seek information ; but at the same time it is the privilege of the Government members not to answer certain questions in the public interest.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The chief aim of the notice was that the Government should remove the cause of complaint, but the answer now given by the Parliamentary Secretary only aggravates the position still further.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is criticising the answer of the Parliamentary Secretary. That is not fair. It is the privilege of the honourable members to ask questions ; but it is equally the privilege of the Government members to refuse to answer a question in the public interest. The Chair has no power to intervene.

Munshi Hari Lal : When was the notice received ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I think it must be about two months ago.

Munshi Hari Lal : Is not the Government in a position to give the exact date of receipt of notice ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not prepared to give that information as long as the full information is being withheld.

Mr. Speaker : The Parliamentary Secretary has declined to answer that question.

Sardar Ajit Singh : In reply to another question the Government gave a similar unsatisfactory answer. That is not fair. Six months have passed and yet the Government has not done anything to redress the grievance.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Are the people who gave the notice the masters of the ministry or is it the ministry that is their master ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

WATER SUPPLY FOR IRRIGATION IN CHAK NO. 67/12-L, TAHSIL AND DISTRICT MONTGOMERY.

***4065. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) what is the normal of authorised water supply for irrigation in Chak No. 67/12-L, tahsil and district Montgomery ;
- (b) what has been the actual supply of water from 15th July to 22nd November, 1938 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the actual supply of water during the period from 15th July to 22nd November, 1938, has been below the authorized supply of water ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his Assembly question No. *4064 (above).

REPRESENTATIONS BY GRANTEES OF CHAK NO. 67/12-L, TAHSIL AND DISTRICT MONTGOMERY.

***4066. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that grantees of Chak No. 67/12-L tahsil and district Montgomery, some time ago submitted representations to the local and higher authorities in writing as well as orally complaining against the short supply of water ; if so, what steps have been taken to remove their complaints ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his Assembly question No. *4064¹.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Is it a fact that the Government has received a complaint of shortage of water supply ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am afraid I cannot answer that question without notice.

Diwan Chaman Lal : The question itself asks for this information and I do not see what further notice is required.

Parliamentary Secretary : As I have already stated, Government does not feel justified in giving the information as long as there is a fear that the information given in the House may be used against Government in a civil court.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Is the Government likely to plead that it has received no complaints ? How is the institution of a suit affected by the information sought in this question ?

Minister for Revenue : Supply of water depends upon the supply of water in the river. The supply of water in the river is not controllable by Government.

Diwan Chaman Lal : I am not asking as to the cause of the shortage of water supply. I merely ask whether the Government is not satisfied that there is at present any shortage of supply.

Minister : So far as my knowledge goes, I do not think there is any shortage.

ACREAGE RATE ON THE LAND SITUATED IN PAKPATTAN TAHSIL.

***4077. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any land situated in the different parts of the Pakpattan tahsil was irrigated by canal water in 1925, which has now been inundated by river ;

(b) whether Government proposes not to levy any acreage rate on the land thus inundated ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Spill water from the river occasionally inundates small parts of certain villages on the Bhatti, Ferozepore, Ali Shah, Hota and Tibbi distributaries of the Pakpattan Canal.

(b) Watercourses have been constructed by Government on these areas and where they are being used for irrigation by cultivators acreage rate is being charged as elsewhere.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : My question is that if a tract of land was submerged in water in 1935 and remained so for two years, does the Government charge acreage rate on it ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a hypothetical question.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Why is acreage rate charged on crops which get water only once.

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the answer.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : May I make myself clear ? When a tract of land was submerged in water in 1935 and has become the bed of the river now, do you charge acreage rate on it ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Where watercourses have been dug and are being used for irrigation purposes, the acreage rate is being charged.

CANAL WATER FOR THE GRANTEES OF THE NEW COLONY AND THE
ZAMINDARS OF THE OLD COLONY.

***4079. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is proposed to give more canal water to the grantees of the new colony than to the zamindars of the old colony of the Pakpattan tahsil ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Before the Pakpattan Perennial Canal was constructed, the proprietary areas referred to had no irrigation at all, but when the Pakpattan Canal was built the proprietary areas within irrigation limits were given the same supply of water as Crown waste areas, and so these proprietary areas are much better off than they were before.

The supply of perennial irrigation has been provided at great capital expenditure on the Sutlej Valley Canals and the accumulated interest charge on such capital expenditure is considerable.

Because Government utilized a portion of the water available to give irrigation to proprietary areas, the remaining water was insufficient for adequate development of the Crown waste areas.

Further expenditure is now being incurred on the construction of the Emerson Barrage and the Montgomery Pakpattan Link and by these means an additional supply will now be available for the Pakpattan Perennial Crown waste areas from the Ravi River.

The interest on this additional expenditure can be realized only if the additional water is given to the Crown waste areas, as due to this additional supply, the selling price of the Crown waste areas is expected to rise.

If the additional water is given to proprietary areas, Government will get nothing for the further increase in value of such areas, and may not be able to recover the interest charges on the Haveli Canals expenditure.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I want information about non-perennial canals.

Parliamentary Secretary : The required information has already been given.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I want information about the new colony on Khaddar branch.

Parliamentary Secretary : That also has been supplied.

REMISSION OF REVENUE EACH YEAR OWING TO STOPPAGE OF DEK INUNDATION IN SIALKOT DISTRICT.

***4068. Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the amount of revenue the Government has to remit each year owing to the stoppage of Dek inundation and thereby conversion of the Sailab area into a Barani area in the Sialkot district in Narowal and Pasrur tahsils?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Rs. 14,855.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : Does the Government realise that it is a great loss to the Government revenues and in view of that will the Government consider the advisability of spending four times this amount and asking the Railway department to remove the obstacle for making a better arrangement and thereby effect a permanent improvement in the revenues?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government will be too glad to examine such a proposal if my honourable friend will send it to me in writing.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether the Government is directly responsible for this loss of revenue on account of the stoppage of water?

Parliamentary Secretary : No.

Mian Abdul Rab : Why not? Who is responsible?

FAMINE IN HISSAR AND THE HARIJANS OF SURROUNDING AREA.

***4091. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to famine the Harijans of Hissar district, of tahsil Jhajjar, district Rohtak, and of tahsil Kaithal, district Karnal, are put to great inconvenience; if so, the action Government propose to take to save them from starvation?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Enquiries made by the local officers show that the Harijans of these areas are put to no inconvenience and receive their full share of famine relief in every form.

Sardar Mula Singh : Will the Government distribute grain among the Harijans as a measure of relief?

Mr. Speaker : That is a request for action.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether this is the question which was referred to by the Honourable Minister a short while ago?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, it is not this.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Is that question coming up to-day ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not definite ; but if my honourable friend would wait till the question hour is over he will know it.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know the exact nature of the enquiry that has been entrusted to the deputy commissioners ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question has been forwarded to the deputy commissioners for the purpose of making enquiries.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether they are asked to let the honourable Parliamentary Secretary know how many people have died of starvation ?

Parliamentary Secretary : They have not been asked to let the Parliamentary Secretary know.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Whom have they been asked to let know ?

Parliamentary Secretary : To let the Government know.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : What have they been asked to let the Government know ?

Lala Duni Chand : Is the honourable Parliamentary Secretary unable to know in what way the assistance of the deputy commissioners has been asked for ?

Parliamentary Secretary : They have been asked to submit a report.

Lala Duni Chand : On what ? The question relates to the starvation of the famine-stricken harijans. Was the help of the deputy commissioners sought in that connection ? Have they been asked to collect the figures of those people who are starving or died of starvation ?

Minister for Revenue : Naturally when a question is put we have to make enquiries through the deputy commissioners and the deputy commissioners in this connection have been asked to make enquiries and submit their report to the Government for necessary action.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : When was that report called for ?

Parliamentary Secretary : As soon as the notice of the question was received. So far as the Government is concerned, it has no such information. All the same it has referred the matter to the deputy commissioners for making enquiries.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : What is the basis for the statement that the Government has no information on the subject ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government is positive that nobody has died of starvation and everything possible is being done to mitigate the hardship caused. But as the Government received notice of this question, Government thought it necessary to send it on to the deputy commissioners so that they may make themselves further sure.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The question is whether those people are put to great inconvenience. Am I to understand that those people are not suffering and are not put to great inconvenience ?

Parliamentary Secretary : In a famine area everybody is put to great inconvenience. We do not deny it. At the same time Government is trying to do its best to remove that inconvenience. Still they have asked the deputy commissioners to make enquiries if there is any particular difficulty or handicap which these people have got and if so to report the matter to the Government.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know what is not in the knowledge of the Government?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not in the knowledge of the Government that people have died of starvation or that the measures which the Government have adopted are not enough to meet the situation.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Was this the question that so many people died of starvation? Where was the necessity of saying that Government has gone into this? Was the question in the brain of the Parliamentary Secretary?

Parliamentary Secretary : May I explain? The question is 'the action Government proposes to take to save them from starvation'. Government are making enquiries. Because they know that they have already provided sufficient relief, they want to know if with regard to harijans there was any particular specific trouble which other people did not have and about which the deputy commissioners think that Government should do something.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Do I understand that the Government have no knowledge that the harijans have been put to great inconvenience or the Government have no knowledge whether the deputy commissioners have done anything or not for these people?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government have no knowledge that harijans as such are put to any inconvenience.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Are Harijans not human beings?

Parliamentary Secretary : Harijans are sharing the same inconvenience which other people are experiencing.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : When other people are starving in this area do harijans not starve?

Parliamentary Secretary : Nobody is starving.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Is that the information of the Government that nobody is starving? Why then has that area been declared as famine area?

Minister : Where famine has been declared the Government knows that there must be some trouble and disabilities from which the people must have suffered. That is why the area has been declared as famine area, otherwise where was the necessity of so declaring it? Everybody including the harijans is suffering from the effects of famine and they can get relief along with others.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : But the reply is that they have no knowledge of the fact. That is not correct.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

GRANT OF SQUARES OF LAND TO NAWAB SIR MEHAR SHAH.

***4095. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of squares of land, if any, granted by the Punjab Government to Nawab Sir Mehar Shah, M.L.A. (Central) in the year 1938 and the conditions on and considerations for which these were granted?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : No land was granted to Nawab Sir Mehar Shah during the year 1938.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Was any grant made before?

Premier : The previous Government did give some squares of land to him when they were granted to many others.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Were any squares given in 1939?

Premier : No grant has been made in 1939.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is there any intention of granting any?

Premier : There is no intention of making any grant.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : For what purpose is it intended to be given?

Premier : There is no intention of giving any grant of land.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is there any intention of giving any land for temporary cultivation?

Premier : Anybody can apply for the purpose. There is always a large number of such applicants.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : The whole world is poor but not he.

An honourable member : Is it an argument or a supplementary question?

Premier : Please put your question and I will try to give a reply.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is the Nawab Sahib a cultivator himself that land is being given to him?

Premier : I think he does not cultivate himself; he is, like my honourable friend, a member of the Assembly—Central Assembly.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : No reply has been given to my question whether there is any intention to give any land to him?

Premier : I have already said that Government has no intention of giving any grant of land.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is there any intention of giving any land on lease to him?

Premier : My honourable friend is perhaps not aware that the land for which he has applied is lying uncultivated and any person can apply for the lease of that land.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has the Nawab Sahib made any application to the Government for the grant of lease of the land?

Premier : Many people besides the Nawab Sahib apply periodically for temporary cultivation leases.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has any application been made?

Premier : Nawab Sahib has made an application, for a lease like several other people.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether it is or it is not a fact that this land is going to be given to Nawab Sahib for any particular purpose, may be a perfectly legitimate purpose? Is it within my honourable friend's knowledge that this land is to be given to him?

Premier : That is a different matter. So far no land has been given to Nawab Sahib either by way of grant or in shape of a lease.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask if my honourable friend has considered this matter of giving this land to Nawab Sahib?

Premier : I have been giving it consideration for the last 12 months.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the Government come to a conclusion regarding the giving of the land to Nawab Sahib; if so, for what reasons?

Premier : Nawab Sahib applied for this particular area of land which is at present uncultivated for the purpose of producing improved seed. The matter has been considered by various departments and is in the final stage. I came to the conclusion that the offer was a good one because it would bring under cultivation an area which is not at present under cultivation. This land is thus to be given on lease, but the final decision has not yet been taken.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Were the Government to divide this land into small plots of a few squares and then give it to a number of people for cultivation of good seeds and keep them under their own supervision, will it not be a better way of bringing this land under cultivation?

Mr. Speaker : That is a hypothetical question.

Premier : My honourable friend has probably some other area in view.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Government invited applications for grant of these squares on the terms on which the Government is proposing to grant to Nawab Sahib?

Premier : My honourable friend has used the word squares. I have already said that the land is unbroken.

Lala Duni Chand : All right. Then, has the Government invited any applications for the grant of this land in question on the terms on which it is proposed to give to Nawab Sahib?

Premier : Government could not invite applications, because there are thousands of acres of *banjar* land lying unbroken all over the province and enterprising people who think there are possibilities of development of this land put in applications. My honourable friend might also if he so desires put in an application for land, if there is any in his district, but I can not promise that he will get it.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if Nawab Sahib is the only person who can produce good seeds while sitting in the Assembly?

Mr. Speaker : The question is disallowed.

Lala Duni Chand : What are the particular qualifications or particular claims of Nawab Sahib for being given this land on the terms mentioned by the Honourable Premier ?

Premier : I have mentioned no terms. As regards his capacity to produce good seed, I am afraid I am not in a position to satisfy the curiosity of my honourable friend opposite.

Lala Duni Chand : The question of giving land to this gentleman has been under consideration of the Honourable Premier, does he deny that fact ?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether there are any other conditions which a man has to fulfil besides the capacity to produce good seeds for getting land for temporary cultivation ?

Premier : Several other conditions.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Are there any political conditions ?

Premier : No, they are mainly fiscal and economic.

Sardar Lal Singh : Is the Government now prepared to entertain applications from others for the same purpose and in respect of the same land ?

Premier : I have already said that the land is unbroken.

Sardar Lal Singh : We know that.

Premier : You do not know it. Otherwise you would not have put this question.

Sardar Lal Singh : We know that and we know that Nawab Sahib is going to bring it under cultivation, but we want to know whether applications from others will be entertained by the Government hereafter for the same purpose and for the same land ?

Premier : As a matter of fact land has been given for similar purposes before and it is for that reason that we are considering Sir Mehr Shah's application.

Sardar Lal Singh : Is the Government prepared or not prepared to entertain applications for that ?

Premier : For that land certainly not. My honourable friend cannot take advantage of other people's enterprise.

Sardar Lal Singh : Are we to understand that only one person can apply for that land ?

Premier : Yes, one can apply and for that matter ten could have also applied, had they thought of it before.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN VILLAGES IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

*4096. **Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that several villages in the extreme west of and within the jurisdiction of thana Shaina in Ludhiana district such as Chaoke, Bhoondar, Jethuke, and Bhaini Chuhr situated in the desert area contiguous to district Hissar and within 20 miles of Hissar town are suffering from famine conditions as bad as those in Hissar ;

[S. Lal Singh.]

(b) whether the Honourable Minister is aware that no Deputy Commissioner has visited the said area for the last several years; if so, the reasons for so neglecting this area;

(c) whether it is a fact that practically no relief has been given to this area beyond a little taqavi loan about Rs. 10 per head only in a village or two; if so, the reasons for this wide disparity between relief given to people in the Hissar district and to those in a part of the Ludhiana district where conditions are equally bad;

(d) whether and what further steps Government intends to take to give relief to these villages in the Ludhiana district?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The villages in question are reported not to be suffering from famine conditions.

(b) This area was visited by the Deputy Commissioner in October, 1938.

(c) Conditions in this part of the Ludhiana district are far better than in the Hissar district. Taccavi loans amounting to Rs. 6,335 have however been given in this *ilaga*.

(d) Does not arise.

Sardar Lal Singh: Who reported that these villages are not suffering from famine conditions as badly as those in Hissar? May I know whose report says that these villages are not suffering from famine like that of Rohtak?

Parliamentary Secretary: It is not an unofficial report. It is a report submitted by the officials.

Sardar Lal Singh: Which officials?

Parliamentary Secretary: The Deputy Commissioner, the Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner. All those officers were concerned in this matter.

Sardar Lal Singh: Which of these villages were visited by the Deputy Commissioner?

Parliamentary Secretary: I have not with me the list of the villages visited.

Sardar Lal Singh: May I ask again that the Parliamentary Secretary may please let me know which of these villages was visited by the Deputy Commissioner?

Parliamentary Secretary: If the honourable member will give me notice, I will give him the list. (Voices: The names are already there.)

Sardar Lal Singh: Am I to understand that the Deputy Commissioner just touched the fringe of the *ilaga* and came back?

Parliamentary Secretary: I do not know which parts of the district were visited. (Hear, hear.)

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Has he read part (b) of the question?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it not stated there that no Deputy Commissioner has visited the *ilaga* for the last several years ?

Minister (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia) : It is wrong.

Sardar Partab Singh : Did the Honourable Minister for Revenue enquire from the Deputy Commissioner ? (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow two gentlemen to stand up and ask questions at the same time.

Parliamentary Secretary : The answer to part (b) of the question that I have already given is—

“(b) This area was visited by the Deputy Commissioner in October, 1938.”

What more does the honourable member want ?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : On what date did he visit this area ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He visited the area in October, 1938.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : On what date and which village ?

Minister : I think he had better ask at what hour of the day. (*Laughter.*)

Sardar Lal Singh : Is it or is it not a fact that the Honourable Minister for Education, the Honourable Minister for Development and the Honourable Premier went to Ludhiana district in turn and promised relief to these agriculturists ? (*Interruption.*) I am talking of the promise of relief. Each of the three Ministers went in turn and said, “We are zamindars’ Government and we will help you.” Did they keep their promises ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I may inform my honourable friend that the relief includes the giving of taccavi loans.

Sardar Lal Singh : What relief besides taccavi loans was given ? There was no other relief at all.

Parliamentary Secretary : I said that taccavi loans was the only relief given.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : What is the amount of the taccavi loans ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated the amount in the answer to the question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that Rs. 10 were granted to each zamindar of the village ?

Parliamentary Secretary : May be true.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Is he aware of the fact that the persons of this *ilaga* spent more than what they got as taccavi loan ?

Minister : I have no information but my honourable friend may have that information.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Is the Honourable Minister of Revenue not up-to-date with regard to the information on this point ?

Minister : If my honourable friend would give any specific instance, I will make enquiries.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Thank you.

Sardar Lal Singh : How is this taccavi loan going to help the people for the loss of their harvest altogether ? There was no harvest at all in these villages.

Minister : Suspension of revenue. (*Interruption.*)

Sardar Lal Singh : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that these villages are only about fifteen miles away from Rohtak city ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have no reason to disbelieve my honourable friend. (*After a little pause.*) I do not think that they are at a distance of fifteen miles from Rohtak city.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

Sardar Lal Singh : It is an important question where life and death of the farmers is concerned. Why is the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary negligent about furnishing himself with full information about the famine conditions in these villages ?

Mr. Speaker : Was he given notice to collect that information ?

Sardar Lal Singh : This is first part of the question.

Mr. Speaker : Which part of the question ?

Sardar Lal Singh : It is part (a). I have asked :—

"(a) whether he is aware of the fact that several villages in the extreme west of and within the jurisdiction of thana Shaina in Ludhiana district such as Chaoke, Bhoondar, Jethuke, and Bhaini Chuhar situated in the desert area contiguous to district Hissar and within 20 miles of Hissar town are suffering from famine conditions as bad as those in Hissar."

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has already given that information.

Sardar Lal Singh : Does the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary admit that this is so ?

Mr. Speaker : Has he not done so ?

Sardar Lal Singh : No.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have given a clear reply to the question that these villages are reported not to be suffering from famine conditions.

Sardar Lal Singh : To bring home to the Parliamentary Secretary the importance of the question, may I ask whether it is or it is not a fact that one of these villages Chaoke is giving annual revenue to the tune of Rs. 10,000 to the Government ?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether the word famine conditions is used in the technical sense or in the ordinary sense ?

Parliamentary Secretary : In the same sense in which the honourable member is asking the question.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary has given a reply that there are no famine conditions in these villages. I want to know whether the conditions of bad harvest and scarcity of water not in the technical sense but in the ordinary sense of the dictionary, do prevail in these villages or not.

Parliamentary Secretary : It is in the technical sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***4097. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that land revenue for kharif is being collected in full without any relief being given in the form of remission or of deferred payment in Ludhiana district ;
- (b) whether he is aware that owing to the promised relief not forthcoming there is widespread agitation in the district ;
- (c) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, the steps proposed to be taken to put an end to this agitation ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) No relief was promised and there is practically no agitation of which Government could be aware of.

(c) Does not arise.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Is it or is it not a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana recommended remission for Samrala tahsil but that proposal of his was upset by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : My honourable friend seems to know more than I do.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether it is a fact or not that the case of Samrala tahsil was recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, but his proposal of remission was upset by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : When I give a reply it is on behalf of the Government.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I want to know whether it is a fact or not.

Minister (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia) : My honourable friend has perhaps more information than myself.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I would like to know from that Honourable Jat Sikh Minister whether it is a fact or not. (*Laughter.*)

Minister : May I ask my friend from where he got the information ?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Is it true or not that this proposal of remission was upset by the Government ?

Minister : Was the proposal of remission upset ?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Yes, proposal about remission or suspension was rejected.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STATEMENT RE : CERTAIN COLLEGES.

681. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to place on the table of the House a list, statement, and particulars regarding G. N. Khalsa College, Gujranwala, Khalsa Intermediate College, Lyallpur, D. M. College, Moga, and D. A.-V. College, Hoshiarpur for the last three financial years of each institution, separately, as on 1935, 1936 and 1937 and state—

- (a) the approximate number of students in the ninth, tenth, first, and second year classes in the years 1935, 1936 and 1937, respectively ;
- (b) the approximate income of fee in each financial year as above ;
- (c) the approximate figure of salary paid to the staff called as recurring expenses in each year as above ;
- (d) the approximate particulars of investment of Endowment Fund on mortgage fixed deposit in banks, investment in Government papers or otherwise with rate of interest received and approximate income from each mode of investment for every financial year as above ;
- (e) the approximate amount of recurring grant or donation received in each year, separately, from municipal committees, district boards, local governments or any Indian state ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret I am unable to supply the information desired by the honourable member as the collection thereof would impose an unnecessary strain on the University office which will be entirely incommensurate with any advantage which may accrue therefrom.

STATEMENT REGARDING CERTAIN COLLEGES.

682. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to place on the table of the House a list, statement and particulars regarding D. A.-V. College, Lahore, Islamia College, Lahore, Sanatan Dharma College, Lahore, D. A.-V. College, Jullundur, Ram Sukh College, Ferozepore, V. B. College, Dera Ismail Khan, Hindu College, Amritsar, and D. A.-V. College, Rawalpindi for the last five financial years of each institution, separately and state—

- (a) the approximate number of students in each class for the above period ;
- (b) the approximate income of fee in each financial year as above ;
- (c) the approximate figure of salary paid to the staff called as recurring expenses in each year as above ;
- (d) the approximate particulars of investment of Endowment Fund on mortgage fixed deposit in banks, investment in Government papers or otherwise with rate of interest received and approximate income from each mode of investment for every financial year as above ;

- (e) the approximate amount of recurring grant or donation received in each year, separately, as above from any municipal committee, district board, local government or any Indian state ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Hays : I regret I am unable to supply the information desired by the honourable member as the collection thereof would impose an unnecessary strain on the University office which will be entirely incommensurate with any advantage which may accrue therefrom.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS.

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore (Urdu) : On a point of privilege. I want to have my own seat. I wonder why it has been changed from this side of the House to that.

Mr. Speaker : Where was the honourable member's seat before ?

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore (Urdu) : I speak from my own seat, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : I received an application from Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh stating that there were 58 members, who wanted to sit together. The honourable member is now sitting with the Opposition party where he wished to sit. The internal distribution of seats is left to the leaders of parties.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I would submit the point that he was in the Opposition and he had written to the Secretary that he be given a seat accordingly. Sardar Santokh Singh had included his name in the list but he has not been given a seat on this side : he has been allotted a seat on the other side.

Mr. Speaker : If there is any mistake it can be corrected.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : He wants that he be allotted a seat on this side.

Mr. Speaker : He is already sitting in this side.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I make a request that in future when matters of this description arise you will be pleased to take the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition before any changes of this nature are effected. As it happens, the information may not be correct and in order to verify the information you might consult the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker : I had a talk with the Leader of the Opposition. The opinion he gave and the suggestions he made were accepted. But if there is any mistake that will be corrected.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural)
(Urdu) : Sir, I was submitting yesterday that the most striking feature of the present budget is this that efforts have been made therein to win encomium from the simple and credulous public. But no attempt has been made in it to find out ways

[Ch. Muhammad Hasan.]

and means by which efficiency of the public servants can satisfactorily be achieved. Nor has any light been thrown on the standard of efficiency that was maintained by the Government servants during the last year. There is a well-known Persian saying which runs as follows :—

نَدائے خود بخود آفتاب نہ زبید مرد دانرا—

But the Honourable Minister for Finance has, by singing his own praises not acted in accordance with this saying. After every second or third page of his speech he has lapsed into self-praise or to eulogise the services of his own subordinates. By couching his speech in an excellent language he has attempted to give an impression to the public as if some heroic efforts are being made by the Government in certain directions. I would like to assure the House that his speech was full of half-truths if it were not entirely based upon false and incorrect statements. However he has paid greater attention to the cause of those higher officers who are at present drawing inordinately fat salaries. Here I am reminded of another Punjabi saying which is—

اٹھا ونگے ریزیاں مڑ مڑ کھ دیاں نوں دیو—

In this connection I would like to give an instance of the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. They respectively draw at present Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000 as their monthly salaries. I am sure the Government cannot justify such big salaries to these officers. I think the Government might be under the impression that by receiving comparatively less pay they would not be able to give feasts and parties in honour of the Ministers. But it is a matter of regret that no attention has been paid to the case of those poor assistants and clerks of the Assembly office who sometimes even work till late in the night without getting any compensatory allowance for doing this overwork. It appears that the Honourable Minister for Finance is suffering from short-sightedness and can therefore see only those who always remain in touch with him. But as these assistants and clerks always remain in the background their work is never appreciated by the Honourable Minister. And so at the time of the distribution of loaves and fishes they are left behind. It is a matter of regret that the Honourable Finance Minister is deaf and dumb so far as the grievances and sufferings of the low paid staff are concerned. He is neither prepared to hear their grievances nor anxious to improve their lot. The intention of the Government seems to enrich only those who are already leading a luxurious life.

Now I come to the standard of efficiency that is being maintained by our top-heavy administration. On the 9th February 1939 the Bar Association of Ludhiana unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that an address should be presented to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on his arrival at Ludhiana for presiding over the States' Subjects Conference. But on the 14th it so happened that a letter from the High Court of Judicature was communicated to the President of the Bar. I have reasons to believe that this letter was sent by the High Court on the basis of information given by the Punjab Government in consultation with the self-interested local officers. Our President—Mr. Ghulam Rasul—read out that letter to the Association in which it was ordered that we were free to use the Bar Room for other

purposes but not for presenting a political address to Panditji. On this it was decided that the President should approach the District Judge and personally talk to him about the issue. Accordingly he interviewed the District Judge and showed him a copy of the address intended to be presented to the Panditji. It is strange that our learned Minister for Finance has never understood the significance of the words "Political Prisoners" and "Political cases," but a responsible officer under him after casting a cursory glance over the address declared it to be a political one inspite of the request by the president that a copy of it should be forwarded to the higher authorities who would decide the matter. It seems to have been understood by the executive authorities that if an order were issued by the High Court, the District and Sessions Judge was there to help them. My honourable friend over there is glad that his hopes came out to be true. May be they will now remove this Sessions Judge to the executive side for his extraordinary services in this respect.

Minister for Finance : I rise on a point of order. I think the reference to this incident has now gone far enough for me to invite your attention to section 86 of the Government of India Act. The honourable member has proceeded to reflect on the orders of the High Court. He has said that an order was secured from the Judges of the High Court by the Executive Government. All these are matters which, I trust, the honourable member will pursue no further and you will not permit him to do so.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : There is no aspersion on the Judges of the High Court. It is simply the Executive Officers who gave the wrong information.

Minister for Finance : There can be nothing more objectionable than what the honourable member said that the Judges of the High Court issued this order at the instance or prompting of the Executive Government. It is a very unfortunate way of discussing the conduct of Honourable Judges.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : In view of the emphasis that has been laid by the Honourable Finance Minister, I do not understand when he says that it is an aspersion on the Judges of the High Court from the honourable members on this side. It is far from that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The District Judge issued an order following the instructions received from the High Court. Therefore, so far as that order is concerned it cannot be criticised by the honourable member.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I am not at all criticising that order. I must assure you that it is far from the intention of any honourable member on this side of the House to criticise either the conduct or the order of the honourable Judges of the High Court. What I am concerned with at present is that a wrong information was supplied to the High Court. I do not mean that the District Judge or the Deputy Commissioner or the Superintendent of Police obtained that order under pressure. That is not my intention. What I mean to say is that a wrong information was furnished to the High Court by the local authorities in order to further their own ends. I do not say at all that the order of the High Court was in any way wrong or objectionable. Far from it. My point is that the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendent of Police and the Sessions Judge were in league with each

[Ch. Muhammad Hassan.]

other and they three combined to supply wrong information to the High Court to obtain orders thereon. Probably the Sessions Judge wants to please the Government in order to be posted to some better post. Why has all this happened? That is what I want to explain as I attempted yesterday to do. The root cause of the whole trouble is that the judiciary and the executive are not separate from each other. The officers confuse their executive powers with their judicial powers. These two powers should not be vested in one and the same person. The Government should separate the executive from the judiciary. In the case under discussion the executive supplied wrong information to the High Court. In fact no orders were disobeyed on the 14th. There was some disturbance in the meeting at the instigation of the executive officers. The address proposed to be presented to the Panditji did not differ much from the one that was presented to him earlier at Lahore when Panditji had come here in connection with the case of Dr. Muhammad Alam. It is strange that while no objection was taken to that address, the local authorities of Ludhiana objected to this later address. In fact Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru did not wish to receive any address and he had publicly declared his intentions in this respect. However, I am confident that if true facts of the case had been supplied to the High Court, such orders could not have been obtained by the executive authorities of Ludhiana. Panditji had declared while he was taking tea with the President of the Bar Association that he would not receive any address. Again, on the 15th, he refused to take any lunch or address from the Bar Association. In spite of all this the door of the Bar room was locked. Surely some one must be held responsible for this act. The Deputy Commissioner and the Sessions Judge are to blame for that. What adds insult to injury is the fact that the respectable citizens were called *badmashes* and as such they were ordered to be removed from the place. But I may inform this House that some of those persons who were called *badmashes* had in reality better personal status than their accusers. When the officer was told by the persons present that he had used the objectionable words, he denied the allegation straight away. But later on when about fifty respectable persons definitely told him that he had used these highly objectionable words, he said that if he had used these words, he was prepared to withdraw them. I wonder how Government can retain such officers who are capable of telling lies in the presence of thousands of people. I for one would not support the department which has such officers in it.

Another instance of the misbehaviour of a police officer is that his wife demanded a dozen boxes of hair cream but the poor head constable provided milk cream boxes instead. Being dissatisfied with the poor head constable the Superintendent transferred him to some place accusing him of inefficiency.

The third submission that I would like to make is that the honourable members over there give evasive replies to our questions. The other day my honourable friend, the Parliamentary Secretary, Raja Sahib, in reply to a question put by me as to how much damage was done to crops and where in a particular tahsil, stated that the collection of this information would involve an amount of labour and time that would be incommensurate with the results. This was a very easy job and the requisite information could

have been obtained from local *jamabandis*. But the head of the Revenue Department who is getting three thousand rupees a month and the Parliamentary Secretary who is probably getting six or seven hundred rupees a month could not furnish this small information. This is how they work. In fact they are not serious about the welfare of the zamindars. They are running the old bureaucratic form of government. Of course they are not Englishmen and cannot pose to be so, but the administration of the country has undergone no change at all by their coming into power. They reply to questions in a round about manner attempting always to keep things in the dark. They proclaim from house tops that they are the real well-wishers, nay servants, of the zamindars. I am sorry that the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram is not here now. He has been to my district several times and made speeches in large gatherings of the zamindars wherein he emphatically stressed the point that the Unionists are their servants and are out to do everything in their power to ameliorate the miserable plight of the zamindars. It has been said that the Government have issued a circular letter to the effect that if five respectable persons come forward with a complaint of corruption, that must be inquired into. But what is the standard of respectability? I think the idea is that the complainants should be as much respectable as Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram himself is. It has also been said that an anti-corruption department has been established under the charge of a superintendent of police in order to combat the evil of corruption. But I ask, what is the use of creating this new department when there is already a Criminal Investigation Department in existence to deal with the crime? It appears that this new department is being created for certain persons in order to keep the party well intact. The Honourable the Finance Minister has stated in his budget speech that the deficit is due to famine conditions prevailing in different parts of the province and to the vagaries of nature. Where there is a corrupt ruler the subjects find no peace. Here I am reminded of a Raja who went to a garden and asked the gardener for some juice of pomegranates. Juice of a single pomegranate filled up the cup. Thereupon the Raja proposed a tax to be levied upon him. Similarly this Government is bringing forward the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Bill for it knows fully well that this Bill will affect the zamindars. But it has never occurred to our Government that most of the chaprasis, constables and patwaris are zamindars and are drawing paltry sums with which they cannot even keep their soul and body together. It has been said that a Punjabee is a robust fellow. If that is so, he must require more to eat. In this province of five rivers one person gets 14 rupees a month and another person gets three thousand rupees a month. What a huge difference! (*An honourable member* : What about your allowances?)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member has already had about 45 minutes.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is any time fixed?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : No time is fixed but all the same I would draw your attention to the fact.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I hope, Sir, you will allow me to go on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member may make his speech brief by not giving illustrations.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Well Sir, an honourable member has asked a question whether or not we are prepared to reduce our allowances? Let me take this opportunity to say on behalf of my party that we are prepared for reduction to any extent provided my honourable friends over there are prepared to agree to a reduction in their salaries and allowances. (*An Honourable Member :* We are all ready for that.)

There is one other drawback in the budget to which I would like to invite the attention of the House. No mention has been made as to how corruption is proposed to be effectively dealt with. The sole idea pervading the whole budget is as to how those persons can be benefited who are already drawing fat salaries. A Retrenchment Committee was appointed some time back and I am told by Pir Akbar Ali and Rai Bahadur Binda Saran, the members of the committee, that the chairman has not had sufficient leisure to preside over its meetings and guide its deliberations. When this committee finishes its work I am sure, most of its recommendations will go against petty officials such as patwaris and constables. They will have to bear the whole brunt of retrenchment and the high officers who do little and talk more while sitting at their tables would get off scot-free. A little while ago when I was discussing a matter relating to the Bar Association at Ludhiana the Honourable the Finance Minister raised a point of order to the effect that the conduct of judges could not be discussed. I may tell him that I am a practising lawyer of seventeen years' standing and I know perfectly well that the conduct of a judge of the High Court cannot be made a subject of criticism. Whatever has been said is said against the executive officers. We have never said a word against the Honourable Judges of the High Court. It has been said that a superintendent of police and five sub-inspectors with so many head constables have been appointed to combat the evil of corruption. But nothing has been said as to how this evil can be successfully dealt with by them.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.*)

It is wrong to say that corruption is confined to the lower ranks. No, Sir, there is much more corruption in the upper ranks. The blame for receiving bribes is borne by the patwaris and constables while in actual practice the greater portion of the loot always goes to the higher officers. Thus, if the Government is really anxious to eradicate corruption it should direct its attention towards the upper ranks. I do not object to money being provided for the police but I must say that proper and effective steps should be taken to do away with corruption in the department. Inspectors and sub-inspectors are in the hollow of the hand of a superintendent and consequently they do not care even for a minister as much as for a superintendent. I remind my honourable friend, Captain Muzaffar Khan, of the case of Samman, Foot Constable, who has been made to retire compulsorily because he misunderstood the Deputy Superintendent. He had the cheek not to be able to lead the Deputy Superintendent of Police who was going to a tea party. Perhaps he was deceived by the dress which that officer was putting on at that time and took him for some one belonging to the Sewa Samiti. It was when the latter threatened to suspend him that the

unfortunate man realized to his grief that he was facing one of his gods. He at once tendered an unqualified and abject apology but was not forgiven and the result was that after a service of 24 years and 7 months he was made to submit an application to the effect that he no longer found himself fit for service and therefore humbly requested to be allowed to retire. When this case was brought to my notice I spoke about it to some honourable members including the gallant Captain himself. They agreed with me that it was rank injustice, but nothing was done inspite of some promises. The poor fellow would have retired on a pension of Rs. 11 per mensem but now he has to be contented with Rs. 8 a month. I had to tell him to go to my friend, Captain Muzaffar Khan. But it appears that he has been as unsympathetic as the Government and its officers are in such cases.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has already spoken for 55 minutes. Many other members wish to speak. So, I request him to finish his speech soon if he can.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Very well, Sir, although there are still many questions which I want to touch. Our Ministers are so anxious about their own salaries and those of their servants that even their own party is feeling very strongly on the question.

Then comes the Department of Industries. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is a very able Minister and he has a very capable assistant in the person of my honourable friend, Chaudhri Tikka Ram. But may I ask whether these two zamindars have done anything to help industries in rural areas? The same is the case with the Department of Agriculture. Whenever a Minister goes on tour he is shown round 3 or 4 specially selected villages and he grants them a certificate for efficiency.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the honourable member to discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I am discussing the principles. I mentioned the name only by the way. If you like, I will not mention it.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : I request you to exercise your moral influence to make the honourable member wind up his speech.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : This side of the House knows and feels your moral pressure unlike the other side of the House.

Then there is the Department of Rural Reconstruction. Once when the Commissioner of Rural Reconstruction paid a visit to my district I drew his attention to the futility of impressing on the people the desirability of having big sky lights and ventilators when they had no food to keep body and soul together and no clothes to cover their frail bodies from inclemencies of weather. Although Mr. Brayne is an Englishman he has eaten the salt of India. He has, therefore, made no secret of the fact that no real work is being done in the field of rural reconstruction. Inspite of all that, our Finance Minister insists that a Rural Reconstruction Commissioner with a large staff must be maintained at the expense of the province. It is a patent fact that the staff of the Reconstruction Department is busy doing nothing for practically the whole of their time and they are perfectly enjoying their sinecures. But the Government seems to be oblivious of all these circumstances. The

[Ch. Muhammad Hassan.]

beil ilaga is not good for motor traffic ; so the Honourable Minister for Revenue or other officers under him like the revenue assistant or the collector seldom pay a visit to that *ilaga* in order to see things for themselves.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia): I was politically ill. (*Laughter.*)

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: To sum up I shall say that the budget now presented to us is absolutely defective. It was necessary to help or to lessen the burden of the poor Government servants like patwaris, foot constables and poor clerks. The Government seems to be busy in helping its own henchmen to butter their breads on both sides as goes the Punjabi proverb—

انہاں دنگے شریانیں مڑ مڑ گھردیاں نوں

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Ward once asked, "show me a statesman who can rise up to an emergency and cave in its head." If he had asked the same question to-day, we would have said, "here is one who has risen up to an emergency and caved in its head."

At this time I am thinking of the two or three weeks that were spent before the budget was going to be presented. At almost all the dinner parties and afternoon parties, every other person that one came across was asking the question, "how much deficit is there going to be in this year's budget? Is it going to be one crore or fifty lakhs or forty lakhs"? Many persons belonging specially to the beneficent departments were trembling in their shoes thinking of the large cuts that they may have to face in several offices. Already they were so very hard up for money and they did not know how to meet any new cuts in expenditure. On the 27th February we came to this chamber and we listened to the fine and lucid exposition of the Finance Minister and then when we went home and went through the pages of this year's budget I for one was saying to myself "Thank God; the finances of our province are in the hands of a great economist like the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal."

Diwan Chaman Lal: Thank the Prime Minister, not God.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz: I am glad that one of my colleagues on the opposite benches, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, has at least once in two years proved himself to be a member of a responsible Opposition (*hear, hear*) and has been kind enough to congratulate this Government and especially the Honourable Finance Minister about several things that have been included in this budget. But later on when he started comparing our province with some of the Congress provinces, one began to think whether he was acting as a responsible member of a responsible Opposition. He started quoting figures telling us that provinces like Bombay and the United Provinces were spending far more on departments like Education and Public Health and whereas we were claiming that such large sums had been given to the beneficent departments in reality we are not spending as much as had been budgeted by some of the Congress provinces. I wish my honourable friend had also given the total figures of their income and compared them with the total figures of our income. Take for instance the case of Bombay. Bombay's total income is 12,55 lakhs whereas the total figure

of our province is only 11,67 lakhs. The total income of the United Provinces happens to be 18,31 lakhs. I am not going into the percentages as compared to the income spent in different provinces, because yesterday one of my colleagues from this side gave the percentages and compared them with the total income of each province. But I would like to point out to my honourable friend, as was already pointed out by Sardar Jagjit Singh Man, that Punjab is the one province in the whole of India which is spending so high an amount as 844 lakhs on beneficent departments. (*Hear, hear.*) My honourable friend, Mian Nurullah, in his speech yesterday criticised the budget on several points. I will in the first place say to him "it is all very well to say that it is a *bad dua* of the poor people that we are faced with a famine of such a vast magnitude in four districts." Perhaps he has forgotten what Plutarch said, that "extremes of fortune are true wisdom's test and he is of men most wise who bears them best." Several villages in the United Provinces have been submerged. May I ask him whose *bad dua* it is, especially when they are getting the blessings of the great Mahatma? The other day he told us when he was occupying one of these benches that he has passed one of the highest examinations in finance. While listening to his speech I was saying to myself that we shall now be able to learn from his remarks some of the things that a great economist could do and which are lacking in our budget. The points that he placed before us yesterday one after the other were such that they were most surprising indeed coming as they did from a legislator of long standing like Mian Nurullah. He said, "take this budget; here is an expenditure of 11,96 lakhs; let us cut it down by one crore and have only a budget of 11 crores on the expenditure side." May I ask him to show us one Congress province where such a thing has been done? He knows that it is not possible for any Government to scratch out with one stroke of the pen one crore of expenditure just to say "here is a reduction of one crore of rupees." No Government can possibly afford to do that. What the Punjab Government is doing is this. A committee is sitting and its report, I understand, will soon be, or already is, in the hands of the Government.—The Resources and Retrenchment Committee. That committee will tell us where to tap new sources of revenue and where to cut down expenditure. The Punjab Government has already reduced over 31 lakhs of rupees of expenditure and that without imposing new taxation except a paltry sum of six lakhs. Unfortunately this year it happens to be a deficit budget, but as you all know this is not the fault of the Punjab Government. We are faced with a famine of a vast magnitude and after giving 50 lakhs in remission in the first year and nearly a crore of rupees subsequently in various forms as relief to these four districts of the famine stricken area, we have still managed to add 24 lakhs of rupees to the minus balance of 42 lakhs which we inherited when the provincial autonomy was introduced.

Now, let me come to the beneficent departments. Seventeen lakhs of new expenditure has been added this year. Instead of any reduction which every one was expecting, a larger sum of money than last year has been budgeted for these departments. Take the case of education. Three new middle schools for girls and 156 primary schools are to be opened. Apart from that, Rs. 75,000 more have been given to the district boards for vernacular education and Rs. 25,000 have been set apart for starting a campaign for the liquidation of illiteracy in the province.

[Mr. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

Coming to what one should call the reform of the educational system, no one in this hall has said a word about the Syllabus Committee's Report. Let me remind them that this happens to be a report just as important as the Wardha Scheme or the Vidya Mandir Scheme. We see columns-full of newspapers about these two schemes, but as far as the Punjab Government's efforts are concerned no one has written even one word about our Syllabus Committee's Report. I hope the Press will make a note of what I am saying just now. I wish we had a *Hindustan Times* or a *Tribune* behind us. Then, the people would have been told something about the scheme that has been chalked out by the Punjab Government. If an expert were to take up the report of that committee and compare it with the Wardha or the Vidya Mandir Schemes he would know what an improvement it is on both these schemes. But, unfortunately, as I said the millions of the mill-owners are not at our back to get us the necessary support.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Whose millions are at your back ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Not of the mill-owners any way.

Diwan Chaman Lall : But of the big land-owners.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Some of the big zamindars of this province only and not of the millions of the whole of India.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Are you not a member of the Muslim League ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Certainly, I am.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Then, how does the honourable member dissociate herself from the all-India position that the League professes to enjoy ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Now take the case of medicine. Two women sub-assistant surgeons are added and seven new sub-assistant surgeons are included and a number of district hospitals are to be provincialised. Then let us take up public health. The new expenditure that has been included in the budget is the following : three lakhs have been given for a drainage scheme for Lahore ; 25,000 has been given to the Lahore Improvement Trust and apart from that five new sanitary schemes have been sanctioned, two for urban and three for rural areas. Rs. 1·7 lakhs has been set apart for providing water supply, out of which Rs. 10,000 has been ear-marked for wells for the scheduled castes. A new stores purchase department is to be opened. In agriculture also there are additions on every side and the same is the case with veterinary. Out of the Special Development Fund a certain sum of money is to be spent on a new school for women for rural reconstruction training. Most of the honourable members are not aware of it. But I am glad that the Honourable Minister for Development is in his seat as I would very much like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on the wise step that has been taken under his guidance. This school was opened last year in October with the idea of training 29 women every year who could go and take charge of the work of rural reconstruction in different tahsils wherever under the new Special Development Fund rural reconstruction work was to be started. How are they going to train these women workers ? I wish I had a copy of the syllabus here, rather I wish I had hundred copies of that syllabus so that each of my colleagues could

have a copy of it. There is going to be a nine months training that will be given to these women. And where have these women been recruited from? Each one of the deputy commissioners of the districts was written to and was asked to supply a suitable candidate from the district for the purpose and if possible from the tahsil itself where the work is to be started. These women after they get the necessary training in this school will go and take charge of the work amongst the women of that area. Now, Sir, we all know that as far as the question of rural reconstruction is concerned, if this work is not started amongst women, it is no use our trying to take up rural uplift work. As long as the wives and mothers do not know how to utilise the hard earned money of the poor cultivator and the women in rural areas cannot be of any help in either supplementing the small incomes of the cultivators or in seeing to the different needs of the home, it is not possible to achieve any success. These trained women will go to their respective places and will open schools in their own tahsils. On an average each tahsil has 255 villages and the idea is that these women who will be trained here in this central school will go and open a school in every tahsil and will ultimately help to train a sufficient number of women so that one woman could be placed in charge of 10 villages for rural uplift work. It will be the duty of these workers to teach women how to supplement their small incomes, how to utilise the little piece of land which they have and how to render first aid in minor ailments of children as well as of cattle and at the same time learn to sew ordinary clothes. We find that in villages, and I am sure you all are aware of it, although women can spin well they cannot do the ordinary sewing of *kurtas*, etc. The women who are studying dietetics as a science will be able to teach women in rural areas what sort of food is required in the homes for the inmates of the home from a tiny baby to the oldest member of the family. It is the housewife who has to provide food; they will not be taught to prepare grand feasts which the poor cultivator cannot afford, but only whether *sag* should be given as a *bhaji* with *roti* or an addition of a few turnips would be better for the health of the persons belonging to the family. Once again I congratulate the Honourable Minister for Development for taking the initiative in starting a school of this type. When Rs. 20 was to be given as the living wage to a man for carrying on the work of rural uplift in the United Provinces the press made so much of it, but nothing has been said about the rural reconstruction school that has been started by the Punjab Government. The Punjab to-day stands first as far as the organisation of uplift work amongst the women is concerned and it is our province that has taken a lead in starting a school for providing training in rural reconstruction and for preparing women who will be able to train others to take charge of the women workers in rural areas. For, remember that although man makes the state, woman makes the man. (*Hear, hear*).

Now, let us come to some of the other things that the Punjab Government has so wisely included in this budget and let me once again say that it is an economist like our Finance Minister who could have taken up this wise policy. In 1935 when I had the honour of being present in the International Labour Conference, reviewing the position of the economic crisis throughout the world, the Director of the International Labour Conference pointed out that as far as the monetary policy of the different countries of the world was concerned, Japan perhaps scored the highest in tackling

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

successfully the depression at that time. And what had Japan done? Japan had reduced unemployment by borrowing money internally at cheap rates when it was to be had so cheap in the market and bringing about a circulation of money through internal borrowing and then spending on large public relief works in the country. They had managed to reduce unemployment while at the same time the money that was lying idle had been utilized for public purposes.

Speaking at the Punjab Literary League Dinner given in honour of the Honourable Finance Minister when I had the honour of welcoming Mr.

4 P. M.

Manohar Lal, I said that I had every hope that now that the reins of the government were in the hands of a great economist like Mr. Manohar Lal, he would take into consideration some of the monetary policies that were being followed so successfully in some of the foreign countries. I am glad to say that my prophesy has been fulfilled. In spite of all that internal borrowing and although Japan is engaged in a war to-day, the national debt of Japan is 170 yen, i.e., £10 per head as against that of Great Britain which has a national debt of £170 per head. Mr. Manohar Lal has not only followed the policy which has been successful in some of the foreign countries but instead of borrowing that money and spending it on large public relief works, he is proposing to spend it on productive things. There are large tracts of barren land lying waste in the whole of this province yielding practically nothing. One of my colleagues pointed out yesterday that there is such a heavy burden on the cultivated land in our province. Some kind friend, I do not know who, has spread in some villages that the Punjab Government had appointed me as a colonization officer. I started receiving hundreds of registered letters, nearly three to four thousand registered and unregistered letters from different cultivators. Several people came in deputations to see me and to some of them who had come from a village in Jhang I said "I cannot understand your coming like this from such distant places just for asking for grants of land only when we are told that there is such a heavy burden of taxation of land revenue and abiana that it is not possible for the cultivator to secure even a bare living for him and for his children." Their reply was "if we have land we know that we shall not starve. Otherwise there is no hope of even a bare living." In spite of our not having been able to give relief to them in reducing the water tax and land revenue people are clamouring for more land. As I told them then, and as I say again on the floor of the House, I am glad that the Punjab Government is very wisely taking up the course of providing water to every tract of land in the whole of the Punjab so that the poor Punjabi cultivator who is roaming all around for a piece of land to till and cultivate in order to earn *roti* for himself and his dependents, can have that land. Then, Sir, take the case of the Haveli Project. How much of saving has been achieved in that direction? I think that not only in the history of this Government, but in the history of any government in India — I ought to say in the whole of the world—there is no instance of a certain sum having been allotted according to an estimate submitted for a certain project and out of which there has been a saving of nearly two crores of rupees and that in spite of thirty lakhs that have been spent on the lining of the canal which were not included in the original estimate. It is an

achievement of which the Punjab Government has every reason to be proud. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Very good). And I know that it is due to the most honest Chief Engineer who is in charge of this department and to the band of officers who have been working with him. We are very grateful to them for this example of honesty which they have placed before the officials of this province. Sir, our ministry is a band of silent workers. They believe in working and not in talking, and as the Honourable Premier has said several times, he believes that the taste of the pudding lies in its eating. The zamindars are realising every day the worth of the heavy work which is being done by the ministry and as every day passes they will go on realising this more and more. I feel that I have already taken a lot of the time of the House. Therefore I should now sit down, but before doing so I would like once again, through you, Sir, to offer my sincere felicitations to the Honourable Minister for Finance on the budget which has been presented this year and to his able Secretary and to the members of his staff. (Loud cheers.)

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das (Kangra North, General, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I would begin by congratulating my worthy and esteemed friend, the Honourable the Finance Minister, for having depicted in his budget speech a handsome picture of the Punjab finance. I may also congratulate his capable lieutenants Mr. Bhanot, Rai Sahib Lala Lal Chand and Mr. Pearson, who have assisted him in drawing this picture in such beautiful colours.

Turning now to the activities of the Unionist Government during the last two years, I wish to say that they have created an atmosphere of insecurity and disturbance throughout the province by passing the so-called agrarian legislations. Not only the non-agriculturists but the agriculturists too are complaining against the passage of these Acts (*Ironical cries from the Treasury Benches*.) Sir, I have submitted that the Unionist Government have created an unrest in the whole of the province. This House should not be led to believe that false propaganda is being carried on against the agrarian laws by the non-agriculturists. It has dealt a death blow to the credit of the poor kisans who are now put to great difficulties. Perhaps the Government wants to turn the kisans penniless so that they should become too weak to carry on agitation against the Government. Again, additional police has been sanctioned to suppress them. In this way the Unionist Government have penalised the poor peasants and zamindars to the extent of Rs. 1,85,000 in the form of cost of additional police for another year in the Punjab, and yet the Government has the courage to call itself a popular Zamindar Government. It is no longer popular in the province. Millions outside this House bear testimony to what I am saying here.

Now Sir, I would like to make a few observations by way of criticism in connection with the Forest Department. I notice that the income from forests in the next financial year 1939-40 is anticipated to be Rs. 23,97,000 against the income of Rs. 25,88,500 in the last year 1938-39. The expenditure in the last year amounted to Rs. 26,98,700 while the expenditure now provided for the next year is Rs. 25,89,800. The Honourable the Finance Minister has explained in the Memorandum that the increased expenditure is due to the fact that partnership was dissolved with a view to putting an end to Raja Daya Kishan Kaul and Sons' connection with the Jallo

[R. B. Lala Gopal Das.]

Factory. This object was achieved by paying a sum of Rs. 3,30,000 to Raja Daya Kishan Kaul and Sons. And if we deduct this extraordinary sum from the total expenditure of the last year the remaining sum of expenditure comes to Rs. 23,68,700. It is not understood what new arrangement in place of Raja Daya Kishan Kaul and Sons has been made that necessitates the increased expenditure. The income under various sub-heads such as resin, charcoal, timber and firewood has gone low. But the expenditure on establishment has been raised from Rs. 7,03,500 to Rs. 8,22,900. All this goes to show that the Forest Department is being run at a loss. Another matter which is all the more perplexing is the lease of Simla Hill forest secured by Government to sustain further loss. I for one cannot understand why the Simla Hill States are being subsidised at the expense of the Punjab tax-payers. I hope the Honourable Chaudhri Sahib who is taking notes will throw some light on this point. Sir, the forests are a national asset and in other countries as well as in the adjoining Indian States they are a source of relief to the tax-payer while here it is a burden.

Sir, I welcome the creation of Anti-Erosion Circle. In this connection I would submit that Rs. 40,000 provided for the Kangra district may be made a recurring expenditure.

I must admire Mr. Bedford, the Chief Engineer, for the huge savings he has made in the completion of the Haveli Project. (*Hear, hear.*) But it should not be taken to mean that his predecessors were careless or that I am in any way casting any reflection on them in preparing the estimates, which were subsequently increased while finishing the projects. It is possible that the present saving may be due to the reduced prices of materials which have gone down by 40 or 50 per cent. Here I support Pir Akbar Ali when he says that the services of a capable officer like Mr. Bedford should be retained longer.

Now I would advert my attention to the administration of justice in the province. This is extremely costly. You will find on page 37 of the budget that under head "Judicial Stamps" there is a net total of Rs. 54,67,900 and under the head "Administration of Justice" is shown a net total of Rs. 7,37,000. The grand total amounts to Rs. 62,04,900. As against this the Government is making a net saving of Rs. 8,46,200. This in other words is a tax on trade and commerce. Why not reduce the scale of court-fees to the limit from which they were enhanced in 1923-24? (*An honourable member*: In other provinces court-fees have been enhanced.) Leave the other provinces aside. (*Laughter.*)

Now I turn to the question of education which has been dealt with at length by my friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt and my sister sitting over there.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable member is not discussing the budget as a whole. He is discussing specific items which he is not entitled to do.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : Sir, I am briefly discussing the budget and I think I am not transgressing the proper limits. Government has provided Rs. 50,000 from the Special Development Fund for rural education. There are 29 districts in the Punjab and each district will have

only Rs. 1,800 for the purpose of spreading literacy in the rural areas. The Government claims to drive out illiteracy from the province. Can it achieve the object by allotting such a paltry sum?

Then comes the question of medical relief. It was pointed out by me on a previous occasion also that Kangra is very backward in this respect. There are only nine Government dispensaries, five aided dispensaries and fifteen district board dispensaries for such a large district. I suggest that all parts of the Kangra district, which are cut off by streams and have no roads leading to dispensaries, should possess separate dispensaries. For maternity cases qualified *dais* should be provided to save the poor mothers in that unfortunate district where no such medical aid is available. Similarly some parts of the district, just as Bargran and Ramgarh, are suffering from scarcity of drinking water. A sum of Rs. 1,24,000 has been provided for water supply in rural areas and I hope that a good bit of it will go to the Kangra district. In case Government is not prepared, for want of funds, to increase the number of dispensaries in Kangra, I would suggest that the Government should offer reasonable subsidies to the unemployed doctors to establish private dispensaries in various parts of the district. This will serve a double purpose of employment for the unemployed and medical relief to the needy.

I may also draw your attention that Rs. 4,460 were provided for the improvement of the hill cattle breed of the Kangra district, but nothing was done to utilize that money. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been set aside for this purpose this year. Let us hope that the example of last year will not be followed this year and the money will be rightly spent.

The new expenditure includes a sum of Rs. 8,360 for game preservation. When the Game Preservation Act was under consideration in the Punjab Legislative Council, a definite undertaking was given by the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan on behalf of the Government to the effect that all the monies received under this Act shall be solely devoted to the implementing of the provisions of this Act. But the Government has ignored that undertaking. (*An honourable member*: Should we spend unnecessarily?) No, I do not suggest that. What I mean is that you should not treat this Act as a fiscal measure. You should start game sanctuaries or reduce the burden of tax on sportsman. In case the Government cannot implement the provisions of the Act through its agency, why not ask the Association for the Protection of Wild Life to do it and pass money on to them? It is not proper for the Government to back out from its undertaking.

Then there is another very important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. It is proposed to discontinue the Kangra Valley Railway to which the Punjab Government is contributing four lakhs a year as guarantee money. You know, Sir, that Kangra has just begun to develop and this new proposal is sure to kill all the budding markets of this district. I would, therefore, request the Government to earmark this sum of Rs. 4,00,000 for the change of the Railway tract into metalled roads. (*Minister for Public Works*: There is already a road there.) Not

[R. B. Lala Gopal Das.]

in this *ilaga*. I am referring to the portion between Narpur Road Station and Jwalamukhi Road Station. The Honourable Minister should not make a demonstration of his ignorance by such remarks.

Last but not the least are the conditions prevailing in the capital of the province under the very nose of the Government. The city has been left to the tender mercies of a dictator and the Government is not paying any attention to the havoc that he is playing with the city. The awful dust as well as the pitfalls that you find on every road is an eloquent testimony of the inefficiency of the present administration. As regards sanitation, I would request the Honourable Minister to go into the city and see whether he can stay there even for an hour. The inadequacy of the water supply is too well known to need mention from me. Now on the one hand you have such a bad administration and on the other hand the Administrator is having continuous brain waves of levying new taxes. (*An honourable member*: The income from the tax will be utilized to improve these conditions.) No, you cannot improve the condition of the city without the representatives of the tax-payers. The Administrator is more than a match for all of you. You had better resign and make room for some one who is not afraid of the Administrator and who may have the courage and capacity to do the needful.

In the end, I have to say just a word to my friend, Pir Akbar Ali, that he was very unkind to me. But let me tell you, Sir, that I never meant any interruption. It appeared to me from his speech that he had not studied the budget and, therefore, I was trying to help him with the necessary information. I hope that in future I shall receive better treatment from him in return for my help. With these remarks I resume my seat in the hope that the Government which professes to be a popular Government will try to be so.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have been listening to the speeches made both on behalf of the Opposition as well as of the Government since yesterday. I consider it my duty to make my observations on the budget. My remarks about this budget are just this: "It is a good budget; it is a fine budget; but I can either call it one of the best budgets nor a satisfactory budget." It is good as in spite of there having been great demands on the exchequer owing to famine, no reduction has been made in the quota of the beneficent departments. Further, liberal expenditure has been budgeted for Thal and Haveli Projects. Bhakhra Dam Scheme may also be mentioned as one of the beneficiaries in this connection. The budget is unsatisfactory in my eyes because I feel that the condition of the poor zamindar continues to be the same as it was last year or the year before. I would rather say that it is worse. I am a well-wisher of Government and it is in that capacity that I want to bring its defects to its notice. The Government should address itself to these defects and remove them. Otherwise the result will not be a happy one for the Government. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition benches.*) The Government pursues a weak policy in every sphere of action. I remember that in the first session of the present Assembly a Forest Committee was appointed by Government which presented its report long ago. But what has been the result? Nothing. Similarly the Land Revenue

Committee submitted its report a year ago but with what result? Nothing. Then an interview was held of the prospective panchayat officers. The result in this respect is also the same sad story—nothing. I will submit that the Government should kindly take stock of the situation. If it has to do anything it should not stop in the middle of the thoroughfare to be the laughing stock of the passers by.

Then, the Government has taken no active part to implement the recommendations made from time to time, *vis-à-vis* the retrenchment in its expenditure. It is really unfortunate that a lion's share out of the provincial revenues is eaten up by the services. I. C. S. is most highly, I should say, most unfairly, paid. I know the Government cannot touch the I. C. S. But could they not even make a representation to the Secretary of State for India that as their finances were at a low ebb they could not pay the I. C. S. as much as they used to do in the past? Could they not do even that much? But they have done nothing of the sort. It is high time that they addressed themselves to this all-important thing. Then they should pay attention to other iniquitous drains on the provincial exchequer. For instance, even the Reporters of this Assembly are allowed to draw five hundred a month. The same would be an E. A. C.'s pay who has put in five years' service. There is no proportion between the salary of these two cadres. Then, some of the officers are allowed to draw 2,000 rupees. It is not a question, therefore, of lopping tiny twigs off the branches of the tree even as one does while cutting tooth-brush of a kikar tree. The question is of applying not a penknife to a branch of the tree but an axe at the stem of it. The tree requires operation of the saw or that of the axe. Your prunings with knives and scissors would not do. I hope if the Government addresses itself to its task in that spirit the zamindar will be saved from the calamity, sure and fatal, which unfortunately looms large on the horizon.

The agrarian policy of the Government leaves much to be desired. The policy of putting the crown waste lands to auction is most ruinous to the interests of the poor zamindars. The capitalists and the moneyed classes of the zamindars are naturally the highest bidders and they should shoulder the poor zamindar of moderate means out of the market. (*Hear, hear.*) The Government should forthwith do away with the system of auctioning crown lands and substitute instead the system of easy instalments so that the poor zamindar may be able to purchase land. His own land as is well-known to those who know his condition, has been subjected to divisions out of number and now a very small portion has been left with him. On the other hand his progeny has developed into an unwieldy figure. So, the question of acquiring land is a question of life with him. It is, therefore, high time that the Government takes up the question of abolishing the system of auction for disposing of crown waste lands.

Now, I come to education. I feel that two crores of rupees which are being spent and are budgeted for education would go in the long run to make the problem of unemployment all the more difficult. If the result of all this expense is to be nothing more than this that unemployment will be found on the increase, why not close down all these colleges and schools and be done with them once for all? What is happening at present? A young man of costly habits takes his degree and has to sit idle at home

[M. Sultan Mahmud Hotiana.]

with no future. It is time the Government undertook to overhaul the whole educational system in the province. It is not necessary that every one in the country should have a bungalow or a motor car but it is absolutely essential that every individual of society should have two square meals a day. Schemes have been drawn up elsewhere to overhaul the present educational system. Why should we be lagging behind? We should draw up a scheme of education which may enable the educated to earn their living.

The third thing which stands out prominently before us is the state of affairs in the police department. It is common knowledge that when a physician is summoned to the bedside of a patient and the patient does not improve even after a prolonged treatment and expense of the physician, he is shown the door. That is the best thing to be done in such circumstances. But the police physician seems to be an exception to this general rule. He is here, receiving his fees, and all other conveniences which money can bring him. But the disease, the crime, is on the increase and is steadily going up. The police has not been successful in checking crime. If a sub-inspector is appointed to a police station he is not taken to task if crime increases within his jurisdiction. Nobody asks him as to why the number of cases reported in his police station has gone up in comparison with those during the time of his predecessor. The result is that people experience no relief in the matter of crime. The police makes no recoveries. All the recoveries which are ever made are either the result of a chance encounter of the public with the thieves or of the efforts of the complainants themselves to trace their belongings. The police hardly makes more than five per cent of recoveries. I think the number of recoveries cannot be improved so long as officers who prove to be thoroughly unfit in the work of making recoveries are not severely dealt with. I am sure that if we are allowed to carry arms and freely exercise our right of self-defence, we can easily do without the police which Government has given us.

I submit, Sir, that you cannot say that you have done everything in connection with the public health when you have appointed some medical officers of health. There are many other things to which it is the duty of the Government to pay immediate attention. For instance, there is the question of impure ghee. This danger to public health was previously confined to cities but now it has made its appearance in villages as well. Women from the neighbouring villages go to cities and purchase some vegetable ghee which they take home and put in the milk. The milk is churned in the morning and this ghee gets mixed with pure ghee in the milk. I submit, Sir, that this is a great danger to public health. Times out of number the Honourable Minister has been requested to bring forward a measure for the colourisation of impure ghee but nothing has so far been done. Not only that. Even some private members' Bills to this effect were not allowed to be introduced. Let the Minister understand that so long as we do not get even pure ghee and milk, no amount of inoculations and vaccinations is going to save us from diseases. Now I will resume my seat in the hope that due attention will be paid to my submissions as well as to the useful suggestions offered by the other speakers. I warn the Government that if nothing is done to meet our legitimate demands our submissions will have to take the form of notices and challenges. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. Satya Pal (Sialkot-Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, looking at it from the point of view of a Congressman, I do not find in the budget anything on which I should congratulate the Honourable Minister. Not only that. The budget is highly defective and unsatisfactory in more than one respect. Let us see what wonders the Honourable Minister has worked for which encomiums and congratulations are showered on him by the honourable members sitting on the Ministerial benches. The greatest achievement of the Government is that it has spent some money in connection with famine in the Hissar district. Too much is being made of this expenditure and the Ministers and their supporters are never tired of parading this before any and everybody. They are using it as a cover to hide all their shortcomings. But may one ask whether the Government has done anything really extraordinary? I submit, Sir, that any Government would have done the same, or perhaps more, under such circumstances. Any ministry that failed to do something for the sufferers would have been out in no time. No one knows it better than the Honourable Ministers that they have conferred no boon or favour on the poor sufferers. If they have done anything it was to maintain their own Ministry. After all what new heaven have they created in the Hissar district? The poor villagers have to travel eight miles to a place where some test works are in progress, they work there for eight hours and then there is a return journey of eight miles. And do you know what they get for all that? Two annas. The result is that these poor sufferers have to make their wives and children also work to keep body and soul together. Thus it is high time that the Government refrained from taking pride in this. Any Government that taxes the people cannot but spend some money under such circumstances. You get from the people more than ten crores of rupees and you simply have to spend it on the people. You cannot pocket all of it. Had you done less than you have, the consequences would have been fatal to your Government.

Then one is tempted to ask whether the famine in the Hissar district is the only thing that deserved the attention of the Government. I know that the sufferings of these poor people have the first claim on our exchequer, but again I ask whether that is the only thing to be attended to for the good of the province. Take for instance the question of unemployment. Every Government in the country is faced with this question, and they have taken practical steps to tackle it. But here in the Punjab the Government has singularly failed to do anything to fight this demon. The honourable lady member, Mrs. Shah Nawaz, was pleased to remark that this Government does not enjoy the co-operation of the millionaires. But may I ask who is to blame for it? Let the Government help the people in starting factories and industrialising the province and they will surely co-operate with the Government. The Congress encouraged the sale of swadeshi cloth and thus helped the dealers by boycotting the sale of foreign cloth from and bringing it down from sixty crores to thirteen crores of rupees. It was the Congress that checked the flow of our money to foreign countries and in return those people are sure to reward those laudable efforts of the Congress Governments. How can the Unionist Government which has done nothing for these people expect their help and co-operation?

[Dr. Satyapal.]

Then she made the same complaint about the press. But with due deference I must say that she is not right in throwing the blame on the press. The fact is that the Punjab Government has received much more co-operation from the press than any other Government in the country. Not only are some of the newspapers singing the praises of this Government without any rhyme or reason but even those who do not see eye to eye with the Government are afraid to criticise it. The reason is not far to seek. The repressive and vindictive policy of the Government has cowed down the whole press. They dare not refer even to the flagrant irregularities, shortcomings and faults of the Government for fear of heavy securities being demanded or those already deposited being forfeited. Thus if some of the newspapers do not sing the praises of this Government it is because it does not deserve any praises. I think it should thank the press for refraining from giving publicity to its faults.

Again, Sir, the greatest merit of a Government lies in allowing civil liberties to the people. But what do we find in the Punjab? While other provinces have released almost all the political prisoners, sections 108, 124-A and 153 are in full swing in our province. Even those who are treated as free citizens in other provinces are not allowed to enter this sacred province of ours. Even ordinary civil liberties are denied to the sons of the Punjab. The other day when the father of Lala Hans Raj 'Wireless' requested the Punjab Government to allow his son to enter the province for a day or two to celebrate his marriage ceremony, the Government flatly refused to grant this request. Again, the well known supporter of the cause of the freedom Shrimati Satya Vati was denied the right of entering the Punjab. Further, Professor Ranga, the member of the Central Legislature, was not allowed to come to Lahore by the Government. What aggravates the fault of the Unionist Ministry is the fact that the internees and the externees are not given any allowances. I, therefore, fail to see any point relating to the general administration on which I may be able to congratulate the Unionist Government. And yet Sir Sikander was pleased to observe that he had not so far thought it proper to make us feel the difference between the present regime and the old foreign rule. Far be it from me to praise the British rule from which we want to liberate our country. But I may mention without any fear of contradiction that the old repressive policy is still in vogue in the Punjab. The number of political prosecutions is the same as it was before. If Sir Sikander is not yet satisfied with this record, and if he wishes to further oppress this province, I want to assure him of our readiness to suffer all hardships in the cause of the freedom of the country. Why does he threaten us like that? Let him place all his cards on the table and let him inflict all sorts of punishments on us. We are out to liberate the country and this province from the clutches of the British and from the Indian henchmen of the British. Let there be no doubt about this.

Do the Unionists claim to be popular among the population of the Punjab? If so, why do they so often make use of the repressive laws and invoke the aid of section 124-A, section 108 and other provisions of the Indian Penal Code? Are they nervous and are they not sure of their

strength in the province? Had they been sure of their feet, they should not have been so panicky and terror-stricken as to use the long arm of the repressive laws to crush civil liberties in the Punjab. But I would like to make it plain to them that no amount of oppression can stifle the voice of the lovers of freedom. What are their practical achievements? They have not granted even the most modest demand of introducing prohibition in the province as the Governments of Bombay, the United Provinces and Madras have done at the risk of several lakhs of revenue. The poverty-stricken masses must be saved by legislation from the evil of drinking which came into this country along with the British. Recently a European Commissioner of Madras observed that if all other services of the Congress Government were obliterated from the minds of the people, the one service of introducing prohibition would remain as a lasting monument to their credit. The ready effect of this has been that the poor people have begun having some money to their credit in the savings banks or elsewhere.

Turning now to the medical relief in this province I may inform the House that no substantial work has been done by the Unionist Government. In the United Provinces, the Congress Government have provided two lorries in which lady doctors move about in the rural areas to afford medical relief in labour cases to women. But here in the Punjab you cannot find dispensaries up to a distance of 20 miles. That is the cause of increase in the number of deaths especially in the childhood. I may observe that mere provincialisation of a few dispensaries would not do. In Bombay and even in the Central Provinces, the Congress Governments have introduced the system of employing honorary doctors and physicians as is the fashion in England. Instead of spending lots of money on the Civil Hospital in the town of Lahore, the Punjab Government should utilise the services of the honorary doctors and use the saving thus effected for other useful purposes.

Again, in the matter of public health no salutary work is being done. People have to drink very dirty water in most of the places in the Punjab. Let us come nearer home and see what the state of affairs in Lahore itself is. In this premier town of the Punjab, the municipality has been suspended and a Britisher has been put in charge of the administration of the town. What greater proof of the inefficiency of the Unionist Ministry can be demanded? Instead of helping the poor, they are feeding a foreigner in the capital city of the Punjab. This money can be more profitably used in opening dispensaries in the rural areas.

Another great need of the province is the promotion of education. But what kind of education is most needed? More attention should be paid to industrial and agricultural education of boys in the Punjab. There are already many unemployed graduates. Let us not swell their number still further. The Government should seriously consider the question of opening more factories and industrial centres in the Punjab. Is it not a matter of great shame for us that even for the post of a constable thousands of candidates including several graduates come forward? All this points to the destitution of the Punjabis. If the Railway department advertises a post carrying very meagre remuneration, tens of thousands of candidates put in their applications. It shows that millions of people in the Punjab are

[Dr. Satyapal.]

starving for want of employment and daily bread. But service alone cannot fill one's belly. The dire need of the time is that the people should

5 P. M. know some art or take up some industries by virtue of which they may be able to eke out a living as also avoid the country's wealth going into foreign countries. It is, therefore, imperative that some arrangements for starting cottage industries should be made. The famine in Hissar district was a natural calamity and if the people knew something besides agriculture, for instance, the art of spinning which has now been started there by the Congress, they would not have felt the pinch of famine so much.

Another submission that I would like to make is that the Congress is not receiving a fair treatment at the hands of the Government. In this connection I would refer you to the case of the Congress workers of Asaudha and Fatehwal who were kept in jail for eleven months, till at last they were acquitted by the sessions judge who held the story of the police to be untenable. Is it justified that people should be kept rotting in jails only because they are considered to be political opponents of the Government? Besides, ugly scenes and difficulties are created in Congress meetings. The leader of the party, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, has held out a threat to the people of the province that they should beware of the fate of the Jews at the hands of Hitler, and his colleague, Sir Chhotu Ram, exhorted his followers to kick every *Gandhi-topi-wala* who comes in front of them. What more proof do you require of the maltreatment of Congress workers? You have set your whole machinery in motion against Congress. It is, therefore, wrong to assert that Unionists are a band of silent workers.

Much has already been said about corruption in Government departments. There has been a good deal of corruption in accepting illegal gratification in the form of money but now corruption has crept in the matter of votes. Corruption is now the order of the day and is mainly responsible for the solidarity of the present Ministry. Hundreds of specific instances have been given in which the police committed atrocities. We made serious allegations against certain police officers but in vain. A court at Lyallpur passed severe strictures against a police officer. But no action was taken against him except that he was transferred from that place. That is how things are going on. Of course the Congress ministries have not so far been able to do all that is desired by the people at large only because of the intervention of the Government of India. But the reforms that they have been able to carry out have been thoroughly appreciated by the people. It has been contended more than once that though the Congress ministries are getting small salaries, yet if their allowances were also to be taken into account, the whole amount that a Congress minister draws would exceed the salary of a Punjab minister. I have made enquiries about the matter and am now in a position to say that this contention is absolutely groundless. No doubt the Congress ministers are getting motor allowances and that too in the interest of the public business. The Congress ministers before they accepted office had large incomes. In fact they have made a great sacrifice in accepting office. But how can you expect others to make sacrifices when you are not prepared to do the same yourself? I therefore suggest that no one should be given a salary of more than Rs. 500 a month.

Again it has been said that our budget hardly suffices our needs. How can that be when yours is the most top-heavy administration? You do not try to curtail your expenditure but you are attempting to resort to new taxation. But there is always a limit to everything. The people here are already heavily taxed and further taxation may prove the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

I am constrained to remark that this Government is aping the British Government. Unless you curtail your expenditure you cannot effect the much desired reform in the administration of the province. Reduce the salaries of the high officers. The petty officials such as patwaris and chaukidars are getting a sum which hardly enables them to keep their body and soul together. The Congress have more than once announced the desirability of fixing once for all a living wage for all and sundry. Let a minimum wage be fixed. The ministers can induce these government servants to accept a reduction in their salaries by themselves setting an example for their subordinates.

I again repeat that I do not find anything in this budget on which I should congratulate the Honourable Minister. And I think, Sir, that he has waxed so eloquent in self-praise that he does not stand in need of any encomiums from any one of us. An economist is the last person to be expected to indulge in such hyperbolic language about his own achievements. But it appears that he has an extraordinary capacity for lapsing into poetry when he wants to indulge in self-praise and that he is as great a juggler of words as of figures. Anyway I would draw his attention to what some honourable members from his own side have been compelled to say. The Government has failed to do its duty by the people so singularly that one honourable member from the ministerial party yesterday and another today took courage in both their hands and indulged in a refreshingly trenchant criticism of the Government. This is a very good sign and speaks of a bright future for the province. People have now begun to feel that no good can be expected from this Government. The Government thought that it could kill the Congress movement in the province by hoodwinking the public at large as well as by its repressive policy. But let me tell them that Sir Sikander's sword cannot succeed where even Lord Willingdon's guns have failed. On the other hand the time is not very distant when this Government will be crushed under its own sins. People have begun to realise that their good lies in the Sikander government being replaced by a government of those people whom Mahatma Gandhi has described as the true representatives of the people. *(Cheers.)*

2nd-Lieutenant Bhai Fatehjang Singh (South-East, Sikh, Rural) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have just been listening to a most lucid but, I am sorry to say, a very useless discussion on the budget. The speech to me appeared to be one which seems to have been very well rehearsed on public platforms and would have suited very much an audience outside this House but not at this time when the budget for the year is before the Assembly or it would have suited if there had been a no-confidence motion against the present ministry. Now, let us see what is actually the budget of a province

[Bhai Fatehjang Singh.]

or a country and what are the principles that govern a budget. As a layman and a humble student of facts, I can say that the necessity for budgeting only arises for national causes and a budget is the main factor and main pillar round which the nation is built and the independence of a nation depends on the proper control and administration of its finances. Here we are assembled and what we have got to see is whether the Honourable Minister for Finance of this Government has been able to prepare a budget on those lines, whether he has made any progress towards the enlightenment of the masses and prepared them for the big battle of independence. I can tell you that he has done so. Famine has now become a greatly discussed subject. Therefore I do not wish to touch famine any more but all the same I am going to touch a side issue which is one of the reasons for famines, that is, the failure of cultivation on hillsides and the failure on the part of the past Governments to protect the flora and fauna of the country. We see that the present Government has, in the New Expenditure for 1939-40, provided a sum—although a very small one—but I can say with satisfaction that they have started and taken a line which may, in the time to come, if properly developed, prove a great factor in lessening the natural calamities such as scarcity of water and famine. They have started an anti-erosion circle in the whole of the province. If this is properly developed, and I have every hope that it will develop before very long, one of the reasons for the famine and one of the reasons for scarcity of water will be minimised. My honourable friend the learned Doctor made a side remark about the press of this province. I have every respect for the press and I can say this much that whatever is said in the press may be right from their point of view, but the press tries to evade the strong factors which are in favour of the Government. My honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das commented on the agrarian Bills and said that the borrowing power of the zamindar has been snatched away by the Government. I say, "Yes." The Government has eradicated a bad habit and besides this the encouragement of borrowing brings no benefit to any individual or to any state. If the Government has minimised the borrowing power of the zamindar and is prepared to lay other resources at the disposal of the zamindars, what harm has the Government done? There is no denying the fact that borrowing is not good. We see in this budget that the Government has provided for unforeseen expenses to the extent of Rs. 120 lakhs. I consider that a very adequate sum and I hope that these remissions and suspensions will not be fully utilised because I do not want and I will never want the same calamities of the past two years to come in the way of the zamindar to trouble and ruin him. Much that the Government has done for the zamindar cannot be done by any other government. My honourable friend the Doctor said that the zamindar travels eight miles in the morning and eight miles back to his home in the evening and what does he get, two annas. Yes, that is what he gets but what if he did not get that? Do you mean to say that Hissar, which place I belong to, is the only part of the province that is entitled to help and all the other districts, where the famine could not be technically declared but is prevailing to a certain extent, should be ignored for the sake of one district? I can never think of that; that would not be a very wise and commendable move on the part

of the Government if they did that. The Government has done quite a lot for the eradication of famine but where they have actually failed in the famine-stricken area, if I may be permitted to say, is in respect of making adequate arrangements for drinking water. They have not been able to make adequate arrangements for the supply of drinking water to the people and had it not been for the generosity of the government of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, the trouble and calamity in this famine stricken area would have been ten times more felt. I have noted with some satisfaction that the Government has provided a certain amount of money to try and remedy this defect of not being able to supply water to rural areas. But something drastic will have to be done to supply drinking water to the people and to ensure that they will not die of thirst and their cattle will not get extinct for the mere fact of drinking water. If a citizen cannot drink pure water and cannot bring his children up on clean food and produce clean habits in them, what use will he be in times of distress? The greatest thing that this Government has done in this budget is that they have paid special heed to education and they have provided more facilities for female and adult education. Now let us see what part the female education of the country plays in bringing up and in producing a nation. It is the mother and mother alone who can build a nation. That is my view and I can say that this is the view of many other people. The fact is that our females in the province have not got free time to educate their people and to develop in them morals of independence and infuse in them the spirit of self-respect. It is only education and proper type of education that can eradicate the weaknesses and I can say that the Government of the Punjab in its present budget have provided for this education, as you will see that they have enhanced the grant to Kinnaird College from Rs. 4,800 to Rs. 10,000 and they have also provided for the Stratford Intermediate College at Amritsar being changed into a Degree standard college. What else can you expect in that short period of two years from this government of ours? You will find that there is an increase—a tremendous increase—in the number of schools that have been opened by the Government. There is tremendous increase of travelling staff appointed for supervision of these schools. Another factor that counts in the nation-building of a country is its health. We naturally want to produce strong, clear-thinking, and sensible men and specially not of the passive type, if I may say so. We want to produce in this country people who are born fighters and that stuff can only be produced if the parents are healthy. I see that the Punjab Government is trying to do that. You will find that the Punjab Government has provided in this budget of theirs for the enhancement of the nursing staff of the Mayo Hospital. Honourable members will remember that the nursing staff of the Mayo Hospital was found out to be inadequate in number and, therefore, this Government has provided for its enhancement.

Once we get the standard of the health of our people raised we will be able to fight all the enemies from outside, and that is what a government ought to do, to train the people to be able to put up a strong front to its enemies and to a foreign invasion.

Another good feature, which is most welcome, is the petrol tax. The only thing I have got to say against that tax is that it is too light. If it had been three times of what it is proposed, I would have welcomed this

[Bhai Fatehjang Singh.]

tax with greater vigour. Whom does this tax affect? It affects the ordinary users of motor cars. What difference does it make to a gentleman who can possess a motor car if he has to pay Re. 0-1-3 per gallon more. For a man who uses say 20 gallons a month the monthly bill will go up by a couple of rupees. An argument may be advanced that the lorry drivers and owners are going to be hard hit by this petrol tax; but if you will study facts and figures you will find that they are not going to be hard hit. If a lorry driver carrying 25 people does 18 miles with a gallon, what difference does it make if he has to pay Re. 1-9-3 instead of Re. 1-8-0. How does it affect the poor people? I would have been more pleased if this tax had been a bit higher. (*An honourable member*: Ninety per cent. people use lorries). What difference does it make if he has to pay Re. 0-1-3 more per gallon? (*An honourable member*: He has to compete with the railways).

Yesterday my honourable friend from Sialkot, who is not now present, made a passing remark on the exchange ratio. He might be right in that respect and some modification in the ratio might be welcome. But when it comes from people who, in spite of their feeling that the existing ratio of the country is against them, live on the money of the tax-payer as they call—I call him revenue payer of the province—drawing Rs. 22-8-0 as daily allowance, and go and stay in the Associated hotels where all the directors are Englishmen and none are Indians, this argument does not carry much weight. Charity begins at home. Let them come forward and stay in *Serais* and not pay any money to the Englishmen and not fill the coffers of the English directors. Then this argument would carry much weight. My honourable friend on my right, Pir Akbar Ali, yesterday made a great speech if I may call it a great speech. He said there is need for roads. He said there is need for telephone communications. He said there is need for greater supervision over the police for the detection of crime. I agree with him in that respect. But he suddenly went on to another subject and said that the Retrenchment Committee has been sitting since the last two years but has not yet completed its labours: they are doing the right thing because it was considering the material before it. May I ask him with your permission, Sir, whether my honourable friend will be in agreement with me if I suggest that the Retrenchment Committee should go on considering very very carefully for another three years as my honourable friend says and submit its report to the next Government? What will be the use of the Retrenchment Committee to the present government or to the present members of the Assembly if they cannot go through their report and make concrete suggestions? It would only mean waste of public money. Money could have been saved if the report was not to be prepared and was not to be placed before the House. It is natural that the report which has taken so long must be a lengthy one. One can imagine that the report over which so many well versed and learned gentlemen are taking so much time in completing their deliberations, must be a lengthy one. When they have taken so much time in going through all the evidence at their disposal, how much time is this House expected to take to go through that report very very critically as it is the duty of the House to go through such a report carefully? How long will they take to go

through that report? I would suggest that the Retrenchment Committee, if it is going to be of any benefit to the country, should put up its report without the slightest possible delay so that all the recommendations of the Committee may be gone through.

Another thing I would like to request the Ministry to take care of is the every day increasing menace of the tribe of Odes. (*An honourable member*: A committee has been appointed.) I know that a committee has been appointed, but I have my own views of committees. Since the report of the Retrenchment Committee is fresh in my memory I have my own fear that this committee which is going to consider the question of the Odes may not be able to furnish its report to the Assembly before its time is up; and then when the next government comes into power, it may be we or it may be they—I do not think it will be they: it will be we—we might have changed our views that the enquiry conducted to ascertain facts about the menace of the Odes has not been conducted on proper lines and hence its report is useless and valueless. Therefore we want to have an independent committee to investigate into the whole matter and that is the only way to get at things. I know there is a great handicap in the way of the government to take action on such a controversial matter. But if I can suggest anything, Government have got big tracts of waste lands which they are very anxious to colonise. I congratulate government on their enterprise of trying to bring in all the projects which give facility for irrigation purposes. Why not try to colonise the Odes in those areas? Give them grazing grounds and let them colonize there. You will be surprised to know when I tell you that one herd of Odes in one night can do damage to 10 gumaons of crops and before it is dawn they vanish. Added to this are their criminal activities which are also worth considering.

My honourable friend from Ludhiana in the course of his speech pointed out that Government have imposed professional tax. My honourable friend does not realise that professional tax is not imposed by the local government or by the Punjab Government: this tax is imposed by local bodies, i.e., by the district boards (*An honourable member*: He is a member of the district board.) He is a member of the district board and yet he does not know it: this shows how much interest he takes in the affairs of the district board.

The speeches I have heard here on the budget remind me of a rather comic or humorous legend of some Purbia who was going to listen to Ramayana. After listening the whole night when he came home some of his relatives asked him as to what he thought of the Ramayana. He said—

Ek tha Ram, ek tha Raora

Usne joru khonsi, usne phunka ghiraonra.

That was the outcome of what he thought of the Ramayana. I can only say that that is the notion of the budget which my honourable friends over there have.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir a good many speeches have been made from both sides, some eulogising and others criticising the budget. I am prepared to admit that the preparation of the budget estimates of a province is not a very easy task. But

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

one thing is obvious, and it is that more attention should be paid to the resources than to the expenditure. I hardly need lay stress on the sagacity of the old saying about cutting your coat according to your cloth, but I am sorry to say that our present Government believes in firmly disregarding the good advice contained in it. Here expenditure is much more than receipts. If the income was not sufficient to defray all the intended expenditure, it was the bounden duty of the Government to cut down the expenditure in order to balance the budget. Not only that. I would go a little further and say that even a balanced budget is not a very great achievement. The Government should have made arrangements for unforeseen contingencies by bringing down its expenditure to a lower figure than its income. Since the assumption of office by the present Government the province has been visited by distress and calamities in the form of hailstorm and famine. I do not say that the Government is in any way responsible for these calamities. But I do maintain that they ought to have opened the eyes of the Government and the Honourable Minister ought to have cut down expenditure to make it a surplus budget instead of a deficit one so that the surplus could be utilized to meet such unforeseen expenditure.

I am glad to see that the budget has been criticised not only by the Opposition but even some honourable members from the ministerial benches took courage to direct some very trenchant criticism against it. In this connection I would draw your particular attention to the speeches of my honourable friends, Pir Akbar Ali and Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana. Pir Akbar Ali has told us how the people of the Public Works Department come to know what is going to be budgeted for and what they are going to spend on a particular item. The Honourable Minister has paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Bedford for effecting a huge economy in the Haveli Project. But I would like to know whether the Minister himself has or has not followed the example of those who prepared the estimates for the Haveli Project. I hope he has not prepared the budget estimates, according to the original Haveli Project estimates, and if not then there is no reason why we may, not be able to effect an economy of two or three crores out of 11 crores, when Mr. Bedford and his immediate subordinates have been able to save over two crores out of an estimated expenditure of five crores.

This shows that the Government should direct its attention to increasing the resources and cutting down expenditure. Now let us see what the Government has done in this respect. The Retrenchment Committee which was appointed to apply axe to our expenditure has been responsible for an expenditure of 19 thousand rupees in 1937-38 and 20 thousand rupees in 1938-39. Now it is to be seen whether this committee on which about forty thousand rupees have been spent will be able to effect an economy of even two or three thousand rupees a year in our provincial expenditure. We have it from my honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali that the Chairman of this Committee could not find more than two hours for any meeting of the Committee. This shows that the mofussil members of the Committee had to be paid their travelling and daily allowances for a meeting which did not last more than two hours. If that is the speed at which the committee is going to work, then we may not be able to see its report for another three years. Then there were the Revenue Resources Committee and the Unemployment

Committee. The state of unemployment in the province is well-known to all of us. Only the other day a young man resorted to *satyagraha* here. But the Government has not been able to do anything except that about Rs. 1,25,000 have been spent on these three committees. The Honourable Minister for Development could do a great deal in this connection by starting various industries and workshops in different parts of the province. What is done here is only this, that a few applications for the supply of socks and clothes are complied with. Nothing is done beyond that. Why not look to Japan where everything that was previously manufactured in Europe is being manufactured now? That country has become self-sufficient industrially. But here in India thousands of various kinds of things that could easily be prepared locally are ordered for from England. If all the required articles were prepared in the country, the teeming millions would gain through employment. Our Government is laying great emphasis on the development of cottage industries. But I may point out that although cottage industries are useful yet they cannot by themselves provide the panacea for all our ills. These small things cannot help us to any great extent. If the Government were serious about the industrialisation of the province, they would easily see that the fat salaries of the Ministers and the huge daily allowances of the Members of the Assembly should be reduced, and the saving thus effected profitably used for promoting industries in the Punjab. I wonder whether the Government propose to fix the salary of the members at Rs. 200 and whether the Parliamentary Secretaries will receive this salary in addition to the other salaries as Secretaries. At present I understand they receive their fixed salaries amounting to 500 or 200 rupees per month *plus* the daily allowances during the session of the Assembly. Again, I do not see any reason in giving 22½ rupees per day to the members who ordinarily reside in Lahore. They should not be given even a single pie. If they cannot afford to spend one rupee for conveyance to the Chamber, they had better stay at home and not seek election to the legislature. Added to all this unnecessary expenditure, is the daily increasing number of posts in the different departments of the Government. Previously there used to be only one Financial Commissioner but now there are two and it is said that there are going to be three or four of them. I may point out that the posts of Commissioners are only like post office. Their only function is to transmit the letters from the Deputy Commissioners to the Government and those from the Government to the Deputy Commissioners. I do not propose that the Government should turn out the I.C.S. officers. Far from it, nor can they do it. But surely the Government can abolish unnecessary expenditure concerning them, as well as other officers, and instead of creating new posts, they can well utilise their services elsewhere.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)

A divisional commissioner draws a salary of Rs. 8,000 per month. Add to it the pay of his establishment. In short you will see that commissioners do not draw less than three or four lakhs of rupees every year from the provincial exchequer. You can save this heavy amount and spend it on improving the general conditions in the Punjab. The primary care of the Government should be the amelioration of the condition of the poor. This can be done by improving the industries. When it was proposed sometime back in the Municipality of Lahore that we should purchase meters for water

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

pipes from England at a cost of 5 lakhs, I suggested that this expenditure should be reduced to two lakhs only by getting these meters prepared in our own country. After all it is not impossible to open a factory of meters in the Punjab with the help of so many experts and scientists in the province or even getting them from Europe. By doing this the Government can also lessen the burden of unemployment, and thousands of educated boys will be able to get employment in such factories and learn the work also. But the authorities have not accepted this suggestion and have now begun acting on their estimate of 5 lakhs by having ordered for the supply of 20,000 meters from England. I may here point out that one meter costs about rupees fifty including the cost of putting it. The pity is that the Unionist Ministry regards our practical suggestions as mere criticism of their Government. They are not inclined to attach any importance to our advice. I have quoted only one instance of preparing meters in the country, but I can give five hundred other instances of this kind provided the Government are prepared to lend their ear and carry them into effect. Just go out towards the Shalamar gardens and you would observe there a number of factories started by private enterprisers at a cost of several lakhs of rupees. Could not the Government take a leaf out of their history and follow suit? I admit that in the beginning it will add to the expenditure of the Government but we should take a long view of the matter. In the end it will turn out to be a very paying concern. It would be interesting to note here that the private enterprisers have to work under the shadows of mutual jealousies and mistrust. People have to think twice before becoming their partners. Many a time the agents and promoters misappropriate money and leave the factories in ruination. There is no strict discipline in those private factories and no supervision with the exception of a few. But the Government can easily provide all these necessities, and assurances by keeping a strict supervision under honest qualified experts.

I would now turn my attention to the educational system of our province. Here we find that our Honourable Minister of Education is showing some very keen interest in the promotion of primary education. But I would like to inform him that the education should not be only bookish. It should bear intimate relation with our practical needs and difficulties. One serious objection against the courses of studies that are proscribed for the schools is that books differ with different schools, with the result that if the parents of a boy are transferred from one place to another, the boy has to start his studies afresh, and the parents have to spend money on new books as the ones already bought by them are no longer used in schools at the new station. Thus a great wastage of money and boy's time and energy takes place. I would therefore, request that the Honourable Minister of Education should see his way to prescribe one uniform course of studies in all the schools in the Punjab. At present the evil of prescribing different books for the same class of students, is due to the favouritism shown by the educational authorities to different publishers. Books of a certain firm are prescribed not because they are very good in themselves but because the owners of that firm have got to be patronised with commissions. That is the way in which the Department of Education is working in our province.

Sir, besides there being already a question of Hindu and Muslim, a division created some fifty years back, further undesirable developments are taking place. There are now created further divisions among the people that is those of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, Unionists and non-unionists, agriculturists and non-agriculturists and rural and urban, &c. I am myself an agriculturist and do certainly desire that the agriculturists should be helped and abiana and land revenue should be reduced. I also approve of the agrarian Bills, but Government should look to the difficulties that they have created for the zamindars and try to remove them. Previously the small holders, when they felt the necessity of borrowing money for the purchase of seed and other material, used to go to the village sahukar who invariably accommodated them though at high rates and some unscrupulous money-lenders took undue advantage of the poor zamindar. But now when they go to him he asks them to go to those who have passed the agrarian Bills. I think the Government would be well advised if they, besides the co-operative banks already in existence, make some other arrangements for meeting such requirements of the zamindars. My friends over there consider these Bills to be very useful for the zamindars but it appears that they do not know what is happening in the countryside. Just go there and see for yourself how the zamindars are faring.

Pir Akbar Ali : We do not belong to Lahore proper.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Probably Pir Sahib is under the impression that because he travels so often between Lahore and Ferozepore, he is in a position to know all about the zamindars. But let me tell him that I go about the whole of the province. If Government have passed the agrarian legislation with a view to benefiting the zamindars it is for them to adopt the necessary measures to ensure the object underlying this legislation.

Now let me turn to the question of communalism due to educational books. The present day communal riots are in fact due to our misleading books. The books on history were originally written by persons interested in creating bad blood between different communities. In these books Sivaji has been described as the deadly enemy of Islam and Aurangzeb as a tyrant of the worst type and it is stated that the Sikhs committed untold atrocities on Muslims. Though not a reader of history, I personally made inquiries from a friend well acquainted with history and found that these woeful tales have very little basis in truth. Unless you destroy, nay proscribe such misleading books you cannot infuse a spirit of nationalism in the minds of the children which is essential for making them good citizens. This question has not only been raised to-day but it was also raised on some previous occasion and the Government appointed a sub-committee to go into this question. Anyhow if action is taken on the lines I have suggested, I am sure we will succeed in establishing good relations between the various communities.

Again much has been said about corruption. We should not single out the police or for the matter of that any other department for criticism on that score. I ask if there is any department where corruption is not rampant. This curse has gone beyond all limits. I understand that a department is being created to combat this evil. But where is the guarantee that this department will remain immune from corruption? I am aware

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

that Government alone cannot completely stamp out corruption from the province, unless the people come forward and offer their fullest co-operation in the matter. As a matter of fact corruption has assumed such proportions that it appears well-nigh impossible to root it out. I can give hundreds of specific instances where subordinate heads of offices have procured service to candidates on the condition that if the latter obtained a job carrying with it say for instance a salary of one hundred rupees a month, he would undertake to give Rs. 20 or so a month to the procurer. No doubt you have issued a circular letter to the effect that if five persons come forward with a complaint of corruption it shall be inquired into. But nothing tangible has been done so far in this respect. You know, Sir, that under section 161, Indian Penal Code, a person who offers

6 P. M.

bribe is as good a criminal as one who accepts it. You cannot, therefore, expect anybody to come to you to say that he gave bribe to such an officer because that would amount to a confession of his own guilt. You should, therefore, find out some way out of this legal difficulty and try to encourage, not liars, but honest people to bring to your notice true cases of corruption without any fear of becoming co-accused themselves. But what does actually happen? If a complaint of corruption is received against any official it is forwarded to the head of the department to which that official belongs. Now how can you expect any officer publicly to confess that his subordinates are corrupt? The result is that a report is made by the head of the department to the effect that the allegations were on inquiry found to be absolutely baseless. And what is more, the matter does not end here but the man who made those allegations is hauled up under sections 182 and 211, Indian Penal Code. The proper course to eradicate corruption is to allow honest persons to bring all cases of corruption to your notice and to punish the guilty officials with dismissal, though not judicially.

My honourable friend, Pir Akbar Ali has told us that the additional police posted to the Ferozepore district to check crime was causing an increase in crime in that district. He has explained how the police officer imported dacoits to serve their own ends. The police in our province has hopelessly failed to check crime and this department has a very bad reputation in connection with corruption. Whenever a report of theft, etc., is received, a police officer goes to the place or village of occurrence in question and the very first thing he does in the course of investigation is to insult the poor victim of the theft by such remarks as would suggest that the theft was committed by some person or persons of his household or who has illicit connection with his womenfolk. Thus the poor fellow has to placate this unscrupulous officer by offering some bribe. Then the sub-inspector diverts his attention to other inhabitants of the village or *bad-mashes* of that illaga. A recourse to the third degree methods also helps him to fill his purse, which in itself becomes another robbery and extortion. I know that people are reluctant to co-operate with the police in tracing criminals but here again the fault lies with the police itself. Its treatment of the witness and the public, is so objectionable that no self-respecting person can have the courage to co-operate with it. I drew the attention of the Government to all these things last year, but

I do not know whether anything has been done to improve this state of affairs. I am free to admit that police is absolutely necessary for maintaining peace and order but it must be given proper training. Those who have gone abroad know what a fine training is given to the police in England, but here even the most respectable man cannot expect any decent treatment from the police. (*Interruption.*) yes, even if it is a judge of the High Court, who wants to have his report recorded.

Minister for Finance : It is too general.

Mr. Speaker : The discussion is general.

Minister for Finance : Too general—almost pointless.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I am sorry that the Honourable Minister considers it so. I am suggesting those things where you can cut down your expenses to a great extent.

. Then I come to the difficulty faced by deserving young men in obtaining any jobs in Government services on account of corruption, recommendations, favouritism and nepotism rampant in all departments. Even if a young man tops the list of all the candidates in a test, an influential person puts in his foot and gets his favourite appointed to the post. Thus, all of a sudden, a certain candidate appears on the scene who even did not put in an application. The people are very much disappointed with this state of affairs. If all the Government servants who have completed their 55 years of age, are made to retire, this will benefit the province in two ways. First, the younger generation will get employment and unemployment will decrease in the province. Secondly, new men will get less pay than is being drawn by older hands and there will be a lot of saving. The Government does not take seriously the criticism offered on behalf of the Opposition as they are perhaps of the opinion that criticism from this side comes more for the sake of criticism. But Government should at least pay serious attention to what has dropped from the lips of the members of their own party. Honourable Members from those benches subjected the budget to severe criticism yesterday as well as to-day. This should open the eyes of the Government. (*Hear, hear.*)

Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan (Mianwali South-Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : The budget which the Honourable Finance Minister and his subordinate officers have prepared this year is really commendable. They deserve our heartfelt felicitations. It is all very well to say this or to say that by way of criticism. To do things with one's own hand is really difficult. My friends on opposite benches are in a mood to criticise everything that comes in their way.

Regarding problems of my district, first of all I will draw your attention to the Thal project. This scheme has been pending for so many years. Whenever a question is put we are told that estimates are ready and all the various details of the scheme have been settled. Still the project has not been taken in hand as yet. The people of my ilaqa have now begun to think that perhaps this scheme has been abandoned in favour of the Bhakra Dam. But I am still of the opinion that the Thal project will be the first to be taken in hand. I hope the Honourable Minister will give a satisfactory reply.

[K. B. Captain Muzaffar Khan.]

in the course of his speech to allay the doubts and grievances of those who are afraid that the scheme has been dropped.

Then coming to roads I have to repeat what I have been saying every year. The 65 miles of road between Khushab and Mianwali enjoy the unique distinction of being the unmetalled part of that road. Every year we are told that this road has been included in the programme for metalling of roads, but it is still unmetalled. I would suggest to the Government that if it is not possible to metal the whole of it at once let it be divided into three or four parts and metalled one part at a time at suitable intervals. Is it not strange that in my district which has an area of about 6 thousand square miles there are only 19 miles of metalled road? This road is very important not only from the political point of view but from the point of view of communications as well. I therefore, request the Honourable Minister for Public Works who has been returned unopposed from that side and who is a great *rais* in that part of the province, to do something in the matter. You are spending so much on other districts and it is high time that you should give my district its due share.

Now I come to the Government Rakhs some of which are lying uncultivated and some have been given on temporary cultivation to the retired military officers and other *sufedposhes* for their meritorious services. In this connection I may be permitted to point out that large tracts of lands have been eroded by the action of the river in the Bhakkar Tehsil. The poor agriculturists are left with no land to cultivate and eke out their livelihood. These landless people are in dire need of land. As if this misery was not enough, unkind nature has caused the river to change its course and thus bring further ruination of the cultivable land, in villages, Lak, Majoka, Murani, Gujja, Darya-Khan and Khoawar, etc. In this behalf, the Government can do a lot to alleviate the sufferings of the people by distributing some land which is at present lying as grazing area, among the landless people of Mianwali district. I may add that the Government will not only earn the gratitude of the destitute people of Mianwali but will also replenish its provincial exchequer by receiving land revenue from them. Thus it will be to the benefit of both the Government as well as the zamindars.

Another important matter to which I would like to refer is that with the supply of canal water in this district, the people of Mianwali have to gain a lot. But for God's sake do not overlook the rights of the residents of the Mianwali district while the question of allotment of land comes up before the Government. The inhabitants of Mianwali have the greatest right and claim on this area. They have so often offered their blood for this *ilaqa*. They have fought for it and have made so many other sacrifices in this connection. Let not the Government send outsiders to settle there. The local zamindars should be given the land in preference to all outsiders. I earnestly appeal to the Government not to transport any poisonous matter from here to that district. The land should be given to the local agriculturists on easy conditions and long instalments. Our loyal district which has all along stood by the Government through thick and thin should be given the greatest consideration. I am making most earnest appeals and the pity is that the Honourable Ministers are not listening and are busy in conversation. (*Cheers.*) But it is gratifying to note that the Honourable Premier

has now returned into the Chamber. I am very fortunate in this respect. I repeat the request that I have already made to the Government that the people of Mianwali should be given Rakhs Land of Kalurkot, Piplan, Nasir, Taloker, Kundian and Wanbachran.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not discussing the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein. He is making requests that the Government should give grants for various purposes.

Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan : Sir, my submission is that the question involved is very important for the inhabitants of the Mianwali district. It is a question of life and death to them. However if I have wandered far from the point, I beg your pardon. In obedience to your ruling I am prepared to leave this point here. But the fact stands that the people of Mianwali have been ruined and none comes forward to listen to their woeful tale or redress their grievances and alleviate their manifold sufferings. Even here the Honourable Ministers are not paying heed to what I am submitting. (*Laughter.*) People have become landless and the Government should come to their rescue as these people have been very loyal to the Government. The Government is fully aware of the fact that gramblight has worked horrors in my district.

Premier : The claims of Mianwali district will have priority over the claims of all other districts of the Punjab.

Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan : During the last two years, besides the failure of crops, an area extending over 70,000 acres was not cultivated. My district is likely to fall in the grip of a severe famine. The plight of the zamindars is pitiable. I, therefore, request that taccavi loans already granted to them should be remitted. There is no hope for the *kharif* crops as well. Thousands of cattle have died of small-pox. When this is the state of affairs the Government would be well advised if they remit the taccavi loans as also the fixed land revenue which is being charged in tahsil Bhakhar and the remaining two tahsils of the district and grant them more taccavi. The people of Mianwali district are face to face with a serious situation on account of the scarcity of water. There are about sixty drinking ponds at the foot of the hills in tahsils Mianwali and Isakhel. There are no wells. All human beings, donkeys and horses drink at these *kacha* ponds and consequently get diseases by this emulsion of water. I therefore request that these ponds should be made *pacca* and one thousand rupees should be given for each pond. If that is done the water will not stagnate but will be fit for human consumption. You enjoy cold drinks here. (*Laughter.*) But you cannot realise the difficulties of these poor people. When you spend lakhs of rupees on luxuries why do you grudge spending a few thousands on providing an ordinary necessity of life to these poor people? My district is anxiously awaiting the visit of the Honourable Premier.

Then, Sir, it is known to the Government and the honourable members that ours is the poorest district board in the province and this year it is faced with a deficit of fourteen thousand rupees. I assure you, Sir, that it is not possible to wipe out this deficit by any scheme of retrenchment.

[K. B. Captain Muzaffar Khan.]

Hospitals, education, veterinary hospitals are all crying for more money, and there is no scope of retrenchment in our expenditure. I would, therefore request the Government to grant this sum of Rs. 14,000 to the Mianwali district board and thus relieve it of the financial difficulties. When others are treated so generously a paltry sum of fourteen thousand should not be grudged to my poor district. I hope the Honourable Minister for Finance who is always so considerate and sympathetic will see his way to grant this sum to our district board.

Another matter to which I want to draw your attention is the question of fees for rifle licences. Although the Mianwali district does not belong to the Frontier province, yet practically speaking it is not different from the Frontier areas in any respect. Take for instance the Jirga system. While this system has been abolished in the Frontier districts it is still in existence in my district. Life and property are never free from danger in this district. Only the other day dacoits came to my village with the intentions of looting a Hindu townsman of mine. Although they did not succeed in their nefarious designs and they had already gone when I reached the spot with some relatives to help the intended victim, yet the fact remains that life and property of the inhabitants of the district are always in danger. Except my relatives and few Hindus none else was armed as they have not the necessary facilities. I would, therefore, request the Government to give more facilities in obtaining licences and also to exempt from the game tax all the licensees whose only object in obtaining a licence is self-defence.

In the end I wish to say just a word with regard to what my honourable friend Dr. Satyapal was pleased to remark. He said that Sir Sikander's Government was doomed to a very speedy fall on account of its repressive policy and other defects. But let me tell him that this Government has done so much good to the province that the prayers of the people are sure to be with it and, therefore, its prestige and popularity are sure to be ever on the increase. (*Hear, hear.*)

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have listened very carefully to the speeches of the honourable members opposite in general and to the one delivered by my honourable friend Mian Abdul Aziz in particular. I hope the Honourable Mian Sahib will excuse me, but I must say that the speech made by him on the floor of this House would have been made with much greater effect and propriety in a public meeting. He is a very clever lawyer and, therefore, when he found that his case was very weak he at once decided to throw to winds all rules of relevancy and tried to win over the sympathy of the assessors by appealing to their sentiments.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 2 P. M. on Thursday, 16th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 1ST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 16th March, 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

683. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he has received a written representation from the Muslims of the Jullundur District in connexion with their under-representation in the services of the District Board, Jullundur, if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ;
- (b) whether a deputation waited upon him in this connexion or applied to wait upon him ; if so, with what result ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Certain Muslims of Jullundur addressed Government in February last protesting against the proposal of the Jullundur district board to appoint a non-Muslim as their secretary. The protest will be taken into consideration when the district board apply for the approval of Government to the appointment of their candidate under section 27 of the District Boards Act.

(b) I do not recollect having received any such request or deputation specifically wanting to represent in favour of appointing a Muslim secretary of the Jullundur district board.

COMPLAINTS BY RAM SARUP AND RAM PARSHAD, ORDERLIES AGAINST LATIF SHAH, JUNIOR SUB-JUDGE.

684. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 624,¹ will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the nature of the allegations that the two orderlies made to the senior sub-judge ;
- (b) whether he held any inquiry into the matter ; if so, the result thereof ;

¹Volume VII, page 26.

- (c) which of the two orderlies was asked to tender an apology to the other who was subordinate to him ;
- (d) the reasons for not punishing the other orderly for making false allegations against this officer ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat Khan: (a) The complaint of the orderlies was that the judge had spoken roughly to them.

(b) No formal proceedings in the nature of a departmental inquiry were undertaken.

(c) The apology was made to the judge, not to the other orderly. (It is not the practice to mention names in such cases).

(d) As mentioned in the reply to the earlier question the whole affair was of a trivial character, and it was not thought necessary to take further steps in regard to the orderly who had in the meantime been transferred.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS SERVING IN VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN THE PUNJAB.

685. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House—

- (a) a list of sub-assistant surgeons corrected up to date serving in the Punjab and those among them who are serving in the dispensaries under various district boards ;
- (b) the number of cataract and other operations done at the hospitals at Berri, Gojra and Mukerian, district Rohtak, during the years 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 and the amount realised by these hospitals from the patients and received as donations, separately ;
- (c) the number of sub-assistant surgeons, compounders, dressers, bhishties, etc., actually employed at Banga, Berri and Mukerian and the number sanctioned for these hospitals, respectively ;
- (d) the number of cataract and other operations performed at the Civil Hospital, Banga, district Jullundur, and the amount realised from the patients and donations received during the last five years ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The labour involved in collecting the information is not commensurate with the results to be achieved therefrom.

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, LAHORE.

686. Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any persons belonging to the Mianwali district are employed in the clerical establishment of the Civil Secretariat, Lahore, if so, how many ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

NON-MUSLIM OFFICERS POSTED TO TALAGANG AND PINDIGHEB.

687. Malik Barkat Ali : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the tahsildar, naib-tahsildar, sub-inspector of police, head master, Government high school, and assistant surgeon at present posted to Talagang, and the additional district magistrate, the sub-judge, the inspector of police, and the prosecuting sub-inspector posted to Pindigheb sub-division in the Attock district are all non-Muslims, being either Hindus or Sikhs, if so, since when are these officers posted to these places and whether it is intended to replace at least some of them by Muslim officers at an early date ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : It is not correct that the Tahsildar, Talagang, is a non-Muslim, nor is there any Additional District Magistrate, Pindigheb. The other officers referred to are non-Muslims and the dates of their postings to the Pindigheb sub-division are as follows :—

1. Naib-Tahsildar, Talagang	6th August, 1937.
2. Sub-Inspector of Police, Talagang	18th October, 1938.
3. Head Master, Government High School Talagang	25th September, 1935.
4. Assistant Surgeon in charge Civil Hospital, Talagang	7th August, 1938.
5. Subordinate Judge, Pindigheb	4th October, 1938.
6. Officiating Inspector of Police, Pindigheb	22nd January, 1939.
7. Prosecuting Sub-Inspector of Police, Pindigheb	6th June, 1938.

It is not in public interest to make any announcement in reply to Assembly questions about transfer of officers.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE PUNJAB.

688. Malik Barkat Ali : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the total amount of grants-in-aid given to (i) the aided Indian schools, controlled and managed by the Muslim community of the province during 1937-38 and (ii) the aided Indian schools controlled and managed by the Hindu and Sikh communities of the province during the same period, respectively ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The honourable member is referred to the printed statement of grants-in-aid sanctioned for aided schools during the years 1933-34 to 1937-38, a copy of which has already been supplied to him.

INQUIRY AGAINST THE TAHSILDAR AT JHAJJAR.

689. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a departmental inquiry was held recently against the Tahsildar, Jhajjar, who put a number of

zamindars of village Bhadani (Jhajjar) in lock-up, while a Risaldar pensioner was offering to stand as surety for them ; if so, who conducted the inquiry and what was its result ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : An enquiry has been recently held by the revenue assistant into the application mentioned. The inquiry is yet incomplete.

EMERSON COLLEGE, MULTAN AND TEACHING OF PUNJABI.

690. Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Emerson College, Multan, does not provide for the study of Punjabi in the College in spite of many representations from the local Singh Sabha and the students of the institution ; if so, why, and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Yes. The question of introducing the subject in the Emerson College, Multan, was considered in 1937, at the request of the Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Multan Cantonment and the Educational Committee of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar. The proposal had to be dropped as the number of students willing to take the subject did not justify the expenditure to be involved.

REPRESENTATIONS FOR THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES RECEIVED BY HONOURABLE MINISTERS.

691. Lala Duni Chand : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the average number of representations monthly, weekly and daily received either in the form of letters or from the public by each of the Honourable Ministers during the year 1938, for the redress of grievances with the action taken on each such representation ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : No record is kept of such representations. The honourable member is asked to see in this connection the reply given to his question *8668 in the last autumn session.

ANNUAL COSTS OF PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS QUARTERED IN LAHORE AND OTHER DIVISIONS.

692. Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving separately the annual costs of the punitive police posts located in Lahore, Jullundur, Multan and Rawalpindi divisions from March, 1937, to February, 1939 ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : A statement is appended.

Statement showing the annual cost of the additional police posts located in the Lahore, Jullundur, Multan and Rawalpindi divisions from March, 1937, to February, 1939.

Serial No.	Division.	District.	Village.	Date of location.	Period for which located.	Cost.	Rs.	A.	P.
1	Lahore	Lahore	Jla Bagga, Jhodu, Khudpur ..	1st March, 1939 ..	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	9,642	8	7
		Do.	Raja Jang ..	18th February, 1939.	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	8,767	8	7
		Gurdaspur	Chima Khadi and 6 other villages.	1st August, 1938..	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	9,907	12	0
							9,332	12	0
2	Jullundur	Ladhiana	Channanwal, Chima and Jodhpur	9th October, 1938	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	5,184	4	4
		Ferozepore	Dhudeki and Chuhr Chak ..	1st September, 1938.	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	4,669	4	4
		Do.	Gholia Kalan and Khurd, Phulewala and Monoke.	15th December, 1938.	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	14,174	7	2
							11,115	7	2
3	Multan	Multan	Multan City ..	1st March, 1939..	1 year	1st year ..	8,137	4	6
		Montgomery	Khola ..	1st December, 1937.	1 year	1st year ..	7,447	4	6
		Do.	Miran Shah ..	10th December, 1938.	2 years	1st year .. 2nd year ..	58,201	11	2
4	Rawalpindi	Gujrat	Alla, Mandi Baha-ud-Din ..	15th October, 1937.	6 months		4,670	10	7
							3,932	7	8
							3,512	7	8
							13,971	1	0

REPRESENTATION BY MUNSHI AND OTHERS FOR PROPER
DISTRIBUTION OF THE WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

693. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that one Munshi and other Brahmins of village Muana Kaithal, tahsil Karnal, applied some six months ago to the authorities concerned for the proper distribution according *warabandi* of canal water of the Western Jumna Canal and the matter is pending since then before the Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer, Delhi and Karnal Division ; if so, the reasons for this unusual delay and when the application is expected to be disposed of ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : No. *Warabandi* was sanctioned in May, 1937. During 1938 some zamindars applied for acquisition of land for a watercourse. Notices were served on the owners of the land and as two objections were received by the Deputy Commissioner, enquiry had again to be made for disposal of the same, which is the cause of delay. The case is expected to be disposed of by the Deputy Commissioner in March, 1939.

MUNICIPAL AND NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES IN THE CITY OF
GUJRAT.

694. Dr. Satyapal : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the reasons why there are three municipal and notified area committees in the city of Gujrat ;
- (b) whether the Government have received memorials expressing that this arrangement has adversely affected the trade of that place ; if so, what action has been taken on them so far ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) The arrangement was administratively convenient at the time it was made.

- (b) Yes ; the matter is under consideration.

EXPENDITURE ON FATEHWAL MURDER CASE.

695. Dr. Satyapal : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the expenses so far incurred in connexion with the Fatehwal murder Case ;
- (b) the number of persons originally arrested and finally convicted ;
- (c) how long these persons were kept in custody who were finally acquitted by the learned sessions judge ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Approximately Rs. 68,000.

- (b) 48 arrested : 7 convicted.

(c) The number of persons committed to the sessions was 38, out of whom 7 were convicted. Of the remaining 26, 18 had been in custody since March last year, the rest from various dates in April and May. The order acquitting and releasing them was pronounced on the 13th February, 1939.

APPLICATION OF S. GURDIAL SINGH GILL J. V.

696. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether he received an application on or about 20th November, 1938, and then reminders on or about 20th December, 1938, and again on or about 6th January, 1939, from S. Gurdial Singh Gill, J. V. of village Dalla, tahsil Moga, district Ferozepore; if so, what does he propose to do in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : An application from Sardar Gurdial Singh was received and it was forwarded to the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur Division for disposal. No reminder was received.

QUESTION HOUR.

Premier : Sir, in consultation with my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition I have to suggest that we might dispense with the question hour to-day in view of the desire expressed by several gentlemen on that side to speak. I believe some of the Ministers will also speak to-day. The remaining time after the question hour will not be sufficient to enable them all to take part in the general discussion. I therefore move—

That the question hour be dispensed with to-day.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

POINT OF ORDER RE NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : On a point of order. To-day is a Thursday. Rule 13 lays down—

On Thursdays business other than Government business shall have precedence. On all other days no business other than Government business shall be transacted except with the consent of the Leader of the House;

Provided that on a motion made after a day's notice by a Minister this rule may be suspended and the Assembly may transact Government business on a Thursday.

The rule is imperative and I think no general discussion should take place. This day which is meant for non-official business must be reserved for non-official business.

Mr. Speaker : Please refer to rule 131 under which the Governor fixes these days and not the Premier.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : What about rule 13?

There is no exception for Thursdays. The Governor has no right to do that. Under section 64 of the Government of India Act no rules have

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

been made. The rules are to be made by the Governor with the consent of the Speaker. The Speaker has not been consulted. At any rate no such rules have been published so far.

Mr. Speaker : Rules were promulgated by His Excellency the Governor and they are still in force. The new rules, which were to be made by him in consultation with the Speaker, have not been made yet, and therefore the interim rules are in force.

BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Sir William Roberts (European) : Sir, as I am an ardent admirer of the many great qualities of the Finance Minister, I do not propose to take up the time of the House by praising the budget. I propose instead to offer some criticism and also a number of suggestions.

I think this budget should have reflected the economic condition of the province more clearly than it has done. I have no doubt that the Finance Minister will tell me that the fact that it is a deficit budget is sufficient answer to that criticism. I would like to remind honourable members that the bulk of the money comes from the agriculturists of the province. As compared with last year the Punjab farmer will receive about 2 crores less for his cotton crop and about 5 crores less for his wheat crop. I make this calculation on the basis of eight annas crop per maund. Two years ago, that is in 1936-37, he received $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores more for his cotton crop alone than he has received this year. During the last two years the chief contributors to the financial stability of the Punjab Government have been passing through a very severe economic crisis, and I would like seriously to suggest to Government that there should have been something in the budget showing that Government were considering some form of general remission. I admit that a great deal has been done for the Hissar famine and other individual calamities in other parts of the province. Nothing has been done in a general way to reduce, particularly the water rates or to put them on a sliding scale. When water rates were raised in 1924 prices were about three times what they are to-day and yet only comparatively a small reduction in water rates was made before the present Government came into power. The only relief which the agriculturists have had has been from the Central Government and that has been given in a step-motherly manner. The re-imposition of duty on foreign wheat has been very beneficial and raised the prices by eight annas per maund or 5 crores for the whole Punjab wheat crop. We would never, I admit, have had this protection but for the Punjab Government and particularly the Premier's forceful backing. I would like to point out, however, that the old duty was taken off last March and only partly re-imposed in November, too late for the Punjab farmers and only benefiting the merchants. Again, it is only in force up to March, 1940. In other words the farmer is to enjoy this benefit for one year only. I do not know of a single instance where the Central Government have given protection to an industry of this kind for one year only. No other industry has been treated in this step-motherly manner. We are entitled to some security and stability of the agricultural industry. This is the time when the Punjab

Government should press for protection for a period of five years. We must be assured that we shall not be suffering due to import of foreign wheat free of duty.

Pressure from the Punjab Government has been a factor in influencing the Central Government to impose an extra tax on imported foreign cotton. When the first tax of half-anna per pound on imported cotton was introduced in 1932 or thereabout, the production of staple cotton, capable of spinning up to 40 counts, in the Punjab and Sind was 20,000 bales and now it is over 4½ lakhs of bales, so that the first imposition of half-anna resulted in a large increase in the growth of staple cotton. Even the present tax, with an increase of an extra half anna is under 20 per cent. of the value of the raw material, and actually the value of finished products is only affected a little more than 3 per cent. by the 10 per cent. addition to the import tax. The manufacturing industry, therefore, can well afford this tax as they receive protection of 50 per cent. In other words, we pay Rs. 3 for a piece of cloth which would otherwise only cost Rs. 2.

There are one or two other criticisms which I would like to make, more in the form of suggestions. One is with regard to the way in which the Punjab Government make out their statement of indebtedness. I would draw your attention to the fact that 3½ crores belonging to provident fund and other local funds, which were handed over by the Government of India, should be put down as a debit as definitely as possible, just like the banks which put down their accounts and not in the form of reduction of foreign debts or outside debts of the Government. I may mention this because it is very necessary that those who subscribe to these funds should feel absolutely safe.

The other matter which I would like to mention is with regard to audit. I would very much like the Honourable Finance Minister to go into the question of cost of audit of the local bodies. I am myself aware of the fact that central banks are charged 10 per cent. of the profits for audit. A small concern, for example, making Rs. 20,000 profit with a working capital of 6 or 7 lakhs, will be charged Rs. 2,000. You can get the very best outside commercial audit in the open market at Rs. 250 or Rs. 300. To charge Rs. 2,000 for it is only another way of paying for inflated staff and is a vicious form of taking in one another's washing. Not only that, but these central banks have to pay the provincial co-operative union 10 per cent. of the profit made on the sale of securities. Even if the banks offer to put the whole of the profit into reserve, they still have to pay 10 per cent. to the central union. I consider that the question of establishing agricultural credit is one of the greatest problems for the future, especially in view of the legislation which has been carried through during the last few years. I must say that this system of heavy charge for audit is militating against the reduction of interest for agriculturists and should be taken vigorously in hand.

Before closing, I would like to mention that in spite of my criticism I would like to emphasise that great many mercantile communities in other provinces are looking to the Punjab as offering more stability and more security for the development of their business than any neighbouring province. (*Hear, hear.*) There is much evidence that business men regard the Punjab's finances and the Government as comparatively stable, so much

[Sir William Roberts.]

so that they are anxious in other provinces to come here and assist in the commercial development of this province. That is a healthy sign and the public at large have confidence in our Ministers and in our Government. (*Hear, hear.*)

Premier : May I suggest to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to take part in the debate at a fairly early stage in order that he may get his full share of time.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I do not want to speak at this stage. I would like to speak at 4 o'clock.

Mian Abdul Rab (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, this is the third budget presented by the Unionist Government since the advent of democracy. I have intervened in its general discussion in order to cast a glance at it from the point of view of the zamindar for whom the Government is ever so loud in its professions of oral sympathy and for whose welfare the Honourable Ministers have developed the habit of shouting "Inqilab Zindabad." Now let us see the plight of the poor zamindars and the provisions in the budget for the amelioration of their condition. So far as the plight of zamindars is concerned I hardly need dilate on it at any great length. It is well-known to honourable members that financially and economically the zamindar of the Punjab is on his last legs. The fall in agricultural prices and the constant drain on his meagre resources have relieved him of almost all his money and other household property in the form of ornaments, etc. His holdings are no longer economic. In fact he is in a sad plight. The day before yesterday the honourable lady member, Mrs. Shah Nawaz, spoke on the budget and the most prominent characteristic of her speech was that each and every sentence of hers began and ended with congratulations for the Honourable Minister for Finance and the Government as a whole. Now it is my turn to congratulate her for playing the sister so exquisitely. Whether a brother is good or bad, a sister is always prepared to bless him. (*Laughter.*) But I feel constrained to tell her that I cannot see my way to agree with her. This budget provides no remedy for the ills of the suffering zamindars. Our Government is in the position of a medical board. It has been holding consultations for the last three years, but so far as the patient, *i.e.*, the poor zamindar is concerned his condition can be described very tersely and accurately in the hemistich : —

مرض بڑھتا گیا جوں جوں دوا کی
The value of a tree can be judged from its fruit and the proof of a good pudding lies in its taste and, therefore, the solicitude of this Government for the welfare of the zamindars can be very well judged from their plight after this Government of zamindars has been in office for two years and is presenting its budget for the third time. I know that our Ministers have to rack their brains to think of a good and efficacious medicine for their unfortunate patients and this hard labour is telling upon their health. The result is that this quest for a suitable prescription takes them to many places and they have to face all sorts of troubles and difficulties in this connection. For instance sometimes in the words of Akbar—

قوم کے غم میں دُور کھاتے ہیں حکام کے ساتھ
(نچ لیڈر کو بہت دُور آ رام کے ساتھ)

And then finding that they cannot think of a good prescription in the heat of plains they take the trouble of running to Simla, to a cold climate.

Premier : The honourable member may rest assured that this year they will not be put to the inconveniences of a journey to Simla.

Mian Abdul Rab : Very good. But what about the Ministers? hope they will also stay in the plains.

Now, may I ask what new heavens have been created for the zamindars by this so called "Zamindara Government"? It may be said that Rome was not built in a day. True. But the work could at least be started. We have been seeing the same heavy volumes containing estimates for three years, but there is nothing in these budgets which may be pointed out as marking any difference from the budgets of the old bureaucratic Governments. I am not talking of the welfare of the non-agriculturists. The Government has never professed any solicitude for their welfare. But their condition also can be judged from that of the zamindars—

قیاس کن ز گلستان من بہار مرا۔

The Government was pleased to appoint a Revenue Committee and we were asked to pin our hopes to the recommendations of that committee. It has submitted its report but we do not find any trace of any effect of the recommendations contained in that report on any of the three budgets presented by this Government. I think the remaining two budgets will have been presented before the consideration of that report comes to a close and thus the committee will provide a fine example of

نشستند و گفتند و برخواستند

There is another argument advanced on behalf of the Government and we are told that even the Congress Governments have not effected any reduction in land revenue. This is the argument of a person who has no argument to offer in support of his case. Suppose you scold a person for standing stark naked in a public street or for abusing any one who comes in his way. Do you think you will be satisfied with his arguments if he were to say that there were so many others standing naked in the next street and flinging abusive language on the people just as he was doing? Certainly not. Why do you bother about the Congress provinces? You should stick to your own promises and resolutions passed in the Lyallpur Conference which was attended by almost all the members of your party and was presided over by the Honourable Premier.

Again it is said that the income of the province does not admit of any reduction in land revenue. It is asked where the money is to come from to make up the deficiency in the exchequer in case land revenue is reduced as desired. I submit that it is no business of ours to provide money to the Government before putting forward a proposal. It is their business to fulfil their promises. The public funds are in their hands and they are provided by the public with money to the extent of 12 crores every year. But even so let me suggest that if they apply the axe to their princely salaries and huge allowances and also to the top heavy administration they will find money enough to fulfil their promises. Now, the zamindar is groaning under four burdens, i.e., land revenue, local rate, *malba* and chaukidara tax. In addition to these if he wants to do some business on a very small scale in order to augment his meagre income the district board jumps on his neck with its

[Mian Abdul Rab.]

professional tax and if he is really successful in increasing his income there comes the Central Government to demand its share in the form of income tax. But on the other hand if we ask our Government to abolish *malba*, they are afraid that the *lambardars* may not take strong exception to such a step, and if it is requested to reduce land revenue and water rates the Government at once says that it has no money. Still this is a Government of the *zamindars* for the *zamindars*.

We do not know what they have done with the report of the Revenue Committee. The Retrenchment Committee will presumably conclude its labours in another two years. Then, as regards the salaries and wages I submit that it is the duty of the Government to see that no literate person is given a salary less than Rs. 30. (*Hear, hear.*)

I would now like to say a word regarding the principle which should underly the fixation of pay of the Government officials. I wish that no educated employees of the Government should get less than Rs. 30 as his monthly salary. (*Cheers.*) The state of affairs at present is deplorable. Quite a large number of public servants are being underpaid while big officers are provided with huge salaries. Even if the Honourable Ministers have determined to turn a deaf ear to all we say, and even if they have become stone-hearted, they should at least pity their own orderlies who wait upon them from morning till midnight but do not get sufficient to make their both ends meet. They are paid at the rate of Rs. 14 per month; how low! Look at the poor peons employed in this very office of the Assembly. Look at the *patwaris*' pay. The Ministers should take pity on them and improve their salaries. It is no good saying in reply to this that the peons or *patwaris* in the United Provinces used to get less than what they are paid in the Punjab. The question is not that. The question is whether the present Government, since it came into office, has improved the existing grades at all. Why do they take pride in what the previous Government consisting of alien people had done? Have you brought about any improvement since you assumed power in this province? The answer is, "no." In this connection I am reminded of a story of a friend of mine who was a lawyer and wanted a clerk. The two qualifications which he wanted his clerk to possess were that he should in the first place be a matriculate; secondly, he should be half honest and half dishonest. I was astonished at this second demand and enquired the reason for it. My friend told me that a cent per cent honest man was hard to be found and consequently he was prepared to accept a man who would be honest to the extent of fifty per cent and for the rest he may mind his business of earning his livelihood. I would earnestly appeal to the Honourable Ministers to put into practice at least 50 per cent of their pledges and sympathy and for the remaining 50 per cent they may go on expressing lip sympathy with the poor *zamindars* of the province. If they do this much, I for one would be satisfied with them like my lawyer friend whose example I have quoted just now. (*Cheers.*) In this way they will be able to win the confidence of the people and will at the same time gain their personal ends, as is suggested by a poet in Urdu—

اس چمن کے رہنے والو یوں گوارا چاہیئے۔

باغبان بھی خوش رہے راضی رہے میاد بھی۔

I will now refer very briefly to some of the outstanding evils that are still rampant in the Punjab in spite of provincial autonomy. First and foremost is the institution of honorary magistrates. Our Government should abolish this system as soon as possible. Then, there is corruption in all the public services. Nothing effective has so far been done by the Unionist Ministry to uproot this evil and thus purge the public services of this most abominable evil. Again, the mentality of the Government officers is still the same as it was before. They take themselves to be lords of the people and not their servants. Further, crime has shown no decline. On the other hand it is on the increase. Theft and dacoities in particular are rampant. Communal tension exists as before. I fail to see any improvement brought about by the Unionist Government. However there is one matter on which I may congratulate the Honourable Ministers and it is that the differences between the agriculturists and the non-agriculturists have become acute to an undesirable degree. (*Ironical cheers from the Treasury benches.*)

My honourable friend, Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, observed the day before yesterday that the Unionist Government were moving very slowly. I may give one example of their being very slow. They came to power in the Punjab on the 1st of April, 1937, and could not supply us with a "Distribution statement of work" till 1939. In fact they could not get the list published for these two long years or else they could not distribute the work amongst themselves. That indicates their speed. There is trouble in the province due to unemployment and yet our Government pays no heed to this dire need of the starving people. Instead of doing some useful work they have come forward with a book relating to the eighteen months of provincial autonomy in the Punjab in the fashion of the Punjabi poets who used to give us *baran mah*, that is, relating to the twelve months—I mean by their book eighteen months (*atharan mah*) the book that has been published by the newly appointed Director of Information Bureau at public expense, wherein pictures of people, dining, are given. When you cannot provide the poverty-stricken masses with food, what is the use of showing them the photos of persons dining. In this connection I am reminded of a few Urdu couplets written by the well-known poet Mr. Hafees Jullundhri. They are as follows:—

جن کی رائیں انتخابوں میں تمہاری لاج ہیں۔
 ان کے بچے آج روٹی کیلئے محتاج ہیں۔
 تم انہیں تعلیم کیا دیتے ہو خواری کے سوا۔
 تم سے کیا پاتے ہیں یہ بیروزگاری کے سرا۔

As to the figures so often quoted by the Honourable the Education Minister showing the promotion of education among the adults, I am sorry to observe that they are all bogus. In fact adult education has not been promoted in the province.

Turning to the Haveli Project I may be permitted to point out that although warm felicitations have been showered on the Government for the completion of this scheme and though the engineers responsible for this have been congratulated from every corner, yet it remains to be seen as to whether it will prove successful and stand the test of actual utility. Let us

[Mian Abdul Rab.]

wait till water runs into the channels and till the head works stand the summer floods. It is premature to praise the work without having tried it up. If it proves successful, I will be the first to congratulate the Government and its officers who have saved so much time and money. But let us wait and see. I remember having read in some paper that a portion of the head works was damaged recently.

Premier : In which paper did my honourable friend read that news, by the way ?

Mian Abdul Rab : I cannot give the accurate reference off hand, but most probably it was the *Civil and Military Gazette*. Kindly have patience. If the Haveli canal begins to run successfully, I will not lag behind in paying a handsome tribute to the Government for this accomplishment.

In the end, sir, I thank you wholeheartedly for having given me opportunity to express my views about the budget. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Minister for Education (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) : Sir, I feel tempted to take notice of the speech which has just now been delivered by the honourable member from Jullundur. But many a speech has been delivered in that strain and one was by the honourable member from Ludhiana. To me it looked that he was in the position of an accused person submitting his defence and explanation. But I presume he chose a wrong venue and before long he may have an opportunity to repeat all that he said about high officials of Government on the floor of this House in another place (*An honourable member : Where ?*)

Diwan Chaman Lall : Will the Honourable Minister explain what he means by the words "another place."

Mr. Speaker : Will the Honourable Minister please answer the question ?

Minister : I am not going to answer it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a point of order. A very serious aspersion has been cast upon an honourable member of this House by my honourable friend, perhaps unwittingly. May I ask if my honourable friend is now willing to withdraw that statement that he has made, the threat that he has given, in view of the fact that he is not prepared to disclose the source of his information or what he means by the other place ? May I appeal to his innate courtesy to withdraw that expression or to enlighten the House ?

Minister : You will have enough of courtesy from me, but as to what is going to happen you will know later on and I do not propose to answer that question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I am entitled to know what he means. He must have the courtesy of replying to the question.

An honourable member : Wait till he finishes.)

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I do not want to hear it from you.

Mr. Speaker : As the honourable member has made certain allegations on the floor of the House and some honourable members want to know what he means, I think they are entitled to know.

Minister : I have cast no aspersion.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Only held out a threat.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Still he is not prepared to withdraw.

Minister : It is no threat.

Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : Then what is it ?

Premier : Wait, I will tell you. (*Interruptions.*)

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I draw your attention to what has happened just now ? I hope I have not misunderstood my honourable friend the Premier. He said "wait, I will tell you." If my honourable friend is going to tell us, then I have no objection to my honourable friend proceeding with his speech provided it is understood that my honourable friend the Premier will tell us what he means.

Minister : The honourable member who has just resumed his seat and the honourable member who comes from Lyallpur, claim to be better friends of the zamindars than the Honourable Premier and I find when these two honourable members rise to speak they receive an ovation from the honourable members who threaten to wage a war against the poor zamindars and that reminds me of the couplet—

سادکي دیکه انکي اوزن کي عیاری بهي دیکه

An honourable member :

سادکي دیکه انکي اوز اینون کي عیاری بهي دیکه

Minister : Now, Sir, on Monday last when this discussion was initiated when the member from Sialkot walked soft-footed in this hall wearing a chapli on his attractive feet (*laughter*),—I always admire him for that, it may be my weakness (*laughter*)—I smelt mischief and when the honourable member was developing his argument I got a little confused after hearing him for a while. I thought I was not in the Legislative Assembly Chamber but I thought that once again I was before a court of law.

Diwan Chaman Lall : This is the highest court.

Minister : I thought you were not the Speaker, but the judge. Your wig and gown caused further complication. The honourable member instead of speaking as a responsible member of the Opposition spoke as if his services had been retained to argue a weak case. He only gave facts where he found them convenient. Now, Sir, the honourable member from Sialkot tried to pillory the Government by saying :—"Did not the Government spend more money in the year 1930-31 ?" He said :—"You allotted 172 lakhs for education in 1930-31 and to-day in 1939-40 you have provided only 165 lakhs. Why do you not spend more ?" That was the sum and substance of the argument of my honourable friend. When the honourable member from Lyallpur rose, he asked, what about abiana ? That is his pet subject. "What about land revenue ?" he asked and his friend the honourable member from Jullundur who has followed in his footsteps (*An honourable member :* Certainly not) said, why not reduce land revenue ? Here are two gentlemen one insisting upon the Punjab Government spending more, much more and the other honourable gentleman saying earn less.

[Minister for Education.]

If we add up these two statements, Sir, you are a mathematician, you will realise that by collecting less and spending more the province will become bankrupt. This is what they wish the Punjab Government to do. I can only say :

شور بختان به آرزو خوا هند

مقبلاًں را زوال نعمت و جاء

Reverting now to the speech of the honourable member from Sialkot he mentioned the budget figures, relating to the year 1930-31 and he suppressed other relevant facts. I would draw the attention of honourable members to graph No. 4 in the memorandum that has been supplied to them. A cursory perusal of this graph would show that the years during which we were able to set apart 172 lakhs for education, were the years of boom and prosperity. The zamindar was *khushal* and the prosperity of the zamindar means the prosperity of the province, the prosperity of the Government. The effects of the general economic depression were not so keenly felt then. In the subsequent years however the Government was unable to provide that amount which went down to 160 in the next year and 150 in the year 1932-33. I ask my honourable friend, is it fair to compare only 1930-31 with the current year and ignore the subsequent years, especially the year 1932-33? If the honourable members would further study this graph they will find that so far as the Medical Department is concerned our allotment for the current year is unprecedented and more or less to the same extent is the case with Public Health. Barring one year, we have allotted the highest amount for Public Health. Now, Sir, I am not in the habit of comparing the Punjab with other provinces, but since this game has been started by the honourable members opposite, you will permit me to give a few more facts. The honourable member who has just resumed his seat mentioned the low paid officials. He said why do you not increase their salaries? The reference was to the teachers working at the lowest rung of the ladder, I mean the Primary Department of Education. I am however in a position to state that the average pay of the primary school teachers in the Punjab is Rs. 25-8-0 as compared with Rs. 18-8-0 in the United Provinces and Rs. 15-4-0 in Madras (*An honourable member* : Probably living is very cheap there) and Rs. 6-8-0 in Bengal. You will be surprised to find that in Bengal the primary school teacher is paid Rs. 6-8-0. If I could have teachers at so cheap a rate I would to-morrow enforce universal compulsory education in the Punjab. In Bengal these teachers get Rs. 3-8-0 from the grant-in-aid provided by the Government and the balance of Rs. 3 they are allowed to collect from the pupils by way of fees. Take again the question of the percentage of trained teachers to the total number of teachers in the province. It goes without saying that we cannot have a sound system of education without duly qualified trained teachers. When we come to that subject, what do we find? The percentage of trained teachers to the total number of teachers throughout British India is 55·8. In the Punjab we have over 80 per cent. trained teachers and I would not be wrong if I were to say that this percentage has gone up recently and now it stands in the neighbourhood of 85 per cent. (*An honourable member* : We are proud of that.) In Bombay it is 48 per cent. Even in England and Wales

to-day it is not above 77 per cent. (*hear, hear*). We claim to provide trained teachers not only to the Punjab but to some of the neighbouring provinces also, i.e., the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and the Delhi Administration. The other day I happened to visit the Jammia-i-Millia, of Delhi. The principal of Jammia-i-Millia, Dr. Zakir Hussain, is one of the authors of the Wardha Scheme of Education. I was glad to find that a number of the trained teachers employed there were trained in the Punjab. I asked those teachers whether they would like to go next time to any other province, but they said, no. So much for the trained teachers. Now coming to the question of the single teacher schools, I hope honourable members are aware that a lot of wastage and stagnation about which we hear so much every day is due to the existence of a great number of single teacher schools that is one teacher for two classes, three classes, four classes and so on. Now, Sir, in the matter of single teacher schools the all India figures are that out of 100 schools there are as many as 57.5 such schools in British India. The Punjab has only 27.8 and it stands second in the country. Bengal has over 80 per cent., Assam 73 per cent., Madras 44 and Bombay 40. Coming now to the question of compulsion, a subject dear to the heart of every well-wisher of the country, what do we find? Throughout the country there are 10,500 areas under compulsion, and out of these no less than 8,500 belong to the Punjab. Bombay has got only 160. Now, it may be said that compulsion is not effective, it is merely on paper. But the same is the case elsewhere also. I may be permitted here to quote from the Honourable Mr. Kher, the Premier of Bombay. This is what he says about Bombay—

In theory there is compulsion, but in practice there is no compulsion. You have no case for any boy not attending the school coming to the courts and you have no case or hardly any of magistrates punishing parents of the boy for not sending him to school and therefore it is no good saying that there is compulsion.

To make compulsion real and effective we have tried to ginger up matters during the last two years and we hope to achieve good results. Prosecutions are now lodged more frequently. During 1937-38 we made some progress and the number of admissions has gone up by 16,000. Sixteen thousand more children are now in our schools as compared with the previous year. Eight thousand of the new admissions are girls and eight thousand boys. When we took office we were alarmed to find that the number of Muslim scholars was going down every day and to-day I am glad to point out that their number has also increased by 8,000 in this one year. This is what we have achieved in the small period of two years. The honourable member referred to adult education.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has already taken sufficient time.

Minister : I would take only 5 minutes more. Leave aside the question of adult education. Some of the honourable members and especially my honourable friend Mian Abdul Aziz, who represents Lahore and two or three other honourable members referred to the question of reforming the system of education. They asked, what was the Punjab doing in this direction. Why do we not reform the system of education? This criticism was, however, made in ignorance of facts. A committee to revise the

[Minister for Education.]

system of education was set up as far back as May, 1938. It sat under the chairmanship of our zealous and talented Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Rai Bahadur Mr. Manmohan.

A number of ladies and gentlemen—experts in education—sat on that committee. The report of that committee was submitted in August, 1938. We published that report in November and copies thereof were placed in the hands of all the honourable members of this legislature. I intended to deal with that report to-day, but I am pressed for time. I, however, propose to deal with it before long in the course of the next few weeks when we shall be discussing the Punjab Primary Education Bill. I may here point out to the honourable members that, so far as we are aware, this is the best scheme so far formulated. We have got no quarrel with the Wardha Scheme. The two special features of the Wardha Scheme, we were told in the beginning, were that it was self-supporting and that it was vocational. Since then we have heard a good deal to the contrary also. I regret that for want of time I am not in a position to deal in greater detail with this subject but I hope I shall be able to do so in the course of a few weeks. (Cheers).

Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Women, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, I am not one of those who are not willing to pay tribute where it is due, nor am I one of those who nourish their grievances in their hearts but never ventilate them. I congratulate Government for having given prompt relief to the famine-stricken people of the Hissar district. My thanks are also due to the Honourable Minister for Education who has brought about an improvement in the female education in the province. He has arranged for the opening of 180 primary schools and three middle schools. Moreover, some schools will be placed on the list of aided institutions. The fact which gives me all the more pleasure is, that all these schools are meant for the girls living in rural areas. I hope now my sisters of the countryside will be able to benefit from the blessings of education. But the present curriculum is not at all suitable for girls living in rural areas. The first necessity, therefore, is to chalk out a new curriculum for them in accordance with their requirements, so that their education may enable them to take wholesome part in the work of rural uplift. Further, they may be able to set a noble example of a religiously and morally elevated life.

The schemes of irrigating arid lands which have been taken in hand by Government cannot fail to elicit my approbation. The Government intends to embark upon the Thal project after the completion of the Haveli project. But these schemes must be made to benefit those who stand in need of help. In the *ilagas* which are to be covered by these new irrigation schemes, the rich people and jagirdars have already purchased big tracts of land at nominal rates. The Government ought to take back these lands from them at the same price. Some compensation may be paid to them, if necessary. These lands should be distributed among those who have no lands, or have very small holdings and cannot make both ends meet. In this way the Government will be able to better the condition of those people who till land with their own hands and who are cultivators in the real

sense of the word. The condition of these people is really pitiable. Their forefathers left them quite big slices of land which have been reduced to very small fragments as a result of divisions and sub-divisions. These people have, therefore, very small holdings left to them and it is not possible for them to eke out a living for themselves and for their children. The new canals can prove to be a great blessing provided the benefits accruing from them go to the people who deserve help. There is no use adding to the wealth of those people who are already sufficiently wealthy.

Now, I wish to address a few remarks for the consideration of the Honourable Minister for Development. You may look into the whole of the budgetary statement. You will not come across a single provision for the industrial education of females in the Punjab or for opening an industrial school for them. A representation was made by the officers at Rawalpindi for the opening of an industrial school there; but the suggestion seems to have been turned down. There were some other suggestions placed before Government in this connection, but all were rejected. It is a fact too patent to be overlooked that it is by industry alone that the economic condition of the province can be bettered. What do we find nowadays? A single member in the family earns and he has to support ten other idle hands. Daily we see Chinese vendors going from bungalow to bungalow selling their wares. Our womenfolk can produce all such goods provided arrangements are made to give them suitable training. It is necessary to build a large industrial centre at Lahore with a spacious boarding house attached to it. Womenfolk from all the neighbouring villages may be able to get training there. Nowadays, we find educated young men going about aimlessly. They can get neither work nor two square meals a day. If they had been given some industrial training along with their education, they would not have been out of work now. The Government should make provision for industrial training in all colleges and schools so that when the scholars leave these educational institutions, they may be able to earn their living. The question of a country's progress is closely bound up with its industrial improvement. You can take the instance of Japan. She has progressed by leaps and bounds through her industry and is ranked among the greatest of countries.

The Government appointed Unemployment Committee. We do not know whether it has submitted any report or what action will be taken on that report. On the one hand the report of the committee is not available and on the other the young men who have centred all their hopes on the report of this committee are anxiously looking forward to that day when the report will see the light of day. The verse of Mirza Ghalib applies aptly to their sad plight :

محصّر مرنے پہ ہو جس کی امید نا اُمیدی اُس کی دیکھا چاہئے

I have to praise the industry and ability of the Honourable Minister for Finance. But at the same time I cannot help saying that he has made no provision in the budget for those who have returned him with their votes. Not only this. He did not utter a single word about those people in his budget speech. It shows that he had everything to give to others but nothing to offer to his own constituents. It is such people who are called

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

liberal-minded. (Laughter). I am not impressed with his liberal mindedness. I think he has been doing things against his own wishes. He simply could not do anything for the educated unemployed. It seems that while the pen was in his hand he was not responsible for the budgetary provisions which do not contain anything helpful for the unemployed. It was absolutely essential either to provide work or allowances for the unemployed.

Sir, I am hard pressed for time. I shall now proceed to submit for the consideration of the Honourable Minister for Public Works the grievances of my constituency. These days every member of society wishes to see his opinion respected. Everybody wishes to have a say in the matter of electing representatives and carrying on the administration of provinces and countries. Even the States' subjects have come into line with the inhabitants of British India in their demand for a representative Government. But the people of Lahore have been deprived of vote and condemned to Hitlerism. Now look at the freaks of mind of our Government. On the one hand it is so munificent as to replace honorary workers by highly paid officers while on the other it is so miserly as to levy a water tax on the people by putting up meters. The parliamentary secretaries have put it into the heads of the ministers that the women of Lahore are very thriftless in the use of water and that they carelessly leave the taps open causing a great waste of water. Sir, the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government belongs to a rural area and, therefore, he cannot be expected to realise the difficulties of the residents of cities. But you cannot be unaware of the fact that all the well-to-do people have shifted to the civil station and built houses in that area. You are living out of the city yourself. Now the population of the city proper consists of the poor and the middle classes, whose old ancestral houses are none too strong. Then you have also to bear in mind that women have a special regard for their houses. Thus it is ridiculous to think that women will leave their taps open to the detriment of their own houses. They are certainly over careful in this matter. These parliamentary secretaries who spend the summers in the pleasant climate of Simla and sit in warm rooms during winters cannot realize what havoc the scorching summers of Lahore play with the poor and how great is the need of the people for water in the summer season. In this connection I may draw your attention to another aspect of the matter. Nowadays if there is a tap in a house many poor neighbours also make use of it, but when meters have been put up no woman will be disposed to give even a small pitcher of water to her neighbours. And what will be the result? The poor classes for want of tap water and the middle classes in order to economise expenditure on tap water will turn to the use of water from wells. Now look at the ridiculous position. On the one hand the Medical Officer of Health is issuing warnings that water from wells should not be used while on the other the Government is compelling the people to use that water by levying water tax and thus expose themselves to various diseases. The rich people have averted this nuisance of meters by getting tube wells sunk in their houses but what can the helpless poor people do?

Then there is still another aspect of the matter. One effect of this proposal to put up meters will be that ten lakhs of our good money will go out of India to enrich the coffers of the foreign exploiters. If the meters

were prepared in India there would have been some consolation in the thought that our money will remain in our own country but here in this case every single pie will go to foreign countries. More than that, this is not the only amount that will go out of the country in this connection. After every 8 or 10 years the meters will have to be replaced and we will have to part with the same amount. People do not like this state of affairs nor can they tolerate the idea of enriching the foreigners at their cost while they themselves are going to have even their consumption of water being measured by means of meters.

Now I come to the Improvement Trust. So much money is being spent on this trust but may I ask what we are getting in return? The Trust ought to have purchased land in the new abadies for roads and lanes and also got drains constructed. Then it should have got prepared the outer plans of houses for sale. In this way people would have been saved a good deal of botheration and the Trust would have earned a lot of money. But what is the state of affairs at present? Wherever there are a few plots of land in a new abadi surrounded by houses that have been already constructed, the Trust does not approve of the plans of houses submitted to it by the owners of those plots. Why? Because after leaving some land for roads or lanes the remainder is not enough to build a house on according to the schedule prepared by the Trust. Thus there is a heap of such and other plans lying in the Town Hall and none of them is being accorded the necessary approval. This state of affairs has turned many a mason and other workers out of employment but nobody is prepared to redress these grievances.

Repeated requests have been made to the Government to reinstate the Municipal Committee but every time the reply given is that Lahore is going to be favoured with a corporation, and that the Corporation Act will soon be brought on the Statute book for this purpose. But there is no sign or trace of any Corporation Act or Bill to be found anywhere as yet. Anyway, so long as the corporation does not come into existence the arrangements for the administration of the affairs of the Municipality must be improved. I would also request the Government to effect economy by replacing the senior officers by junior ones. But if the Government is unable to accept these suggestions let it leave this business to me. I tell you that I shall effect a great improvement in the administration of the affairs of the municipality and I shall certainly put an end to this disgraceful state of affairs which has compelled respectable citizens to take up brooms and start a clean up campaign. I shall improve conditions in two years without levying any new taxes. (*Hear, hear.*) Again, Sir, the house tax is going to be imposed in the near future. I cannot discuss this question at any length because the time at my disposal is very short. But let me tell the Government that the people of Lahore are very much agitated on the matter. I would, therefore, submit that the Government should lose no time in attending to the true facts stated and redressing the grievances ventilated by me. Otherwise, let it leave this work to us and we can promise you that matters will be greatly improved in a very short time. (*Cheers.*)

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Nawabzada Major Khisar Hayat Khan Tiwana): Sir, I would like to confine my remarks

[Minister for Public Works.]

to the criticism made by the lady member against the working of the Lahore Municipal Committee and the Administrator. She has complained that things have not improved since the Administrator took over on the last committee's supersession. That committee was superseded not by this Government but as you know we got it as a legacy from the last Government. Things were handed over to us in a chaotic condition and the Administrator could not set things right in a short period. He has however done what he could and anybody who goes round the town would testify that the roads are now better and the drains are cleaner. Nothing better could be done without funds. All improvements require money and I would like to bring it to your notice that the population of Lahore which was 2,10,000 in 1911 rose to 2,57,000 in 1921., and to 4,75,000 in 1931 and is now somewhere near 6 lakhs. With that phenomenal growth of population and without any direct taxation, tell me the man who can do any improvement. The only tax in Lahore at present is an indirect tax. It is a tax on consumption and therefore on the poor. You cannot do much with that tax. We have got several schemes for which money will be required. A very light tax is to be levied, and I would say that it only touches the wealthy classes. It will affect my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Gopal Das and others : But it would not touch the poor. We are not here to look after the interests of the millionaires only : We have to look to the rights of the poor people of Lahore as well. If nothing is done Lahore would be exposed to epidemics or some other catastrophe. A very light tax is going to be imposed to provide funds. The taxation in Lahore at present is only Rs. 4-6-0 while in other places like Karachi it is Rs. 10-9-5, Bombay Rs. 16 and Calcutta Rs. 16. No wonder, therefore, if Lahore has the reputation of being the dirtiest city in India. It is the most lightly taxed city not only in India, but in the whole of the world. There is no direct tax at all and even this light tax, the house tax which the Government has sanctioned is being grudging. The House may note that even after this tax is levied at full rate the incidence of taxation will not be more than Rs. 6 per head.

The honourable lady member has complained that there are other defects. I confess that there are many things to be done. We want hospitals, we want metalled roads, and we want modern drainage. But for that purpose, I think, they would not grudge if we have to levy tax on wealthy persons. It is a misunderstanding that poor people in Lahore will be affected adversely. They have been already given 50 per cent. deduction and they will get another 50 per cent. off during the next three years. They would not be affected. No extra taxation is to be levied on account of meters and the charge of Re. 1-8-0 will remain the same. It is only the wastage that we propose to stop or to tax. There will be no extra hardship. The number of public posts will be increased and no honourable member shall have any complaint on that score.

It has been said that meters are being purchased at a heavy cost. Nothing of that sort. Ten lakhs would not be the cost. It will be only 5 lakhs. We are also trying to find out whether the same can be manufactured locally. I have already approached the Industries Department to inform us whether they can cope with the demand for meters required and I can assure the House that all the articles we are expected to buy will be purchased locally

and not a penny's worth will be purchased from outside. Every article that is available in this country will be purchased locally.

Every effort is being made to expedite the drafting of the Corporation Bill and before long the honourable members will have the Bill before them. They must realise that we cannot rush through an important piece of legislation like that, otherwise we will get the criticism that it has been conceived in haste. So, before long the Bill will be passed and carried into effect and the Government will be relieved of direct administration of the municipality. The Municipal Commissioners of the last committee passed a unanimous resolution recommending the house tax and we have merely carried that into effect. As soon as it is levied we will hand over the municipality back to the representatives of the people. (*Interruptions.*) It depends on the time and the help with which the honourable members come forward. It would not take long.

Some criticism has been voiced against the pay of the Administrator. For an Administrator one requires an officer of experience and that has been our difficulty. When the representatives of people were not functioning well, the committee was superseded. They brought things to such a state of affairs, that that action had to be taken by the last Government and we had to put a senior officer who must naturally be a well paid man. But I can assure you that we are trying to expedite this Bill and such criticism will soon end.

As to the Improvement Trust, I would like to say that Lahore is growing haphazardly and nobody would like that that should be allowed to go on. Already there is a lot of confusion. All that the Improvement Trust is doing is that it is bringing about a lay-out plan. The Trust would purchase new areas and would develop them and then clear the slums. I do not think anybody can criticise it.

I would like to say one word about the Hydro-Electric Scheme. Some criticism has been made against it that enough attention is not being paid to rural areas. I do not think anybody would think that this Government, constituted as it is, would not take care of the rural areas. I have here a list with me of large schemes that are going to give electric energy to rural areas and I have also tube well schemes. I think my honourable friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh referred to the Jullundur Doab. I confess that we have not been able to do much there for different reasons. I have referred to the Jullundur Doab because that was the area which was particularly talked about. The trouble there is that the water level is subsiding and is on the decline. If we now put in more tube wells there, the remaining wells would go dry. As soon as a canal has been dug there, the scheme of tube wells shall be taken up immediately. (*An honourable member :* What about Ludhiana ?) Ludhiana will also have its share.

Then there is the question of roads. I would like to say a few words about roads also. At present our road system is the pride of every Punjabi. We have got a road system that is not equalled anywhere in India. Still another 8-years' programme has been sanctioned. We have a road mileage which compares very favourably with all other provinces. Certain savings have been brought about in the maintenance of roads. Previously every mile used to cost us something like Rs. 1,700. But now this cost

[Minister for Public Works.]

has been reduced to Rs. 1,055. Within the last year there has been a drop of 15 per cent., that is, last year our road expenditure per mile was Rs. 1,200 and it has been reduced to Rs. 1,055 now. So, with that economy I think, our road maintenance bill would remain the same and the road mileage would be increased by 500 miles. Eight hundred miles of the district board metalled roads will be taken over by the Public Works Department. The present mileage is something like 3,000 and all these are Public Works Department roads.

I would very much like to meet the demands of the honourable members, but I have limited funds. There is so much demand for education, there is so much demand for beneficent departments. Roads come last. When we get some surplus, it is only then that we can get some money for this purpose. When the funds permit, I can assure the honourable members that the Communications Board will consider all their requests and we will be able to do something better.

One thing more and that is the demand from the representative of the Mianwali district for his board. I know that that board has got very little funds. That however is now a question of time only. The Thal Project has been sanctioned, and it will give the honourable member's heart a thrill of pleasure when I say that we are starting it a fortnight hence. (*Hear, hear.*) On the 3rd April, we hope that the Thal Project will start and when that starts, the barren tract of Thal will get all the advantages that accrue to any colony and his district will be one like Sargodha, Lyallpur, etc., and will be one of the wealthiest districts. He will then have no trouble. I can assure him that when we get some money, we will do our best for his district. (*Cheers.*)

Mrs. Duni Chand (Lahore City, General, Women) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I have listened with a certain amount of care and attention to all the speeches that have been delivered from the different quarters of the House. Although the voices were different, yet the purport was the same, that is, the budget which has been presented is not satisfactory. Some honourable members have condemned it as wholly bad. Some have pointed out certain defects in it. But almost all honourable members wanted to convey the view that they were not satisfied with the budget as it was presented. It is a matter of great surprise that the budget which had been presented so beautifully by the Finance Minister, has failed to satisfy any one in the House. What is, after all, the reason for it? An example has readily come up to my mind in this connection which I crave your indulgence to quote here. A zamindar leased out a large area of land to a contractor after fixing a certain amount of money subject to several conditions.

The conditions agreed upon were, first, that the contractor would plough the whole field, secondly he would put up a fence round it, thirdly, he would irrigate it and fourthly when he finishes with the above he would bring some game for the proprietor. The amount of the contract was fixed. If the contractor had been honest and truthful he would, besides earning his own livelihood, have carried out the work to the entire satisfaction of the proprietor. But the contractor not being honest, thought that he should appropriate the entire money to his own use and a very small fraction should

be utilised in carrying out those conditions. Consequently he and his companions squandered almost the whole amount and arranged to put up a number of bushes at the four corners of the fields. Then they emptied a water-bag at each corner of the field so that the condition of irrigation might be fulfilled. They also created a few furrows in the middle of the field to show that they had ploughed the field. Then there was the fourth condition that is to bring some game for the use of the landlords. The contractor worried over this and thought it difficult to be complied with. There was a watch-dog and he killed it and fulfilled the fourth condition by carrying it to the landlord. If we look at the conditions they are all fulfilled. He ploughed the field, watered it and fenced it also. But as a matter of fact he and his companions did nothing but misappropriate the money. A similar thing has been done in connection with the budget. The compilers of the budget have touched everything. They have provided something for the famished people, something for the women and provided for some other matters as well. But the question is, what is the result? Nothing whatsoever. No one is pleased with the budget; neither the honourable members sitting on this side nor the honourable members sitting on that side are pleased with it. I am a representative of women and as such I deem it my duty to throw some light on the matters that relate to the welfare of women in the province. From the annual report on the jail administration in the province for the year 1937 we find that 28,967 males were convicted of one or other offence and as against this only 268 females were convicted. In 1936, 32,484 males and only 272 females were convicted of one or other offence. This shows that the women as a class in this province are peaceful and law-abiding inspite of the fact that they have got no education and are most backward socially and politically. They do not know what is going on in the world. They are being given no training to make themselves useful for the country. But notwithstanding that I feel pride in saying that they have enhanced the honour and prestige of India and maintained their dignity and character. I ask the Honourable Ministers what generosity they have shown in the budget for such a peaceful class of persons. Now I would like to point out how much has been provided for the welfare of women in this budget. The report for five years preceding the coming into existence of this Government shows that from 1932 to 1937 the number of students have decreased to the extent of 47,850. During these five years the total expenditure incurred on education amounted to Rs. 3,19,58,292. Now this Government came into power on 1st April, 1937, and since then a period of two years has elapsed. There are still three years of its life. During this period they should not only try to make up the previous deficiency but they should also try to increase the number of students to the maximum. But the question is, why should they do that? Only because the reins of Government are now in the hands of the people who are the representatives of Indians and have come in by their votes. It is, therefore, their foremost duty to make up the previous deficiency and increase the number of students. And for this purpose they should open more schools and make primary education compulsory in the province. But I am sorry to remark that this Government have done nothing so far in this respect. But how can something tangible be done when the whole budget has been exhausted in providing high salaries to officials? In the budget for 1939-40 a provision of Rs. 1,59,900 has been made for education out of which an

[Mrs. Duni Chand.]

expenditure of 1,43,790 is a recurring one. Only Rs. 16,210 have in fact been provided for education for this year. Now let us see how much has been done for women who are most backward in education. I would like to say something about this point. Three things have been provided for in the budget. First, three new middle schools, secondly, 180 primary schools will be opened and thirdly, women teachers will be trained in the art of teaching. I do not wish to go into the merits of the case as to whether or not the meagre arrangements that have been made are sufficient to meet the needs of female education. But I do believe that it is better to do something rather than not do anything at all. It is a matter of gratification that three middle schools for girls are going to be opened. But the matter which is uppermost in my heart and upon which I should like to lay emphasis is that the women teachers should be trained in large numbers. Undoubtedly the decision arrived at by the Government in regard to training of women teachers is commendable. I would have offered felicitations to Government in this connection but for my past bitter experience. You will remember, Sir, that last year a resolution recommending to Government to introduce prohibition in certain areas of the province, as an experimental measure, was brought forward by the ministerial benches. It delighted me profoundly that after all this Government had put forward a laudable proposal and for this I hastened to congratulate the Government. But to my great chagrin that happiness was short lived. That profound delight turned into a profound disappointment, as the Government lost no time in burying this resolution deep into the ground (*applause and laughter*).

Therefore, I have apprehensions lest the proposal of training women teachers should also meet the same fate. When this proposal is carried into effect, I shall certainly not waste a single moment to congratulate the Government. It is an open secret that there exists a great scarcity of trained women teachers whose services could be utilised in village schools for imparting education and their necessity is being keenly felt. But it is a thousand pities that Government have made a very small provision for training women teachers. We are told that as they have to provide scholarships and stipends for training women teachers, they cannot go beyond a certain amount. I would suggest that Government should stop awarding general scholarships. They should rather award scholarships only to those candidates who are indigent, deserving and capable and therefore Government will be well advised to enhance the number of such scholarships. Besides, I would submit that wherever zenana high schools exist, a training class should be attached to it. If Government act upon this suggestion they will not have to incur much expenditure and at the same time our purpose will be served. It is common knowledge that greater the number of trained women teachers, the better it will be for the rural areas. Hence it is extremely desirable that the number of trained women teachers should be enhanced.

Then I may submit that our province consists of fifty to sixty thousand villages. Let us see what the Government have done in regard to dissemination of education in rural areas. They have made a provision for 180 primary schools, a number which pales into insignificance before the colossal number of villages. Hence it is meet and proper for the Government to

open large number of primary schools. It would not be out of place to mention here that in the field of disseminating primary education, Arya Samaj has given a lead by opening the largest number of private schools. This community deserves our sincere approbation. Other communities like the Sikhs and Muslims are also doing much useful work in this connection. As a matter of fact they are doing a work which it is the bounden duty of the Government to do.

Besides, my submission is that women can prove themselves very useful in the medical and health departments. More posts should be offered to them. In this connection it would be interesting to note that it is believed in civilised countries that the responsibility of making a nation physically and mentally fit lies more on the shoulders of women than on anybody else. Hence they are granted liberal representation in the services. But here in the budget of the land of ours provision of only two female assistant surgeons and eight female sub-assistant surgeons has been made. This is obviously a meagre provision. I would urge upon the Government the desirability of giving increased representation to women in the departments mentioned above.

Now I should like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter and that is the attitude of our Government towards the defunct Lahore Municipal Committee. It is deplorable that the municipal committee of a premier city of the province should have been under supersession for a considerable period. I may point out that this supersession of the municipal committee is nothing short of a disgrace to the citizens of Lahore. I admit that the late municipal committee was guilty of certain irregularities. But I may submit that these irregularities were the result of communal electorates. I wish the Government, instead of superseding the municipal committee, had replaced separate electorates by joint electorates. But the Government instead of mending matters ended the very existence of the municipal committee. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*) As the time at my disposal is limited, I propose to discuss the matter in detail on some other occasion.

In the end I would submit that it is advocated in democratic countries that representation should be allowed on the basis of population. If that is the accepted canon, I think women in our country ought to be given representation in the services according to their population.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): Within the short time at my disposal I shall state only a few facts and quote a few figures. With regard to industries I desire to draw the attention of honourable members to a few facts which seem to have escaped their notice. There was a suggestion that a few scholars should be sent to foreign countries for training every year. In this connection may I invite the attention of honourable members to the provision of Rs. 10,000 for scholarships which exists in the budget for this purpose? The next important point to which I would draw the attention of honourable members is that we have created an industrial research fund and put into that fund a lakh and half of rupees. This is a thing which has not been attempted in any other province so far. The third important point is that with effect from the 1st of April next we are going to create a provincial stores

[Minister for Development.]

purchase department of our own. I feel sure that the creation of this department will do a great deal to promote the cause of industrial growth in this province.

The last important point to which attention of the honourable members may be drawn is this, that we are providing Rs. 60,000 for establishing a central agency in order to revive the once famous industry of pottery in our province. (*Hear, hear.*)

Reference was made to the important problem of consolidation of holdings, and it was stated that consolidation of holdings was taking place at a slow pace. I am afraid the opinion of the honourable member who is responsible for making this suggestion is not well founded. The Punjab has made greater progress in the matter of consolidation of holdings than any other province in India. (*Hear, hear.*) Up to date we have consolidated, through the agency of the Co-operative Department, nearly a million acres (*Hear, hear.*) Over and above this, the Revenue department is consolidating holdings independently of the Co-operative Department and the work of the two departments put together will, in the course of the next few years, cover a very large portion of the area which requires to be consolidated.

The next point to which attention was drawn was working of the Veterinary Department. Here again we have a very creditable record. We have 314 regular veterinary hospitals in the province, while the United Provinces are only aiming at one hospital per tahsil as against nearly 3 hospitals in this province per tahsil. (*Hear, hear.*) In addition to these hospitals, 79 outlying dispensaries are in charge of retired veterinary assistants or compounders. Over and above these 79 outlying dispensaries, we have 1,200 more outlying dispensaries which are visited by a veterinary assistant once a week. Further, we propose to start 112 first-aid centres where zamindars will receive preliminary training in veterinary matters.

Some criticism was also offered with regard to the Forest Department. One of the complaints was that although a Forest Commission was appointed and it submitted its report, nobody knew what the report was, what the recommendations were and what action was taken by the Government on these recommendations. So far as this particular complaint is concerned, I do not think the Forest Department is at all to blame. A pamphlet was issued on the 13th of August, 1938, detailing all the recommendations of the commission. Against each recommendation the action taken by the Government was also stated. Copies of this pamphlet were supplied to the honourable members of this House. It is not the fault of the department if honourable members would not care to read the literature that is supplied to them. (*Some honourable members:* We have not got the copies of that pamphlet.)

With regard to the Unemployment Committee's report, I desire to submit that the report was completed and signed on the 27th of November. Minutes of dissent took a few more weeks to come in, the last minute of dissent having been received on the 17th of December. The Report has been printed up and submitted to the Government. But as anybody can easily guess, the report contains proposals involving expenditure of

money, and unless we know what prospects of additional financial resources are in view we cannot reasonably discuss that report in this House. We expect that we shall be able to place this report in the hands of the honourable members before the summer session in June or July next.

A complaint was also made in respect of conciliation boards. It was stated that the members composing the boards were all millionaires or retired Government officers. So far as the complaint of members being millionaires is concerned, I do not know whether the representatives of money-lending interests are or are not millionaires. But those who represent the debtor classes are not millionaires. They are men drawn from the middle classes. Of course they are not paupers. It would have been ridiculous to appoint paupers or men who are themselves indebted. But certainly they are not drawn from any very rich section of the agricultural classes. With regard to the appointment of retired Government officers, I can only say that it was only fair that each board should have the advantage of a man who has had judicial experience. There are no other points to which I need reply. (*Applause.*)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Lahore, General, Urban), (*Urdu*): Sir, I have been listening to the speeches of the honourable members of this House on the budget for practically three days now. Some of them were made, no doubt, in order to suit political affiliations and some others reflected certain complaints which honourable members felt against the administration of the present Government. Just now an Honourable Minister who is a lawyer held out a threat that members dare not say outside the House what they uttered on the floor of the Assembly. I, for one, would accept his challenge. Whatever I say I do not say because I enjoy some protection within the four walls of this House. I say that because it is my conviction. I am prepared to repeat it any time and at any place outside this House (*Hear, hear.*) If members do not say what is in their mind, why should they have come here at all?

Premier: May I ask my honourable friend who it was who said that an honourable member should not give vent to his views on the budget if he wanted?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: The nominee of the Chief Justice. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The Honourable Premier said that he would clear what Honourable Minister for Education meant when he rises to make his speech.

Premier: That has nothing to do with the budget.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: I, Sir, am no economic theorist. I have my own way of looking at the budget. When I see the budget, there is at the back of my mind the appalling condition of the Punjabi millions. The duty of the Government is to serve the people. The same is the claim of our Government. Now, I have to see what service this budget proposes for the people of the province. How can the condition of the people be bettered? How should we marshal our expenditure and revenue? The Honourable Minister who has just sat down remarked: "Sometimes you clamour for a reduction in salaries, another moment you ask for a substantial

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

relief in land revenue yet, you say spend more on education. If we do that how will we find enough money to spend on the progressive schemes of education " ?

We have to see whether the Government which is responsible for the amelioration of the condition of the people has or has not been able to improve our lot. We have also to gauge the solicitude and efforts of the Government in this direction by an examination of the provision in the budget, for which purpose it is necessary to take into account both income and expenditure. The Honourable Minister for Education complained that one honourable member asked him to spend more money on education while another wanted to reduce the income of the Government by demanding a radical reduction in land revenue. I fail to understand what is intended by advancing such an argument. Does he mean to say that since money has to be spent on education the Government must enhance the land revenue ? If that is so, I for one cannot endorse such a policy. The sound principle is that the burden of taxation should not be inordinate and that you should spend a larger portion of your income on those from whom it is derived. Another Honourable Minister was pleased to say that the present Government was not responsible for the supersession of the Lahore Municipal Committee but it got it as a legacy from the previous Government. A very good argument indeed ! And I hope that now the Finance Minister will rise to say that all the burden of taxation under which our province is groaning is a legacy from the previous bureaucratic Government. Surely, Sir, this cannot be the attitude of a popular government.

Now let us throw a glance at our income. Besides a sum of Rs. 18,50,000 from the Government of India it is estimated that land revenue will this year yield Rs. 6,46,000 more than the last year. Now this increase can be due to two reasons only. Either there will be no famine in the province during the coming year or else the Government expects that a good bit of suspensions and taccavi loans are going to be realized this year. On the other hand the Government is appointing a Famine Commissioner and, what is more, we are told that huge remissions will have to be granted this year. How can any one reconcile the two statements ? This shows that it is mere jugglery of figures and the Government is not going to do anything substantial.

Then under the head Provincial Excise there is a great increase in our income. While other provinces are adopting the wholesome policy of prohibition our Government is increasing its income from liquor. For instance, the income from country spirits alone is going to increase by Rs. 70,000. You will remember, Sir, that a resolution was passed by this House demanding introduction of prohibition in five districts. Sometime thereafter a statement was laid on the table in which it was stated that—

The matter is under active consideration of Government and it is proposed to introduce prohibition in five districts with effect from the 1st April, 1939.

But this greed for increase in income shows that the Government is not prepared to pay any heed to the resolutions of the House.

Now the income under this head has increased under every item. For instance, there is going to be an increase of Rs. 70,000 under country spirits, of Rs. 200 under country fermented liquor, of Rs. 6,950 under commercial

spirits and of Rs. 4,28,090 under opium. This is a clear proof of the fact that instead of raising the standard of morality by introducing prohibition in the province the Government is anxious only to increase its income.

The Forest Department, however, offers strange contrast. The Honourable Minister for Development has told us that the Forest Committee had submitted a report and that he had issued a pamphlet about that report which was distributed among the members of this House. I have not received that pamphlet, but the budget shows that the income under this head is Rs. 28,97,000 and the expenditure Rs. 25,79,900. This means that while other provinces are deriving profits from this department we in the Punjab have to face a loss. May I ask whether this department is to be considered a beneficent department?

Anyway efforts have been made to show some increase in income under every head with the exception of Irrigation where the gross income has decreased although there is an increase in the net income.

Now I come to expenditure. The Honourable Minister for Education waxed very eloquent in praise of his department. May I tell you that in 1938-39 our expenditure on Indian Education amounted to 14 per cent. of the total expenditure and in 1939-40 it is 18 per cent. Now if we compare these figures with the United Provinces we find that there this expenditure amounts to 16 per cent. of the total expenditure. And, Sir, I would draw your attention to a few sentences contained in the Budget speech of the Honourable Premier of the United Provinces. He says—

Rural department scheme, besides, makes a provision for medical relief and for the improvement of communications and water supply. There is also a provision of 10 lakhs for adult education and the extension of literacy. Concerted and intensive efforts are being made to remove illiteracy. About 2,000 village libraries, 3,000 reading rooms and 2,700 adult schools have been provided. A great impetus was given to the literacy movement by the enthusiasm which was displayed by the public, irrespective of their political or religious opinions all over the province when the campaign against illiteracy was initiated. It is intended to use all possible methods for removing ignorance and for adding to the knowledge of the village through cinemas, radios, etc.

We do not want that education which can only swell the number of unemployed and render our youngmen unfit for earning their livelihood.

I would like to say one word about the Wardha Scheme of education. The Government of India had appointed a committee to consider the Wardha Scheme and in this committee the Director of Education, Punjab, also participated. This committee unanimously commended and recommended this scheme. But it is a pity that the Punjab Government have not been able to adopt the Wardha Scheme of education in spite of the unanimous recommendation of the advisory committee that was appointed by the Government of India and in which the Punjab was adequately represented. The Wardha Scheme was declared by this committee to be the best scheme that had so far been evolved.

Again, it is curious to note that the Government intend to close down the Government Intermediate College of Gujrat on the pretext that the number of students has decreased there. In fact they want to dance to the tune of their voters who want to see their Zamindara School raised to the standard of a college and then run it successfully. This is not a vague assertion that I am making. The Government is really after the desire and

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

whims of the voters. An illustration from the budget will make the point clear. It is stated in the Memorandum in so many words that the Government have to see to the requirements of the 'future voters.' Here is the quotation—

It is of vital importance to attract the attention of the young—our future voters, officials and legislators—while they are still at an impressionable age and one good way of doing this is by organising competitions for essays, poems, dialogues, songs, etc.

This is the spirit in which our Government are working. This is the real cause of their decision to close the Gujrat Intermediate College, which the Punjab University has recognised.

I may here mention the attitude which the Punjab Government have adopted with regard to the Hindustani Scouts Movement. This is an All India movement and has got a branch in the Punjab as well. But it is strange that the Unionist Government does not recognise this movement but tries to harass it. Against this, the Punjab Government actively supports the other scout movement which was started by Lord Baden Powell whose attitude towards India and Indians is too well-known to need any comment. High officials of Government hold *ex-officio* posts under that organisation and people really round it in order to please the Government officials. Moreover people take pride in joining in that movement as they take it to be a semi-official organisation. But the Hindustani Scout organisation which is purely based on the principles of truth and service is not approved by the Punjab Government. Eight out of the eleven provinces of India have extended their hand of co-operation to this organisation. Only true patriots whose bosoms are overflowing with the love of their motherland join this movement in their personal capacity and not as officers. It helps the public a good deal. But the Punjab Government have adopted a hostile attitude towards it.

With regard to the Municipality of Lahore, I may be permitted to observe that when the Honourable Minister who is in charge of the local bodies was appointed to the Cabinet, it was contended in his favour that he had proved his worth by successfully managing his estate. It was to be hoped that under his able guidance, the municipal affairs in Lahore at least would be managed by the Punjabis themselves even as the Minister in charge was able to manage his own estate. But it is a thousand pities that not a single Punjabi could be found by him who could be trusted to run the Municipality of Lahore. Cannot the inhabitants of Lahore manage their own affairs? Again, even if you have got to employ a foreigner, and necessarily a commissioner, can you not employ some one with less pay than the present Administrator of Lahore? It is only an estate of 23 lakhs and can easily be managed by the people of Lahore. Moreover, why not restore it now and save it from the autocratic rule of the Administrator? Further, why has the Administrator been empowered to impose taxes on the people of Lahore without consulting their representatives? All this points to the impotency of the Unionist Ministry. They may claim it as an inheritance from the old regime. But are they compelled to follow the old Government? The Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that this evil was left behind by the previous Government. But the question is whether it is not their duty to remove this evil. If the present Government is incapable of setting

right the mistakes of the previous Government, then why burden the province with such heavy salaries of the Ministers? In support of the imposition of a house tax in Lahore, it was contended by the treasury benches that such a tax was already imposed in Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi. But, may I humbly suggest that there is a difference between the status of Lahore and these cities. They are commercial towns while Lahore is not.

Minister for Public Works : What about Rawalpindi and Lyalpur where this tax is levied?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Honourable Minister will have sufficient time later to speak. I may now say a word in regard to the system of introducing meters. The Municipality of Lahore has had an experiment made of meters already. The experiment certainly failed as the old municipal commissioners will bear me out. But the Government will not consult them. They will blindly follow the Commissioner without any rhyme or reason. Another trick that is being played with the public is that a Corporation Bill is being drafted by the Government. It was expected to be introduced in the Assembly during the last January session. But these hopes have failed. Then came the budget session and even now the same old tale is being repeated that the Bill will be introduced sometime during next session. How long are we to wait for this Bill? The Honourable Minister says that he does not want to rush through things. But when the public demands a thing they become slow and when it is conducive to their own ends, they do not hesitate to move with indecent haste. I am afraid this Bill will not be ready until three years elapse.

There is yet another thing to which I may refer. The Minister for Public Works was pleased to refer with pride to the road system of the Punjab. I may also give some figures which will serve as an eye opener to him. The length of roads publicly maintained per 100 square miles of area in Madras is 26·80; in Bombay 23·00; in Sind 39·00; in Bengal 55·40; in the United Provinces 35·00 and in the Punjab 29·10. These facts speak for themselves and I would request the Honourable Minister of Public Works to see where the Punjab leads? Again, persons per mile of roads publicly maintained are in Madras 1,420, in Bombay 1,285, in the United Province 1,450, in Orissa 1,744, in Bengal 1,226 and in the Punjab 1,000. Here again I fail to see what the Punjab Government is so much proud of. Even Sind has more mileage of roads per 100 square miles of area than the Punjab.

One-third of the budget speech of my friend, Minister for Finance, has been devoted to Bhakra Dam, Thal Project and Haveli Project. So far as the last is concerned we take it for granted while supposing that the original estimates were correct that the saving effected in connection with this project is real and is therefore commendable. But you know how ordinarily the estimates are prepared. When tenders are called for, the contractors are expected to submit them at a rate "percentage below the estimate," and they are accepted as such showing that the estimates are high. We were given to understand that the Bhakra Dam Scheme is going to be taken up very soon. But alas this scheme about which hopes, I may say false hopes, were given is now, according to a press report to-day, a forlorn hope. (Premier: Which paper do you refer to?) The *Tribune*. This in fact

(Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.)

was not a *dām* but a "dam". It is reported to-day in the press that the negotiations with the Bilaspur State have failed and that a new scheme is going to be taken up and that for that purpose Mr. Bedford has been detained for another three weeks to examine it. What a fall! The Government were going to send their engineers to America to study the technique of constructing dams. The people of Hissar, Gurgaon and Rohtak have fallen on evil days so much so that they cannot find water even for drinking purposes. When you cannot provide water for them and their cattle, tell them so plainly and do not give them false hopes.

Now I would like to make a few observations in connection with the scheduled castes. A few days back I went to Delhi where I met the harijan leaders who came there from different parts of India. It was discussed there what various provincial governments had so far done for harijans. Let me tell you what this Government have done and what other governments have done for the welfare of harijans. This Government have provided Rs. 10,000 for digging of wells for the use of harijans. But this is even doubtful because a grant from the Special Development Fund lapsed last year and it is possible that this grant may lapse this year too. Let me now tell you what other governments have so far done for harijans. The Bihar Government have provided Rs. 24,000 to grant scholarships to harijan students. It is noteworthy that the net income of this province is only 5 crores of rupees. Besides the provision for scholarships the Bihar Government provided Rs. 30,000 in 1937, Rs. 50,000 in 1938 and Rs. 75,000 for the next year for the purpose of digging wells. The provision made for the next year has been placed at the disposal of district boards in order to make arrangements for digging of wells at proper places. Besides, a grant of Rs. 50,000 has been given to municipalities to make housing arrangements for sweepers and other menials. But in Lahore the municipality asked the Government to give it a plot of land on lease for this purpose. But they refused by saying that they cannot do that. There in Bihar the municipal sweepers and other menials have been granted the benefits of the provident fund and leave salaries. Further they are granted security of tenure and their pay is fixed on monthly basis. But nothing of this sort has been done in this province. Now I turn to the United Provinces. A sum of Rs. 30,000 was provided last year and Rs. 32,000 have been provided this year for wells. Another sum of Rs. 14,000 have been provided for harijan sweepers and Rs. 50,000 have been earmarked for scholarships to be granted to harijan students. The Bombay Government provided ten lakhs last year and ten lakhs this year for the purpose of digging wells for the use of harijans. There are no restrictions on their admission into public schools. Several times it has been urged upon this Government to remove the disabilities of harijans to join Government service especially the Police Department. May I ask how many of them have so far been recruited to the various departments of Government? Physically the harijans are as strong and robust as the rural people.

Now I would like to say a few words about famine in the various parts of the province. The Government claim to have afforded substantial relief to the famished people. Before I say something about the Hissar district I would like to say a few things about the famine conditions prevailing in

the Jhelum district and show how Government is moving in the matter. I hope the Honourable Revenue Minister would carefully listen to me and consider the submissions to be made by me in this connection. On the appearance of the famine conditions in the Jhelum district the Congress felt the necessity of affording some relief to the famished people by way of supplying them fodder at concession rates. A Bombay society which is working at Hissar and which was accused of attempting to destroy the Hissar cattle breed offered 500 to 1,000 rupees for relief. Thereupon the President, District Congress Committee, wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum, to grant the Congress committee a concession certificate to which the following reply was sent :—

“ I however appreciate the spirit of co-operation and will bear in mind the request when an opportunity arises.”

It meant that what the Government did there was quite sufficient. Then again, the Deputy Commissioner was addressed and we were informed that the conditions in Chakwal tahsil were not acute and that therefore a certificate for that tahsil cannot be granted and that further if we were so anxious to render help we could work in some other *ilaga* of the district.

Then I wrote to the Under Secretary to the Government, Punjab, that whereas Government were in a position to carry out relief work everywhere through its officers, we could do the same only at places where Congress committees functioned. Therefore certificates regarding import of fodder at concession rates should be issued. The Under Secretary replied as under—

I am directed to inform you that the Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum, has issued a certificate to Lala Autar Narain, President of the District Congress Committee, Jhelum, for the import of fodder at concession rates.

But, Sir, I have a telegram in my possession received from the Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum. It says “ No certificate Chakwal Tahsil.” Then there is another letter with me. It is from the President, District Congress Committee, Jhelum. It is stated therein—

The Deputy Commissioner definitely refused to issue certificate for Chakwal tahsil. I send the correspondence to you. People are clamouring for Bhusa there.....

The certificate was issued for Lilla, tahsil Pind Dadan Khan, where we have sent wagons.

Besides, I have got a copy of the resolution which was passed at a public meeting held at Kariala, District Jhelum, under the presidentship of Chaudhri Sarfraz Khan. It is with regard to the grievances about the famine of fodder in that *ilaga*. It was unanimously resolved in that meeting that the Government be requested to issue certificates to import fodder at concession rates. I have cited the above facts to show that we have tried our level best to extend a helping hand to the indigent famine-stricken people. But the Government have been callous enough not to provide us the facilities which it could easily do in the best interests of the people of the affected *ilaga*. All this manifests the mentality of the Government which is always out to help its voters and protagonists but would not move its little finger where the welfare of the other people is concerned.

(Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargawa).

Now I should like to advert to the statement made by the Honourable Minister for Finance in his budget speech in connection with the famine expenditure. The statement runs thus—

Much information has been made available to honourable members in answer to Assembly questions about finance in connection with the famine. I have made references to it in part while dealing with the current year and the estimates for 1939-40. It would be an advantage if the whole position is put together as follows:—

	1938-39.	1939-40.
	Rs.	Rs.
	in lakhs.	in lakhs.
Direct expenditure	27	39
Remissions and Suspensions	28	16
Taccavi loans	37	38
	—	—
Total	92	93
	—	—

The total for the two years taken together amounts to Rs. 1,85,00,000.

Now it is quite obvious from the above statement that apart from the remissions the total expenditure for the two years, that has been incurred in connection with the famine amounts only to 66 lakhs of rupees and not to 185 lakhs. The suspensions and taccavi loans can in no way be regarded as expenditure until and unless an announcement is made by the Government to the effect that these amounts would not be realised from the zamindars. Then alone will I admit that Government have really spent Rs. 185 lakhs in connection with famine. If you are going to realise the taccavi loans and suspensions, you cannot in fairness say that you have expended the above-mentioned amount in helping them. It is a patent fact that loans are loans. They cannot be considered as an expenditure on the people. Hence the inclusion of these amounts on the relief expenditure side is not justified. Sir, in this connection it would not be out of place to mention here the manner in which our benevolent Government helped the sufferers of famine in providing them with fodder. The Government sold fodder at a rate which was much higher than the rate obtaining in the market; while the Congress at some places purchased it at higher rates, for instance, at 14 annas a maund and sold it out at cheaper rates, i.e., at annas six a maund.

Now I turn my attention to Police. This is a department upon which 11 per cent. of the whole expenditure has been disbursed. I should like to make a few observations about its working. In February last year we moved an adjournment motion with regard to the happenings at Fatehwal. We stated during the discussion that inspite of our requests to Government to send police to Fatehwal they failed to do so. The Honourable Premier replied that they could not do so because those were Muharram days and the police had been posted to some other places to maintain law and order. Well, to cut short, 44 persons were involved in the Fatehwal Murder case. Government instituted a suit against them and spent about 1½ lakhs of rupees on the affair and what was the result of all that? Only seven or eight persons were sentenced to certain periods of imprisonment while others were let off by the learned sessions judge. Let us see the remarks of the learned sessions judge with regard to the police.

Premier: May I remind the honourable member that the case is still *sub judice* because an appeal has been filed. (*Honourable Members:* No appeal has been filed yet.)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: I do know that.

Premier: My honourable friend proposes to quote from a judgment of a case which is still *sub judice*.

(*An Honourable Member:* No, no, it is not *sub judice*.)

Mr. Speaker: If in the judgment, passed by a sessions judge, there are some remarks, for or against the police and the case is possibly or likely to go to the High Court, any remarks made by the honourable members of this House might prejudice the High Court.

Malik Barkat Ali: It was announced that Sir Wazir Hassan as a matter of fact is coming to argue this case.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: But let me apprise the House of the opinion of the sessions judge.

Premier: You need not make a mention of his opinion.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The learned sessions judge remarked that the police was present at Ajnala but it was deliberately not sent to Fatehwal by the sub-inspector concerned. Besides, I should like to refer to the happenings at Asoudha.

Premier: May I remind the honourable member that this case is also *sub judice*?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: I do know and I do know my responsibilities. I am not going to say anything which I am not entitled to say. Then, I come to the Ludhiana Bar incident. The bar room of the Ludhiana courts has been kept locked since the 15th of February, 1939, and lawyers have not been permitted to make use of it even up to this day. This matter will be discussed in detail during the discussions on the demand relating to the general administration.

Again, there is a case which will be of absorbing interest to all the honourable members of the House. The facts of the case are as follows. A respectable person who is a Diwan of a State, was travelling in a first class compartment. He was wearing a *dhoti*. An English officer travelling in the same compartment took strong objection to his presence. He demanded that the *dhoticwala* person should clear off the compartment, and approached the railway police to remove him. The railway police which is under the Punjab Government turned out that person from the compartment. But when they found out that that person was a man of high position, they in order to save their skin, instituted a case against him on the ground that he was a public nuisance, as he wore *dhoti* while travelling in a first class compartment (*laughter*). The case has only recently been decided and the gentleman concerned has been acquitted.

Gandhiji can enter St. James' Palace in his loin cloth and that is not considered a nuisance. Even when the Governor of the Punjab wishes to have a talk with one of the *dhoticwalas*, they are received into the Government House with their *dhoties*. Why should it enter into the head of anybody

(Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.)

that a first class passenger in a railway compartment creates nuisance by displaying his *dhoti*? It is a matter of regret and shame that the police under this Government embarrassed a first class railway passenger simply for the reason of his *dhoti*. Anyhow the case has ended and it has been found out that the charge against the gentleman was absolutely baseless.

I wish to refer to another thing. At Simla when the Mischievous Propaganda Bill came up, the Honourable Premier informed the House that he withdrew it as a result of consultation with the Journalist Association. May I know if he has been in touch with the Journalist Association ever since? Does he ever consult the Association when he is about to demand securities from the press? His Government is continuously harassing the newspapers who even wish to change their names. If they want to expedite matters, they are asked to deposit securities. May be, the Government suspects that after a change in their name the papers will change their policy and will begin to write against it. I fail to understand the attitude of the Government. If they wish to take action against any newspapers, they have sufficient powers to do so under the Press Act. Why should they harass the newspapers like that? I could refer you to the case of the Monday Morning. It applied for permission to change its name in November and the permission was accorded in February. Our "Good Government" takes three months in doing this little thing. Just see. I wonder why Government should take up so much time. The records of all our doings are in their possession. I do not know that the Central Government does not trust the present Government in the matter of handing over our records to them. Still it should not be impossible for the Government to know all about us in a comparatively short time. After all, if the Government is so chary of allowing its opponents to bring out newspapers it may ask the Director of the Information Bureau to issue a *communiqué* that all the anti-Unionist sections or individuals of society will not be permitted to bring out newspapers. This will clear the whole position and spare the Government a lot of botheration to boot. I submit that the Government is abusing its powers under the Press Act.

I have to submit a few things more and then I shall have done for the present. So far as I have been able to gather, the report of the Land Revenue Committee was received as early as in May, 1938. The Chairman submitted it to the Government under his signature. It has been under the consideration of the Government since. We wonder how long it will take the Government to put it before us. Sometimes we say to ourselves: "Perhaps the Government may never allow us to have a look at the report." The Report of the Unemployment Committee was submitted in November. The Honourable Minister of Development has told us that the minutes of dissent were received as late as December. Then, its printing must take time. In the same way we hear that the Retrenchment Committee is transacting a lot of business. We are absolutely in the dark as to when it will submit its report. I, for one, feel like moving a resolution that this retrenchment committee be retrenched forthwith. It has held so many meetings so far, that the labour and money spent over it will be out of all proportion to its usefulness.

In short when I look at this budget from a layman's point of view I cannot convince myself that it is of any material benefit to the province. Its economic theories may all be very good but I do not think that it can prove to be a sure remedy for all the ills of our province.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): Sir, owing to my other pre-occupation I had not the benefit of listening to the speeches of the honourable members on the first two days of the general discussion. I have however seen the newspaper reports and some points taken down by my colleagues have been brought to my notice. One thing struck me particularly—it has struck other members also—and it is this, that apart from the two points raised by Dr. Gopi Chand with regard to Education and Medical Relief and the comparison of which he instituted between the United Provinces and the Punjab, not a single member has thought fit to refer to the details of the budget. My honourable colleague the Finance Minister can therefore deservedly claim credit for preparing a budget which has proved absolutely invulnerable, with the result that no member on that side has dared to criticise seriously any item in the budget. As a matter of fact, the Budget which I have studied with care and to which my honourable colleague the Finance Member has given a great deal of labour and thought, is a budget of which not only this province, not only any other province in India, but any country may well be proud.

I was disagreeably surprised to find that my friend the Leader of the Opposition should have wound up the budget discussion from the opposition benches in the way he did. As a matter of fact it is the duty of the leader of a party and specially of a responsible Opposition, to wind up the debate with cogent and constructive criticism of the budget. I am sorry he is leaving the Chamber. This is a most discourteous thing to do, because I was referring to my honourable friend and was going to answer his criticism.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The Honourable Premier was absent for two whole days and I am only going out for a few minutes.

Premier: My honourable friend probably does not know the Parliamentary convention, that when the Leader of the Opposition is speaking, courtesy demands that I should be present and I was present during his speech. It was not possible for me to sit throughout, as a matter of fact I did not have the time, otherwise I would have been delighted to listen to several of the other members. I did hear Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. He made a very good speech. At least he started well.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: But I regret to say that the Press has misrepresented and misreported me. It has taken a very undesirable advantage and has twisted my words and misrepresented me.

Premier: That is your quarrel with the journalists up in the Press Gallery. I think it is only right that I should very briefly reply to some of the points raised by my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition. He is not here, but I hope that my reply will be communicated to him. I am sure that he was not serious when he tried to compare the United Provinces with the Punjab. I am most reluctant,—because comparisons are always odious—to enter into a controversy over those two subjects which he raised himself, but I must in spite of my reluctance answer him very briefly with

(Premier.)

regard to those two points. He asked, what had the Punjab done with regard to Education? He said that the United Provinces were spending two crores while the Punjab was spending only one crore and sixty-five lakhs. Perfectly true. But my friend conveniently forgot that the population of the United Provinces was 43½ millions, while that of the Punjab, 29½ millions. (Interruption). My honourable friend, who is a great mathematician, says that in the United Provinces they spend 16 per cent. while we spend 15 per cent. on education. Let me quote for him figures *per capita*. The *per capita* expenditure in the United Provinces is less than eight annas while in the Punjab it is eleven annas and six pies. (Hear, hear.) Similarly let me give him certain figures with regard to medical relief. These figures are rather interesting and I should like the House to carefully note them. The average population served by one hospital in the various provinces is as follows :—

Madras	..	..	..	41,000
Bombay	..	..	..	42,000
United Provinces	..	..	..	81,000
Central Provinces	..	..	..	45,000
Bihar	..	..	..	61,000

These are Congress Provinces. As regards non-Congress provinces the figures are—

Bengal	..	..	..	94,000
Punjab	..	..	..	26,000

These figures speak for themselves and I need not therefore dilate on them any further.

The honourable member then waxed eloquent over the help which had been given to harijans in some of the Congress provinces. I knew that he would refer to this subject and I also knew that he would not do even bare justice to what we were doing for the harijans in this province. But when he went on praising the doings of other provinces he forgot to tell the House the number of harijans in Bihar and their number in the Punjab. He also forgot to inform the House that the problem of untouchability which existed in other provinces did not exist here. In the Muslim villages in the Punjab there is no restriction on the right of harijans to draw water from public wells. Similarly, in several other villages there are no such restrictions. Here all public wells are open to harijans which is far from being the case in some other provinces.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : They have done so.

Premier : It is therefore necessary for other provinces to provide more money for sinking wells for harijans.

An Honourable Member : What is a public well ?

Premier : Public wells are wells built out of public money for the benefit of the general public.

An Honourable Member : Scheduled castes are not allowed to draw water from such public wells.

Premier : Then my honourable friend is ignorant of actual facts.

Sardar Mula Singh : In no village are untouchables allowed to draw water from wells. Even Mussalmans do not allow them the use of their wells. I challenge the Honourable Premier to disprove my contention. How can he say that untouchables have nothing to complain in this respect ?

Premier : My honourable friend is perfectly correct when he says that in several villages the *Achhuts* are not allowed to draw water from wells. That is why we have provided in our budget money to meet their difficulties so far as public wells are concerned. Wells built out of public money can be used by the untouchables and nobody can prevent it. If anybody does so, he renders himself liable to legal action.

Then, my honourable friend said something about the services. As a matter of fact it has been repeatedly said by Government on the floor of this House that instructions have been issued to all departments that wherever possible preference should be given to *harijans* in the matter of recruitment if suitable *harijans* are available. With regard to police to which my honourable friend drew particular attention, I mentioned in this very House that we were doing our very best to recruit them to the police, but that there were certain elements in the police force which were creating trouble about messing. I have therefore suggested to the authorities to recruit them in larger numbers so that they can have their own mess arrangements. We have thus tried to meet that difficulty and as I mentioned the other day in answer to a question we have enrolled in the police force 80 *harijans*.

My honourable friend casually referred to the affairs of the Lahore Municipality. He said that the municipality should have been revived. With regard to that question my colleague, the Minister for Public Works, has already assured the House that the committee would be revived as soon as legislation is passed for the establishment of a corporation for Lahore. The Bill is being drafted and as soon as it is ready it will be introduced in the House. My honourable friend also said that Bombay and Calcutta are commercial towns and Lahore is not a commercial town. I think he was talking either with his tongue in his cheek or else he was ignorant of facts. Is he aware that Lyallpur and Rawalpindi were higher-taxed towns than Lahore ? Are they more commercial than Lahore ?

So far as supersession of the committee is concerned, my honourable friend should not have wasted his breath or the time of the House on this subject. He should have asked my honourable friend and *ex-colleague* sitting opposite who after very careful consideration and after weighing everything had reluctantly to come to the conclusion that the committee should be superseded,

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

not because he wanted to do so, but because the people themselves requested him to do so. Thus the supersession was the doing not of the present Government but of the previous Government. But I do not say that it was done without due consideration. It was only after deliberate consideration that the committee was superseded, because it was inefficient and, as some people alleged, also corrupt.

With regard to the Scout Association, this is neither the place nor the occasion to dilate on that subject, but I can assure my honourable friend that

(Premier).

we have no grudge against any scout association which wants to do that kind of work. But we cannot possibly recognise any other institution except the one which is the real scout association, I mean the Baden-Powell Association. It is not mixed up with politics and has nothing to do with communal matters. We cannot possibly recognise an institution

5 P. M. which not only dabbles in politics but whose members, sometimes use most filthy language. (An honourable member: Which is that?) If my honourable friend has the interests of that association at heart, he may pull it up and ask the people who are in charge of the association and are its organisers to behave better. I recently heard several complaints that in Amritsar when a certain political procession was going round the city, the members of this association were not only carrying placards of a most objectionable character but were constantly using abusive language.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : That information is incorrect.

Premier : I shall be very glad if it is not correct. He should warn those people against providing grounds for such allegations in future.

My honourable friend then referred to the Fatehwal case and said that the Government spent 1½ lakhs of rupees on that. I am afraid Government had to spend that money. Does my honourable friend mean to say that if people create trouble, if people create riots, we should not run them in and prosecute them? What should we do? Could we not go to a court of law? I have appealed to my friend several times and I appeal to him again. If he lends me his help and if others listen to him, we can cut down this expenditure and create a new atmosphere. I do want his co-operation and help. But everytime I ask for that, either out of unwillingness on his own part or because he sometimes cannot manage others, he finds it difficult to co-operate with me. But I assure him that if he and the gentleman sitting next to him co-operate with me in these matters, we can not only cut down this expenditure but will be able to create a new atmosphere in this province which will not necessitate such measures. (Hear, hear).

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Does it mean that this side of the House has not tried to co-operate with him to settle communal differences wherever they have arisen? Does he imply that or does he want me to reply in the press—I cannot do it here—that this charge against me is not correct?

Premier : I am bringing no charge against my honourable friend of trying to stir up trouble. What I meant to convey was that he and I cannot do what we wish to do. But if he and his friend sitting next to him both join hands with me we will be able to do a great deal more. Now I hope he understands me.

The next point which my honourable friend raised related to a certain incident in the first class compartment of a railway station. He said that a *dhotiposh* was run in by the police because they considered that *dhoti* was a public nuisance. My information about that case is that the police took action on a complaint by a passenger in the train. It was a cognisable offence. It was not because he was wearing a *dhoti* but because he had not

the decency —this was the allegation, I do not know the facts—to see that a lady was seated in that compartment when he took off his trousers and started changing them to a *dhoti*. (*Laughter*).

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : This is wrong. I know something about the case.

Premier : My honourable friend referred to that matter and I am merely telling him the allegation against the accused. The police could not possibly refuse to take action when a complaint was made and it was a cognisable offence. As soon as bail was given he was asked to go away and the complaint was referred to a court of law. That is what the police did. They did not turn him out because he happened to be merely a *dhotiposh*. He wanted to change his trousers in the presence of a lady which as I said before, no gentleman would do.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : What is the decision of the court?

Premier : I do not know. He takes perhaps more interest in these cases than I do.

Another charge which he brought against the Government was that although a journalists' association had been established, Government did not take its advice when taking action against certain papers. If my honourable friend would carefully go through the list of the papers which have been asked to furnish security, he will find that practically in all cases action has been taken for rousing communal feeling, communal bitterness, communal animosity. If my honourable friend studies the facts, he will bear me out in this position and I am sure he will agree with me that we should take even more drastic action. My honourable friend, Dr. Satyapal was somewhat inconsistent. Here he accuses me of taking action against the press, although outside the House he accuses me of inaction. Here he pillories me for taking action and outside he accuses me for inaction. If he had been a little more consistent, he would have said in this House also that I should take action against all people who rouse communal hatred and communal bitterness. (*Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :* Which you do not do.)

I have said that in almost all cases action has been taken. (*Interruption*). I can refer my honourable friend to his own paper where he pilloried me for not taking action and this is what he says :—

اسی طرح ہندو مسلم تفاق پیدا کرنے والے اخبار کانگرس کے خلاف لکھنے والے اخبارات کو کوئی دیش بہت کیوں پڑے۔ حکومت تو ان کے خلاف کاروائی نہیں کرتی کیونکہ اسے تو ان سے فائدہ پہنچتا ہے۔

This is what my honourable friend says outside the House and here he says "Why do you take action against them?"

Now another point which my honourable friend raised was with regard to the Wardha Scheme. I must confess that I have not had the time to read the Wardha Scheme. My honourable colleagues have read it. Several of them have carefully studied it. He referred to a report of the advisory committee which he said had unanimously commended that scheme. But he failed to inform this House that the advisory committee commended the scheme in a modified form—it was not the original Wardha Scheme—which claimed to be a self-supporting and vocational scheme. In that committee

(Premier.)

Dr. Zakir Hussain who was a spokesman of the Wardha Scheme withdrew those two particular aspects of the scheme. It was neither self-supporting nor a vocational scheme. After he had withdrawn those two assertions the advisory committee said that this scheme was like any other scheme of education and, therefore, recommended it to the notice of the provinces for consideration and adoption according to the conditions prevailing in the provinces if they so desired. That is a point which my honourable friend either missed or has not himself studied well.

Now we come to famine relief. So far as this question is concerned figures have been quoted on the floor of the House several times. My honourable friend said 'Oh! if you are going to collect taccavi then why do you say that you have spent nearly a crore and three quarters?' But it is a fact. I am not stating anything which is not a fact. I am not stating fiction on the floor of this House. We have commitments of a crore and three quarters. Taccavi, as my honourable friend knows perfectly well, is a loan which must, in the interests of the province as a whole, be realized. We are giving this loan to those people because they are in need of it. If subsequently we find that on account of continuous famine which I hope will end very soon, or their distress, it is not just to realize the whole amount or any part of it, the Government will consider the question sympathetically. The question does not arise now. But I must make it clear that taccavi loans must be regarded as loans and nothing else. We have given large remissions in other districts. My honourable friend mentioned Jhelum. My honourable friend and perhaps the section of that organization to which he belongs always take the opportunity of coming in with their beddings after Government has started giving relief. He went to Hissar and now he has come to Jhelum. He says that the credit is due to him, for it is he who got these concessions from the Government. My honourable friend can play that sort of game too often.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: I do not work from that point of view.

Premier: Of course not. My honourable friend must remember that such tactics are not going to pay. They do not conduce to that purity of political life which we all desire. It is no use trying to hoodwink the Jhelum people by sending a telegram that we want concessions. Government has already issued instructions for relief not only in Jhelum district but in every other district which needs relief. My honourable friend would probably now go and try to get credit for it and say that if he had not moved the Government this would not have been done.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: That is the purity of politics that you try to achieve.

Premier: Precisely that is what I am saying. I can give you chapter and verse, if you want it. Another gentleman, a responsible gentleman belonging to that organization, some time ago said at Lyallpur that mothers were throwing their children in wells because of starvation. That report was contradicted emphatically in the press and in spite of that he had the audacity to go to the press again and say that he knew that there had been such cases. I can assure this House and the people outside that there has been no such case of death from starvation throughout the period this Government has been in power. (Laughter). My honourable friend is laughing.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I do laugh. What that gentleman stated was that such a thing happened in Patiala State.

Sardar Tara Singh : That is also incorrect (*Laughter*).

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : It is a fact.

Premier : The vitality of the people has no doubt been impaired on account of successive failures of crops for three years and their power to resist disease has no doubt suffered, but there has not been a single case of death from starvation. In this connection, as I said before, it is interesting to notice the manner in which certain people who claim to occupy responsible positions in public life, but whom I call most irresponsible, have been carrying on wild propaganda with the sole object of discrediting the work of the Government.

This gentleman when he was confronted with that contradiction went to the press again. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar thereupon addressed to him a formal enquiry about the details of any case of this kind. The reply received from the Secretary, Congress Famine Relief Committee, Hissar, is most interesting. He wrote that it was said that a case of a mother having thrown her child into a well to save it from starvation had occurred in a village in Patiala State near the border of Hissar district. But this also had been denied. (*Laughter*).

My honourable friend laughed. When people utter damnable lies, it is my duty to contradict. But even after they are contradicted, they are repeated. He said it occurred in Patiala State and not in the Punjab. If so why pillory the Punjab Government? If something happens in the Moon or the Mars why must the Punjab Government be pilloried? Is that honest?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : It is your reporters who are responsible for that.

Premier : He further said that a woman of respectable family in the village of Bahmanwalla in the Bhawani tahsil had strangled her child to save it from starvation and then had herself committed suicide. On enquiry it was found that there was no village of that name in Bhiwani tahsil. There was a village of the name of Bahmaniwali, but no case of a child having been strangled by a mother had occurred in that village. This is the information which was broadcast to the press by a responsible leader of the organization which seeks to secure to itself the position of being the sole representative of the people of this province.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : It is so despite the fact that the Deputy Commissioner denies it.

Premier : My two honourable friends the new political converts, I would not use the word renegades, are not in their seats now. It is a well-known fact that converts or renegades whether religious or political, are more zealous than others in the cause of their new religion or political creed. I was not, therefore, surprised when they went to the length of saying several things which did not exist at all. One of my honourable friends who happens to be—what is it—B.Com.—said that this was not a budget at all. "Who calls it a budget?" he asked, "A budget must be an accurately balanced statement of figures." My honourable friend does not understand what he

(Premier).

He himself admitted that nobody could forecast what would happen ; but he expected the Honourable Finance Minister to foresee these famines and other disasters, and argued that because they were not foreseen, the budget was not a budget. I shall be glad to know if he, being a B. Com. knows more about the budget than Mr. Manohar Lal. My honourable friend then criticised the Chief Engineer and the Government for having saved nearly two crores in the Haveli Project. Instead of giving credit to the Government or to the department concerned or to the officers of that department for having saved such a big amount for the province he tried to criticise the Government for this. If this is the type of criticism on which he wants to feed his party, he can do so by all means, but I can assure him that he would not be able to create any impression on those people whom he has temporarily deserted, but to whom, I am sure, he will eventually return after his disillusionment if he is honest. With regard to the Haveli Project we know perfectly well that apart from that saving, they will be able to give water much earlier than was expected with the result that we will be able to get more land irrigated from which we will get more income. We will have larger area under irrigation which will come in for assessment and, therefore, our income will increase. I can assure my honourable friend that we have not only taken into account the fact that the rabi sowings are shorter than the average, but we have also made allowance for the fact that there might be big remissions in rabi and some remissions in kharif and after taking all these factors into account we have made this budget and allowed the figures for revenue. If my honourable friend had asked me—I am always at his service—or if he did not want to ask me he could have asked one of the officials of the Finance Department, who would have been only too glad to help him and thus he would have understood the real position. My other honourable friends could likewise enlighten themselves by coming into touch with the officials of the Finance Department and learn the intricacies of the budget. The budget is not an easy thing to understand. My honourable friend the new convert, although he is B.Com. does not know that the budget is a very intricate business. He does not know what a budget is. Any one who wants to learn about the budget can very well do so.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What are the school hours !

Premier : My honourable friend would be glad to learn that as far as the Haveli Project is concerned we hope that water will be put in the canal on 2nd April next and thus irrigation would begin but let me give you some further information which will interest my honourable friends in this House. Government has decided to proceed with the Thal Project also. (*Hear, hear*) and orders have been issued that the Thal Project should start as soon as possible. (*Sardar Hari Singh :* What about Bhakra Scheme ?)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether this income of land revenue includes the income as land revenue given under the head 'Irrigation' ? The land revenue derived from irrigated areas is included as another land revenue under the head 'Irrigation' but the land revenue otherwise is—

Premier : I will explain it in a second.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I do not know the budget.

Premier : So far as the Irrigation Department is concerned it is shown as indirect receipt under the irrigation head and that is the deduct entry.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : In the budget it is deduct entry towards the head 'Irrigation.'

Premier : It is shown on both sides, otherwise the budget would not balance. My honourable friend Sardar Hari Singh said, "What about Bhakra Scheme?" Apparently he thinks that he has scored a point over the Government by giving that headline for the *Tribune*. Let me assure my honourable friend that as far as the Bhakra Dam Scheme is concerned, the Government is still negotiating with Bilaspur State.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : You have done it for the last twenty years.

Minister for Revenue : You do not know anything.

Premier : I have not been here for the last twenty years but so far as Bhakra Dam Scheme is concerned, we are still negotiating with Bilaspur State. I might, for the information of the House, divulge a secret and that is this that we find that the demand which the Bilaspur State has made is a little unreasonable. We think that it is impossible for the Government to accept that unreasonable demand but it does not mean that we have closed the negotiations. We will try to negotiate with them and reason with them but, at the same time, it is necessary, in case our negotiations unfortunately do not come to fruition, that we should have an alternative scheme equally good as the Bhakra Scheme. The House will be glad to learn that our experts have explored the possibilities and have found another spot where, if Bilaspur State does not come to terms, we shall be able to put up a dam and carry on a scheme which would not only equal but excel the Bhakra Dam Scheme. *(Hear, hear) (loud cheers)*. My honourable friends opposite would be interested to know—of course they are not interested to know, for these things would be very disappointing to them because they are helpful to the province—that the other scheme looks very promising and, as a matter of fact, it is a scheme with considerable benefit. It will not only benefit the Bhakra area but it will perhaps increase the Sutlej Valley Project canal supplies and will also benefit the Bist Doab. *(Sardar Sampuran Singh : Question)*. This scheme will provide three benefits if it matures. While we are still going on with negotiations with regard to Bhakra Dam and will continue them, at the same time we have deputed a special staff to examine the other scheme and do the necessary survey so that there may be no delay. One scheme or the other scheme must come, and it will come, and it will benefit the poor zamindars.

Several speakers, including my two new political converts, got up and spoke about the reports of the Unemployment Committee and Land Revenue Committee. They said that these committees had submitted their reports, but that the Government had taken no action so far. I am afraid either they are ignorant of the intricacies and difficulties of the problem or, if they are not, then I think they are not honest in their criticism. After all can they expect the Government to take action on such vital questions, affecting the finances of the province and the welfare of the present and future generations, in haste and without giving due consideration and without due deliberation? My honourable friends know that from November onwards,

(Premier).

except for a short break, we have been in perpetual session and we have not had time to give consideration to important documents like that. The Unemployment Committee's Report is also a voluminous document and it has been submitted to the Government but it will require days (*Munshi Hari Lal*: Will you take centuries?) to go through the report. My honourable friend ought to go to his seat if he wants to interrupt. My honourable friends are also aware that no action is possible unless we know the other side of the picture. The Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been doing its best to expedite its work but this perpetual session, almost from November, has not given them time to finish the work. In these circumstances how can my honourable friends expect me to take action on the reports of the Unemployment Committee or the Land Revenue Committee? When the recommendations of the other important committees are not before us, and, unless we know what other sources we can tap, what other resources are available to the province, and how far we can counterbalance the expenditure, how can I possibly commit the Government to any expenditure with regard to remissions or relief? Therefore, my honourable friend should rest assured that we ourselves desire to expedite the decision on these reports as soon as possible. Then there is the Abiana Committee which is examining the rules of kharaba and certain other matters deeply and closely affecting the irrigators and zamindars of the province. Their report will also be available in May or June. You cannot take isolated action in these matters. It requires very careful consideration and we will have to take into consideration all the various reports in coming to a final decision as to how we are to give more relief to the poorer zamindar in the province and how we are going to recoup the money which we are going to lose, because unless we recoup the money, the progress of the province will stop and I am not prepared to countenance any proposal which will stop the progress of this province as a whole.

With regard to corruption, my honourable friends are aware that we have appointed a special officer and a staff. We have also done several other things. We also propose to put into effect the new rules under which those people who have completed 25 years' service and whose record is unsatisfactory or their retention in the service is undesirable, will be weeded out. That is another step that we have taken. (*Hear, hear*). My honourable friends must remember that there is a Punjabi proverb—

تالی دohan ہاتھان نال وجدی اے—

Tali dohan hathan nal wajde e.

My honourable friends must give their ear to me and also give their co-operation to me. Corruption cannot be wiped off without the help and co-operation of all parties concerned. (*Interruption*). You want to do but perhaps somebody else would not allow you to do that.

I will now deal with a rather unpleasant incident in Ludhiana to which one of the honourable members of this House—I am sorry to say he is a member of the bar association as well—should have decided to make a reference. My honourable friend said several things which are not correct.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Which are quite correct.

Premier : I do not take my honourable friend's words. My honourable friend went to the length of accusing a senior officer of Government. He said that this officer sent a report merely because he wanted to go from the judicial to the executive side. My honourable friend in saner moments would be ashamed of that accusation (*Honourable member from the Opposition :* You should withdraw the word 'ashamed.')

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : You should be ashamed. The Ministers should be ashamed for having such officers under them.

Premier : The facts are briefly these.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Mr. Deputy Speaker, you should ask the Premier to withdraw those words.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I rise to a point of order. The point of order is this. Two words have been used here several times. The first word used is 'audacity' against certain members of the House. Again the word 'ashamed' has been used. Certainly, if not the former, the latter word is unparliamentary. Even the word 'audacity' is not parliamentary (*Voices from the Ministerial benches :* No). We must read some debate of the House of Commons. If we want to carry on the work smoothly and in good grace it is absolutely necessary that such words should not be used. Therefore I will appeal to you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is making a speech. (*Laughter.*)

Sardar Sampuran Singh : You should give your ruling.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The expression 'ashamed of' has been withdrawn.

Premier : If my honourable friend takes objection to the word 'ashamed' I say he would be sorry in calmer moments for what he said. Now let me give the bare facts with regard to that incident. What happened is this. The Bar Association of Ludhiana decided to present an address to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. They afterwards decided to give him a luncheon party. Am I correct?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : You are not.

Premier : My honourable friend says I am not. Then why is he worrying about it?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I did not expect anything better from you.

Premier : My honourable friend denies the fact that they wanted to give an address to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I did not deny that.

Premier : The district and sessions judge made a reference to the High Court saying that they wanted to present an address to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. The High Court promptly wrote back to say that the Judges had no objection whatever to their presenting an address to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, provided the subject matter of the address was confined either to legal matters or to matters which concerned the Bar Association.

Diwan Chaman Lall : But how could an address be presented in these terms?

Premier : They said that they would not present it because they wanted to present a political address. Another reference was made and the High Court wrote that they would not allow any political meetings inside the Bar Room by any political parties, whether it is the Congress party or for that matter the Government party (*An honourable member :* This is wrong). My honourable friend says this is wrong. I am now quoting from documents which I have seen with my own eyes. The District Judge communicated the views of the High Court. Afterwards information was received that certain members of the Bar insisted, in spite of the orders of the High Court, on presenting an address inside the Bar Room. The High Court sent telegraphic orders to the District Judge not to allow the Bar Room to be used because it was meant for professional work and not political work. The High Court issued instructions to the effect that no political party, whether it is the Congress party or any other party, or even the Government party, should be allowed to hold political meetings inside the Bar Room. Now, Sir, after that, certain members, the High Court was informed, said that they would defy the orders and hold a meeting and present an address there. The matter was referred to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner told the President of the Bar Room and other people that they should not do anything silly like that because the High Court had issued orders and they should obey them. They said they would do it and that the Bar Room should be opened. As a matter of fact one honourable member, who is not present now, said that he wanted certain law books and that he wanted the Bar Room to be opened. However that is a matter which has no reference to what my honourable friend said. They insisted on giving him an address. Well, when I learnt this, I thought that it was a most unfortunate position and naturally the High Court should not be brought into politics: the position might become very delicate and the police might have to take action. We did not want in any way to do anything which might have been embarrassing, disrespectful and derogatory to the respectable guest Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I, therefore, at once telephoned the Deputy Commissioner and suggested that he himself or the Superintendent of Police should go to Panditji and explain to him the whole position. I also foresaw—I was certain—that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru will not countenance any such step on the part of the Bar people.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : On what date ?

Premier : I am afraid I cannot give the date offhand. I can give you the date later on. (*Interruptions*). My honourable friends will not listen to me now. I am giving them information which is correct and based on documents. The result was that the Superintendent of Police saw Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. You can verify it if you do not believe it. He explained the whole position and said "We would be the last person to do anything which would be unsavoury or unpleasant. This is the situation which had arisen due to the attitude of certain members of the Bar." He very rightly, as I expected, said that he would have nothing to do with the address. Not only that. He said that he would not countenance any such move which was in any way directed against the High Court. He advised the people to do the right thing and obey orders of the High Court. This is the whole situation. (*An honourable member 22*)

The result is that some of those people and several members of the Bar have already issued a statement saying that they were not parties to the affair. Yet with regard to this position, I understand the High Court has issued a notice to certain parties to show cause why action should not be taken against them under the Legal Practitioners Act. This notice is still pending. They must try to clear their position and should give an explanation or put in an apology, as gentlemen should do. I cannot say what the High Court will do, but I think that apology will duly mitigate the offence, which is certainly a very serious offence and because that offence was committed by a responsible member of this Assembly it became even more heinous. I must respectfully submit that these are the facts in regard to the Ludhiana affair and I have nothing more to say on this point.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not want to interrupt my honourable friend, but in order to clear one point may I ask him whether it is a fact that the bar room is not the property of the High Court and that it is the property of the Public Works Department? Therefore, anything that is done there can only be done or any order issued can only be issued under the sanction of the Public Works Department.

Premier: My honourable friend is not aware that the High Court building is in charge of the Public Works Department and they have to look after that building. That does not mean that anything can be done in the High Court without the permission of the Judges. No. Similarly, nothing can be done in the Bar Room of any court without the permission of the Judges.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has my honourable friend,—because this is an important matter—already satisfied himself that the precincts of the bar room are under nobody else's control but that the Punjab Government have the sole control over the precincts of the bar room?

Premier : As a matter of fact, I have already made it quite clear that bar rooms are in charge of judicial officers and, therefore, I cannot possibly accept my honourable friend's contention, merely because the Public Works Department is in charge of all Government offices. Sir, the time at my disposal is very short and there are several matters which will have to be left unsaid. I would make an appeal to some of my friends opposite and the President of the Non-agriculturists' Conference. I have seen the report of their proceedings. I am not aware whether they have been correctly reproduced or not, but I am sorry to say that they have been conceived in a most shortsighted manner. I repeat here in this House again, and I have repeated it several times, that the recent legislation passed by the Government is meant only to place an obstacle in the way of dishonest men.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : You have been preaching that you would treat them as Hitler has treated the German Jews.

Premier : My honourable friend is saying something that I never said.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: The *Tribune* had a leading article on the subject.

Premier: I am not the writer of that leading article and I am not responsible for what it says. I several times said that it is only the dishonest man whose style we want to cramp. I may assure my honourable friends that the honest man will not be affected by those terrorizations, by those resolutions and by those fire-works. I am afraid my honourable friends are not doing any good—and I may be allowed to repeat that once again—to their own class or to the province or to the honest business men in this province. My honourable friends say that they have got no confidence in the Punjab Government. They are welcome to say that. Use every constitutional means and every constitutional method in your power to oust this Government. We would not grudge it. But they should calmly ponder over this. They may come into power one day. After they come into power, they will know that it is only the dishonest man who is touched by this measure and if any honest person suffers—and I have given this assurance before on the floor of this House—if any honest person suffers and if there is any legitimate grievance with regard to this Act after we have seen its working, then I would be the first person to amend this Act. (*An honourable member:* What about dishonest landlords?) Dishonest landlords and money-lenders will be affected and treated equally. What I wanted to tell my honourable friends was that they should not try to cut their own noses to spite their faces. As I have said those terrorizations and those resolutions will do no good to the province or to their own class which they are representing. They have said that they are going to do certain things which would probably put the zamindar in trouble. (*Honourable members:* We never said so.) It was said in the speeches and my honourable friend was one of those who pleaded that, if you stop giving any credit to zamindars, they would not find any money to pay land revenue and the Government would come down upon them and that the Government would, therefore, be in a bad plight. (*Interruptions.*) I have never said that there was anything illegitimate in it. I have said that they were trying to cut their own noses to spite their faces. If you shut up all the shops, it is not going to affect me. It would certainly affect business and the greatest effect will be upon their class. It is their business which will stop. I get enough grain out of my field to eat and if I cannot grind it I will merely roast it. They must be aware that we are at the moment only trying to deprecate the activities of dishonest persons and if this Government is ousted, what would happen? Have they ever considered that? It will be replaced by those who do not believe in any form of capitalism. If this Government goes out, its successors would not be the capitalists from those benches, but its successors will be those who want to see chaos in this country, not for the sake of their country and patriotic motives but for the sake of creating chaotic conditions, so that few political adventurers may gain. I want my honourable friends to be aware of that menace and danger, that there are political adventurers going about and trying to use filthy and abusive language and trying to coerce peaceful citizens. I have given them a rope and I would continue to give them a rope so long as I find that the peace and tranquillity of this province are not in jeopardy. I have cases against several of them, but I have restrained my hand for several reasons which I will explain to any member, if he wants, privately. But I can.

stand it no longer and if they abuse indiscriminately all officers and try to create an atmosphere of violence in this province, I will have to take action quickly.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Even against Ministers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would request the honourable member not to interrupt.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : He is delivering a provocative speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order, order.

Premier : My speech is always difficult for my honourable friends to hear. I think I have already taken so much time of my honourable friend the Finance Minister. But before I resume my seat, I would make an appeal to my friends opposite. They must realise that, if we want to make any progress towards the ideal which is a common ideal—the ideal for which we both are striving, though our methods may be different—I appeal to my honourable friends opposite, at least the responsible section amongst them, that they must not consider this administration as a hostile organisation from their point of view. We are all partners in a great trust. It is for you to criticise us, it is for you to keep accounts properly, it is for you to see that we spend money to good account, it is for you to see that we do not go off the rails. But it is also for you to support us in the interests of the province, not for the sake of the Ministerial Party but for the sake of this province and for the sake of our Motherland. May I in that spirit of partnership request everyone to bring back the atmosphere which we tried to create in the first session of the House and work hand in hand and in co-operation with each other.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Leave the Muslim League.

Premier : If my honourable friend is worrying about the Muslim League that shows that he is a worse communalist. Let us all create such an atmosphere that there would be no need of the Hindu Sabha, there would be no need of the Muslim League. We must all work hand in hand in the interest of our Motherland and above all in the interest of this Land of Five Rivers. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Sir, I rise to make a personal explanation. I took part in a certain Non-agriculturist Conference held at Amritsar on the 19th January, and the Honourable Premier has made certain very improper reflections or aspersions on what I said there. Equity and justice require that I should be allowed to reply to some of the points to clear my position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : There will be ample time for you to do that at the end.

At this stage several members rose to speak amidst shouts of order, order.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I have a right to contradict a wrong statement made by the Honourable Premier against me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You have no right. (*Shouts of order, order.*)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I rise to a point of order. When any one has to offer a personal explanation it is not during the speech of the

(Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava).

member who has made any remarks against him but when he finishes and before another member starts, that he can offer his explanation. At the same time I would submit that unless a man has stated anything he may not be prejudged that he is not offering any personal explanation or that you have understood what he has to say. He should be permitted to have his say and then you should decide whether he is to be permitted or not.

Premier : May I suggest that it is the Finance Minister's Day and I think we must show him courtesy by allowing him to have his say. After he has finished I am prepared to sit for an hour and listen to the personal explanations.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I am prepared to sit after the Finance Minister's speech and request that when the time for personal explanations arises they will be permitted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It is not necessary to allow time for personal explanation just at this time. Time for personal explanations may be allowed later.

Finance Minister (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, we approach now the concluding stage of the general discussion of the budget and I trust it will be a quiet stage. In the first instance, I am grateful for the very kind appreciation with which many honourable members have been good enough to refer to this year's budget. The budget has been kindly received and it cannot but be a matter of gratification to me that it has been so received. But I am even more thankful to honourable members for the criticism which they have attempted against the budget. May I in this connection refer to the honourable member from Sialkot who, if I may say so, disentangled some of the main and characteristic features of the present budget. He referred to three facts. Firstly, he said that this budget shows that Government has been prompt and has given substantial help in the matter of the Hissar famine. That is one leading characteristic of the present budget. He referred then to the Haveli project and the expeditionousness and economy with which it has been executed. May I add that the project also typifies the foresight of the Punjab Government in planning so as to relieve permanently distress and difficulty in the future. He was good enough also to refer in this budget to the plan of retrenchment of which we have shown a striking proof. With these main features of the budget—the expeditionousness in giving relief to Hissar, the completion of the Haveli project and the embarkation on new irrigation projects, and added to it the securing of considerable retrenchment—I, for one, think that we have done everything that the province could really desire, and if there be any shortcomings, if it be that we have not been able to achieve everything, that can be no matter of criticism that can be legitimately directed against the present budget.

I have only one observation to offer. The honourable member was pleased to say that last year my budget showed marks of robust optimism and it does not do so to-day. All that I can say is this that if the budget fails to show marks of robustness, the fault lies in my expression, in the manner of what I intended to say. I am also conscious that some members have thought that as a matter of fact the budget depicts too glowing

a picture of the finances of this province, it shows a greater amount of robustness and optimism than circumstances justified or the proposals in the Budget entitled it to.

A second line of criticism was adopted, of which I wish to take no particular notice. That line of criticism was this. One honourable member referred to his constituency of Kangra. Another mentioned the difficulties in the way of the people who live in the Ferozepore district. A third referred to his own district of Mianwali.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Another referred to Ludhiana and its particular difficulties. Then we have mention of Hissar of which we have heard so much recently. These appeals refer to particular districts, they represent the concern of particular honourable members about their constituencies. But these are matters which at any rate are too particular and not important from our point of view to-day, and therefore I choose to leave them aside for the moment.

Then, a third line of criticism was developed against our budget. This is the line of general denunciation in which unmitigated fulmination was attempted against the budget and in which poor me was also occasionally accused. As I listened to the very impassioned speech of my very dear friend, Mian Abdul Aziz, I was reminded of a famous line in a Roman poet rendered forcefully by Alexander Pope "And in heavenly bosoms dwells such mighty rage."

The forebodings of Jeremiahs have not come true; they were not expected to come true. Government has steadfastly kept in view the essential principles of financial rectitude, we have placed a correct and exact picture of the finances of this province before this Assembly. If the honourable members think, as some have in their uncritical denunciations pretended that the Government will suffer some manner of disaster or collapse or reekage as a result of pursuing those principles, well; then, they are indulging in vain imaginings and their prophesies cannot possibly have any significance. They are striking the vacant air. In political controversy, heat is often in inverse proportion to the amount of knowledge possessed by a controversialist. Now, we have tried, or at an rate I have tried in the humble statement that I made in presenting the budget to avoid all heat of debate or controversy. I have placed before the House all possible facts, all possible important facts, in the short speech which I had the privilege to make on the day when the budget was presented. It is no use attempting any lengthy diatribes with regard to it, because, what is really essential is to grasp the principles, implicit in it, and the essential facts *qua* this particular budget. The budget is too solemn an occasion for the art of the mere detractor and criticism so developed leaves me cold—its virulence or vehemence can be no substitute for trenchancy or effectiveness.

Now, Sir, a more potent, because a more worth-while attack that was attempted consisted mainly of certain suggestions. Those suggestions were that we ought to try to develop our revenues and we ought to study curtailment of our expenditure. In this again, may I refer to two or three facts which the honourable members have not particularly noticed. It is obvious

Minister for Finance).

that it must ever be a matter of special study on the part of any government to consider how to keep down expenditure. But honourable members must remember this that only quite recently, in 1931, the whole question of retrenchment was exhaustively and comprehensively examined.

I do not propose to suggest that that having been done no further scope for retrenchment exists. Very far from it. In this very budget you see evidence of it, where the necessity was imperative and the course before Government clear. (*An honourable member* : Why not much more ?) Who says, not much more ? The matter is definitely being enquired into. All that I say is that quite as recently as 1931 the matter was elaborately considered and therefore the scope for retrenchment must necessarily be limited. Secondly, another big fact that we must bear in mind is this, that when this Government entered upon office about two years ago steps had already been taken, or steps were immediately taken by this Government, whereby scales of pay were reduced all along the line and many a service that before used to be an Imperial Service with high scales of pay was, as a matter of fact, made provincial with much lower scales, and brought more directly under the control of the present Government. Thirdly, as I said we made a quick adjustment which the famine situation required and which our finances even with their comparative inelasticity permitted.

Here may I refer to the Resources and Retrenchment Committee about which so much has been said. The first fact that we might bear in mind is this, that this committee unlike others is a committee charged with a double task. It is not only purely retrenchment nor purely resources. This is a larger task than the previous committees, which were smaller in compass, were concerned with. Not only this. It is easy enough for purposes of argument to say, "This committee has been in session for two years, what are its achievements ?" I think much energetic and enthusiastic argument was developed by the honourable member coming from the Hissar side on this matter. As a matter of fact it must be remembered that this committee was not actually constituted till about October, 1937. Therefore in the interest of precision it is no use saying that we were constituted two years ago. Not only that. We did not get that aid and assistance from certain members of the Opposition or rather from gentlemen of the way of thought of the Opposition—one of them it was a matter of real concern to me was an old pupil of mine—that we expected from them, and that to some extent interfered with our proceeding with the deliberations in the committee with that expeditiousness that we might otherwise have done. But let me for the information of the House—because many questions are frequently asked on this matter—say that between October, 1937, and October, 1938, in view of the fact that we had a summer session of the Assembly at Simla we had comparatively very limited free time. But since this evidence had been taken and finished by October, 1938, we literally have not had a day, due to causes which honourable members know, to consider the mass of evidence before us and yet thanks to the honourable members of the committee, we have, I think devoted about twenty days to the consideration of the evidence and we have made considerable progress with the examination of this evidence, and have recorded our results.

An honourable member : How long will you take to complete the report?

Minister for Finance : I will answer that question presently. The reports of the other committees, that is, the Darling Committee and the Unemployment Committee, as the House already knows, are in print. I am possibly at fault so far as this committee is concerned and the House may cast as much blame as it likes on me, but I can assure honourable members who may be prepared to take my word for it that we will allow no time unnecessarily to lapse. We are doing our best.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that the Darling Committee's report was signed nearly a year ago?

Minister for Finance : It was composed of three or four members who had devoted their whole time to that work.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it that the committee finished its labours and a report was signed last May?

Minister : I am not sure of the date, but it is probably much later than May.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that the Government has not been able to consider that report during this period of nearly ten months?

Minister : I think the Premier has answered that and it is not necessary for me to go over the same ground again.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : No answer was given by the Premier.

Minister : I have spoken in all humility. The House may not accept my word, but what I have said is that I have tried to do the best I could and if I may say so, Nawab Muzaffar Khan has been good enough to take the chair whenever it was not possible for me to do so, and if this committee has not been in a position to go faster with its work, I am quite prepared to take the blame on myself.

Another line of criticism was the one to which I attach no importance because it is really pointless and at best of poor debating value, and that line consisted of this, "reduce your revenue and increase your expenditure." I have not come across any one who has made any valuable suggestion, except in the matter of retrenchment or in the matter of lowering the salaries, etc., which is always before us, with regard to the question of expenditure. The demand is generally, "increase your hospitals, intensify your educational effort, provide more relief to agriculture, push on the consolidation of holdings with even greater speed, watch that the industries do not suffer, see that your roads are built faster and that programmes in every possible direction by Governmental effort are increased." That is the demand on one side, and, on the other, of course, the demand is always with us that in this interest or in that interest land revenue should be reduced, abiana rates should be cut down, and other state demands be decreased. May I say again as a very humble individual that such a performance, a feat of that character, is not in my power? Miracles cannot be performed when

[Minister for Finance:]

you are dealing with income and expenditure, and the rules of arithmetic cannot possibly be defied in a way which has been suggested by some honourable members in this House. I can understand each branch of the argument raised by itself. But you cannot have both taken together. (*An honourable member*: Pessimistic). Call it pessimistic. Arithmetic does not permit me to consider this particular matter in any other way, and may I say this with the utmost confidence howsoever pessimistic it may be called; that any Finance Minister anywhere who thought that he could fly in the face of figures and defy facts and rules of arithmetic, would be leading his country to ruin and collapse. (*Hear, hear.*) Now, Sir, in attempting to answer these various criticisms, may I place before the House, what I believe in one form or the other I have done more than once, certain principles which guided your Government in preparing its budgetary affairs? They can be described in two sentences in the first instance, that without serious disorganisation of finance we must meet our immediate wants however heavy, and let me say here that I am glad that that general principle has met with universal approbation from every part of this House in the matter of the Hissar famine. (*Hear, hear and applause.*) I think it would be universally admitted that our Government, with its limited resources has stood the strain of that famine in a remarkable manner; no further effort is necessary to commend the construction of this budget or the principle on which it is based. Further, not only have we met the immediate needs with the utmost promptness and with the greatest desire to help and to serve; but this Government has given striking evidence in this budget of the fact that we are actually building up resources for the future here and now, in the shape of the Haveli project and we are contemplating almost to-morrow the starting of other schemes for the permanent strengthening of your resources (*hear, hear*), that must cut down the possibilities of these disasters with which the province is unfortunately visited every now and then. Sir, if those are the principles on which our budget is constructed—and it does not require any special effort to see that these are the principles—I think we shall be abundantly justified in the eyes of the province for the proper conduct of the finances of which we are at present the custodians. May I put our principles in another way and this is the way in which it attracts the Finance Minister more particularly. I will put this in three or four sentences. The first is that we must conserve our resources. I think we have given evidence of this in this budget because if we had not conserved our finances and our resources we could not possibly have met the difficulties in Hissar. The second principle I wish to emphasise is the principle of self-reliance. We have given evidence of that also. It would be within your recollection that during the past fortnight or three weeks that we have had the spate of budgetary oratory all over the country it has been said, in some of the provinces at any rate, that in order to fill the gap which has been created by the ministries in pursuit of certain ideals or which has arisen otherwise, resort might legitimately be had to the Government of India for assistance immediately. We believe—we should be thankful for any assistance which may come from the Government of India—but we believe that self-reliance is a matter of the utmost importance in budgetary matters. (*Hear, hear and applause.*) And there is a third principle which might be regarded as a corollary to that and that is this. We plan our budgets as

if we are going to hold the ministry for all time. (*Hear, hear from the ministerial benches and ironical cheers from the Opposition.*) The Premier the other day said, I think he referred figuratively to a five thousand years during which the present ministry may last. That of course is literally not possible. But those who hold your ministry to-day and those of their successors imbued with similar ideas may last, should last, a long time. But whether they do or whether they do not, it is the primary duty of every ministry to act and plan as if they were not mere leaseholders for six months or a year (*cheers and counter-cheers*). But they must be prompted in their actions as if they were the custodians for all time of the finances of the province. Thereby alone are finances properly conserved, and true foundations laid for adequate and stable policies. That is a principle that we have kept constantly in view. (*An honourable member: Look to your left.*)

Some of the gentlemen in the course of the speeches referred to 'bachats' (savings) and the absence of 'bachats.' It is not the principle of budgets that there should be a 'bachat'—not even remotely so. I have said that in certain circumstances there may be deficits, and we should not be worried about these deficits. Nor is it any business of the Government, if it can properly forecast events, actually to budget for any large surplus. If a surplus comes at the end of the year, and if the Government can direct it to particular use in pursuit of useful plans that is a perfectly proper course. Such a surplus is all welcome, but if it does not materialise, we are not to strive after a surplus. May I say this in this connection? We had a very large surplus in the year 1937-38; and we provided for a Special Development Fund of 55 lakhs. I had hoped, if the famine had not intervened, that during the year 1938-39 and 1939-40, I should be able to raise that fund from 55 lakhs to more than a crore, and you can see proof in the budget that we would have certainly achieved and accomplished it. But that is not the point. What I wanted to say was this. Last year you would remember so much criticism was directed against this Special Development Fund as if it was something harmful and injurious to this province. This year if you have watched the budgets of other provinces you may have come across more than one where—I was going to say imitation—but an adoption of the scheme that your ministry was able to put before the House last year they have themselves adopted this principle of a special development fund (*hear, hear and applause*), and we are saved from the necessity of budgeting over precisely with a view to see that we have no surplus at all, because whatever surplus we have, thanks to the direction of this House or at any rate the general approbation, we put in this fund which can only add to the advantage and material benefit of the people of this province. (*Hear, hear.*) Tested thus and I repeat the claim in all humility, I think our budget embraces a sound plan winning the general approval of everybody.

Now, Sir, we have made—in 1938-39 when I presented the budget last year I could not have foreseen the deficit, I am no prophet, and in 1939-40, we are having the difficulty again, — we have made no attempt to cover these deficits because we do not consider that these abnormal conditions necessitate additional taxation. No. Our general position, as I said with just emphasis, was one of essentially sound finance, subject to any general and larger changes we may make in our schemes of expenditure or sources of revenue. The only tax that is proposed to be imposed in this

[Minister for Finance.]

province, a Bill has been introduced by me, is a small petrol duty. That is the only tax. You will see, that that is the humblest addition to taxation that has been done in any province in India, and ours is a purely fiscal measure. It was not intended to cover any deficit at all. It was intended to make a permanent addition to our revenues, and if I may say so, it is in furtherance of a recommendation unanimously adopted by the Resources Committee in order to amplify our general revenues. It is not a small matter that in this year of heavy famine strain we have gone through without any sort of cut in salaries, without any increase in our taxation. It can be only a matter of real relief, I take it, to the people in the Punjab—does not matter to what class they may belong,—that we have been able to go through this year and perhaps hope to go through next year—subject to any general examination of our financial position, without imposing any particular burdens on the people. Now, Sir, it is in view of this, if I may say so, that our credit—an honourable member was particularly anxious about our credit—our credit in the loan market stands high to-day (*hear, hear*). You can easily understand my anxiety—I am not an active politician like so many honourable members, you can easily understand my anxiety to see that when we go forward with our borrowing programme as we have to do during the coming year to carry out our big schemes like the Thal and probably the Bhakra, we easily obtain money in the market, and we have not to pay over much for that money.

An honourable gentleman referred—I do not know how he contrived to reconcile himself to this (*laughter*) but he did so—to there being something wrong with under-writing operations in connection with our loans. It is unnecessary, I trust, for me to argue that under-writing is not only permissible but usually essential in floating loans. There cannot be the least objection to such a course particularly as we borrow money through the agency of the Reserve Bank which everybody knows is the most efficient agency for the purpose, and the Reserve Bank thought that under-writing arrangements are absolutely necessary in order to be able to secure money on the most favourable terms. The honourable member (Mr. Sethi) then referred to our jail industries, much uninstructed reference. I wish only to say two words at the present stage. One is that the minister in charge of the jails is the biggest charka spinner in the province to-day (*hear, hear*) and he probably produces more khadi cloth than anybody or any association in the province. But I must reserve my answer to the criticism that is directed against our jail administration; when the appropriate demand comes, I shall be able to show how in so many directions we have been able to move forward and record notable advance.

Sir, I must refer to one or two other matters. It was said that in other provinces voluntary reduction in revenue had taken place. We are all well aware that voluntary reduction in revenue has taken place in a number of provinces in particular directions, but with what effect? I will show you presently that while rains have been lacking in this province the expenditure on beneficent departments has been increasing with torrential speed. And we have had no rain of taxes in this province. If you look at the other provinces, it will be within your recollection that there is hardly a province that has not imposed at least 5 or 6 or 7 duties and taxes during the year.

I think it is no small gratification to this ministry that we have no such rain of taxation. Take for instance Bombay. I am reluctant to institute comparison and I do not wish to do so; but in some provinces, for instance, Bombay, the Finance Minister himself admitted, nay emphasized, that he had probably passed the limits of all proper and bearable taxation there. And may I say this in connection with Bombay. A certain amount of criticism was directed against the house tax which the Administrator of the Lahore Municipality proposes to impose here. You will note that during the next three years the maximum of this House tax in Lahore in the civil station is 4 per cent, in another part of the Lahore city 3 per cent and in still another part within the walled area only 2 per cent. Would it surprise this House to know that in Bombay the pitch of municipal taxation stood already at 14 per cent and yet Government has not hesitated, in the interest of provincial finance and not of the city, to add a further 10 per cent to it? In Bombay, therefore, the pitch of taxation on houses comes, in round figures to 25 per cent or one-fourth, while here we, only in the well favoured civil station, propose to have no more than 4 per cent. Take the United Provinces. The same is the tale, a volley of taxes. Take Assam, the same story. On the radio this morning we were told that a comparatively small province like the Central Provinces is proposing to impose four or five taxes and increasing the petrol duty which is already 5 per cent to 8 per cent. In these circumstances I think one ought to be thankful for the very modest and single step that we have proposed here.

Now, Sir, as I said, a major part of the criticism that was directed against our budget was by Chandhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. Sir, this was valuable criticism, evolved by the honourable member from Sialkot, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. He offered a considerable amount of criticism on our budget; and it was suggested that the Punjab will show poorly in comparison with other provinces. I do not wish to discuss this to-day at any considerable length, but the House will bear with me if I simply stated some of the salient facts. So far as the total expenditure on beneficent departments is concerned, Bombay has a total of Rs. 3,29,00,000. Bengal has 3,31,00,000, Madras has Rs. 4,61,00,000, Punjab has Rs. 3,44,00,000 and the United Provinces Rs. 3,99,00,000. You will see that only two provinces have larger total expenditure on beneficent activities. But in considering total expenditure, we must put side by side with it their total income. I have taken the trouble to do so and if you watch these parallel facts you will find that the percentage of expenditure on beneficent departments to revenue in these various provinces is this:—

Bombay	..	..	..	..	26.2
Bengal	..	..	..	..	24.0
Madras	..	..	..	..	28.4
Punjab	..	..	..	..	29.4 and
United Province	..	..	..	..	29.9

United Provinces is more but in this connection the honourable members must remember that the *per capita* expenditure on beneficent departments in the Punjab is Re. 1.4, and in the United Provinces, though they have larger percentage, they have only Re. .8 (*hear, hear*). I pointed out last

[Minister for Finance.]

year that, as a matter of fact, we have larger *per capita* expenditure on beneficent departments in this province than in any other province except Bombay and you will remember that the population of Bombay is very much smaller than ours.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : What about retrenchment in other provinces ?

Minister for Finance : Sir, I have limited powers. I have not the faculty to deal with two matters at a time.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : The United Provinces has retrenched to the extent of over 48 lakhs.

Minister for Finance : We spent more than in Bombay. Because they have smaller population, and they have in consequence slightly higher *per capita* expenditure. Others are all less. Our percentage is slightly below the United Provinces only but their population is more than double and their *per capita* expenditure is about half. This is a statement that I wish to make particularly for the information of my honourable friend opposite. He said, I do not know how he said so, that Bombay has an expenditure of 29 lakhs on industries and we here have only an expenditure of 21 lakhs. I was startled by these figures when they were announced by him. I have verified facts and I have the Bombay Budget here. Bombay has really only 18 lakhs for industries. In Agriculture we really stand far ahead, with our expenditure of 40 lakhs, and in this connexion we must remember 19 lakhs on Veterinary and 19 lakhs on Co-operation. Any examination of these figures—I will make the statement available for the honourable members if they so desire—is most gratifying. I have compiled comparative figures on the strictest basis, and we need be afraid of no comparisons.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : On a point of order. My point of order is that the hour of interruption being over, no proceedings can be carried on any further. I will refer you to Rule 12 (3) (c) of our Rules of Procedure. It runs thus :—

“(c) a motion may be made by a Minister at the commencement of the business for the day to be decided without amendment or debate to the following effect : “That the proceedings on any specified item of business be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the rule.....”

This motion having not been made, I submit that the proceedings which are continuing after 6-30 P.M. are absolutely illegal.

Premier : The Speaker asked the House informally and permission was given.

Mr. Speaker : I understood that the whole House unanimously agreed that the Honourable Minister for Finance should proceed, otherwise I would not have allowed him to do so. The question whether the House should sit after 6-30 P. M. is for the House to decide and not for me.

Finance Minister : High percentage of income devoted to beneficent expenditure nearly the highest expenditure *per capita*, a steadily rising expenditure in this regard even though famine put a heavy strain on our finances, these are stern facts. We have had no rain of taxes, nature did

not favour us. Yet we have had a rain of beneficent activity. Therefore, when I said, judge it by whatever standard, we deserve the fullest measure of approbation from this House in regard to the budget, I was indulging in no vain boast. After all in a short period of two years you cannot bring about a complete change. If you will study carefully the beneficent activities and also the way in which we have conceived and executed during our life time large irrigation schemes it will be admitted that in both these directions the Punjab Government has at least done its duty—.

Mr. Speaker : How long will the Finance Minister take ?

Minister for Finance : I shall be very brief, a few minutes more.

Mr. Speaker : The House will sit till 7 o'clock.

Minister for Finance : In this respect I think we should stand together in the consciousness of what has been done, and in the desire to go forward unhampered. We should not attempt to create any difficulty, or attempt to cast unnecessary opprobrium, because nothing can be easier than to stand on the firm shore and watch on the sea lashed into tumultuous waves by storm, the terrible perils of others. Nothing is to be gained thereby. We have all to pull together and push the boat of our progress by united effort. I am a humble person, and claim no credit for myself. I only watch your finances faithfully, I trust, but I cannot help saying as I see it every day, that this Government has high convictions and it is true to them. Your Government possesses in an uncommon, in a superlative degree the capacity to estimate public opinion. What a marvellous gift this of our leader the Premier with his hand ever on the pulse of the people, enjoying at once their trust and their admiration ! His vigilant watch over the true interests of the province is of unequalled value. (Applause.) Thus has success been achieved.

Now it has been said that in other provinces certain other and great things exist ; and how lacking in them we are. This does not lie in any particular province, but I venture to refer to them in passing. It serves no useful purpose to institute narrow and close comparisons and I shall avoid them. There is no finality in politics and we should not express ourselves with undue certainty or assurance. The Punjab Government has frequently been attacked on certain fanciful shortcomings. May I remind the House of the Government where the Premier is held in the highest esteem and is noted very rightly for his remarkable ability, high intellectual equipment and rare farsightedness. Our Government has been attacked on three vital points. The first is the question of the separation of the judiciary and the executive. As a student I am prepared to have my lesson in this regard from Madras where it has been emphatically stated that there is no such thing as a necessary principle of the separation of these two branches. Another thing on which the Punjab Government has been attacked is that we have the system of nomination which is obsolete, antiquated and old fashioned and devoid of all sense of utility. I think it will be within the recollection of honourable members that nomination to the Public Health committee in Madras has not only been given effect to but has been supported and advocated by no less a person than the distinguished Premier of the province. Then, Sir, we are again attacked on the ground that resort is

[Minister for Finance.]

had here occasionally to the Criminal Law Amendment Act and therefore this Government is a reactionary government. May I quote the words of Mr. Rajagopalachariar. He said—

“Those who have made themselves a nuisance to the Government were bound to be shut up, that the Government could not have disorder in the country.”

He gave no assurance to repeal the Act, but warned the members that “probably very much harsher measures will have to be made by the present Government if we have to protect ourselves.” The Criminal Law Amendment Act is treated by this eminent Premier as almost a nation-building agency—a beneficent measure. And yet our Government has been repeatedly characterised as a reactionary government. Then another honourable member said that the Finance Minister is all right but the rest of the ministry are stones round his neck. I was conscious of no such impediment in my way.

Sometimes they said—although again it is no function of mine to deal with these matters—that the policy of the Punjab Government in the matter of newspapers is utterly indefensible. Well, again I might say one word. I shall ask my honourable friend to remember what the policy of the Home Minister in the province of Bombay is and has been in the recent past. In spite of very strong utterances to the contrary not long ago the Honourable Minister entered a very strong warning against the press and the manner in which the press in his province was conducting itself. I am throwing no blame on anybody whatsoever. In politics the problem is seldom a simple one. The difficulties in the various provinces are pretty nearly the same. In certain circumstances resort is to be had to particular steps irrespective of their effect. Sometimes it is said that in the Punjab occasional riots take place. Unfortunate as the riots are, I must congratulate the Premier that the riots in this province are a negligible number as compared with the riots that have occurred in several of the other provinces and particularly in the United Provinces, where hardly a day passes when a riot does not take place. It is a matter of shame that in a town like Cawnpore, where you have a modern labour community with their progressive thoughts, there should be these frequent riots on the most trifling and unnecessary of occasions. I am casting no blame but our problems in certain respects are common. Recently a sober member of the Assembly of the United Provinces who happened to be a member of Government of the United Provinces said that they are not functioning well and they are heading towards financial collapse. I hope and trust that that might not be so. I hope and trust also certain steps taken by the Bombay Government, a Congress Government, to increase taxation, may cause no serious dislocation. The task before a Finance Minister is not easy, but Bombay from all reports has had a serious shock.

My honourable friends referred to the necessity of turning Lahore into a commercial town. They have spoken of industrial development. Are they aware that in a presidency which perhaps leads in matters of industry, they have taken steps not only to impose heavy house taxes which are bound to affect industry seriously but a direct tax on an important industry of that presidency to the extent of 6½ per cent has been imposed? We

may not have done much. I am not giving away any secret of my honourable friend the Minister for Development. I would submit that it is a matter to be duly considered as to what possibly we can do in the matter of development. It can not be suggested that I am not interested in industrial advancement. I must say that I am interested in seeing that we have industries that may be quickly developed but we must avoid hasty and immature ideas that may entail grave financial loss without any adequate results. That I resist. I am always in favour of considering the possibility of advancement of industries, but it has to be remembered that industries turn upon a very narrow range of profit and the Government is not particularly well constituted to undertake risks. If you study the columns say of the weekly "Capital," you will find that a very large number of industries are not paying. In these circumstances one has to be very careful. I think I am voicing the feelings of this House when I say that they would not like me to take improper risks on the strength of the hard-earned money of the tax-payer and the poor zamindar that comes into our pocket. It would be an improper use of that money. If we can see any opportunity by which our Government—I am quite sure I am speaking with the permission of the Premier—is fully conscious—and it is its duty to help and encourage any industries—we shall do everything in our power to help them where it is possible to do so. (*Hear, hear.*)

Any one can see and it is fully recognised by the province that yours is a determined Ministry with a vision. I can see with what strides the province is bound to go forward, for it is set on the right path, your Government is determined to build on solid foundations. I am perhaps not fated to see the full dream of progress realised. But I am perfectly confident that my colleagues on my right and on my left will see the crown of success duly achieved, and the province will rejoice in the abundance of the future, even more than it rejoices to-day. Let us lift up our hearts.

Sir, now my last reflections. The philosopher Bacon said that 'States are great engines moving slowly.' Much wisdom is implied in these words. What is two years in the life of a State? No miracles can be achieved in two years, or for that matter in five or ten. The years represent a small period in the life of a province, a big province like ours. I trust honourable members will not be disposed to achieve miracles at a single stride, because that certainly points to failure. Provinces with inelastic finances, like ours, cannot afford to take short and hasty steps towards the achievement of mighty results. We must all watch that we walk on sure roads and build on firm foundation for enduring progress is only thus achieved; nor must we forget that it is the fruit of good will and joint endeavour. Your Government, inspired by great aims and bent on bold enterprise, is resolved to serve undaunted and fearless though thoughtful and vigilant. I have been looking through the luminous galaxy of poets and I am reminded of the words of poet Dante: The poet said—let me render in English his incomparable Italian:

"Be steadfast as a tower that doth not bend
Its stately summit to the tempests' shock."

To such an one as our chief and leader the words may be directed, we all share in the strength.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : On a personal explanation. The Honourable Premier, while making his speech, said that when I spoke on the general discussion of the budget I criticised the saving of 2½ crores made in the Haveli Project. I may point out to him that it is quite wrong. When I was making my speech he was not present. That was the only point in the budget which I appreciated.

Premier : On a point of order. My honourable friend is under a misapprehension. I did not mention his name. I only referred to the honourable member sitting by his side. I was present in the House and I heard him.

(Mian Muhammad Nurullah again rose in his seat.)

Mr. Speaker : When the Premier has stated on the floor of the House that he did not refer to the honourable member, he should believe the Premier.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : He made sarcastic remarks. Why should he not be paid in the same coin?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : On a personal explanation. When I quoted the figures for industries, I was not referring to the Bombay Government but I was referring to the United Provinces Government. The United Provinces Government has allotted 80 lakhs for industries.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : On a personal explanation. The Honourable Premier in your absence made some very unjust and may I say, improper reflection or aspersion on the proceedings of the conference which recently took place at Amritsar and he made an attempt to refer to one of the speeches that I was said to have made. I asked for time just to say something in reply to that. Mr. Deputy Speaker promised to give me an opportunity later.

Mr. Speaker : Which Conference and about what?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : A non-agriculturists conference was held at Amritsar and I was the Chairman of the reception committee and there I made a certain speech.

Mr. Speaker : Did the honourable member make that speech as a member of the Assembly or in his private capacity?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Not as a member of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker : Then no personal explanation is needed or permissible. The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 P.M., on Friday, 17th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 1ST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 17th March, 1939.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 P.M. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REDUCTION OF SUPPLY OF WATER IN MONTGOMERY CIRCLE OF THE NILI BAR COLONY.

***4103. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in some cases in Montgomery circle in the Nili Bar Colony the canal water supply has been reduced after 1st April, 1937, by the Irrigation Department by more than twenty per cent at a time; if so, the particulars of such cases and the reasons for reducing the water supply?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : It is not possible to obtain the information required without a large amount of labour that is not warranted, but if the honourable member gives details of any case where a reduction of more than 20 per cent has been done Government will be too glad to make enquiries.

LEASE OF PALLA POND AREA IN NILI BAR COLONY.

***4104. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether Khan Bahadur Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, C.B.E., Parliamentary Secretary, holds a lease of land in the Nili Bar Palla Pond area and, if so, the area of the land so leased and the terms of the lease and also state whether any other person or persons submitted tenders for the lease of the same land at the time the lease was given and, if so, what were their quotations?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The gross area of Palla Pond is approximately 9,482 acres. The average area under cultivation in the years before 1937-38 was 960 acres. This has been leased to Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana for 5 years at a rent of Rs. 5,200 per annum. A tender was also received from Khan Bahadur Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Khakwani offering Rs. 4,000 for a 5 years lease. Prior to 1937 the maximum rent which had been received for the said area was Rs. 3,250 per annum.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state for how many years the Nili Bar Pond area has been on lease with Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana?

Parliamentary Secretary : Since the time this area was given out for cultivation, it has been on lease with Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana. Previously the lease of this area was always given by auction but the lease money never exceeded Rs. 8,500. Government afterwards considered the desirability of granting lease of the area for five years in the hope that they might get more, with the result that they leased it out at Rs. 5,200.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : So far how much has been paid by Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana in this respect?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have stated that previously we never received more than Rs. 3,500.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Was the lease money paid every year or paid in lump sum for the whole period ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Previously the land was leased out year after year, but it has now been leased out for five years.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Was not the following telegram sent by Government :—

Telegram, dated the 18th May, 1937, to the Superintending Engineer, Nili Bar Circle.

Please accept tenders for Islam land lease. Daulatana may take on lease 5,200. Send case early.

What was the occasion for it ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The reason why this telegram was sent is as follows :—This area consisted of ten thousand acres which included some forests and land under water. Government considered it advisable to lease it out for five years instead of one year as was done previously. Only one thousand acres are now under cultivation.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Did the Government inform Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Khakwani that the area was leased out to Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have stated that Nawab Khakwani offered only Rs. 4,000 and consequently the area was leased out to Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana at Rs. 5,000.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Did Government intend to lease this area to Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I know that Nawab Khakwani wrote to the effect that he was not prepared to pay more than Rs. 4,000.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Did Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana write the following letter to Government :—

Demi-official No. 7—6—37 to Civil Engineer, Simla.

Many thanks for your kind letter No. 296-5 R. W., dated the 20th May, 1937. I have already replied to it according to your telegram for a period of five years. I accept Government offer and will pay Rs. 5,200 every year.

Did Government make this offer ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Daulatana Sahib is in the habit of writing so many letters and he does not show them to me (*laughter*).

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask, in view of the terms of the telegram read out by my honourable friend behind me whether the offer that this gentleman was prepared to pay Rs. 5,200 a year for five years was also communicated to anybody else and particularly to the gentleman who made the first offer ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have no knowledge of it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : In spite of the denial on the part of my friend of all knowledge regarding this correspondence, may I ask him one simple

question to which I want one simple answer? When this offer was communicated by the Department by means of this State telegram to the honourable gentleman sitting behind the Honourable Premier, was a similar offer also communicated to the other gentleman who made the first offer?

Parliamentary Secretary : When I have denied having any knowledge of that particular telegram referred to by my friend, how am I expected to tell him whether a similar offer was communicated to the other gentleman?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is my honourable friend now prepared to state whether it is not a fact that this offer was communicated only to the honourable gentleman sitting behind the Honourable Premier and not to any other tenderer who may possibly have given a higher rate than Rs. 5,200?

Minister for Revenue : The first offer was from Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana himself and on this Government orders were communicated to him which he accepted as there was no higher offer than this.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask him whether he now as in charge of the department is prepared to deny the correctness of this communication and the other communication sent by the honourable Daulatana to the Engineer in charge which definitely declares that the offer was made by the Government to the honourable Daulatana and that he then accepted that offer. Does my honourable friend deny the correctness of those allegations?

Premier : Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana is here and you can put the question to him. He is in the habit of loosely wording his letters and he is not an authority in English (*laughter*.)

Diwan Chaman Lall : In spite of the fact that my honourable friend writes brilliant articles to the press even though he is not an authority in English, I put these questions to him. Did he or did he not receive a telegram, dated 18th May, and did he not reply stating—

“Many thanks for your kind letter, dated 20th May, 1937. I have already replied to it agreeing to your telegram for a period of five years. I accept the Government offer and will pay Rs. 5,200 a year”.

May I ask the honourable member whether this correspondence has been exchanged between him and the Government?

Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana : I had an interview with the Chief Engineer and made an offer of Rs. 5,000 and as a result of that conversation I received the telegram to which I sent the reply.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I then ask whether it is a lie on the part of the Superintending Engineer when he says that he did not make the offer to Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana?

Premier : My honourable friend is unnecessarily excited. The point is very simple. My colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary, tried to explain it to the House. If my honourable friend will consider the answer to the

[Premier]

question calmly he will find that there is no disparity between these telegrams and what the Parliamentary Secretary said. The position is this. Prior to a certain period the area was used to be leased annually and the Daulatana used to be the highest bidder. After that it was suggested that if the area was given on a longer lease Government might be able to get a better offer. It was accordingly decided that the area should be leased out for five years. An offer was made by Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Khakwani for Rs. 4,000. M. Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana who used to take this area on lease annually offered Rs. 5,000. The offer went to the Chief Engineer. He replied back that the area should not be leased on annual basis and wrote to Daulatana saying "this is our figure; you have offered Rs. 5,000; are you prepared to pay Rs. 5,200 on these terms, that is, the amount to be paid annually or six-monthly and that Government will not be responsible for any damage due to river action." Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana wrote back saying that he accepted the offer. That is the whole story and is simple enough. If my honourable friend would calmly consider the question he will find that there is no disparity.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If the whole story had been simple enough as the Honourable Premier says, it would not have elicited so many supplementary questions on the floor of the House. Is it not a fact that Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Khakwani originally made the offer to take the land on lease for five years and that my honourable friend sitting behind the Honourable Premier did not at that time make any offer? Is it not a fact that the Chief Engineer after the receipt of this offer, of his own accord communicated the state of affairs to my honourable friend sitting behind the Premier. Did he or did he not, as a result of this information, double cross that gentleman who made the original offer?

Premier : I am afraid my honourable friend is doing injustice to the honourable gentleman who made the offer and also to the Chief Engineer. That is very uncharitable. The position is that one gentleman made an offer of Rs. 4,000. The man who was already in possession of the area was informed of it. As a result of that, the man in possession of the area made a higher offer of Rs. 5,000. Therefore the Chief Engineer considered this to be a better offer than the other and asked the gentleman in possession of the area if he was prepared to pay Rs. 5,200 subject to certain conditions. As this gentleman agreed to it, he decided that the lease should be given to him as he was already in possession of it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Khakwani had actually offered to pay the whole sum of Rs. 25,000 for five years which comes to a rate of not Rs. 4,000 a year, but Rs. 5,000? Is it not also a fact that this information was communicated to the department and the department of its own accord communicated the matter by telegram to Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana who thereupon offered Rs. 5,200.

Premier : My honourable friend is saying something about which I am not aware. This is evidently an after-thought on his part.

Diwan Chaman Lall : This is the gist of the whole case. Is the Honourable Premier prepared to place the whole correspondence on the table of the House? My point is that Nawab Ahmad Yar Khan Khakwani offered to pay Rs. 5,000 in advance.

Minister : There is no question of Khakwani offering Rs. 5,000 in advance. He made an offer of Rs. 4,000 a year for five years. Therefore no question arises whether any payment was to be made in advance.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the Honourable Minister seen the original document ?

Minister : It was I that passed orders on the case.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Did the Honourable Minister pass orders without seeing the document ?

Minister : I passed orders on the representation made by the Chief Engineer.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the Honourable Minister seen the original document or not ?

Minister : Yes, I have seen.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is he prepared to lay it on the table ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If he has seen the document, why is he not prepared to lay it on the table ?

Mr. Speaker : That question is disallowed.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If the Honourable Minister is not prepared to lay the document on the table, inasmuch as it is not confidential, will he at least show it to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition ?

Minister : I do not see any necessity for doing so.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is the Honourable Minister prepared to do so in view of the serious allegation made by my friend behind me ?

Minister : There is no question of any serious allegation. The original offer was for Rs. 4,000 and we now have got out of Daulatana Rs. 5,200.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Was any letter bearing the number 296/22/5-R. W. issued by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot say off-hand. I must have notice.

Mr. Speaker : I think this subject has been sufficiently discussed. Let us proceed to the next question.

COMPLAINT AGAINST A PATWARI AT JANDIALA.

***4105. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, M. L. A. and two Lambardars of village Jandiala made a complaint to the Naib-Tahsildar of Nawanshahr, district Jullundur, who was on tour at Jandiala on the 7th January, 1939, to the effect that the Patwari at Jandiala had been dead drunk for the two days together and had also abused the two Lambardars who went to him in connection with some official work ;

[Ch. Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan]

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Naib-Tahsildar has since brought the said complaint to the notice of the Revenue Assistant or Deputy Commissioner of the district; if so, what action the higher authorities have taken or propose taking in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No. The Naib-Tahsildar was making an enquiry on the point himself when these gentlemen appeared before him, as he had found the patwari drunk on the 7th January, 1939, in camp at Jadla.

(b) The file is pending with the Naib-Tahsildar, and suitable action will be taken on receipt of his report.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO DAULATANA'S LAND IN NILI BAR.

***4107. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta**: With reference to the speech made by his Parliamentary Secretary on the adjournment motion regarding preferential treatment to Daulatana's land in Nili Bar on the 10th January, 1939, in course of which he read out an order by the Honourable Minister of Revenue will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether he will be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the note put up by the Department on the subject?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): It is not customary to lay copies of office notes on the table of the House. I, therefore, regret I am unable to meet with the wishes of my honourable friend.

REMOVAL OF GRIEVANCES OF THE TENANTS OF THE NILI BAR COLONY.

***4111. Master Kabul Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether and what further steps Government intend taking to redress the grievances of the tenants of the Nili Bar Colony who have been carrying on a vigorous agitation against the present tender system and want a direct contract with the Government?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Besides what has been done by Government to afford relief to the tenants of the Nili Bar Colony, Government have ordered with regard to the area for lease from kharif 1939, believed to amount to nearly 120,000 acres, that fifty per cent of the total area shall be in lots not exceeding two rectangles and twenty-five per cent, in lots exceeding two, but not exceeding five rectangles. The orders provide that no person or a body of persons shall be leased more than one lot. Rents for these smaller lots are not expected to be high and it is hoped therefore that many of those who have hitherto been cultivating as sub-tenants of leasees of larger areas will be enabled to take these small lots direct from Government.

REALIZATION OF WATER RATES IN VILLAGES IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***4123. Sardar Partab Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether a deputation from Budhladha, district

Hissar, waited upon him on 13th January, 1939, in connection with the realization of water rates by the officers concerned in that famine-stricken area comprising 14 villages; if so, what steps, if any, the Government have taken to help the zamindars concerned on the request made by the deputationists?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Yes, a deputation from Budhladha waited upon the Minister for Revenue in January, 1939.

Water rates in those villages are levied by the Patiala State.

In terms of the existing Agreement between the Punjab Government and the Patiala State the latter has full discretion in the granting of remission of water rates in that area which is watered by the Patiala State channels of the Sirhind Canal.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO PEOPLE OF AMBALA DISTRICT.

***4130. Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware that no famine relief has been given to the people of Ambala district; if so, why and whether Government is contemplating to grant relief to them now?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Prolonged drought has affected portions of the district, and Government is fully alive to the situation. The measures of relief so far sanctioned are as follows:—

- (1) A sum of Rs. 1,70,738 has been suspended out of the fixed land revenue demand for kharif, 1938, and Rs. 327 remitted out of suspended land revenue. Special remissions of land revenue amounting to Rs. 18,232 have been sanctioned on account of fall in prices.
- (2) A sum of Rs. 8,500 has been allotted for distribution as taccavi. Suspensions and remissions of taccavi amount to Rs. 12,606 and Rs. 992, respectively.

LAND REVENUE FIXED FOR NAMMAL AND THAMMEWALI ZAILS OF MIANWALI DISTRICT.

***4132. Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the lands situated in the Nammal and Thammewali zails of the Mianwali district are subject to a payment of fixed land revenue;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on account of drought no crops could be sown on those lands during the current financial year;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the land revenue in respect of the above-mentioned lands has neither been remitted nor suspended so far, if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter to give relief to the poor zamindars of that area?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

(c) It was not found necessary to grant any suspensions and remissions in kharif 1938. The question of granting suspensions and remissions in rabi 1939 will be considered after the results of the *girdawari* are known.

REVENUE PATWARIS IN THE PUNJAB.

***4138. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of revenue patwaris in the Punjab ;
- (b) their grades together with their pay (monthly salary) ;
- (c) yearly increment, if any ;
- (d) what prospects they have of promotion to higher grade ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) 9,422.

(b) There are three grades, viz. :—

1st grade on Rs. 26 per mensem.

2nd grade on Rs. 23 per mensem.

3rd grade on Rs. 20 per mensem.

(c) No yearly increment is allowed.

(d) 66 per cent. of the posts of kanungo are filled by patwaris.

Patwaris are also eligible for the following posts in the district establishment :—

- (1) Assistant sadr wasil baqi nawis.
- (2) Tahsil baqi nawis.
- (3) Inspection moharrir in the sadr kanungo's office.
- (4) Judicial moharrir to the tahsildar and naib-tahsildar.
- (5) Ahlmad to the revenue assistant and sub-divisional officer.
- (6) Revenue moharrir to the deputy commissioner.

The post of siah nawis in tahsil offices has been reserved for patwaris.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is their post pensionable ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, Sir.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is the Government prepared to consider the advisability of giving them the benefit of provident fund ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is a request for action. I cannot answer this question.

KANUNGOS IN THE PUNJAB.

***4139. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of kanungos in the Punjab ;
- (b) their grades together with their monthly salary ;
- (c) yearly increment, if any ;

(d) chances of promotion to higher grade ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) 869.

(b) and (c) The following are the grades :—

	Per mensem.
	Rs.
(1) Sadr kanungo (except Simla)	75—5/2—100.
(2) Sadr kanungo, Simla	60—5—75.
(3) Office kanungo and assistant sadr kanungo	60
(4) Special kanungo—	
(i) if appointed before 1st September, 1932	65
(ii) if appointed after 1st September, 1932	55
(5) Field kanungo, I grade	50
Field kanungo, II grade	40
Field kanungo, Simla	50

(d) A sadr kanungo is eligible for appointment as head vernacular clerk in a district office or tahsildar. Other kanungos are eligible to become naib-tahsildars and zilladars.

Kanungos are also eligible for the following posts in the district establishment :—

- (1) Assistant sadr wasil baqi nawis.
- (2) Tahsil baqi nawis.
- (3) Judicial moharrir to the tahsildar and naib-tahsildar.
- (4) Ahlmad to the revenue assistant and sub-divisional officer.
- (5) Revenue moharrir to the deputy commissioner.
- (6) Inspection moharrir in the sadr kanungo's office.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : How many of the 800 kanungos have been appointed naib-tahsildars ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot tell from memory.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : How many patwaris were promoted to the post of kanungo ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I want notice of the question.

MALKANA.

***4147. Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government charges 2,500 rupees Malkana per square from the Nili Bar colonists ;
- (b) the rate of Malkana per square charged from the colonists in Lower Bari Doab and Lower Chenab Canal colonies ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the rate of Malkana in the Nili Bar is in excess of the rate in other colonies ; if so, the reasons for this difference ?

Parliamentary Secretary : (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes. The purchase price for a peasant colonist for a rectangle of 25 acres is Rs. 2,500.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) I would refer the honourable member to the answer given to starred question No. 3302-A,¹ during the last Simla session of the Assembly.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Is it a fact that land on the Lower Bari Doab and the Lower Chenab Canal is much better than that of the Nili Bar.

Minister for Revenue : It is a matter of opinion.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Is it a fact that water given to zamindars on the Lower Bari Doab and the Lower Chenab is more than is given to zamindars on the Nili Bar Canal ?

Minister : If you consult the Irrigation Branch, you will get the necessary information.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : It is after consulting the papers of the branch that I have been able to know that the land and water of the Lower Bari Doab and the Lower Chenab is better. How is it that the grantees on the Lower Chenab Canal and the Lower Bari Doab are asked to pay Rs. 1,000 only while grantees on the Lower Bari Doab are charged 2,500 for proprietary rights ?

Minister : The reason is we get far more than we are getting from the land given to these gentlemen.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : But why ? If the land has been given in reward to certain services why is this difference in rates maintained ?

Minister : The rates are different.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Did a deputation wait on him on behalf of the grantees ?

Minister : Yes.

Sardar Ajit Singh : What was your reply ?

Minister : Do you want my reply ? The matter is under consideration.

Sardar Ajit Singh : What public service stands to the credit of these grantees ?

Minister : They and their relatives exposed themselves to dangers on the battlefields and enabled my friends over there to sit here peacefully.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that abadkars and attiiyadars in the Nili Bar are paying more sum as *malkana* than other people in other colonies ?

Premier : They are paying *malkana* all right. What is the grievance of my honourable friend ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : My grievance is that these people are now unable to pay this sum.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that the grantees in Montgomery have been allowed to pay Rs. 1,000 in place of Rs. 2,500 originally fixed? If so, is the Government prepared to consider the same question vis-a-vis the grantees in the Nili Bar?

Mr. Speaker : The question is argumentative. Disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that some poor colonists in the Nili Bar are selling their lands at one thousand or two thousands rupees per square?

Premier : The Government has no such information. My honourable friend, however, may have been fortunate enough to purchase some land at these rates.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is not a *nazrana* of Rs. 2,500 too much in view of the price of the land?

Minister : I have already replied to that question.

Statement.

Name of colony and district.	Class of tenancies.	Rate of purchase price per acre.
Lower Chenab, Sheikhupura, Jhang and Lyallpur.		Rs. A. P.
	(a) All peasants including yeomen and capitalists (old grants).	12 8 0
	(b) Fauji grants transferred from the Lower Bari Doab Colony.	100 0 0
	(c) 1st class Balochis ..	30 0 0
	2nd class Balochis ..	62 0 0
	Dangali grants ..	100 0 0
	Chaudhis of camel grants of $\frac{1}{2}$ square.	12 8 0
	Chaudhis of grants of area in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ square.	400 0 0
	(d) New military jagir grants ..	Free of cost except in the village abadi site.
	(e) Peasants and landed gentry grants transferred from the Lower Bari Doab Canal.	100 0 0

[Minister for Revenue.]

Name of colony and district.	Class of tenancies.	Rate of purchase price per acre.
		(Rs. A. P.)
Lyallpur ..	(f) 5,000 acres for allotment out of baqaya.	200 0 0
Lower Chenab extensions	(g) Civil non-official reward grants, on Pir Mahal and Khikhi.	125 0 0
	(h) Literates (Khikhi) ..	Tenancies to be subject to the rule of primogeniture.
	(i) Peasants on Burala Extension—(Locals, etc.)	Sliding scale varying between Rs. 50 and Rs. 120 according to the number of half-yearly instalments prescribed and chosen.
	(j) Peasants—Pir Mahal and Khikhi	Sliding scale varying between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 according to the number of half-yearly instalments prescribed and chosen.
Lower Bari Doab Colony, Montgomery and Multan.	(a) Annual military reward or military jagir grants.	Free of cost except in the village abadi site.
	(b) Peasants of all classes, sarwans, landed gentry, peasants to maintain roadside trees, tenants of bara land, tenants of inferior land (half resumable grants).	Sliding scale varying between Rs. 40 and Rs. 100 according to the number of half-yearly instalments prescribed and chosen.
	(c) Janglis and Sayyads (cow breedings).	150 0 0
	(d) Garden tenants (Okara) ..	Rs. 1,000 in a lump sum.
	(e) Tenants of inferior lands—originally sold by auction or tender.	Sliding scale varying between Rs. 100 and Rs. 240 according to the number of instalments prescribed and chosen.
	(f) Landed gentry and civil non-official reward grants—(Rensala Lift Area).	125 0 0
	(g) Criminal tribes ..	Only occupancy rights conferred.
	(h) Certain depressed classes ..	Rate varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 350.

REMISSION IN LAND REVENUE IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

***4172. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any remission in land revenue has been granted in the Jullundur district for the last rabi and kharif crops; if so, in how many tahsils it has been granted with the amount of remission in each case;

(b) whether the *Beit* ilaqa of the Nakodar tahsil in the said district also got a share of this remission and, if not, why not?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The case is under report.

(b) Does not arise.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the honourable member as to whether the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, recommended a remission of 25 per cent. in 1938?

Parliamentary Secretary : When I have said the case is under report how can I answer this?

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know how long the case will remain under report?

Minister for Revenue : I cannot say.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know as to whether they are going to give any remission or not?

Parliamentary Secretary : The matter is under report.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : How many *kharifs* and *rabis* will pass before the report will be made?

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know as to whether he is aware of the fact that the land revenue under *kharif* crop has already been realized and has been put in the public exchequer?

Parliamentary Secretary : I think my honourable friend is correct.

Mian Abdul Rab : When the amount has been realized, what is under consideration?

Minister : The damage done is being enquired into and as soon as the report is received we will remit the next instalment.

Mian Abdul Rab : Do I understand that the Government will sympathetically consider the matter?

Minister : We consider all questions like this sympathetically.

REPORT OF LAND REVENUE INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

***4173. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state when the report of the Darling Committee otherwise called Land Revenue Inquiry Committee is likely to be published or made available to the members of this House?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The report cannot be published until it has been considered by Government. As soon as this is done, endeavours will be made to publish it ; no definite date can, however, be fixed for publication at present.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether the report has been published by now or not ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It has been printed as far as I know.

Mian Abdul Rab : When is it expected to be made available ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am sorry I cannot give you the exact date.

Mian Abdul Rab : Can he give me the approximate date ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether it is a fact that this report has been under consideration of the Government for the last ten months ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No. First time the report was given to the Honourable Minister for Revenue was at the end of December last.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask him to state the objection to the publication of the report before the Government has finished consideration ?

Minister : I am afraid I cannot be drawn into a discussion on this.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I know whether he is aware that elsewhere reports of this nature are published before the Government has formed its own conclusions ?

Minister : Quite possible, but not in reports of this nature which has great complications.

APPLICATION OF JAWAYA IN TAHSIL PAKPATTAN, REGARDING KHARABA
AND THE ACTION TAKEN ON IT.

***4197. Mian Sultan Mahmood Hotiana** : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether on the 27th October, 1938, any application was submitted by Jawaya, son of Din Muhammad, resident of village Jam-layra, tahsil Pakpattan, regarding kharaba of plots of land situated in Chak No. 86/K. B. to the officer incharge of Head of Palla canal ;
- (b) whether any officer of Canal Department made any inquiries in pursuance of the said application regarding the numbers mentioned therein ; if so, the name and the office the said officer holds ;
- (c) whether the said officer sent for any lambardar or pattidar at the time of making inquiries, if so, the name of the lambardar or pattidar thus sent for ;
- (d) if no inquiries were made the reasons for the same and who is responsible for the water rate which the said Jawaya is required to pay ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The fields were inspected by the Zilladar of the section.

(c) The cultivators were informed and consequently M. Admera, son of M. Nabbo, Pattidar, and M. Basara, son of M. Mahni, etc., were present at the time of enquiry or inspection.

(d) Does not arise.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Is the Government prepared to enter them as Rai Sikhs in official records instead of Mahtams?

Parliamentary Secretary: No representation has been received and, therefore, the Government has not considered this question.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Is the Government prepared to consider it now?

Parliamentary Secretary: Every representation that is received is taken into consideration.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh: Have the Rai Sikhs been declared a criminal tribe anywhere?

Parliamentary Secretary: It depends on circumstances. A criminal is a criminal to whatever class or community he belongs.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh: Have they been so declared in Thana Atari of the Dipalpur tahsil of Montgomery district?

Parliamentary Secretary: The honourable member should inquire from the gentleman sitting next to him.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Is the word Mahtam considered to be insulting and derogatory?

Parliamentary Secretary: I cannot say.

RAI SIKHS OF MONTGOMERY AND OTHER DISTRICTS.

***4214. Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether during the course of the last 12 months he has received numerous representations from "Rai" Sikhs (Mahtam of Montgomery, Lyallpur and Ferozepore districts requesting the Government to enter them as Rai Sikhs instead of Mahtam in the revenue records; if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government on these representations?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): No representations have been received and the latter part of the question does not arise.

***4215. Cancelled.**

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACHHUTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

***3732. Chaudhri Faqir Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the total number of Achhuts employed in the Agricultural Department?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: One hundred and fortyone.

VILLAGES SELECTED IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT FOR INSTRUCTING
ZAMINDARS IN MODERN METHODS OF AGRICULTURE.

***3814. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether some villages in the Ludhiana district have been selected by the Department of Agriculture for instructing the zamindars to improve agriculture and to carry it on according to modern methods ;
- (b) if reply to the above be in the affirmative, the names of those villages, tahsil-wise ;
- (c) the names of the zamindars who have agreed to carry on agriculture on modern lines through the persuasion of the Department of Agriculture ;
- (d) the number of villages in which seed was supplied by the Department of Agriculture to the land-owners and tenants for the improvement of the seed in all the three tahsils of the Ludhiana district ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes.

(b) A list giving the required information is laid on the table. Villages that have made good progress and have a number of zamindars interested in agriculture are called "A" and others "B" class.

(c) and (d) The information is not available and its collection would involve time and labour not commensurate with the results to be obtained.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will the Honourable Minister kindly tell me the date when the villages were selected ?

Minister : No. I cannot give you the date.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Can you give me the month ?

Minister : No.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : The year ?

Minister : I think the current year.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Was it done before the Government assumed office ?

List of Village Farmers' Associations.

TAHSIL LUDHIANA.

'A' CLASS VILLAGES.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Barawal. | 13. Bhanohar. |
| 2. Badawal. | 14. Chak. |
| 3. Talwara. | 15. Changan. |
| 4. Dewatwal. | 16. Alamgir. |
| 5. Birmi. | 17. Dhandra. |
| 6. Dolon Khurd. | 18. Sangowal. |
| 7. Lalton Kalan. | 19. Giaspore. |
| 8. Hamayunpur. | 20. Gounsgarh. |
| 9. Rajjowala. | 21. Sirah. |
| 10. Nurpur. | 22. Mangat. |
| 11. Salempore. | 23. Bhattian. |
| 12. Pamal. | 24. Hawas. |

TAHSIL LUDHIANA—CONCLD.

'A' CLASS VILLAGES—concl'd.

25. Ballawal.	62. Bhaini Rora.
26. Jounewal.	63. Brundi.
27. Rajoor.	64. Rachhin.
28. Karia.	65. Johdan.
29. Chounta.	66. Majra.
30. Gujjarwal.	67. Jartauli.
31. Kum Khurd.	68. Narangwal.
32. Bhagpore.	69. Hans.
33. Chhandar.	70. Jandiali.
34. Rayan.	71. Bhikhi Khattri.
35. Mangarh.	72. Sekha.
36. Sahnewal.	73. Timberwal.
37. Pawa.	74. Ramgarh.
38. Khagat.	75. Saharan Mazra.
39. Kohara.	76. Ber Khurd.
40. Kanach.	77. Ber Kalan.
41. Dule.	78. Kartarpore.
42. Paddi.	79. Bagrian.
43. Jugiana.	80. Pakhowal.
44. Jaspal.	81. Dangan.
45. Harnampur.	82. Saroba.
46. Dhandari Khurd.	83. Andlu.
47. Mattewara.	84. Tunga Heri.
48. Dhanansu.	85. Bhani Dera.
49. Tajpur.	86. Dhapai.
50. Bhamian Kalan.	87. Majri.
51. Bhamian Khurd.	88. Shehna.
52. Khasi Kalan.	89. Bhutna.
53. Kuliewal.	90. Dhapali.
54. Barobowal Khurd.	91. Pakhoke.
55. Ghailewal.	92. Chacko.
56. Sekhowal.	93. Bakhtgarh.
57. Jaesian.	94. Bhani.
58. Dehlou.	95. Akke.
59. Shankar.	96. Jethoke.
60. Ghungrana.	97. Gharain.
61. Lehara.	98. Nandpur.

'B' CLASS VILLAGES.

All villages other than those classified as "A" Class are "B" Class in this tahsil.

TAHSIL SAMRALA.

'A' CLASS VILLAGES.

1. Khokhran.	13. Alipore.
2. Takharan.	14. Alsar.
3. Jatiwal.	15. Akolaba.
4. Saisonwal.	16. Dhiromazra.
5. Nanowal.	17. Aluna Palla.
6. Kotala.	18. Manohall Khurd.
7. Todarpore.	19. Dandpur.
8. Taprian.	20. Chak Muafi.
9. Haidon.	21. Saloudi.
10. Bhari.	22. Bamb.
11. Jalandpur.	23. Bharthala.
12. Suhawi.	24. Bhagaur.

25. Otalan.

'B' CLASS VILLAGES.

1. Diarpura.	5. Rajewal.
2. Kotla Shamahpur.	6. Samrala.
3. Haron Khurd.	7. Bhangleaon.
4. Sham Garh.	8. Kulawal.

[Minister for Development.]

TAHSIL SAMRALA—CONCLD.

'B' CLASS VILLAGES—concl'd.

9. Barwali Kalan.	40. Manak Majra.
10. Ghungrali.	41. Damehri.
11. Manki.	42. Dadla.
12. Shamaspur.	43. Kotla Badla.
13. Nagra.	44. Gosalan.
14. Bagli Khurd.	45. Pant.
15. Majali Khurd.	46. Khirnian.
16. Jaspalan.	47. Sahjumastra.
17. Bagli Kalan.	48. Behlolpur.
18. Lalouri.	49. Machhiwara.
19. Kalal Majra.	50. Panjgrain.
20. Gandwan.	51. Bullewal.
21. Manpur.	52. Lubangarh.
22. Biya.	53. Mand Jodhwal.
23. Bhorala.	54. Jassowal.
24. Mehndipur.	55. Udhawal Khurd.
25. Gagar Majra.	56. Ranwan.
26. Dehru.	57. Punian.
27. Aluna Tola.	58. Balon.
28. Nasmali.	59. Bhagwanpur.
29. Aluna Miana.	60. Dhiindsa.
30. Ladowal.	61. Rohla.
31. Jabbomajra.	62. Lidharan.
32. Gajjan Majra.	63. Kulhal.
33. Jalajan.	64. Jhakrodi.
34. Rasulara.	65. Bhadala Uncha.
35. Faizgarh.	66. Asamilpur.
36. Khanna Khurd.	67. Luhar Majra.
37. Ramgarh.	68. Baur.
38. Bulepur.	69. Ratipur.
39. Dadheri.	70. Sah.

TAHSIL JAGRAON.

'A' CLASS VILLAGES.

1. Aligarh.	13. Pandori.
2. Rasoolpur.	14. Kamki Kalan.
3. Hambran.	15. Roomi.
4. Khose (Khumke Khurd).	16. Sidhwan Bet.
5. Bhamianpura.	17. Agwar Gujran (Jagraon).
6. Chakkar.	18. Kamalpura.
7. Salimpura.	19. Akalgarh.
8. Mulsian Bajan.	20. Abbopura.
9. Manoke.	21. Bhundri.
10. Sidhwan Khurd.	22. Ghulab Ram Singh.
11. Ghalab Kalan.	23. Rajoana Khurd.
12. Lamma.	24. Mandiani.

25. Heran.

'B' CLASS VILLAGES.

1. Man.	14. Jangpur.
2. Hans Kalan.	15. Khandpur.
3. Pabian.	16. Talwandi Rai.
4. Jassowal.	17. Burj Hari Singh.
5. Sedhar.	18. Halwara.
6. Ghuman.	19. Raikot.
7. Bhopa Rai.	20. Bassian.
8. Sahuli.	21. Nathowal.
9. Hisowal.	22. Jatpura.
10. Raqba.	23. Ramgarh Sibian.
11. Mohi.	24. Hatur.
12. Talwandi Khurd.	25. Lakha.
13. Dhat.	26. Dalla.

TAHSIL JAGRAON—CONCLD.

'B' CLASS VILLAGES—concl'd.

27. Deharke.	51. Malsian Bhaiki.
28. Mallah.	52. Dangian.
29. Akhara.	53. Dholon.
30. Basian.	54. Malak.
31. Bharawal Khurd.	55. Sohian.
32. Porian.	56. Chachrari.
33. Mor Kariana.	57. Chimna.
34. Gorsian Qadar Bux.	58. Raowal.
35. Bhain Arain.	59. Khanjarwal.
36. Khudian Chak.	60. Madarpur.
37. Jandi.	61. Sheikh Daulat.
38. Pona.	62. Tihari.
39. Swaddi Kalan.	63. Atinan.
40. Gorsian Mathan.	64. Sujanpur.
41. Talwandi Kalan.	65. Gurha.
42. Gidar Windi.	66. Rajoana Kalan.
43. Ladhewala.	67. Chhajewal.
44. Janetpura.	68. Jhorran.
45. Sadarpur.	69. Majri.
46. Bangsipur.	70. Bharawal Kalan.
47. Sherpur Kalan.	71. Gagran.
48. Litan.	72. Sodiwala.
49. Ramgarh.	73. Sidhwan Kalan.
50. Fatehgarh Sibi.	74. Dhotar.

INDUSTRIAL INVESTIGATORS.

***3838. Sardar Muhammad Hussain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the qualifications and names of the Industrial Investigators appointed in the Department of Industries during the year 1938 and the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists among them ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : The names and qualifications of the Industrial Investigators appointed are as below :—

Name.	Qualifications.
1. Mr. Lila Krishan Sehgal	M.A. (Economics).
2. Mr. Bashir Ahmad	B. Com, Punjab. B. Com. (Honours), London.
3. Mr. Harbans Singh Kwatra	M.A. (Economics).
4. Mr. Said Ahmad	M.A. (Political Science). M.A. (Economics).
5. Mr. Ram Lal Malhotra	B.Sc. (Honours) Tech. M.Sc.

Of the above only one, No. 4, is an agriculturist.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask the Honourable Minister to give us the nature of the work entrusted to these gentlemen ?

Minister : If my honourable friend puts another question I shall be in a position to offer that information.

SINKING TUBE-WELLS.

***3929. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the question of sinking tube-wells in areas where there are no arrangements for supplying water for irrigation purposes in the province ; if so,

[Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

when and where the work is likely to start first and whether the Government intends to give any relief or concessions to the persons who desire to sink tube-wells at their own expenses ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Government is examining the whole question of irrigation from tube-wells. The investigation has reached a stage where an experimental scheme can be constructed and the Karol Tube-well Irrigation Scheme is actually in process of construction.

2. In view of the complexities of the question of irrigation from tube-wells in the particular circumstances obtaining in the Punjab, Government must study closely the detailed report recently received from the Officer on Special Duty before attempting to formulate a policy.

Sardar Ajit Singh : When and where does the Government intend sinking tube-wells ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the report has reached Government and it is under consideration and when it has been considered fully it will be decided when and where to sink tube-wells.

Sardar Ajit Singh : For how many years will you continue considering the report ?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Has the Government received any report on the working of tube-wells in Gurdaspur district ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I would like to have notice for that question.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh : But the notice is there.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know whether greater attention will be paid to *barani* areas ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Why not ?

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : Particularly Rawalpindi district ?

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : But parts (b) and (c) of my question are not answered.

Parliamentary Secretary : There are no parts.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Why not ? Part (b) is "when and where the work is likely to start first" and part (c) is "whether the Government intends to give any relief or concessions to the persons who desire to sink tube-wells at their own expenses ?" These are the two parts.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already given the reply and said that an experimental scheme can be taken in hand along with the Karol tube-well scheme. As regards the other questions I have said that the Government are still examining the scheme and unless they have come to a final conclusion they cannot give details. The Government have taken the trouble of holding the investigation with the intention of putting the scheme into practice as early as possible, and the moment they have formulated the evidence they will start the scheme.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is this matter under consideration of the Government that some concession will be granted to the person who is prepared to sink tube-wells ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The report is under consideration.

LOANS GIVEN IN AMBALA DIVISION TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY.

***3965. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any persons in the Ambala division have been given loans after the State Aid to Industries Act was passed to promote and help industry ; if so, the names of such persons, the amount of loan given to each one of them and the objects kept in view in giving the loans ;

(b) the period or periods within which the loans so advanced are to be repaid ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the table.

Statement showing persons or firms in the Ambala division who have been granted loans under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act.

Serial No.	Name of the Borrower.	Amount of loan.	Date of payment.	Period of repayment.	Industry assisted.
		Rs.			
1	Messrs. Ravi Varma Steel Works, Ambala Cantonment.	5,000	15th February, 1936.	5 years ..	Manufacture of Agricultural implements, water pumps and sewing machines.
2	Ditto	5,000	10th January, 1938.	Do. ..	Ditto.
3	The Upper India Glass Works, Limited, Ambala City.	25,000	19th September, 1938.	Do. ..	Manufacture of glass bottles.
4	Sh a i k h Muhammad Iemal, Proprietor, Messrs. Muhammad Iemal, Muhammad Yusuf, Hide and Leather Merchants, Hisar?	4,500	21st October, 1938.	Do. ..	Tanning.

Lala Duni Chand : Are the names of those to whom the loans were advanced, given in the statement ?

Minister : Yes.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if, before advancing loan to each person, an enquiry was made about the solvency of the applicant and his capacity to repay the loan ?

Minister : Yes.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is a fact that some of those persons to whom advances were given were so heavily indebted that decrees for Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 were passed against them and they could not pay up the decretal amount?

Minister : That may be my honourable friend's information but it is not mine.

Lala Duni Chand : Will he take the trouble of acquiring information on the strength of information that I have given him now?

Minister : If my honourable friend would give me notice of another question, I will make enquiries.

Lala Duni Chand : Was any consideration shown, in the case of these applicants, in view of their loyal services or the so-called loyal services rendered by them to the Government?

Minister : I am not aware of any services which may have been rendered by these gentlemen.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is a fact that some of these applicants got these loans in consideration of their having given parties to high functionaries of the Government?

Minister : A very impertinent question which I refuse to answer.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is not impertinent on the part of the Honourable Minister for Development to deny the correctness of the fact that I have given to him?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister for Development has done nothing so far as the cottage industry is concerned?

Minister : It does not arise out of the answer given to the original question.

Lala Duni Chand : Have any of the loans advanced been repaid up to this time?

Minister : I cannot answer this question without a fresh notice being given.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How much loan was given in the Rohtak district?

Minister : Nothing.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will he furnish the list of cases in which he has given loan to villagers?

Minister : Does it arise out of the question that was put or the answer that I have given?

Mr. Speaker : No.

Lala Duni Chand : How much amount altogether was advanced to the applicants of Ambala division—I mean the total amount of loan advanced?

Minister : I have not been able to follow the question.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Does the Government intend to advance loans and grant scholarships in the current year?

Minister : Yes.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : What is the amount of the loan to be advanced and that of the scholarships to be granted during the current year ?

Lala Duni Chand : Will the Government be pleased to make enquiries as to the chances of getting back these loans ?

Minister : I have already answered that question put in another form.

PROMOTING SUPPLEMENTARY INDUSTRIES IN SIMLA DISTRICT.

***3984. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the concrete steps the Government has taken, since 1st April, 1937, to promote supplementary industries in backward rural *ilagas* of the Simla district and what the Government intend to do in future in the matter of promoting such industries in the said *ilaga* ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : A detailed survey of the existing and prospective industries and economic resources of the province (including Simla) has been taken in hand. The needs of the areas in the Simla district along with those of other places will receive due consideration.

Lala Duni Chand : I wanted to know what steps have been taken in regard to Simla and the Honourable Minister for Development has not been pleased to answer that question. Will he answer the question which is put to him ?

Minister : If my honourable friend has not been able to understand the answer that I gave, I cannot help him any further.

Lala Duni Chand : Is the Honourable Minister for Development aware of the fact that the wool-spinning and weaving industry is the most important industry that can be developed in Simla district and if so whether any consideration has been shown to this industry ?

Minister : I am not aware whether wool-weaving and spinning will be the best industry for the district of Simla.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if up to this time the Honourable Minister for Development has been able to ascertain what kind of cottage industries can be developed in Simla district ? Is he in a position to make any statement ?

Minister : This is exactly the object of the survey that has been undertaken.

Lala Duni Chand : May I say that while the survey has been going on, the Honourable Minister for Development is quite unable to know what cottage industries there are that ought to be developed ?

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the Honourable Minister for Development is aware of the fact that the most important way of improving or promoting the industry in Simla district is to throw open to the goods traffic the road from Simla to Narkanda ? Has that aspect of the matter been considered or not ?

Lala Duni Chand : I would not say whether it is impertinent but I would enquire whether it is proper on the part of the Honourable Minister for Development not to answer such an important question. Is he not aware of the fact that lot of representations have been made during the last year or so that this road should be thrown open to the goods traffic ?

Minister : This has absolutely nothing to do either with the original question or my answer to it.

Lala Duni Chand : Will the Honourable Minister for Development dare say that the question of opening roads for the purpose of developing industries in Simla district is not relevant to the question that I have put ?

Minister : Not relevant to the original question.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO DEBT CONCILIATION BOARDS.

***4030. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) total number of the members appointed to the debt conciliation boards in the Punjab ;
- (b) how many of them are members of the district boards, members of the municipal committees, members of the cantonment boards, honorary magistrates, sub-registrars, Government, district boards, canal department or Public Works Department contractors and pensioners ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) 75 (including 25 chairmen).

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement.

1. Members, District Boards	.. 24	} These figures include 6 persons who are members of the District Board as well as of the Municipal Committees.
2. Members, Municipal Committees	.. 11	
3. Members, Cantonment Boards	.. Nil	One member is, however, a member of the District Soldiers' Board.
4. Honorary Magistrates	.. 9	} All of them have since resigned or granted leave of absence as nobody who is holding the office of a sub-registrar or honorary magistrate is considered for appointment unless he gives an undertaking that he will resign his office immediately on being appointed to a Debt Conciliation Board.
5. Sub-Registrars Government	.. 2	
6. District Board, Canal Department : or Public Works Department contractors	.. Nil.	
7. Government Pensioners	.. 15	

DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD, DIPALPUR TAHSIL, IN MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

***4074. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) since when the Debt Conciliation Board of Dipalpur tahsil in the Montgomery district is working;
- (b) the amount of debts settled by the said Board;
- (c) the number of applications for the settlement of debts that are still pending with the said Board with the amount of debt covered by these applications;
- (d) the amount of money which the members and the clerical or other staff working under the said Board has so far drawn in the form of salaries and allowances;
- (e) the average number of sittings of the said Board per month;
- (f) whether the headquarters of the Board are at Dipalpur or at some other place outside the town and if it is at some place outside the town of Dipalpur, how far it is from the said town and whether the members attending the meetings of the Board when held at that place get and are entitled to get any travelling allowance or halting allowance?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Since 9th August, 1938.

(b) Rs. 74,833-14-6 till 13th January, 1939.

(c) Applications pending 59

The amount involved, Rs. 1,02,067-2-8

(d) Rs. 3,154-11-0.

(e) 11 sittings.

(f) Yes; the headquarters are at Dipalpur town and the members get Rs. 50 per mensem each as fixed travelling allowance.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Is it not a fact that the number of sittings in such a long period is very small?

Minister : It is a matter of opinion.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE BY THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

***4146. Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Agricultural Department has so far distributed any literature on the subject of agriculture with a view to educate the masses with regard to the improved methods of agriculture;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the channels through which such literature has been distributed;
- (c) whether the schools in rural areas were utilized for this purpose; and if not, why not?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes.

(b) Leaflets in Urdu, Gurmukhi and English, covering a wide variety of aspects of improved agriculture, are being distributed freely by the district agricultural staff on the occasions of district fairs and other public gatherings such as Farmers' Weeks, Zamindara Conferences, etc. Copies are also supplied to Deputy Commissioners and Registrar, Co-operative Societies for promulgation through their respective staffs. In addition, the Punjab Agricultural Department issues, as occasions demand, posters dealing with crop pests such as Pöhli, Kutra and other fungal diseases. A booklet entitled "Seasonal Notes" is issued by the department six-monthly in English and Urdu, and copies are purchased by interested and educated zamindars. The price is Re. 0-4-0 per copy.

(c) No. Literature in the forms described above is not usually distributed through schools, as it is considered that distribution is most effective when done by technical staff who are in a position to discuss at the same time with those interested in the subject matter of the literature concerned. Some schools do, however, act as disseminators of information regarding improved agriculture, particularly those which possess school farms and which have teachers who have undergone a course of training in agriculture and rural science.

DETERIORATION OF PRODUCTIVITY OF SOIL IN THE PUNJAB.

***4155. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the productivity of the soil in several parts of the Punjab has deteriorated ;
- (b) whether Government have kept a record of such areas and inquired into causes of deterioration ;
- (c) what steps have been taken to have the same remedied since 1st April, 1937, by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) It is not clear whether permanent or temporary deterioration is referred to. In cases of permanent deterioration, as for example the action of chos, record exists in the local revenue papers.

(ii) Enquiry is being actively carried out by the departments concerned into the causes of erosion, the fall of the water table, the rise of the subsoil water causing *sem* and *thur* and the improvement of all types of soil by agricultural methods.

(c) Proposals are before the house to provide for a special staff to co-ordinate and accelerate measures to prevent soil erosion.

Government has vigorously continued its policy of constructing storm water and seepage drains and has in hand a scheme to reclaim three areas which have deteriorated due to *thur*. It is hoped that when provincial finances improve, reclamation on a larger scale will be undertaken.

As regards the areas lying in the Bist Doab, Government has opened a sub-division with headquarters at Jullundur to make necessary surveys of drainages and observation of their discharges. To examine the possibility

of an inundation or seepage canal, a contour survey of the Bist Doab is being done through the survey of India Department. Record of rainfall is being kept at 40 raingauge stations. The necessary remedies will be investigated in detail when the contour survey plans are ready in July or August next.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether it is a fact that a survey has recently been carried out in the Bist Doab for the purpose of finding some remedy to raise the water level in that area ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether there are not other causes besides erosion which lead to deterioration in the productivity of the soil ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have enumerated some of the causes ; if my honourable friend will suggest some others I shall be glad to know.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether he is aware that due to chos lands are deteriorated in every part of the province, and whether action has been taken in all parts of the province or only in special areas ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have said Government are doing all they can to meet the situation.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is the survey being carried out in the whole of the Punjab or in a particular area ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot say that it is being done in the whole province.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know which are the areas where it is being done ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot give an answer offhand.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know with what purpose in view is the survey being carried out in the Bist Doab ?

Parliamentary Secretary : To improve the land.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : It seems very curious that the Parliamentary Secretary says he does not know where the survey is being carried out and still he says that the survey is being carried out.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have said that I cannot give all the places where the survey is being carried out.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that special officers have been appointed from the Forest Department, called the Erosion Officers, who will undertake this work in more than half the districts of the Punjab ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, I have already stated that some work about the erosion of canals is in the hands of special officers appointed by the Forest Department to carry out the work, but I am unable to enumerate all the places where the work is being done.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I know whether it is a fact that these officers are doing excellent work in regard to erosions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have seen their work myself and I must say that they are doing wonderfully well.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is my honourable friend aware that there is lack of funds and lack of staff to meet this problem ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I do agree that if they are given more money and more staff they will be able to do the work better.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I know if he has considered the possibility of providing more money and more staff ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Certainly, if our finances allow why should we not provide more staff ?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that the work of these officers consists chiefly and mainly of encouraging the zamindars to make bunds and thus stop erosions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is Government contemplating to stop erosions by making *jhils* in every district ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already said that I regret I cannot enumerate all the places where it is being done. If my honourable friend will refer to any particular place I will supply the information.

SPRING AND SUMMER VACATION IN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

***4165. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the industrial schools all over the province are not allowed spring vacation and that the period of summer vacation in the schools is shorter than that in middle schools under the Education Department in the province ; if so, the reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : No spring vacation is allowed in industrial schools. The period of the summer vacation allowed in industrial schools is six weeks which is the same as that allowed in the middle schools of the Education Department. The conditions in those two classes of schools are not comparable. The industrial schools provide a practical training in the different trades, while the other schools cater for a general literary education.

PROSPECTS OF VERNACULAR TEACHERS IN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

***4166. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether there are any grades of pay fixed for the vernacular teachers employed in the industrial schools in the province ; if so, the number and names of vernacular teachers in those schools who have been promoted to the next higher grade since 1st April, 1937, and if no promotion has so far been given to any of them, the reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : All posts of vernacular teachers in the Department of Industries, except one, which is in grade of Rs. 55—8—70, are in the grade of Rs. 35—8—50. There has been no promotion as there has been no vacancy.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEES.

***4171. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the date or dates on which Unemployment and Retrenchment Committees were constituted ;
- (b) the total actual expenditure with details incurred up to date by each of these two committees on travelling allowance, daily allowance of the members and on other items ;
- (c) the ground covered so far by these two committees in their deliberations ;
- (d) the probable date when the report of these two committees will be made available to the members of this House ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Both the committees were constituted by a Punjab Government Press *Communiqué* published on 17th June, 1937. The office of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee started work on 15th July, 1937 and that of the Unemployment Committee on 25th August, 1937.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) (i) The Resources and Retrenchment Committee issued their questionnaire last winter. They recorded evidence, both on resources and retrenchment, last summer and at the beginning of this winter. The Committees are now engaged in framing their conclusions.

(ii) The Unemployment Committee have finished their work and the Report has been printed up.

(d) It is hoped that Government would be in a position to release the Report of the Unemployment Committee before the summer session of the Assembly. The Resources and Retrenchment Committee have not started writing the text of their report as yet.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know how many sittings have been held by the Retrenchment and Resources Committee so far ?

Minister for Development : In the absence of any notice I am afraid I cannot give a reply to that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that early steps will be taken to publish the report of that committee ?

Minister : Yes. By the next summer session the report will be supplied to the honourable members of this House.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Were the sittings also held in Simla ?

Minister : Yes. Some of them.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Were these meetings held during the session or before the session or after the session ?

Minister : I think these meetings were held either before or after the session.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether there is going to be a summer session ?

Minister : I hope so.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : When and where ?

Minister : At Lahore. As to the exact date of the session, the question had better be addressed to the Honourable Premier.

Mr. Speaker : It is half past three now. So the question hour is over.

Statement of expenditure incurred on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee from 15th July, 1937, to 31st January, 1939.

				Rs.
Travelling allowance of members	} For meetings upto 31st January, 1939.			6,701
Honorarium paid to members				13,294
Travelling allowance paid to witnesses	..	..	..	888
Pay of officers	..	..	..	29,362
Pay of establishment	..	..	..	5,179
Travelling allowance (office)	..	..	..	1,406
Other allowances and honoraria (office)	..	..	..	1,313
Contingencies (Office)	..	..	..	1,107
Total				59,250

Statement of expenditure incurred on the Unemployment Committee from the 31st August, 1937, to the 31st January, 1939.

					Rs.	A.	P.
I. Pay of officers (charged)	..	..	..	..	12,733	14	0
Pay of establishment (voted)	..	..	..	..	5,816	6	0
II. Travelling allowance--							
Charged	..	..	..	..	964	15	0
Voted	..	..	..	..	14,951	6	0
III. Other allowances and honoraria	..	..	..	..	850	13	0
IV. Contingencies	..	..	..	..	1,190	8	0
Total				..	36,507	14	0
Charged	..	..	..	..	13,698	13	0
Voted	..	..	..	..	22,809	1	0

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN P.C.S. (EXECUTIVE BRANCH).

697. Bhagat Hans Raj : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the representation of scheduled caste among P.C.S. (Executive Branch) officers is nil ; if so, the action intended to be taken to give them their proper share in the service ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : No member of the scheduled castes has so far been recruited in the P. C. S. (Executive Branch). With regard to the second part the honourable member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of unstarred question No. 315,¹ asked by Lala Harnam Das on the 4th March, 1938.

CLERKS IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

• 698. **Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number at present of clerks in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar district, communitywise, with the number of clerks belonging to scheduled castes among them ;
 (b) whether it is a fact that the scheduled caste are not adequately represented among these clerks ; if so, the action intended to be taken to make up the deficiency ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :

(a) Muslims ..	..	..	..	64
Hindus ..	..	..	..	38
Sikhs ..	..	..	..	28
Christians ..	..	..	..	1

- (b) No. Members of scheduled castes number only one per cent. of the total population of the Amritsar district. It is however open to any member of scheduled castes possessing the qualifications prescribed in the rules to apply for appointment, and if any such applications are received they will be considered on their merits.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTE AMONG PATWARIS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

699. **Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number at present of patwaris, communitywise, in the district of Amritsar, with special reference to number of scheduled castes among them ;
 (b) whether it is a fact that the representation of these castes among the patwaris is nil or meagre and if so, the action intended to be taken to make up the deficiency ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :

(a) Muslims ..	..	..	..	197
Hindus ..	..	..	..	130
Sikhs ..	..	..	..	54
Christians ..	..	..	..	Nil.
Scheduled castes ..	..	..	..	Nil.

- (b) The matter is receiving attention. The population percentage of scheduled castes in Amritsar district is 1 per cent.

ADMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES IN NORMAL SCHOOLS.

700. **Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the percentage, if any, that is fixed in regard to admission for the scheduled castes in the various Government normal schools in the province,

[Bhagat Hans Raj.]

- (b) the number of the members of the scheduled caste who are receiving training at present in various Government Normal Schools in the province ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

701. Bhagat Hans Raj : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the representation of the scheduled castes in the various departments of the Government is in accordance with their population, if not, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : Government is doing what is possible to ameliorate the condition of the scheduled castes. As education spreads and qualified candidates belonging to the scheduled castes are available and the policy of the present Government regarding recruitment has had time to take effect the representation in services of this class will increase.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

702. Bhagat Hans Raj : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of scholarships that are available for the scheduled castes in various Government Colleges in the province, and the names of the students belonging to the scheduled castes who are at present receiving those scholarships ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The number of Government scholarships for scheduled castes tenable in colleges is six. The scholarships are awarded annually for a period of two years each. The following students are receiving the scholarships at present :—

Scholars for 1937.

1. Milkhi Ram.
2. Tek Chand.
3. Qutub-ud-Din.
4. Behari Lal.
5. Ram Parkash.
6. Dharam Chand.

Scholars for 1938.

1. Nawab-ud-Din.
2. Rafiq Shamim.
3. Banta Ram.
4. Nand Lal.

The cases of candidates for the award of the remaining two scholarships are under consideration.

SCHEDULED CASTES.

703. Bhagat Hans Raj : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing what the Punjab Ministry has done so far towards ameliorating the condition of the scheduled castes ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : A copy of the statement which has been published in the press is laid on the table.

Statement.

*Uplift of scheduled castes. What Punjab Government is doing.
Two-fold programme of amelioration.*

THE efforts of the Punjab Government for the uplift of members of the scheduled castes divide themselves into two parts. The first part consists of measures intended to benefit these castes along with other poor and backward sections of society and the second part comprises measures of special help and protection for members of the scheduled castes as such.

To the first category belong, for instance, the Government's efforts to place schools, hospitals, good seed, pure drinking water, co-operative societies, means of communication and other numerous facilities for physical, moral and economic self-advancement, within easy reach of the poor and the backward. To the same category belong the steps that have been taken to abolish begar (forcible exaction of labour) or to protect debtors from undue exploitation by money-lenders.

There is no doubt that members of the scheduled castes get their due share of the benefits accruing from all such measures. This has been further ensured by special measures which have been adopted for the benefit of these castes.

In the sphere of education, which is the basis of all progress, not only are public schools open to them, but private schools receiving grants-in-aid from the Government have also been warned that refusal to admit a member of the scheduled castes would make them liable to lose their grants. Further, as far as possible the recruitment of qualified candidates belonging to these castes to the various services of the Education Department is being encouraged. Children of these castes are exempt from the payment of fees in primary classes and are admitted at half the usual rate of fees in the secondary classes of Vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular Schools. The following scholarships are reserved for members of these castes :—

- (a) Thirty-seven High School scholarships. Of these 35 are of the value of Rs. 6 per mensem each and two, which are reserved for girls, of the value of Rs. 8 per mensem each.
- (b) Six scholarships (each of the value of Rs. 20 per mensem or Rs. 10 per mensem plus tuition fees) in the Intermediate and B.A. Classes. Subject to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, the number of these scholarships is being doubled with effect from April 1, 1939.
- (c) Two stipends of Rs. 20 per mensem each for those undergoing training at the Central Training College, Lahore. Subject to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, the number of these stipends is being doubled with effect from April 1, 1939.
- (d) Stipends of Rs. 5 per mensem each up to 20 in number for approved teachers receiving training in the Junior Vernacular and Senior Vernacular Classes.

Five per cent. of the admissions to the Senior Vernacular and Junior Vernacular Classes for men teachers are reserved for them.

Special watch is kept by the Education Department by means of statistical records over the progress of members of the depressed classes. According to these statistics the number of boys of these classes receiving education in recognised schools in the Punjab has risen from 23,483 in 1929 to 27,380 in 1938 and the number of girls from 465 to 1,288.

In Industrial Schools boys belonging to the scheduled castes are charged half the usual rate of fees. Three Silver Jubilee Scholarships in Industrial Schools have been reserved for them and all *Chamars* admitted to Class B of the Government Tanning Institute, Jullundur, are awarded a stipend of Rs. 10 per mensem each. This class was opened for the special benefit of *Chamars*. Members of the scheduled castes are also included among weavers who get stipends of an average value of Rs. 8 per mensem each in the Weaving Schools of the department and a scholarship of Rs. 15 per mensem each in Class C of the Government Demonstration Weaving Factory, Shahdara. A number of stipends in Government Industrial and Technical Schools are also awarded on the basis of poverty. Boys belonging to scheduled castes generally secure a large share of them.

[Premier.]

In the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, out of 40 seats allotted to "Hindus and others", one has been reserved for a member of the scheduled castes, provided a candidate with the minimum requisite qualifications is available. Two out of eight scholarships of Rs. 15 per mensem each, tenable for two years, have further been reserved for women of scheduled castes who receive training as nurse *daïs*.

In the Public Health Department the Government took in April, 1938, the important step of issuing orders that members of the scheduled castes should enjoy the use of all public wells on the same terms as members of any other class. All local bodies were asked to put up notices to this effect on public wells in their charge. Subject to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, it is further proposed to spend Rs. 10,800 during the year 1939-40 on sinking wells for members of the scheduled castes where there are no public wells. This policy is to continue during future years.

In the sphere of Local Self-Government the Government has adopted a definite policy of nominating suitable members of the scheduled castes to local bodies where the numerical strength of these castes justifies their special representation. A recommendation has also been made to local bodies to treat the sweepers in their employ as permanent servants and give them the same privileges regarding leave and provident fund as other employees have.

The Co-operative Department is making special efforts to encourage the spirit of co-operative self-help among members of the scheduled castes. There are numerous co-operative societies, the membership of which is not restricted to a particular caste and members of the scheduled castes are freely admitted to them. Besides this, it was ascertained in December, 1938, that 383 co-operative societies consisting exclusively of members of the scheduled castes, were functioning in the Province. These societies owned a total capital of Rs. 4,17,153 and had a total membership of well over 10,000.

Instructions have been issued in all departments of the Government that the recruitment of members of scheduled castes to public services, including the police service, should be encouraged.

As far as the police service is concerned, the rules require that recruits shall be of good character, of certain minimum physical standards and of a type suitable for police service. There is no bar to the enrolment of the members of any class or community as such. From time to time efforts have been made to obtain suitable recruits from amongst the scheduled castes through the Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Tribes and from other sources. Since October, 1937, sixteen members of the scheduled castes have been enlisted in the Police. One of them, however, resigned because, according to himself, he was subjected to social ostracism, two were declared medically unfit and one failed to turn up for enrolment after his medical examination.

In the inferior establishment of the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, the scheduled castes are adequately represented. Instructions have been issued to subordinate officers of this department that suitable members of the scheduled castes belonging to the agriculturist class should be given preference in appointments to the posts of Road Inspectors. The claims of members of these castes for clerical or superior posts will also be sympathetically considered, provided suitable candidates are forthcoming. The irrigated plantations of the Forest Department provide work for a fairly large number of members of the scheduled castes. Some *Od* families have settled down there as *beldars* and residential quarters and medical aid are provided for them. In the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department the attention of Superintending Engineer has been drawn to the necessity of employing members of the scheduled castes in all courses and a percentage of posts has been reserved for them, subject to candidates with the minimum requisite qualifications being available. Similarly in the Electricity Branch instructions have been issued that preference should be given to members of these castes in making appointments to clerical and non-technical posts. These efforts which all departments are making to improve the proportion of members of the scheduled castes in various cadres of public services are, however, being handicapped mainly by the dearth of qualified candidates belonging to these castes.

About 20,000 acres of land in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony were allotted to members of the "depressed classes". In this term were, however included not only the scheduled castes, as defined in the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1936, but also Indian Christians, most of whom would have belonged to the scheduled castes but for their conversion. About 8,000 acres of this land were allotted to these depressed class Christians, about 6,000 acres to *Ods* and the rest to other classes.

It may be mentioned that the Criminal Tribes Department of the Punjab Government is also making a valuable contribution of the uplift of members of the scheduled castes. Some of these castes are included in the Criminal Tribes which are the special charge of this Department and the efforts of the Department are directed not only towards checking the hereditary criminal tendencies of the tribes concerned, but also towards educating their youths out of such tendencies and preparing them by means of suitable training to lead the lives of good and useful.

citizens. To mention only one aspect of the work that is being done under the auspices of the Department, over 8,000 boys and about 1,000 girls belonging to the Criminal Tribes are at present attending school. Over 100 members of these tribes have passed the Middle School or higher examination, four of them being graduates and one a Bachelor of Laws.

HOURS OF SITTING.

Premier : I have formally to move a motion and it is this :—

That on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1939, the Assembly shall meet at 10 A.M. and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly at 2-30 P.M. of that day without question put.

The motion was carried.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Mr. Speaker : The House will proceed to dispose of the supplementary estimates. Do the honourable members wish to discuss generally the items which relate to the charged expenditure or will they proceed to consider the demands? (*Voices :* We will take up demands.)

EXCISE.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Provincial Excise.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Provincial Excise.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) : Sir,

That the item of Rs. 3,790 on account of Total District Executive Establishment, be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's motion is out of order.

Lala Duni Chand : Sir, my motion raises the very point which is covered by the subject matter of this item, namely, the giving of rewards.

Mr. Speaker : Had the honourable member given notice of a motion only with regard to the sum of Rs. 1,007, which is intended to be spent on rewards, he would have been in order. But now he wants to discuss all rewards and, therefore, his motion is out of order.

Lala Duni Chand : I will discuss only those rewards which are covered by this item, that is, rewards given in the Kangra district.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's motion speaks for itself. It says :—

"To discuss the necessity of greater vigilance to see that the giving of rewards does not lead to the making of false cases."

The words are "giving of rewards" and not any particular reward.

Lala Duni Chand : The item relates only to the Kangra district and I am raising the question only to that extent. I am not raising a general question. The item does not relate to any other district. The explanation to Supplementary Demand No. 1 says :—

“Out of this demand of Rs. 3,790 a sum of Rs. 2,783 is for meeting the expenditure incurred by the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, on account of the freight charges of hill opium transported from Kulu to Ghazipur. The Deputy Commissioner had no funds at his disposal to meet this additional expenditure. The remaining demand is to meet the increased expenditure on rewards to private persons necessitated by an increase in detection work.”

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's motion does not relate only to the increased amount or the increased rewards, while that is what is now before the House.

Lala Duni Chand : This relates to the rewards that are to be given and it is for that reason that the demand has been made and the Government wants sanction. If you rule my motion out of order, I have no right to speak on that motion. But I will speak on the motion moved by the Honourable Finance Minister. I oppose the whole demand and I have got special reasons for doing so.

Mr. Speaker : He is certainly entitled to do that.

Grant of Rewards.

Lala Duni Chand : Sir, I want to place only one point pointedly before the Government and it is this. I know that illicit opium is being smuggled into the Kangra district from the neighbouring states and I also admit that large quantities of opium are smuggled into British territory from the neighbouring states and cases are made out and that invariably those cases are genuine. But when cases are made with regard to small quantities of opium smuggled into the British territory, then a different question arises. A good many of such cases are false cases. The reasons for bringing those false cases are three or four. One is that sometimes police investigators and excise officers want to make false cases and in order to make false cases they have to resort to certain private persons to whom they promise certain rewards. In other cases enemies instigate the making of false cases. In the case of big quantities of opium it is difficult to make false cases for the simple reason that one who wants to make a false case must spend a lot of money from his own pocket to purchase a large quantity of opium.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is again out of order. He should oppose the whole demand. He is not doing so. He is speaking only on one item of the demand. When an honourable member opposes the whole demand, his arguments must cover the whole demand.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : On a point of order. You have just now laid down a proposition that if a member wants to oppose the whole demand he cannot talk on any particular part of it. Is that to be taken as your ruling? What I think about it is this that a man may oppose a whole demand for any reason, then his argument may be confined to a particular part of it and on that ground he may oppose the whole demand.

Mr. Speaker : One may give any reason for throwing out a demand. He may consider that reason sufficient. It might relate only to one part of the demand. The honourable member was opposing only one part of the demand.

Lala Duni Chand : I am opposing the whole demand. My reason is that these rewards are bound to lead to abuses. My submission is that the giving of these awards leads to a lot of abuse and to making of false cases. Therefore I oppose the entire demand. I was submitting that many false cases are brought at the instigation of the investigating officer or the excise officer or the police officer or at the instigation of certain enemies. Most of these rewards go to those people who are prepared to play the dirty part of making false cases. What I am submitting before this House will be borne out if the cases brought under the Opium Act are properly investigated and scrutinised. Particularly in regard to opium cases many false cases are brought. Two or three or four tolas of opium can be purchased for a rupee. When that is purchased, it is put into a house or a shop. The matter is reported to the police. The police officer, accompanied by the excise officer reaches the spot, and takes into custody not only one man but a lot of men. False cases are made against them. Some are let off. Others are punished. It is only to this aspect of the question that I was drawing the attention of Government and if Government will be good enough to pay attention to what I have said, it will find that what I have said with regard to the making of false cases and with regard to the giving of rewards to those who play this dirty part is absolutely correct. I hope Government will take what I have said on this matter, into consideration.

Finance Minister (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : I have listened with every possible attention to what the honourable member has said. He is, if I may say so with all respect, unduly suspicious. I have looked into this matter with some care myself, and while the work of investigation is never a pleasant one, there is no reason to think whatsoever that false cases are as a matter of fact made to any large extent or to any such extent that we must discontinue this system. On the other hand, if we do not have this system of giving rewards, we shall never be able to catch offenders. I can assure the honourable member who feels considerably exercised in his mind about this matter, that there is no real danger of false cases existing. The reward itself is on a modest scale and the reward is given after the matter is duly examined. After conviction, the report is made in the normal case and the matter is examined by more than one authority. Of course there is no limit to suspicion that some would entertain in their minds, and there is no doubt that one would like these things to be free from all fault and blame. Government in this matter is not encouraging in the least any false cases and I trust the House will accept the demand as a whole.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Provincial Excise.

The motion was carried.

STAMPS.

Finance Minister (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal): I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,050 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Stamps.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,050 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Stamps.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural): I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 100 on account of Superintendence—Other allowances and hono-
raria, be reduced by Re. 1.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary): I rise to a point of order. Perhaps my honourable friend realises that the question of general policy cannot be raised on the specific supplementary grant under consideration.

Lala Duni Chand: This item relates to the audit superintendents who are required to enquire into the documents to see whether they are properly stamped or not. I am raising this question and this item relates only to this matter. I am raising that matter through this cut motion. I am not discussing the question of policy. I simply want to draw the attention of Government to the fact that some auditors go to the district and make enquiries about the sufficiency or insufficiency of stamps. It is with regard to this point that I want to make a few observations.

Mr. Speaker: That relates not only to the particular item, which the honourable member wishes to discuss; but to the whole expenditure which is asked for. The note in the Explanatory Memoranda reads:—

The demand of Rs. 100 is required to meet the anticipated excess which is due to rewards awarded to certain Stamp Auditors in recognition of their services in making large recoveries in stamp cases.

That is the general policy underlying the whole expenditure.

Lala Duni Chand: If you say I am wrong I will sit down. But I am obviously in the right.

Mr. Speaker: The demand relates only to excess expenditure while the honourable member's motion relates to the policy underlying the whole expenditure.

Lala Duni Chand: I want to discuss the abuse of powers given to some of the auditors.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,050 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Stamps.

The motion was carried.

FORESTS.

Minister for Finance : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 79,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Forests.

The motion was carried.

OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

Minister for Finance : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Other Taxes and Duties.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Other Taxes and Duties.

Licences to electrical contractors.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

I will take only two or three minutes to commend this motion for the acceptance of the House. Recently there was some discussion in the newspapers that the fees levied in both cases, that is, certificates of supervisors and licences of electrical contractors were very high. I think there was a comparison drawn between the fees charged in this province and those in other provinces. (*Interruption.*)

(*Urdu.*) Some of my honourable friends have asked me to speak in Urdu. I am afraid I may not be able to make them understand my point of view in that language because my knowledge of Urdu is very limited. Anyway I am prepared to try. My submission is that the annual fee is too exorbitant. The imposition of such a heavy fee makes people think that this is a Government of capitalists and, therefore, it does not want that any one who is not a capitalist should enter the profession. If such are the fees that you are going to charge, then no zamindar will ever have an opportunity of becoming a contractor. Zamindars are too poor to pay such amounts.

Now let us compare these fees with those charged in other provinces. For instance in Delhi the fee is no more than Rs. 10 while you have fixed it at Rs. 100. A poor man cannot be expected to pay so much and consequently poor zamindars will be shut out of the profession altogether. Similarly the supervisor's fee of Rs. 25 is very exorbitant too. The parents who have to meet so many other expenses in addition to those on the education of their son cannot afford such heavy fees. The son may be able to pay this after he has begun to earn this for some time. I would, therefore, request the Government to reduce these fees.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am very glad to see that my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has so much solicitude for the welfare and rights of zamindars. But let me tell him that his enthusiasm in this matter is misplaced. He ought to have known that there are no zamindar interests involved in this question nor any zamindars in this profession.

Now as regards the fees Rs. 100 are to be charged only on the first occasion. The renewal fee is Rs. 25 only. And, Sir, these amounts have been fixed on the recommendation of the advisory committee which included the representatives of both the Punjab Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Thus the fee is going to affect only rich people and in reality it is meant to cover the expenses of holding examinations.

I hope my honourable friend will now agree with me that the question of any hardship to zamindars does not arise at all.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Other Taxes and Duties.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

Minister for Finance: Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Irrigation Establishment Charges.

4 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Irrigation Establishment Charges.

Sardar Hari Singh: I suggest that all the cut motions to this item be discussed together.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection if that is the wish of the honourable members.

The Assembly agreed unanimously to discuss all the amendments together.

Canal Act Committee.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 7,790 on account of A (1) Chief Engineers—Canal Act Committee—Total pay of officers (voted), be reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my cut motion in the first place is to criticise the personnel of the Canal Act Committee. In the first place it is gratifying to note that the Canal Act Committee has after all been appointed by the Government.

and is functioning now. But I am sorry to say that the same old history has been repeated thereby, that is, the zamindars have been denied any place in it. All the three members are officials and no non-official member has been added. One member is a retired Chief Engineer, the second a Superintending Engineer and the third Khan Bahadur Khurshid Muhammad, a retired deputy commissioner. Thus all these three members are old and loyal servants of the Government. They cannot be expected to rise above official prejudices and the narrow official point of view which they have been accustomed to all their lives. It is too much to expect from them that they will really appreciate the zamindars' point of view and sympathise with them. Their sympathies will be with the Government who have been responsible for their appointment and whose salt they have been taking all their lives. It was imperative that a zamindar member should be appointed on this committee who could place before them the difficulties and sufferings of the poor agriculturists. I still hope that better counsels will prevail and the Government will appoint some non-official zamindar members. Otherwise the committee, constituted as it is, will place before the public and the Government a huge volume of documents which it would be impossible for the zamindar members to understand.

Another fundamental mistake committed by the Government is that they have appointed old officers who are either about to retire or have actually retired from the Government service. Instead of this, young officers should have been appointed who could have brought a fresh mind to bear upon the problem. It is impossible to expect them to study the problem from the modern angle of vision. They cannot but think in the old channels and they cannot come out of the old rut in which they have spent their life. I wish young men to be appointed who could infuse new spirit into the discussion. After all the Act which they have to modify was framed in 1873 when the British wanted to rule the Punjabis. The higher and the lower officers were all theirs but the petty officials were recruited from the native people. So they made this Canal Act not in the interest of the zamindars but in their own interests. But now the Government and the officers are all the sons of the soil. They should try to reform it with the help of the non-official members who can truly lay before the Government the real needs of the zamindars. The root cause of the trouble can only be removed by non-official members.

Turning now, Sir, to the questionnaire which this committee issued a few months ago, I may confess that I have not been able unfortunately to study it till the last night when I went through it. At the same time I may point out that it is very difficult to criticise this highly technical questionnaire that has been prepared after full consideration by so-called experienced hands. Although I was a member of the Canal Advisory Committee for three or four years I have not been in touch for the last few years. However what I have been able to gather from it last night and whatever I feel about it at present, I express on the floor of this House.

The questionnaire includes the question of *kharaba* as well. According to the rule now in vogue you are entitled to *kharaba* only when your crop is less than 4 annas in a rupee. If the crop is equal to or more than 4 annas in a rupee you do not get any *kharaba*. If you take into consideration the yield fixed by the Settlement Officer in the Lyallpur district you will

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

find that the yield of wheat per acre in certain tahsils is 14 maunds, one-fourth of which comes to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. For these $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds you will not get any *kharaba*. It is obvious that the price of $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of wheat is about 7 or 8 rupees. You can see that where one gets produce worth 8 rupees, he has to pay full land revenue, *abiana* and other rates which approximately come to about Rs. 14. This is how the zamindara Government is treating the zamindars.

Premier : May I point out to my honourable friend over there that there is no use lecturing upon the question of *kharaba*. If there are any defects or drawbacks in the *kharaba* rules they can be easily brought to the notice of the Canal Act Committee who have issued this questionnaire. In this the very first question relates to *kharaba*.

Sardar Hari Singh : But who are you to lecture to him ?

Mr. Speaker : I permitted the Honourable Premier to raise a point of order.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I want to throw some light on the point of order. My cut has been moved only to discuss new questions in the questionnaire that might be useful to the zamindars. My honourable friend the Premier might have information but the other gentlemen in the House perhaps do not know and unless they know the present rules they cannot appreciate my point of view.

Mr. Speaker : Then the honourable member must first state the questions which he considers objectionable and then propose his own questions in their place.

Premier : I merely point out that the very first question says " rules for remission on account of failed crop that is crop as laid down in rule 29 (1) of the Canal Act."

Mr. Speaker : I have ruled that he will first state the question, which he considers to be objectionable, and then raise discussion.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I would now like to throw some light on the question of seed and cost of cultivation.

Premier : May I again draw your attention to question 2 which is quite clear ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a point of order ?

Mr. Speaker : When the honourable member has finished and the Government is replying the Honourable Premier may then raise his point.

Premier : I want to raise a point of order. The honourable member wants to raise a question which is clearly included in the questionnaire. If there are any defects in the *kharaba* rules you can move amendments to them.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : You understand the questionnaire very well. You have your experts. But you have put in this questionnaire such language which an ordinary zamindar cannot understand. I was therefore going to explain what the rule relating to *kharaba* is at present and what it ought to be. Where one gets Rs. 8 for his produce he has to pay Rs. 14 as Government dues.

Mr. Speaker : Debate is allowed only on questions and their forms,

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Can I not explain the question ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may criticise questions.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : And if there are no questions relating to the matter that I want to talk of in this set at all ? I like that this committee should have drawn up a questionnaire about alienation of the senior revenue establishment from this department and its affiliation with the civil side. They have not put a single question about that. Will you allow me to put that question ?

Mr. Speaker : That is all right. Take up the next question.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : You want me to give up *kharaba*. *Kharaba* touches the zamindars the most, therefore I want to attach particular importance to this, more than anything else.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the honourable member to state the question in such form as he considers correct.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The question is "would you like to have a *kharaba* system after defraying the cost of cultivation ?" This is the question which I would like to put to the zamindars. In that connection I was explaining to the House what the *kharaba* rules are and what they should be.

Mr. Speaker : Just now we are not concerned with rules, we are concerned with questions.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Questions are framed on these rules and the present system that is in force.

Mr. Speaker : What the honourable member has already stated is enough to show that certain questions are not in proper form and that the form given by him is the correct form.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Then I will leave that question and discuss only those that might be incorporated in the questionnaire.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is welcome to supply omissions.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I will be more business-like. There is not a single question regarding the definition of the expression "canal officer." "Canal officer" under the rules and the Act means, I am reading from the definition given in this Act, "he who exercises control or jurisdiction over a canal or any part thereof." And in this head you have three officers particularly defined, superintending canal officer, divisional canal officer and sub-divisional canal officer. According to the definition given in the Act the Chief Engineer is not a canal officer. To make his actions regular and legal he should have been defined as a canal officer. Another way to effect economy is to shift the posts of senior zilladars and deputy collectors to the civil side.

Now I draw your attention to a very important aspect of the matter. When I moved a resolution about reduction in *abiana* in a session of the old Legislative Council held at Simla, the talented Financial Commissioner, Mr. H. Calvert, told us that the Irrigation Department was a commercial

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah].

department of the Government. He explained the various items of expenditure bringing the rate up to Rs. 4 or so. I submit, Sir, that if this is also the attitude of the present Government then let it separate this department altogether from the General Budget. Then find out what ratio the expenditure on each canal bears to its income. In the Lyallpur district the canal is giving you 25 per cent profits and I hope the Honourable Minister for Public Works will bear me out when I say that in the Shahpur district the canal is running at a loss of no less than 55 per cent. Now where is the justification for shifting this burden to the Lyallpur district? These matters require serious consideration and I would request the Government to adopt the method which I have suggested. In that case you will make it a really commercial department and its expenditure will surely come down from 2½ crores to 1½ crores. This will remove many of the troubles and grievances of the zamindars and they will get sufficient water at the proper time. The Government will do well to place this question before the zamindars and ask their opinion about it. I would, therefore, request the Government to get it included in the questionnaire.

Then take the question of breaches. Whenever a breach occurs anywhere, the poor zamindars are at once hauled up under section 33 or 34, whichever it is. Nobody cares to find out the real cause of the breach. It may be due to the labours of a rat or again it may be the result of party factions. Not only that, even where the real cause of the breach is the fact that the bank of the canal was not in a proper condition. It is the zamindars generally who are made to suffer. I can quote hundreds of instances to substantiate these remarks. It is within my knowledge that many a time the zamindars have to suffer for the faults of the canal department. The inhabitants of a certain village were made to bear as much as Rs. 2,000. Again, you know, Sir, that if a square of land is flooded on account of a breach the owner of the land suffers a heavy loss due to silt. But the department instead of paying any compensation makes him pay an exorbitant penalty. This question of penalties and compensations should also be included in the questionnaire.

Then I draw your attention to the confusion and trouble caused by the fact that the system of water supply for gardens varies almost in every tahsil. Not only that. If a certain tahsil is covered by two canal divisions there may be found two different systems prevalent in it. You, Mr. Speaker, are too well aware of these anomalies to require any exposition from me. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks about this question to a mere request that it may also be included in the questionnaire.

As regards the volumetric system, I admit that Government has offered the choice to zamindars many a time. But these are merely offers in theory. I have had opportunities of seeing the canal officers in this connection and my experience confirms my belief that the department is not willing to encourage this system. One Sardar requested me to accompany him to a certain officer in this connection. There was a great show of lip sympathy but nothing was achieved. The patwaris and zilladars think that this system will deprive them and their higher officers from the benefits enjoyed by virtue of their powers in connection with the grant of *kharaba*. Some inhabitants of the village concerned are, therefore, made to object to its introduction.

and the whole thing falls through. If you go to the higher authorities, their reply is "Well, I have seen the file—my hands are tied. I am sorry. But I have to abide by the rules."

Thus there are many defects which can be removed if you adopt the proper method and try to come to a decision in consultation with people other than officials who have a knowledge and experience of the working of this Act. With these remarks I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 7,790 on account of A (1) Chief Engineers—Canal Act Committee—Total pay of officers (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sardar Hari Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) : Mr. Speaker, if there is one grievance of the hardy colonists of the Punjab that insistently clamours for solution and redress, it is in relation to the working of the Canal and Drainage Act. The colonists have got a list of grievances and to my mind the one in relation to the working of this Act which is under fire to-day is the greatest grievance that must be solved immediately. The question of the amendment of the Act and the rules framed thereunder has been hanging fire for a long time. It was on the 24th November, 1932, when you were in the chair, that a resolution was passed by the last Legislative Council, and which was moved by Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, Leader of the Unionist party, which was in opposition then, that it should be amended in an appropriate manner, so that the grievances of the colonists of the Punjab might be done away with but no action was taken by the then bureaucratic Government.

Premier : Is my honourable friend speaking on the whole motion ?

Sardar Hari Singh : I am speaking on cuts Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the light of remarks that are made against these cuts. I am not moving my own cut but am speaking in the light of these cuts. It was on 20th January last year that this Assembly passed a resolution unanimously that a committee should be appointed to go into the question of working of this Act and to make recommendations for suitable amendments in this Act and rules made thereunder. A sympathetic, a popular and a responsible Government ought to have appointed a committee of enquiry on the 21st January, the very next day the resolution was passed and the report of that Enquiry Committee ought to have been formulated in the summer of last year and the decisions as a result of the recommendations of that Enquiry Committee ought to have been incorporated in the Budget of this year which has been presented by the Honourable Minister for Finance. But what do we find ?—that the Government takes more than six months in arriving at a decision as to the personnel of the committee which was recommended by this House on the 20th January.

It was not before 11th November, 1933, that a committee was appointed and we are told that the committee will finish its labours within five months. If this promise materialises, the committee will finish its labours by May next. As regards the personnel, the question which has been raised by Mian Nurullah in his cut motion, I have to make a few observations. We are told that originally the members appointed to the committee were one of the Financial Commissioners, one Chief Engineer and two more gentlemen.

• [Sardar Hari Singh.]

Later on when we read the note under this demand we find that because of his pre-occupation the Financial Commissioner would not be able to give sufficient time to the work, therefore he would work by proxy. Have you heard of any enquiry committee or a commission whose members work by proxy? Legally and constitutionally they are the members of the committee but because they cannot find enough time to devote to this work that is entrusted to the committee therefore they say that such and such persons will work in their place, who will go and enquire into the grievances of the public, who will examine the grievances of the people and who will arrive at certain conclusions and who will work for them and represent them. This is the only committee and this is the first occasion when we have come across an instance in which members of a certain important enquiry committee work by proxy. This, I think, is a very queer and funny thing. I want the Ministers to explain how they have appointed a certain gentleman who cannot devote sufficient time to that work and say such and such other gentleman will work in his place. Why not replace him and say, "because you cannot devote sufficient time therefore in your place such and such gentleman is appointed substantively"? Why say that he will be represented by such and such man? Similarly the Chief Engineer cannot find enough time to devote to this work which is considered of less importance than his official work, therefore he is to be represented by a non-official retired Chief Engineer Rai Bahadur B. N. Singh. This is the first point I wish to make and I want an explanation on this point from the Treasury benches. I wish to know how they are satisfied on this point.

As regards emoluments to be paid to the members of the committee, the salary of the chairman is charged at Rs. 2,150. It may be said he is a permanent employee of the Government. It is not within the control of the ministry to reduce his emoluments when he is translated from a certain substantive post to an enquiry committee in which he has to perform an arduous work. But I may join issue with the Government when I read further on that this chairman will be paid Rs. 200 per mensem as special pay. I want to know from the Treasury benches whether it is obligatory on the Government to pay him special pay when he is appointed a member of an enquiry committee. If so, under what law and under what rule is it obligatory on the Government to pay the special pay to officers appointed as members of certain committees? If not, why this burden on the exchequer of the province? How does the Government explain this payment of special pay? Secondly, this special pay which has been given to this chairman is also a charge on the revenues of the province. If this payment of Rs. 200 per mensem as special pay to the chairman is the creation of the Ministry, I dare say it could not be charged on the revenues of the province. It is not the creation of the Secretary of State: it has been created by the Ministry and granted by my honourable friend the Revenue Minister. If it is in his power to give him Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 or deny him Rs. 200 and not to pay this special pay, it should not be charged on the revenues of the province but it must be voted upon by the Assembly. It is the creation of the Minister who is responsible to the House. We can undo what the Minister does. If the Secretary of State has sanctioned this special pay of Rs. 200 then you can say that it is not votable and cannot

be voted upon by the Assembly. If out of his unbounded generosity our Revenue Minister has said, "well Rs. 200 per mensem will be paid to the chairman on account of his arduous duties as chairman of the Canal Act enquiry committee," then I say you are responsible to the House: this item ought to be voted upon: we may reject it or we may accept it. You cannot make it a charge on the revenues of the province.

Passing on to the procedure to be adopted by this enquiry committee it is hinted—

On discussion between the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, and Chief Engineer it was agreed that for a proper examination of the Canal Act the official members must tour in the canal irrigated areas to record evidence of zamindars and then the official and non-official members should meet and examine the Act and the evidence.

It is obligatory only for the official members to tour the area and take evidence from the zamindars. The non-official members, and there are three M.L.A.'s, may not tour the area in the company of the three worthies, the three officials: only the officials will go and examine witnesses. Non-official members who should cross-examine the zamindars and elicit from them their real grievances, because they are in touch with them in their daily life, may not examine them, re-examine or cross-examine them. The evidence is going to be elicited by the "adhuri," committee consisting only of the official members who are going to tour in the colonies. That committee consisting only of the official element will be able to elicit the real grievances of the people in regard to the administration of this Act and the rules made thereunder. Therefore the procedure laid down here in the note is defective and this defect must be removed before we can expect anything useful from the labours of the committee. Non-official members must be made to tour along with the official members, cross-examine and elicit the grievances of the people. It is not the non-official element of the committee that will be able to find out and discover the real and genuine grievances that the people are ground under.

Mr. Speaker, as regards the questionnaire, Mian Nurullah has made sufficient criticism of the question at issue before the committee. I hope that the Treasury benches will pay sufficient attention to their erstwhile colleague, not a renegade but a convert to the Congress view and the views of the people of the province, and in the light of his remarks urge the committee to make an amendment in the questionnaire, so that the questionnaire may cover a wide field covering the real and genuine grievances of the people. When the report of the committee comes before the Government, I hope, it will be placed on the table of the House and it will be presented to the House for consideration and discussion, so that, out of the labours of the committee and out of the considerations of the report of the committee by this House we may evolve a programme and a policy that may give sufficient and adequate relief to the people of the colonies.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General Rural), (Urdu): Sir, the very first thing that is apparent from the item to which cut motions Nos. 1 to 4 have been moved is that public money is being wasted by the Government without the least compunction. Honourable members will remember that on the 20th January, 1938, a resolution was unanimously passed by the House recommending to the Government that a committee

[Lala Duni Chand.]

may be appointed to suggest necessary amendments to the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act. A perusal of the Debates on that day will show that all sections of the House were agreed that some amendments and modifications in the said Act were overdue. The mover of the resolution as well as my honourable friend Chaudhri Riasat Ali pointed out the various defects which had to be removed and, the Debates will also give you an idea of what amendments are necessary and where. Now, Sir, it was expected that a committee would be appointed by the Government and within a short time it would make its report containing the necessary recommendations. But it is a matter for surprise that it took the Government more than six months to come to a decision about the personnel of the committee. Surely, Sir, it was not necessary for members to undertake any extensive tours and take evidence before deciding this matter. The Act was passed in 1873 and has now been in force for about 66 years. The Government, therefore, must have accumulated sufficient knowledge about its defects and the grievances of the people in this connexion. Then a good deal of light was thrown on these matters by the honourable members who participated in the debate on the resolution. Thus the Government had sufficient data at its disposal for the consideration of this question.

As regards the personnel of the Committee I fail to understand what was the necessity for appointing the Financial Commissioner as its Chairman. Not only that, even one of the Secretaries to Financial Commissioners has been taken on the committee on the pretext that the Financial Commissioner will not be able to spare much time for the work of this committee. Then there is one representative of the Irrigation Department and he is followed by Khan Bahadur Khurshid Muhammad. The last named gentleman who is Deputy Commissioner was about to retire and it seems that this square peg has been thrust in the round hole for no better reasons than that the Government wanted to make some provision for him. I submit, Sir, that there was absolutely no need for appointing such high officers to go into this question. The Government could very well appoint a small official committee with some non-official members and that committee could go into the whole question and make necessary recommendations. Three or four chapters of the Act do not require any amendment at all. The number of questions which require attention is not very large. The most important points to be taken into consideration are improvement of water supply from the canals, the *kharaba* and the terms and restrictions relating to it, the amount as well as the method of assessment and realisation of water rate, etc. Now may one ask where was the need for three high officers undertaking a tour in this connexion and wasting public money? It would have been enough if a committee like the one I have suggested were appointed and a questionnaire issued by it. After the replies to the questionnaire have been received, some witnesses could be sent for from the areas concerned and their evidence recorded. And when the Government had obtained the public opinion and the opinion of those who are directly affected by the Act, it could compare this opinion with its own accumulated experience and come to a decision.

Then, Sir, I fail to understand why the services of a legal adviser have been thrust upon this committee? What will this legal adviser be doing

during the period in which this committee will be holding its meetings? If any legal advice is required it is when the amending Bill is to be prepared, and that work is done by the Legal Remembrancer and his department. Then why this white elephant?

The expenditure provided for this committee is Rs. 43,390. But our experience tells us that it is not going to rest at that figure. It is just possible that very soon another twenty or thirty thousand rupees may be demanded for this committee. These are the ways of this Government. So much money is going to be spent on the amendment of a 66 year old Act about the operations of which so much is known already. Is it not a clear proof of unscrupulous waste of public money on the part of the Government? This House knows full well that the Government have either already spent or are going to spend within a few months a sum of about Rs. 43,000 on this committee. The further expenditure may come up to twenty thousand of rupees. Such a huge expenditure can never be justified for the purpose of suggesting a few modifications in an Act of 75 sections only. To spend Rs. 43,000 in order to propose some ordinary amendments in the Canal Act is nothing but a sheer waste of money. It is not fair to squander away public money like that. After all what is it that the Government have to consider in this connexion? First and foremost is the question of ascertaining the views and difficulties of the zamindars. For this purpose, three intelligent persons having some experience of the working of the Canal Act should sit together and put forward their recommendations. Now surely this work can be done without incurring heavy expenditure of 43,000 rupees. In reality the Government has doled away this money to their old retiring officers. Government wants to please these big officers by providing them with extra money. If they will go on squandering public funds like that, I would pray to God that He may save the public from this Government. I want to strike a note of warning to the Unionist Ministry that they are heading towards a disaster by following a wrong path and by wasting public money under various pretexts.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (*Urdu*): Sir I have listened with a certain amount of care and attention to the various speeches that have been delivered from the Opposition benches. Some honourable members have opposed the demand under consideration for the sake of opposition only. Others perhaps have not been able to understand the questionnaire itself.

Sardar Hari Singh: Were you present in the House when these criticisms were made?

Premier: I have many eyes and many ears.

Sardar Hari Singh: But you are not using them.

Premier: In fact I am using them. That is what has made my honourable friend so restive.

In the first place, Sir, I crave your indulgence to reply to the criticism that has been levelled against us by the honourable members of the Opposition. They have declared the expenditure that we have incurred in connection with the Canal Act Committee, to be a huge waste of public money. But do my honourable friends appreciate the aims and objects of this committee? Do they also know as to who originated the idea of appointing

(Premier.)

such a committee? It was a member of the Unionist party and not one of theirs who brought forward this resolution in the House. Had it not been for our party, the Congress could have never thought of such a salutary resolution.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : That is as yet on paper only. The real matter is being postponed.

Premier : Sir I would very much like my honourable friends to have their say first so that when they have finished, I may be allowed to proceed with my speech uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker : No comments, please.

Premier : Another point that has been urged against us is that we have taken such a long time to appoint this committee. In reply to this I would like to remind them of a well-known Persian saying—

کہ تعجیل کار شیاطین ہو۔

The Government had to see as to who would be the most suitable persons to serve on this committee. Had my honourable friends taken the trouble of going through the questionnaire prepared by the Canal Act Committee appointed by the Government, they would have appreciated the labours of the Canal Act Committee and would have at the same time felt grateful to the Government for having appointed such capable persons on the committee. In fact I challenge my honourable friend from Lyallpur if he can prepare a similar questionnaire in a week's time even though he may confine himself to a room, where he is allowed to contemplate on the subject undisturbed.

Sardar Hari Singh : But has it been prepared by the committee?

Premier : Yes the committee prepared it after the Honourable Minister, the Chief Engineer and I had discussed it among ourselves. Great pains have been taken by us to prepare this questionnaire and there comes my honourable friend from Lyallpur to criticise it without having even made an attempt to thoroughly study it. That shows the extent of his sympathy with the poverty-stricken zamindars of the Punjab. He could not read the questionnaire till last night, although he admits it was issued some months ago. The questionnaire is a very comprehensive document on the subject. It has missed no important point and I wonder if my honourable friends opposite could have prepared such a comprehensive document on the subject.

Lala Duni Chand : Any sensible lawyer could frame this questionnaire.

Premier : Further, my honourable friend from Lyallpur was pleased to observe that the questionnaire was too intricate and complicated to be understood by the uneducated zamindars. That may be so. But may I remind my honourable friend that he himself is highly qualified, being a B. Com. of London? Why did he not take the trouble of going through the questionnaire so as to be able to enlighten his uneducated zamindar brothers of Lyallpur?

Now I will turn to the question regarding the facilities to be provided for gardening. Perhaps my honourable friend referred to this question in order to enlist your sympathies, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Is the Honourable Premier unsympathetic ?

Premier : Far from it.

The honourable member need not have appealed to me or to the Honourable Speaker in this way. Anyhow if my friend had real sympathy with the zamindars and if he had carefully studied the questionnaire, he would not have been here to-day simply for the sake of making a speech or opposing this demand. If he is so anxious for the welfare of the zamindars he ought to have been at Lyallpur to-day where the Canal Act Committee is recording evidence. A copy of this questionnaire has been sent to each member with the request that he should communicate his opinion to the said committee. May I ask the honourable member over there if he has done that ? He says that he has not studied it, but forwarded it to the Secretary, Zamindara League, at Lyallpur. I wonder why he has done so. Perhaps because he is according to my friend, Sardar Hari Singh, 'a new convert to Congress.' Why rely upon the Zamindara League, which is good for nothing and has absolutely no sympathy for the zamindars ? Let me tell you that the Canal Act Committee is at Lyallpur to-day and will remain there for two days more. Let the honourable member purchase a return ticket and hurry back as soon as possible. (*Mian Muhammad Nurullah :* What about my cut ?) Then you want to see your name printed in big letters in the newspapers and you are not anxious to do something substantial.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I would make this request to the Honourable Premier through you, Sir, that he may be pleased to refrain from making personal remarks. That would create bad blood and ugly scenes in the House.

Premier : My learned friend should know that if the honourable member has gone over to that side, that does not mean that our personal relations have come to an end. He need not help him. If he wants me to stop he can make that request himself.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I would submit as a personal explanation, that my request was only as a member and a responsible member of the House and not on behalf of any person.

Mr. Speaker : May I state that impersonality is the most important rule of parliamentary debates.

Premier : Well, Sir, for the information of the House I may say that it was translated into Urdu and Gurmukhi and thirty thousand copies were distributed among the people so that they may easily understand its subject matter. Then my honourable friend has mentioned things which had absolutely no connexion with the cut motion now before the House.

Mian Nurullah : Mr. Speaker did not rule that as irrelevant.

Mr. Speaker : No one on the Government side raised any point of order as to irrelevancy or irregularity.

Premier : Of course with a view to avoid waste of time.

Mr. Speaker : Then expediency did not permit it.

Premier : Yes. The honourable mover further remarked that the Chief Engineer, according to the definition given in the Act is not a Canal Officer. It appears that he has not carefully looked at the personnel of the

(Premier.)

committee or at the terms of reference. If he had done so he would have found that the personnel of the committee is composed of experts, land revenue and irrigation experts who are conversant with the working of the Canal Act. The learned Legal Remembrancer is also there to advise the committee on technical matters. The honourable mover complained that the questionnaire is unintelligible. Had technicalities been included in it, it would have got all the more complicated. The learned Legal Remembrancer would see to it that no defects or drawbacks are allowed to remain in the Act. Again my honourable friend, the mover, remarked on the authority of Mr. Calvert that this department was a commercial one, and that it should be treated as such. Let me tell him that this is not a new proposal. It originated with me. I pressed upon the Government the desirability of treating this department as a commercial one and separating its budget from the general budget, just as the Railway budget has been separated from the Central budget, but the Government did not agree to it. Surely the savings of a department run by private capital should be spent on the people. Anyhow this proposal will be considered in due course. It has also been said by the honourable mover that since the Government have earned enormous profits from the Lyallpur Canal, they should henceforward cease charging anything from the zamindars. I should frankly confess my inability to understand the logic of this statement that on productive canals we should charge nothing and on non-productive ones we should levy *abiana*. I ask why the honourable mover demands reduction in case of Lyallpur district. (*A voice*: Because it is his district.) No, it is not his district. It is the district of my friends Shahadat Khan and Khan Saadat Ali Khan. It is the district of those of our friends who reside there. Mian Nurullah and myself were granted squares of land by Government. It is not up to us to demand concessions because we have in a way dispossessed the original inhabitants of their lands. It is the right of the original inhabitant to clamour for concessions. We are usurpers so to say of their rights.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: You sold part of the land and you are still selling it.

Premier: My friend is also a resident of the Lyallpur district and he is now feeling happy over this. But he has ignored the fact that in the beginning the whole province contributed towards the cost of this canal. Lyallpur is not the only district that has to shoulder this burden. On the other canals too conditions are not very different.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: How many times has the capital of that canal been returned from the income from the Lyallpur district? (*Hear, hear.*)

Premier: Now my friend has asked how many times the capital has been returned? But did that money belong to you?

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Then it has been paid back several times.

Lala Sita Ram: Haven't you got double the amount?

Premier: But has that money gone into your pocket or mine?

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Nobody says that.

Premier : Well, that money belonged to the people and has been spent on the people. I hope my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh will agree with me that this is the real socialist way of doing things (*Hear, hear and laughter*).

Sardar Sampuran Singh : We all agree on that. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a running commentary. I warn the honourable members not to interrupt.

Lala Duni Chand : On a point of order. You must have observed that the Honourable Premier has in the course of his speech been side tracking the issue. Very often he refused to say anything on the point and wandered away into the realm of irrelevancy. (*Hear, hear and laughter*).

Premier : I have stated more than once that some canals are running at a loss and others at a profit. Taking all the loss and profit into account the position is reviewed for deciding upon such reduction or enhancement as may be necessary. I may here assure my honourable friends that when the three projects are completed we shall be in a much better position in the matter of water supply as well as giving relief to all concerned.

Now as regards the personnel of the committee it has been said that the real committee is no longer functioning and the work of the committee is being carried on by proxy. My friends Mian Muhammad Nurullah and Sardar Hari Singh have raised that point. It has been asked why the Chief Engineer, Bawa Natha Singh and Mr. Khurshid Muhammad have been appointed members of the committee. My reply is that they have been appointed because they are experts. Do my honourable friends want the Government to appoint such persons as know nothing about the canals and their working? (*A voice: What about Chaudhri Fazl Din, M.L.A.?*) I am talking of official members.

As regards *kharaba*, I would advise my honourable friend to go to every district and enquire whether people want to retain or abolish it. I admit that some people want to abolish this system, but there are others—I think more shrewd than the first group—who are deadly against the abolition of *kharaba*. The Canals Standing Committee of the old Legislative Council was of the opinion that *kharaba* should be abolished, but among the people there is a great difference of opinion with regard to this question. Now the matter will be decided after we have received the opinion of the people concerned from every part of the province.

I may also add that the questionnaire issued by the committee is very exhaustive and everything concerning the zamindars is included in it. For instance, I invite your attention to question No. 6 of the first chapter on page 2 of the questionnaire. It is asked there, "Is the agency for the inspection and check of crops generally suitable, if not what changes do you suggest?" The last part of the question gives you an opportunity to say anything you like with regard to the matter. Similarly there is one such general question in every chapter. What more do you want?

Then a great deal has been said about the salaries of the officers who have been appointed to sit on the committee. They say, why do you give them such high salaries? My reply is, because they were already drawing that much. They have been given the salaries which they were drawing after deducting their pensions. (*A voice: It is very little.*) Does my friend

(Premier.)

mean to say that the pension of a Chief Engineer is very little? These gentlemen have to tour almost the whole province and they will have to take with them their servants and other effects. (A voice: The salary is too much.) Well, to you even my salary appears to be too much, but if you were to take into account the number of my children you will have to admit that it is too small (laughter).

Many of my honourable friends here know that Bawa Natha Singh is an honest and tried officer of the Canal Department. So far as Sheikh Khurshid Muhammad is concerned, the inhabitants of all those places wherever he has been posted, will testify to his honesty, ability and sympathy for the zamindars. I think honourable members know these things even better than myself. I am of the opinion that a better President than Sheikh Khurshid Muhammad for this committee could not be found. (Hear, hear.) My honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah, has objected to his selection as President as if he were quite an ordinary fellow who can be replaced by any Tom, Dick or Harry. My honourable friend should bear in mind this fact that Sheikh Khurshid Muhammad is a brilliant star of the Provincial Service and that if many more officers like him were available, there would be no need left for the Indian Civil Service.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I never said anything against him. I said he is a non-agriculturist. That is all.

Premier : I thank my honourable friend for having changed his views. But where is the harm, even if he does not belong to an agriculturist tribe? After all what are the duties of this committee? It will only collect material. It will not say the final word. (loud laughter). Perhaps, my honourable friends think that I am not well-informed. So, they are laughing at my supposed ignorance. But let me have my say. They may laugh afterwards to their heart's content.

The fact which deserves careful consideration on the part of my honourable friends is, that different canals have their different problems. For instance, the question of *wadh wattar* is an important one with respect to certain canals. My honourable friend Nawab Fazl Ali will be able to tell you what are the peculiar problems of the canal in his *itaga*. Similarly Mian Muhammad Nurullah ought to be able to throw some light on the difficulties experienced by the zamindars in his *ilaga*. The committee, therefore, will have to go about finding out the complaints of the zamindars on the various canals. They will take down all those complaints which are brought to their notice. The final decision will be made by another committee which will include three members of this House. For the present, the committee is busy collecting data and examining witnesses. I should like to inform my honourable friends that very useful data is being collected by this committee. Some facts of a really startling nature are coming to light as a result of this inquiry. The other day when Sheikh Khurshid Muhammad came to see me, he told me that the inquiry instituted by the committee had revealed certain things which were absolutely new for them. I myself admitted that those things had never occurred even to me.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Then you admit that the questionnaire is defective?

Premier : I want to show that these things came to light on account of the questionnaire. It was in answer to the questionnaire that those things were revealed by the witnesses.

Now, I will proceed to answer the criticism levelled against the Government by my friend from Ambala. He said, "This is a sixty year old enactment. Why did not the Government carry out amendments themselves?" I confess that there are no eminent lawyers of his type sitting on these benches who may be able to amend this old enactment with one stroke of the pen. So far as some amendments of a technical nature are concerned we have asked the Legal Remembrancer to go into the question and make suggestions. But then there are certain other things which even I, a zamindar, do not know. I must make enquiries before suggesting modifications in the existing law.

Lala Duni Chand : May I correct the Honourable Premier?

Mr. Speaker : Not at this stage.

Lala Duni Chand : He is making a wrong statement.

Mr. Speaker : It is not parliamentary that everybody should stand up and begin to make a speech without the Chair's permission.

Premier : I am glad that my honourable friend has modified his previous opinion. In fact it speaks well of a speech if people change their mind after listening to it. It is really creditable for my honourable friends honestly to change their views after they have been impressed by the speech of another member of the House. (*Hear, hear and applause.*) This should be the attitude. They should keep an open mind. Then, an objection has been raised that a large sum amounting to Rs. 43,000 is being spent on this committee. My honourable friends must be aware of the fact that no less than four and a half crores of rupees accrue to the province from *abiana* annually. All this money comes from the pockets of the poor zamindars. Is it too much to spend Rs. 43,000 in order to remove certain hardships of the zamindars who pay four and a half crores of rupees annually as *abiana*? I, for one, will not hesitate to spend 43 lakhs of rupees if I know that the expenditure is going to benefit the poor zamindars. (*Cheers.*) If anything is to be done for the urban population, my honourable friends insist that experts should be summoned from America and Europe. At that time money seems to be no consideration with them. But when it is a question of the Bhakra Dam Scheme which is meant for the amelioration of the condition of the poor zamindars they are not willing to spend even a paltry sum of Rs. 43,000. I have to say a good deal, but I am hard pressed for time. I hope this House will sanction this grant so that we may be able to discuss other demands on the list of business.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the item of Rs. 7,790 on account of A (1) Chief Engineers—Canal Act Committee—
Total pay of officers (voted), be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 37, Noes 77.

AYES

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.

Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Duni Chand Lala.

Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
 Girdhari Das, Mahant.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
 Hari Lal, Munshi.
 Hari Singh, Sardar.
 Harjeb Singh, Sardar.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Kabul Singh, Master.
 Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
 Kartar Singh, Sardar.
 Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
 Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
 Chaudhri.

Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Muni Lal Kaha, Pandit.
 Partab Singh, Sardar.
 Prem Singh, Mahant.
 Rur Singh, Sardar.
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib
 Sardar.
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
 Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
 Sita Ram, Lala.
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
 Sudarshan, Seth.

NOES

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
 Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdas-
 pur).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
 Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.
 Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan
 Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur
 Nawab Malik.
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
 Bhagwant Singh, Rai.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chau-
 dhri Sir.
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Dina Nath, Captain.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major
 Raja.
 Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieut. Bhai.
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab
 Chaudhri.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.

Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Baha-
 dur Maulvi.
 Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib
 Sardar.
 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
 Haibat Khan Daba, Khan.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
 Jafar Ali Khan, M.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The
 Honourable Nawabzada Major.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Mubarak Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan
 Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan,
 Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hayat Khan, Noon,
 Nawab Malik Sir.
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major
 Sardar.

Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Raza Shah, Jeelani,
 Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.

Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Rashida Latif Baji, Begum.
 Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Roberts, Sir William.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
 Sultan Mahmud Hotiane, Mian.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
 Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : I do not think it is necessary that the remaining amendments should be put to the vote of the House. Do the honourable members, in whose names the remaining amendments to Demand No. 5 stand, wish to move them ? (*Voices : No*). May I take it that that is the sense of the House ? (*Voices from Treasury benches : Yes.*).

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : But there is cut motion No. 7 in my name which relates to Bhakra Dam.

Mr. Speaker : It is vague and meaningless.

Bhakra Dam Scheme.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 16,280 on account of Total Bhakra Dam be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this cut motion is to urge upon the Government the desirability of expediting the already most delayed Bhakra Dam Project Scheme. I could have said much about the Bhakra Dam Scheme but in view of the short time that I have at my disposal, I will cut short my speech and confine myself to a very few points concerning it. The Government have made a demand of Rs. 16,280 only for this grand scheme. Nothing can be done with this petty sum of money about this huge scheme. The only purpose that this demand can serve will be to raise false hopes in the minds of the innocent villagers. The scheme has been hanging fire for the last 20 years. In 1919 the news was spread about it first. Then in 1920 an estimate of 23 crores of rupees was prepared for it. During the Great War much advantage was derived by the Government in the name of this scheme for recruitment. Again, six elections have been fought on this issue but the scheme has not materialised so far. One has enjoyed ministry two times in its name and yet there is no prospect of its being constructed. Now after a propaganda for the last 20 years, the Unionist Government

(Pandit Shri Ram Sharma).

have come forward with a meagre demand of 16½ thousand rupees. It is nothing more than a camouflage. In the first budget there was no mention of it. In the second the name was mentioned. But now in the third budget a long essay has been written about it under the heading of the Bhakra Dam Scheme. This is all an act of sheer cleverness or a dodge on the part of the Government to win the sympathies of the people. False hopes about the speedy construction of the Bhakra Dam are being created in the minds of the plain folks. Two engineers are being sent to America to study how dams can be best constructed. One is deputed to study the situation as he is claimed to have some personal knowledge of the place. He will be provided with an establishment and they will give out as if the scheme is to be immediately carried out. But there appeared the other day in the daily *Tribune* a sensational news with regard to this under the caption, "The forlorn hope of The Bhakra Dam". That shows that the present grant of 16 thousand rupees is a mere hoax to kindle afresh in the mind of the public the hopes of its construction. In fact nothing of the kind is seriously contemplated by the Government. This money will be wasted in mere propaganda. The Honourable Premier tried the other day to conceal the reality about this. He said that although the Raja of Bilaspur is demanding too heavy a sum of money to be paid by the Punjab Government yet they are carrying on the necessary negotiations and have not given up all hopes of a successful end. It was further told that even if this scheme fails, they have thought out another and a better scheme for providing irrigation facilities to the people of Hissar and Rohtak. One may reasonably ask that if they have got a better scheme, why not take that into hand and give up the idea of negotiating with the Raja of Bilaspur? A scheme with better prospects should surely be carried out in preference to the worse one. In short these things point to one unmistakable conclusion that the Government is not serious about it. Otherwise the Raja of Bilaspur cannot stand in the way of the Government of the Punjab as well as that of India. Why don't you look at the Bombay Government and how the Thakore Sahib of Rajkot was made to yield? The part played by Mahatama Gandhi is too well-known to require mention and I do not refer to that. The Bombay Ministers wrote to the Government of India that if they did not intervene in the matter they would resign. I think this protest and strong attitude of the Bombay Government had gone a long way in effecting the settlement arrived at later on. If the Bombay Ministry could bring pressure upon the Thakore Sahib of Rajkot, why should not the Punjab Government bring similar pressure on the Raja of Bilaspur. (*An honourable member* : I want to ask a question.) I do not give way. This is not the time to ask questions or to make requests. As a matter of fact it is the inability and the weakness of the Punjab Government that stands in their way. Two years have elapsed since they came into power and during this period only one conference was held to consider this matter and that too one and a half years after their coming to power. Now the Government have provided Rs. 16,000 for the purpose of constructing the canal. It appears that they are not serious about it. Previously they intended to make a dam 500 feet high but now they are constructing another dam 100 feet high. In fact they are playing tricks with the people. Probably they want to sleep over this matter till the time comes for the next elections.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : I want to put a question to the honourable member over there. Why not send Lala Duni Chand to Bilaspur and ask him to commence a fast like Mahatama Gandhi? If he does that they are sure to gain the objective.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The honourable member who puts this question is more suitable to undertake a fast in view of his fatness.

Mr. Speaker Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 16,280 on account of Total Bhakra Dam be reduced by Rs. 100.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia) (Urdu) : Sir my honourable friend over there smells rat in everything which this Government does and approaches every matter that comes before the House with a prejudiced mind. Quite naturally, jaundiced eyes must see everything yellow. Let me tell him that I am myself most anxious to see the Bhakra Dam Scheme completed, because it was in my time when I was member of the previous Government that this scheme was conceived. I regret that it could not be matured then. My honourable friend has wasted his breath for nothing, for we are already serious and determined to carry it out, no matter whether it is paying or non-paying, productive or non-productive. Again the honourable member has urged upon the Government the desirability of putting undue pressure on His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur. He wants us to coerce him into agreement. But if we do that, I am sure the Opposition would take up cudgels on his behalf and blame us for harassing him. Let me tell the honourable member that we are not in favour of coercive and forcible methods. (Interruption.) The honourable member interrupting has no connection whatsoever with this scheme and as such he should keep silent. (Laughter.) (An honourable member : Where are your squares of land situate?) The honourable member should know that I am in charge of the department and it is my duty to look after the whole of the Punjab. Well, Sir, I do not want to make a political speech. Frankly speaking we have no power to coerce the Raja into agreement. We would rather continue to follow the methods of persuasion. We do not want to put undue pressure on the Raja for he is sensitive and is a good man of advanced views. (Laughter.) The difficulties confronting us in this matter have been fully explained by the Honourable the Premier and if the honourable members opposite are not yet satisfied, we cannot help. Again there is a better scheme, why should we not look to it? Where is the harm if we examine the possibilities of a scheme which appears to be better? If I could continue here for some time longer I shall try my utmost to see this scheme matured. (Interruption.) Do you think that I am going to leave office very soon? No doubt I am an old man and you want me to go away. But let me tell you that I am not prepared to be bamboozled by you. (Laughter.) We are trying to have the matter amicably settled. We do not agree to an unreasonable amount. I cannot give you details and I hope that you will not compel me to do so. Let me assure you again that we are quite serious about this scheme. With these words I resume my seat.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra East, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, it has been stated that Nokehar Dam is a supplementary Dam to Bhakra Dam. As far as Nokehar Dam is concerned, I know its situation quite all right, because it is situated in my

[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma]:

constituency. The thing that we strongly object to is the manner in which the survey of the Nokehar Dam has been done. I cannot help telling you some incidents which occurred in that respect. The survey party camped on private fields without getting legal sanction from the Government. The members of the survey party did not tell the people why they had come there. They did not express their aims and objects in regard to their coming over there and annoying the inhabitants of that *ilaga*. Why did the survey party come there? Nobody knew. The object of their coming over there was kept a secret. It had not been proclaimed under the Land Acquisition Act as to why the survey party has been sent there. Nothing of the sort was done.

Minister for Revenue : It has nothing to do with the point he is raising.

Mr. Speaker : There is no motion before the House.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : It will be clear to you when I have explained myself as to what the survey has to do with the motion. I am only pointing out that particular fact. Nothing more.

Mr. Speaker : Was that survey party appointed by this Government or by the Central Government?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Their remuneration is provided for in this budget.

Mr. Speaker : For the purpose of the Bhakra Dam Scheme?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : For supplementing that scheme.

Mr. Speaker : What has that to do with the motion before the House?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : What I am submitting is that the way in which the survey party has done its work is most objectionable. Moreover it has not been declared under the Land Acquisition Act why the survey has been done in that *ilaga*. This should at least have been declared under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act. After all what is this provision for?

The survey officers entered the houses of the zamindars of that *ilaga* without informing them and without getting their permission to do so, or giving them notice as provided under the law. Trees of the zamindars were cut down by the survey party and the hedges made round the fields for their protection were pulled down. In this way the survey officers disturbed and annoyed the people of that place. Is this the efficiency our Government is proud of? The poor zamindars of that place sent representations in this respect to the district officers and went to see them in numbers. That was their last resort. At least 500 representations had been sent to me alone, by those zamindars whose crops were damaged by the survey party. Is this the way in which the Government wants to help the poverty-stricken zamindars? Isn't it a hopeless state of affairs? If the present Government goes on working in this manner, goodness knows what would happen to the Punjab and to those poor people whose rights and privileges are said to be protected by this Government.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the sweet song of the Bhakra Dam Project is not a new one. The House has been listening to it for the last 19 years or so. The scheme has been put in black and white no doubt but the scheme has not been put to practice as yet. The Government is quite aware of the fact that famine visits the eastern districts every now and then. This is an old complaint but the Government does not take serious steps to stop these frequent visits of famine to that *ilaga*. I am again requesting the Government to do something serious and substantial for the people of Doaba. They suffer from scarcity of water very badly. The Honourable Revenue Minister has said that I have nothing to do with the Doaba, but he is wrong there. He must admit that we belong to the Doaba though he may be living and earning in the United Provinces or the Central Provinces. We cannot neglect the Doaba. Water is scanty and scarce in the Doaba to such an extent that the wells sunk about 19 or 20 years ago have become dry and the wells sunk recently are drying day by day. Under these circumstances the Government should feel the necessity of the Bhakra Dam Scheme. The people of eastern districts are really in need of such a scheme. I, therefore, request that the construction of this useful scheme may kindly be expedited. With these words I fully support the motion moved by my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.

Rao Pohop Singh (East Punjab Landholders) (*Urdu*): Sir, my honourable friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, has waxed eloquent in saying that this small provision in regard to the Bhakra Dam Scheme is made to put dust into the eyes of people. He further said the Government had been playing on the same tune for the last 15 years and nothing had been done in that connection. He also said that he could not but regard these assurances as mere false promises made to deceive public. It has been stated by the Government to-day and yesterday that attempts are being made to remove the difficulties in the way of the Bhakra Dam Scheme. The Government has given us assurances that in case Bhakra Dam Scheme is not carried out, it would anyhow manage to provide water in great quantity to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of that *ilaga*. (*Hear, hear.*) My submission is that we should see to the circumstances. I am afraid my honourable friend is wrong in forming the opinion that the Government is going to deceive the public. Why should the Government deceive the public? If at all it wants to deceive the public, it can do so for two reasons. Firstly the Government may not be on good terms with the people of that *ilaga*. Secondly the Government may not have enough money to provide for the scheme. I would like to tell my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches that none of the two reasons is correct.

It has been stated that if such a canal had been existing in the eastern districts of the province, famine would not have visited the Hissar district. The Government has given Rs. 18,60,000 as remission, famine grants, etc. Were the Government an enemy of that *ilaga* or if it did not want to give money to that *ilaga*, it would not have provided so much money and shown such sympathy to the poor famine-stricken people of that *ilaga*. We are sure that the Government will certainly take steps to materialise the Bhakra Dam Project. But what my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has said can be construed in two ways. Either he wishes to hoodwink

[Rao Pohop Singh.]

the people by making them think that the Government is not solicitous about the scheme or that it is he and his party who are very much anxious to see that the scheme materialises. It looks like the case of one who has been out of the fight all the time it rages furiously, and comes out at the end of the fight to claim that he did not lag behind.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : He is making a personal attack. This is unparliamentary.

Rao Pohop Singh : I have to say only this much that if there is any need to bring pressure to bear upon the Government so that it may expedite the scheme, we on these benches are always ready to do that. My honourable friend need not worry. Nor should he worry over the question of pleasing or placating the voters for the party in power. The voters will judge their work on merit in spite of his adverse propaganda.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Lahore, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I had no intention to speak at this stage but I feel saying something after I have listened to the speech of an Honourable Minister and also "His Master's Voice" from the opposite benches. The Bhakra Dam Scheme has been under consideration for the last 20 years. There was a time when it was proposed to drop it altogether. Efforts seem to have been accentuated now to materialise this scheme as a result of the disastrous famine of Hissar. Now, what is happening? On the one hand it is deplored that the Raja of Bilaspur demands an unreasonably large amount. On the other, it is complained that the negotiations with the Raja have so far led to no final settlement although they have been carried on now for a very long time. Under these circumstances the question for us to consider is, how will this scheme materialise? Yesterday the Honourable Premier told us that they had an alternative scheme in view. If a better and a more practicable scheme is under consideration, why is the Government sleeping over it? Why does it not come to a definite decision? Why is the Government still undertaking a survey in connexion with the Bhakra Dam? Surveys have already taken place. Why is this fresh survey being undertaken? The Honourable Minister for Revenue said that he was not making a political speech. Why is he shy of making political speeches? He is here for political work. In fact every one of us is here to do political work. It is no use talking in that strain. My honourable friend is now an old and experienced man. How can he be deceived by anybody? If he can be deceived so very easily, he would have been deceived by the Raja of Bilaspur long ago. Perhaps the argument which he advanced against Pandit Shri Ram Sharma applies to his own case more aptly. The Government, Sir, thinks all along that the criticism of the Opposition is unjustified. It is their duty to do something. Similarly the Opposition knows and understands its duty. It is the duty of the Opposition to keep the Government wide awake, not to let it fall into sleep. If the Government wishes to escape our criticism, it should do its duty. It has the power to do everything. It has the power to set the Bhakra Dam Scheme going. Perhaps it intends to finish the scheme within the next five thousand years. (*Laughter*). The Honourable Premier said the other day that his party was to remain in power for five thousand years. Why does the Government present this ridiculous spectacle? The Honourable Minister for Revenue says that he

will see this scheme through and his Chief, the Premier, says that he has so many other schemes up his sleeves. (*Laughter*). Our only fear is that the good Bhakra Dam Scheme will be still hanging fire when the time for the next general election comes up and then our worthy friends will fight election by saying that if they are returned to power once again, they will certainly finish it up. If the Government has done all it could and its efforts have not been crowned with success, let it drop the Bhakra Dam Scheme and direct its attention to the other scheme which is said to be a much better one. The people of the Hissar and Rohtak districts are not particularly enamoured of any particular name. They do not care whether the scheme is called Bhakra Dam or something else. They do not care what the scheme is and who is the Revenue Minister. All they want is water for their crops. Let the Government, therefore, do the needful in this respect and refrain from tall talk. Let it make only such promises as it may be able to fulfil.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no intention of participating in the debate on this motion but my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition has made certain remarks which make it necessary for me to inflict a speech on the House. I have used the expression "inflict a speech" advisedly because there is nothing worth saying about this matter which has not been said more than once. My honourable colleague and myself made everything quite clear yesterday but the honourable mover of this cut motion is in the habit of dubbing everything said and done by this Government as a piece of deceit and camouflage. He has been pleased to remark that the Bakhra Dam Scheme has been used to deceive the voters in many elections. I think his grievance is that he has not been able to fight an election on this issue. Well, Sir, let him try his luck if he wants to.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition has complained that twenty years have passed without anything substantial having been done in this connexion. I wish he had tried to realise the difficulties and obstacles which have to be faced and overcome in such a matter especially when some other province or State is concerned in it and protracted negotiations have to be carried on before the project can be taken in hand. Perhaps you know, Sir, that the Thal Project has been under consideration for a much longer period. The people of the areas concerned were told that the Government would undertake this Project if they were prepared to part with three-fourth of their lands. They agreed even to that. A law was passed in 1901 and three-fourth of the lands of the people was taken. But the result was that nothing has been done up till now. Your Government took notice of this state of affairs and decided that it was a great injustice to have deprived the people of their lands for more than 30 years without doing anything to fulfil the promise made to them. The result was that the law in question was repealed and the lands have been returned to their owners.

Now, Sir, we took over the reins of Government on the 1st of April, 1937, and during this period of less than 24 months the Haveli Project has been completed—the inauguration is to take place on the 2nd of April. The Thal Project will also be taken in hand at the earliest possible moment and the Government will try to see it completed with all expedition. It is the duty of the Government to remove the hardships and difficulties of the

[Premier].

people and the honourable members should rest assured that this Government will do its duty faithfully and promptly. (*Hear, hear*). Now may I ask my friends opposite whether they know the history of the Sutlej Valley Project? Do they know that it had been under consideration for about 60 years? The Government had to face a good many obstacles because an Indian State was concerned in the matter. Even to this day the Government is being accused of having made the ruler of the State, who was a minor at the time, to agree to an iniquitous agreement.

The suggestion of my honourable friends opposite seems to be that I should use all means to come to a speedy agreement with regard to the Bhakra Dam Scheme. Well Sir, the Government is making all reasonable efforts to expedite the matter but let me make it clear that I am not prepared to exert any undue influence on the Bilaspur State. I know that very recently moral pressure was brought to bear upon the ruler of Rajkot but it was only a spiritual pressure. Mahatma Gandhi did not use any violent methods. He never asked the Government of Bombay to crush the Thakore Sahib. He only used his spiritual influence. My friends should not, therefore, expect me to bring undue pressure to bear upon His Highness of Bilaspur. I do not believe in coercing anybody into doing anything against his will, much less the ruler of a State. (*An honourable member*: Had it been the Thal Project you would have done it.)

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member begins to speak without being called. This is unparliamentary.

Premier: My honourable friend has made a very unfortunate and objectionable remark. The insinuation is that the people to be benefited by the Thal Project are mostly Muslims. (*An honourable member*: Not Muslims but those belonging to your party.) This is a very unfortunate mentality and it is the members with such a mentality who are responsible for the unpopularity of their party. Had there been no such members in the Congress, that great organisation would have fared much better in this province. Anyway, Sir, if they want me to use our influence with the Government of India to make the ruler of Bilaspur agree to our terms, I am not the man to do it. We will try to understand the demands of the State and come to an agreement even if we have to give to the State something more than may be rightfully due to it because when we are going to benefit by this scheme we should not grudge a good share of the benefit to the Bilaspur State. We have to see how far the claims of the Bilaspur Durbar are justified. We do not wish to be exploited by the Raja of that State on the score of our being in a tight corner. But at the same time we are prepared to allow him reasonable profit out of this scheme which is calculated to confer far-reaching benefits on the Punjab. At present we feel that the terms put forward by the Bilaspur State are very excessive and we, therefore, have to continue our negotiations till a compromise is reached. At the same time we are afraid that if Bilaspur persists in its demands, we may have to adopt a stiff attitude not in the sense of coercing the Raja but in the sense of our refusing to yield to him in his impossible terms. If that comes to pass, we should have some other alternative scheme to provide irrigation to the people of Hissar and that is exactly what we are doing at present.

Fortunately a scheme which is in certain respects better than the Bhakra Dam Scheme is already under consideration of the Government and a survey party has been deputed for the purpose. We mean to fulfil our pledge, as Rao Pohop Singh has already pointed out. If the Bhakra Dam Scheme is made impossible for us by the Bilaspur State, we are determined to carry out the other alternative scheme. In face of these facts, it is really regrettable that my honourable friends opposite should describe our efforts as mere bamboozling or throwing dust in the eyes of the public. This is far from being true. In this connection my honourable friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, has observed that the daily *Tribune* has contradicted the views of the Punjab Government. If he is prepared to place more reliance on the *Tribune* than on us, he is welcome to his decision. He may declare from house tops that the *Tribune* says "There will be no Bhakra Dam. There will be no Bhakra Dam." But against this, let me assure this honourable House that we are determined to provide irrigation to that part of the Punjab through one scheme or the other.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Let the inhabitants of that *ilaga* embrace Islam and they will immediately obtain irrigation facilities.

Premier : I may in this connection refer to the speech of the Honourable Minister of Finance which must have been read in print not only throughout India, but outside it as well. In that speech the Honourable Finance Minister has observed that 'it is the earnest desire and the firm determination of this Government to take all necessary steps immediately to proceed to the work of construction.' I think that is enough indication of the views of this Government. Further it is stated there that "In the final form as now contemplated the Project is estimated to cost Rs. 12 crores." I may add that the present Government is quite prepared to spend this amount on the Project. There is no question of throwing dust in the eyes of the public. We are serious about this matter. I am here tempted to say a few words with regard to my honourable friend from Kangra, Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, who observed during his speech that we were indulging in propaganda only. May I inform the House why he felt the necessity of passing such remarks to-day? The fact is this. When our survey party went to his *ilaga*, my honourable friend asked the people as to why they had allowed the survey party to enter the *ilaga*. He exhorted them to stoutly resist any survey being carried in that area. Perhaps the honourable member did not realise at that time that under the law of the land, the Government can undertake survey work and he who obstructs can be called to account for it. His argument in asking the people to resist survey in connexion with the Nokehar Dam Scheme was that the land of the local inhabitants would be taken away by the Government. But may I point out what kind of land comes up under that scheme? It is only hilly tract with deep ravines and high cliffs here and there. It may be that some cultivable land also comes into it. But then the owners will get compensation for that, and hundreds of people will get employment.

Many people will be benefited therefrom and they will learn how to work which will stand them in good stead in future. But my friend lectured to his constituents that he would take up cudgels on their behalf and would oppose the Government tooth and nail and if they still insisted he would put a period to the life of this Government.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : On a point of order. I have so far been listening to the speech containing references to members on this side of the House and imputing motives to them. I invite your attention to this fact.

Mr. Speaker : No personal references should be made.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : On a point of order. The Honourable Premier is imputing motives and is making an utterly false statement on the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not make any personal insinuations against any member of this House.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : But he should be asked to withdraw the remarks that he has made.

Mr. Speaker : I do not think that was in his personal knowledge. He might have received a report and on the basis of that report he has attacked the truthfulness of a member which is not fair.

Premier : I have not attacked the truthfulness.

Mr. Speaker : I request the honourable members not to be personal.

Premier (Urdu) : If my honourable friend denies that, I am prepared to accept his statement. But all the same I would advise him not to meddle with these things.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : The honourable member is again referring to certain facts which are a damnable lie.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member used an equally strong word before and has repeated it again.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : He should withdraw what he said. He is still persisting in making those very remarks.

Mr. Speaker : He has admitted in the House that he does not know anything personally and that what he has stated is based on the report which he has received. But the honourable member has used much stronger language than he did.

Premier (Urdu) : I have already stated that if the information supplied by reporters is wrong I take it as wrong. If my honourable friend wants that no report should be submitted to the Government by any officer until he has been consulted—

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I went only after—

Mr. Speaker : If the honourable member again stands up or begins to speak without permission of the Chair, I shall have to ask him to withdraw from the Chamber. Whatever is to be said must be said with the permission of the Chair.

Premier : Now, Sir, there is only one minute at my disposal. I will, therefore, resume my seat after making a reference to a general remark made by my friends opposite. They said that they could not bring any pressure to bear upon the Government to fulfil its promises and to do its

duty by the people. To this my honourable friend Rao Pohop Singh has very aptly replied that whenever there is any real need for pressure being brought to bear upon the Government the honourable members belonging to the Ministerial Party will do the needful and that they would not hesitate to resort to satyagraha (*Interruption*). My honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has unnecessarily allowed his mind to wander to the Punjabi meanings of a certain word used by me but he ought to know that at present I am speaking Urdu and not Punjabi. Anyway, Sir, I assure my honourable friends that there are two ministers belonging to the *ilaga* concerned in the present cabinet and they can always exert the necessary influence without any unnecessary solicitude on the part of my friends opposite.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the item of Rs. 16,280 on account of Total Bhakra Dam be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Irrigation Establishment Charges.

The motion was carried.

OTHER DEMANDS.

The following demands were then put from the Chair and adopted.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,52,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Construction of Irrigation Works—Capital Expenditure.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,40,670 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of General Administration.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,45,570 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Administration of Justice.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,54,310 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Police.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 80,530 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Medical.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 74,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Hydro-Electric Schemes—Working Expenses.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,49,930 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Famine.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,15,630 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Irrigation, Navigation, etc., Working Expenses and Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Public Health.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Capital Outlay on Electric Schemes—Hydro-Electric Schemes (other than Establishment).

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Miscellaneous.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Provincial Excise.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 90,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Famine.

That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1939, in respect of Civil Works.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P.M., on Saturday, 18th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 1st PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 18th March, 1989.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 P. M., of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION IN KULU SUB-DIVISION.

***4176. Rai Bhagwant Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Kulu sub-division is one of the most backward rural areas in the Punjab ;
- (b) whether the Government is also aware of the strong feeling which exists among the inhabitants of this sub-division to the effect that they are not being treated on a par with the people living in other parts of the province *qua* the rural reconstruction work ;
- (c) what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to remove this legitimate grievance of the people of this *ilaga* ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) It is a matter of opinion whether the Kulu sub-division as a whole is one of the most backward rural areas in the province. In some respects, for example, in co-operative spirit it is more advanced than many parts of the Punjab.

(b) No.

(c) According to Government's decision one tahsil in each district is selected every year for the Special Development Programme and the rural reconstruction work is being carried out in the Kangra tahsil this year. The Special Development Programme will be started in the Kulu sub-division, when its turn comes.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has the Honourable Minister asked the Director of Industries to prepare a list of all backward rural areas in the Punjab ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Then how is the Minister in a position to say that this is not the most backward area ?

Minister : I refuse to answer that question.

Lala Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is the Minister seriously applying his mind to the industrial development in that particular area ?

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION IN KULU SUB-DIVISION.

***4177. Rai Bhagwant Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is still left an unspent balance out of the allotment earmarked in the budget estimate for the current financial year to carry out the rural reconstruction operations in the province ;
- (b) how much money, if any, has been spent out of this fund for the benefit of Kulu sub-division, Kangra district ;
- (c) whether any inspector has been appointed or any other officer specially deputed for rural reconstruction work in Kulu sub-division since the time the work of rural reconstruction has been undertaken in the province ; if not, why not ;
- (d) how does the Government propose to spend the balance mentioned in (a) above ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes ;

(b) Nothing so far.

(c) *First part :* No.

Second part. According to Government's decision one tahsil in each district is selected every year for the Special Development Programme and the rural reconstruction work is being carried out in the Kangra tahsil this year.

(d) The balance will be spent by the beneficent departments on the Special Development Programme pertaining to their departments during the next financial year.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : How is it that such a large sum has not been spent on rural reconstruction ?

Minister : Probably the schemes were not prepared in time.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Probably or certainly ?

Minister : Probably.

Lala Bhagat Ram Sharma : Has any amount been spent in the Kulu area ?

Premier : A part of that area is a reserved subject and my honourable friend has no right to ask questions about it.

Lala Bhagat Ram Sharma : I am not asking about that area ; I am only asking with respect to the Government area .

Premier : Kulu gets its due share.

Lala Bhagat Ram Sharma : How much money has been spent this year ?

Premier : Does the honourable member expect me to carry all the figures in my head ? He may refer to the budget.

GUN LICENCE-HOLDERS IN RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

*4202. **Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that every gun licence-holder in the Rawalpindi district has been directed to obtain a shikar licence also irrespective of the fact whether he has applied for renewal or grant of a new licence and whether he intends gaming or not ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that a representation has been made by the military pensioners who have got gun licences free of any fees and also by the inhabitants of the hilly areas who keep such licences for protection purposes of life and property from wild animals to the effect that they may be exempted from the payment of any shikar licence fee as they do not intend gaming and that their request has not so far been acceded to ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Before a gun licence for purposes of sport is granted or renewed, the applicant is required to satisfy the district magistrate that he has taken out or intends to take out a shooting licence under the Wild Birds and Wild Animals Protection Act, 1933, but no such licence is required when a gun is kept for the purpose of protection or display only, and not for sport.

(b) An oral representation was made by some retired military officers at a meeting of the Rawalpindi District Soldiers' Board a short time ago. They were informed of the position at (a) above.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : My question in part (a) was whether any instructions have been issued to the effect that a licence holder must obtain a *shikar* licence before his licence was renewed ?

Premier : Instructions have been issued that where a licence holder wants a licence for purposes of sport he should apply for a game licence.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know whether the Honourable Premier is aware of the fact that the licences of one or two persons have been confiscated on the ground that they did not obtain shikar licences ?

Premier : There is no question of confiscation : they may not have been renewed.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know if they were not renewed on the ground that they did not get shikar licences ?

Premier : Yes, that is what the instructions are that if a person applies for licence for the purpose of sport he must also get the game licence. If he does not want it for sport but for protection only then he will not be given a licence for sport.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : My question is that notwithstanding the fact that an assurance was given that the licence required was for protection purposes only and not for game purposes, the licence was confiscated

Premier : If my honourable friend would give any specific instances I would look into them ; but as I have said they have to satisfy the licensing authority that the licence is required merely for the purpose of protection or display and not for sport purposes.

**CRIMINAL OR CIVIL CASES OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN COURTS
OF RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.**

***4204. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of cases, whether criminal or civil, of co-operative societies pending in the courts of Rawalpindi district against the agriculturists ;
- (b) the number of cases, referred to above, decided during the last year ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

C AND D CLASS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

***4226. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of co-operative societies placed in class C and D during the year 1938 ;
- (b) whether any efforts have been made to better the conditions of these societies ; if so, the result of those efforts ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a)—

Class.				Number of Societies.	
C	1,701
C-1	4,410
C-2	4,716
D	2,918

(b) Great and persistent efforts have been made to improve the conditions of these societies. For the result of these efforts the honourable member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Co-operative Department.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND CO-OPERATIVE UNIONISM IN THE PUNJAB.

***4227. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number of co-operative societies registered during the years 1937 and 1938 and whether he has taken or contemplates taking any steps to accelerate the growth of Co-operative Unionism in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : First Part—

Year.				Number of Societies.	
1937	1,090
1938	787

Second part.—It is not clear what the honourable member means by 'Co-operative Unionism.' If Co-operative Movement is meant, the possibility of developing it more rapidly is engaging the earliest attention of Government.

LIQUIDATION OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

***4223. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of co-operative societies liquidated or under liquidation in the year 1938 in the Punjab;
- (b) the reasons for their coming under liquidation;
- (c) the total amount involved in such liquidation?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) 1,418.

(b) Weak financial condition or the un-co-operative working of the societies.

(c) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What are the causes of these liquidations?

Minister : The causes are so numerous and complex that I will not attempt to enumerate them in reply to this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the number of causes for liquidations has increased or decreased during the last two years?

Minister : It depends on how one looks at this question.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Did the Honourable Minister have any opportunity of comparing the number of liquidations during the last two years with those in the two years previous to those?

Minister : I require fresh notice for collecting such information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : During the last two years did the number of liquidations decrease in the first year or the second year?

Minister : No reply is possible without notice.

APPOINTMENTS MADE AND EXTENSIONS AND PROMOTIONS GIVEN BY
THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT.

***4295. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 3481¹, in which the Honourable Minister for Development wanted a fresh notice, will he now be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of appointments made, extensions and promotions given directly by him without or contrary to the recommendations of the officers concerned in the departments under him;
- (b) the number of such appointments, extensions and promotions, separately, department-wise?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : The information now desired by the honourable member, if furnished, will defeat the secrecy of communications made by departmental heads to the Minister-in-charge. Accordingly I regret that I must decline to furnish this information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are the orders of the Minister confidential?

Minister : I have not followed the question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I will repeat my question. The Honourable Minister has stated that this question relates to official secrets. I admit that the office secrets may not be disclosed, but may I know if his orders are also confidential?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the wording of the question which merely seeks to know the number of such appointments. It does not want to disclose his orders or the orders of his subordinates. It merely requests the Honourable Minister to give the number of appointments made, extensions and promotions given by him *suo motu* without or contrary to the recommendations of the officers concerned in the departments under him.

Minister : That may be the opinion of the honourable member. That is not my opinion.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I seek the protection of the Chair with regard to this matter, because the Honourable Minister has just said on the floor of the House that the information would defeat the secrecy of communications made by departmental heads.

Mr. Speaker : I am not aware of any rule under which the Chair can interfere.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : If you read the question, you will find that it seeks to know the number of appointments, extensions and promotions.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, I know that.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I take it that the Honourable Minister does not wilfully want to answer this question?

Minister : I have already stated that I refuse to disclose that information.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Even the number of appointments?

Minister : Yes.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Then what are the means open to the members of this House to know whether justice is being done by the Ministers, if they are not even ready to give the number of appointments, apart from the nature of the order or any confidential information or information that they may consider confidential? Is it not a trespass on the rights of the members of this House? There is an insinuation obviously conveyed in the question. If the Honourable Minister is not prepared to disclose the number of appointments made, then there must be something fishy about the matter. Certainly, it is only trying to keep the House in the dark and the House is entitled to your protection on that point.

Mr. Speaker : Sorry! I am powerless.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Is the Honourable Minister in a position to state definitely on the floor of the House in the interest of the purity of the administration that the implication contained in the question of my honourable friend behind me is not correct?

Mr. Speaker : That question is disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I refer the Honourable Minister to the answer given to question No. *3431¹ in which he asked for a fresh notice?

Minister : Perhaps the honourable member does not remember the exact words of my answers. I said that if he gave notice I would consider whether information should be supplied to him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Why did he not consider the matter in the first instance?

Mr. Speaker : This question need not be answered.

GUN LICENCES IN MULTAN DISTRICT.

***4302. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of licences of guns issued for protection purposes in the Multan district;
- (b) how many of such licencees have been charged the shikar fees in 1938-39;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that in the Multan district every licencee of gun is charged Rs. 5 as shikar fees in addition to the renewal fee as a matter of course?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

(a) During the period from the 1st April, 1938, to the 21st February, 1939, 148 gun licences were renewed, for protection purposes only. No new licences for protection were issued during this period.

(b) None.

(c) No. In the case of gun licences for sport, or for sport combined with protection and/or display, the applicant is required to satisfy the District Magistrate that he has taken out or intends to take out a shooting licence under the Wild Birds and Wild Animals Protection Act, 1933; but this does not apply to gun licences granted for protection only.

DEBTS DUE TO CO-OPERATIVE BANKS.

***4328. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the manner in which the Government proposes to decide about the debts due to the co-operative banks of the province from the debtors, who are absolutely unable to pay?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Government has no direct control over the operations of co-operative societies and no direct responsibility for their debts. The Co-operative Department, does, however, attempt to guide societies in this and other matters on general lines. The

[Minister for Development].

policy pursued in the matter of debts due to societies, is, to advise them when the financial condition of their debtors requires it, to make the utmost concession that the state of their own reserves and the interest of their own creditors allow ; at the same time it is vital to avoid doing anything which may seriously impair the general moral sense of obligations to repay debts, upon which ultimately the co-operative credit movement rests.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that debts taken from the co-operative societies have been proved more cruel, troublesome and harsh than those taken from the *sahukar* ?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that in realisation of debts due to co-operative societies, in most cases surities have to suffer ?

Minister : When one stands surety on behalf of somebody else he must realise that in case the principal commits defaults in payment, he will have to suffer the consequences of the default.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the Madras Government is taking legislative measures in order to scale down the debts of the peasants due to the co-operative unions ?

Minister : I have some recollection that I read something of the character in some paper, but the details of that legislation are not quite clear to me.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether he intends to do something of the sort in order to mitigate the hardship of the peasants due to debts ?

Minister : I have no definite recollection of the details of that legislation.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask him whether he intends definitely, to scale down the debts of the peasants ?

Minister : We have done a good deal in fact, more than many people think it is wise to do.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that even land of the agriculturists is not safe from sale when it is affected with a view to realising the debts due to these co-operative societies ?

Minister : It depends upon the question whether the debtor belongs to a notified tribe or not.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : May I know what the Government is doing for giving any relief to such agriculturists who cannot pay their debts and the interest on whose debts is increasing every year ?

Minister : Mr. Wace has been appointed on special duty to consider all questions with regard to co-operative banks and this question will also be considered by him.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The Honourable Minister has stated in his reply that at the time of auctioning of land it is seen whether a person is an agriculturist or a non-agriculturist. May I know whether it is correct that lands of agriculturists are also auctioned by the Co-operative Societies ?

Minister : They might have sold lands belonging to non-agriculturists because they are entitled to do so under the law, but not lands belonging to a member of a notified tribe.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is Government prepared to issue some instructions in this connection, so that the land of agriculturists should not be sold or auctioned in the realizations of the debts due to the co-operative societies ?

Minister : Only recently a notification issued under the Civil Procedure Code, in order to extend some protection to land belonging to non-agriculturists.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is the Honourable Minister aware that the landed property of notified agriculturists has also been auctioned and sold in execution of decree by the banks ?

Minister : I am not aware of it. If it has been done it has been done illegally.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the Government prepared to declare zamindara banks as non-agriculturists money-lenders ?

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES IN THE PROVINCE.

*4348. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) what new industries have been started in the Punjab since the inauguration of the provincial autonomy ;
- (b) the total amount spent so far on them by the Government in the form of state aid or otherwise ;
- (c) the total amount advanced so far to any industrial firm or firms in the shape of annual grant for the development of industries in the province with the rate of interest at which the amount has been advanced ;
- (d) whether any inquiry has been made so far to ascertain which new industries can be easily started with a small capital in the province ; if so, the result of that inquiry ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a)—

1. Manufacture of pad bolts at Amritsar.
2. Manufacture of Celluloid toys at Jullundur city.
3. Manufacture of bolts and nuts at Jullundur city.
4. Manufacture of 'Marblith' at Verka near Amritsar.
5. Manufacture of printing ink at Lahore.
6. Manufacture of iron and steel goods by means of electric furnaces at Lahore.
7. Manufacture of starch at Abdullapur.
8. Manufacture of chromium plated steel tube furniture at Lahore.
9. Manufacture of fruit juices at Lahore.
10. Manufacture of electric goods at Amritsar.
11. Manufacture of football bladders at Sialkot.

(b) Rs. 83,500.

[Minister for Development.]

(c) A statement showing advances made and subsidies granted to individual firms during the period 1st April, 1937 to 28th February, 1939 is laid on the table. There is no system of making annual grants to individual concerns in the Punjab. State aid is rendered for the development of industries as provided in section 17 of the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935. The rate of interest charged on loans advanced during the period mentioned above was 4 per cent.

(d) A systematic industrial survey of the province industry-wise and district-wise has been taken in hand. After the survey has been completed it will be possible to suggest new industries which could be profitably taken up in the Punjab.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is the Honourable Minister aware that the blanket making industry and utensils making industry can be promoted at Panipat ?

Minister : It is being promoted.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : What action has been taken by the Government for improving these industries ?

Minister : I would advise my friend to pay a visit to that place.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that so far as the cottage industry is concerned, nothing has been done by the Department of Industries ?

Minister : A good deal is being done, though I wish I could do more.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that no villages have been selected in rural areas for the encouragement of cottage industry ?

Minister : There are at least half a dozen demonstration parties going about in rural areas.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will the Honourable Minister please say whether in Ludhiana district any demonstrations have been carried out in rural areas ?

Minister : I am not sure, but if my friend gives notice I will make enquiries and let him know.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since when has the survey work been undertaken ?

Minister : It was undertaken four or five months ago.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will there be any survey work done at Rohtak ?

Minister : Yes.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : When is the survey work likely to be concluded ?

Minister : It will take not less than two years, it may take three.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will it be concluded during the life time of this Assembly ?

Mr. Speaker : That question is disallowed—

Statement of loans and subsidies granted under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act from 1st April, 1937.

Serial No.	Name of the borrower.	Amount of the loan.	Industry for which assistance granted.	Date of granting loan.	REMARKS.
		Rs.			
1	S. Benjamin, Benjamin Weaving Factory, Ludhiana.	2,000	Weaving ..	1-5-37	
2	Bishan Sarup, Victoria Trading Syndicate, Ludhiana.	5,000	Hosiery ..	1-5-37	
3	Mira, weaver of Ludhiana	1,500	Weaving ..	1-5-37	
4	Shaikh Hissam-ud-Din, Ludhiana.	2,000	Hosiery ..	1-5-37	
5	Mistri Budha, Proprietor, M. B. Muhammad Sadia Trunk Manufacturers, Sialkot.	2,000	Trunk Manufacturing	1-5-37	
6	Basheshar Nath Kesh-yap, Lahore.	4,500	Manufacture of elec-tric goods.	4-5-37	New industry.
7	Devi Dass, Lawrence Road, Amritsar.	2,000	Hosiery ..	5-5-37	
8	Qutab Din, Gulab Din and Faqir Muhammad, Sialkot.	5,000	Tanning ..	20-5-37	
9	Ram Nath Bhargava, Kangra.	3,000	Spinning and weav-ing.	22-5-37	
10	Nand Lal, village Hai-derabad, District Mian-walli.	500	Weaving ..	1-6-37	
11	Khairati Lal, etc., Popu-lar Aluminium Works, Gujranwala.	5,000	Utensils ..	1-6-37	
12	Kharak Singh, Amritsar	2,000	Manufacture of ex-pended metal.	4-6-37	New industry.
13	Hari Ram Lakhi, Ludh-iana.	3,500	Hosiery ..	4-6-37	
14	S. Kuldip Singh, Kangra	4,500	Wool Spinning and Weaving.	8-6-37	
15	Rai Sahib Lala Swami Das, Model Town, Lahore.	5,000	Hosiery ..	10-6-37	

Serial No.	Name of the borrower.	Amount of the loan.	Industry for which assistance given.	Date of granting loan.	REMARKS.
		Rs.			
16	S. Anter Singh, Frontier Woollen and Textile Mills, Rawalpindi.	5,000	Weaving ..	21-6-37	
17	M. Karim Bakhsh, Haiderabad (Mianwali).	75	Do. ..	23-7-37	
18	M. Muhammad Sayeed, Chak No. 121, Jhang District.	700	Tanning ..	24-8-37	
19	Swadeshi Manufacturing Syndicate Limited, Ludhiana.	25,000	Hosiery ..	17-9-37	
20	Ravi Verma Steel Works, Ambala Cantonment.	5,000	Manufacture of Machine parts, etc.	10-1-38	
21	S. Bishen Singh, Ravi Road, Lahore.	3,500	Manufacture of silver utensils.	17-9-37	
22	Malik Chaman Lal, Lahore.	1,500	Manufacture of shoe polishes, school-boys writing slates, pencils, etc.	23-9-37	
23	Malik Ghulam Muhammad, Lahore.	2,000	Thread balls ..	11-9-37	
24	Mussammat Mehrugh Sultan Begum, widow of Hafiz Abdul Saleem of Ludhiana.	5,000	Hosiery ..	2-5-38	
25	Gul Muhammad Khan, son of S. B. Haji Rab Nawaz Khan, Multan.	1,500	Weaving ..	22-11-37	
26	Khan Bahadur Syed Budhe Shah, son of Syed Ahmad Shah, Amritsar.	4,000	Hosiery ..	29-3-38	
27	Muhammad Aslam, Jan Muhammad Akram, sons of Shaikh Abdul Ahad, Ludhiana.	800	Hosiery ..	14-3-38	
28	Karam Elahi, Kakazai, son of M. Talia Muhammad, Lahore.	2,000	Manufacture of electric goods.	9-2-38	New industry.
29	N. S. Naugpal, son of Lala Piya Chand. Long Sight Hume Pipe Company, Lahore Cantonment.	3,000	Manufacture of iron pipes and fitting sanitary goods.	14-4-38	

Serial No.	Name of the borrower.	Amount of the loan.	Industry for which assistance given.	Date of granting loan.	REMARKS.
		Rs.			
30	Bihari Lal, son of Bahadur Weaver, Kulu.	200	Wool spinning and weaving.	29-1-38	
31	Roshan Lal-Ram Saran Dass, Proprietor, Ravi Paint Colour and Varnish Works, Lahore.	20,000	Manufacture of paints, etc.	11-6-38	
32	Charan Das-Nand Kishore, Pearl Hosiery Mills, Ludhaina.	7,000	Hosiery ..	5-5-38	
23	Ragho Ram, Proprietor, Mehra Textile Mills, Amritsar.	20,000	Textile ..	5-5-38	
34	Dr. Shakuntala, Proprietor, Universal Sand Paper Mills, Rawalpindi.	5,000	Manufacture of sand paper.	12-5-38	New industry.
35	The National India Rubber Works, Limited, Sialkot.	5,000	Rubber Works ..	16-5-38	New industry.
36	Messrs. Allah Ditta-Allah Rakha, Durrie Manufacturers, Sialkot City.	5,000	Durries ..	16-5-38	
37	Pandit Kashab Narain, village Suljiana, tahsil Palampur, District Kangra.	200	Weaving ..	21-6-38	
38	Muhammad Din, son of Qutab Din, Proprietor, C. M. Deen and Company, Sialkot Cantonment.	5,000	Sheet Metal ..	25-5-38	
39	Messrs. M. F. Habi, and Co., Sialkot.	2,000	Durries ..	10-6-38	
40	Gian Chand Oswal, Proprietor, Oswal Durrie Factory, Sialkot.	3,000	Do. ..	8-6-38	
41	Ahmad Bux, Wahid Bux, sons of Muhammad Bux, Weavers, village Haiderabad, District Mianwali.	150	Weaving ..	17-6-38	
42	Ram Chand, son of Ishar Dass, village Haiderabad, District Mianwali.	300	Do. ..	17-6-38	

Serial No.	Name of the borrower.	Amount of the loan.	Industry for which assistance given.	Date of granting loan.	REMARKS.
		Rs.			
43	Mangha Ram, son of Asa Nand, village Haiderabad, District Mianwali.	200	Weaving ..	17-6-38	
44	The Surgical Dressing Manufacturing Company Limited, Amritsar.	25,000	Dressing ..	28-6-38	
45	Abdur Rahman, etc., Proprietor, Abdur Rahman and Sons, Amritsar.	3,000	Electric Fans ..	29-6-38	
46	Khuda Bux, etc., Proprietor, Dhody and Sons, Sialkot.	5,000	Sports ..	7-7-38	
47	The Saraswati Industries, Limited, Badami Bagh, Lahore.	20,000	Manufacture of engines.	7-7-38	
48	S. Gurdial Singh, Proprietor, Kishan Singh, Engraver, MacLagan Road, Lahore.	4,000	Engraving ..	7-7-38	
49	A. F. Ahmad and Company, Sialkot.	2,500	Surgical instruments	7-7-38	
50	Bheja Ram, son of Got Singh, Haiderabad, District Mianwali.	300	Weaving ..	17-7-38	
51	Nathu, son of Ibrahim, weaver, Ludhiana.	500	Handloom factory ..	13-6-38	
52	Jinda Singh, son of Jot Singh, weaver, village Haiderabad, District Mianwali.	200	Weaving ..	5-8-38	
53	Hira Nand, son of Bhai Gurdit Singh, Haiderabad, District Mianwali.	95	Do. ..	9-8-38	
54	The Upper India Glass Works, Limited, Ambala City.	25,000	Glasswork ..	19-9-38	
55	Sh. Muhammad Ismail, Hissar.	4,500	Tanning ..	21-10-38	
56	The Surgical Dressings Manufacturing Company, Limited, Chheharta, Amritsar.	20,000	Dressing ..	15-11-38	

Serial No.	Name of the borrower.	Amount of the loan.	Industry for which assistance given.	Date of granting loan.	REMARKS.
		Rs.			
57	Hari Chand, Kuljasrai, Chhehrata, Amritsar.	3,000	Weaving ..	14-12-38	New industry.
58	Moti Adharmi, Dhanal Kalan, District Jullundur.	100	Tanning ..	1-10-38	
59	Sardar Bahadur Sardar Hari Singh, Model Town, Lahore.	15,000	For manufacture of fruit juices, etc.	13-12-38	
60	Lakha, Adharmi, Dhani Pind, District Jullundur.	1,000	Tanning ..	10-9-39	
61	Mr. Benjamin, Ludhiana	2,000	Weaving ..	24-1-39	
62	Mr. V. Azat of Lahore ..	1,155	Perfumery ..	15-2-39	
63	Sh. Muhammad Yaquub of Talagang, District Attock.	5,000	Shoe making ..	27-2-39	

2. SUBSIDIES.

Serial No.	Name of the applicant.	Amount of the subsidy.	Industry for which assistance granted.	Date of granting subsidy.	REMARKS.
		Rs.			
1	Ravie Verma Steel Works, Limited, Ambala City.	3,000	For further research in sewing machines.	4-3-38	
2	Lala Tara Chand, Proprietor, Indian Electric Works, Lahore.	4,000	For further research in electric motor and motor pumps.	30-8-38	
3	Lala Sunder Lall, village Goindke, District Sialkot.	700	For further research in cleaning and carding and spinning plant and for paddy drying rice husking machines.	6-9-38	
4	S. Bhagwan Singh, Proprietor Block Printing Press, Lahore.	3,000	For further research in manufacturing card board and celluloid scales.	6-9-38	

UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

***4353. Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the amount of money spent by the Government on the Unemployment Committee and also state when that committee is likely to submit its report ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : The expenditure incurred on the Unemployment Committee amounts to Rs. 36,507-14-0. The report of the Committee has been submitted to Government and printed up.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Will the Honourable Minister issue instructions to the effect that the said report should be published ?

Minister : It has been printed.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Will it be circulated among the members during this session ?

Minister : No.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Why not ? (*Laughter*).

An honourable member : May I know whether he will let the House know how much allowance has been drawn by each member of the Unemployment Committee ?

Minister : I cannot give the amount drawn by each individual member, but the total amount is about Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000.

NOMAD AND GRAZIER ODS.

***3721. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that large numbers of nomad Ods roam about with their herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats in the Punjab villages and feed them on private crops in spite of the protests of their owners ;

(b) whether it is a fact that when resisted, they attack the villagers in many cases ;

(c) what action the Government proposes to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) and (b). The position was explained in the Simla session of 1937 in reply to question *235,¹ put by the honourable member for the Ferozepore East (Sikh) Rural Constituency. As the honourable member will remember, a large number of questions and supplementary questions on this subject were then put and answered.

(c) This problem of the Ods—it is a very difficult problem—has been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. As was explained recently in a note which appeared in most of the local newspapers, a committee consisting of four members of this House has lately been appointed to consider it. As soon as we have the views and suggestions of this committee we mean to examine the matter further and shall hope to reach definite conclusions. In the meantime if the honourable member has any definite proposals to make for dealing with the problem we shall be most glad to have them.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Does Government intend to give lands to the Ods on the Haveli Project with a view to save the zamindars from their depredations ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This is also included in the terms of reference of the Ods Committee.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Do Government propose to give them lands in the deserts of the Thal Project ? (*Laughter*).

FACILITIES FOR THE ACHHUT PRISONERS IN JAILS.

***3728. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that suitable arrangements for bathing and washing clothes exist for Hindu, Muslim and Sikh prisoners in the Punjab jails ; if so, whether the same facilities exist there for the Achhut prisoners ; if not, reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : All prisoners, irrespective of caste or creed, are treated alike for purposes of bathing and washing clothes. The rules are contained in paragraphs 591 and 598 of the Punjab Jail Manual.

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore : May I know whether they are made to do the same work in jails as they do outside ?

Minister : This question relates to certain facilities for bathing and washing clothes.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Are they expected to bathe in the dirty water or not ?

Minister : I have said that they are absolutely on the same footing with regard to bathing and washing clothes as any other prisoners in the jails.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether the rules he has mentioned are being carried out by the Jail Department in letter and in spirit ?

Minister : I have no reason to think otherwise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have you had any personal experience ?

Minister : I have visited the jails more than any once.

ASSESSORS FROM SCHEDULED CASTES.

***3729. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state the steps, if any, that are being taken by the Punjab Government to have Assessors appointed from the Scheduled Castes ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The preparation and revision of the list of assessors for each district is governed by the provisions contained in sections 321 to 324 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. No one is debarred on grounds of caste from applying for the inclusion of his name in this list. The position with regard to scheduled castes has been brought to the notice of the appropriate authority, so that due consideration may be paid to the claims of any suitable candidates for inclusion in the assessors list.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know the date when the attention of the authorities was drawn to this fact ?

Minister : I am afraid I have not got the date before me. I think it must be sometime ago.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Was it before notice of this question was given ?

Minister : Probably.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : How many assessors have been appointed from among scheduled castes in the Karnal district ?

Minister : If a suitable candidate is available from among the scheduled castes, his case is considered under the rules along with others. No disabilities operate against the appointment of the members of scheduled castes as assessors.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Will the Honourable Minister please state the number of members of the scheduled castes whose cases are under consideration for their appointment as assessors ?

DELAY IN DECIDING QUESTION OF GIVING B CLASS TO KHAN
ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN OF AMBALA.

***3833. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan of Ambala, convicted by a magistrate of Hoshiarpur under section 158-A, was, on conviction, given C class and now after more than two months has been given B class ; if so, reasons for the delay in deciding the question of his classification ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, a resident of Ambala district was convicted on the 6th September, 1938, in the Hoshiarpur district. The orders of Government giving him B class were communicated to the Hoshiarpur district authorities in the first week of November. Inquiries necessary under the rules about his social and financial status took somewhat longer than would have been the case had his district of residence and district of conviction been the same.

MUSLIM CHAPRASIS IN THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT, LAHORE.

***3847. Sardar Muhammad Husain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Muslim chaprasis in the Excise Department, District Lahore, is very small ;

(b) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim chaprasis, separately, in the said Department and the action the Government proposes to take to give adequate representation to the Muslims among these employees of the Excise Department ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : In view of the policy repeatedly announced with regard to such questions, I regret inability to give a reply.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HONOURABLE PREMIER AND HIS PARLIAMENTARY AND PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

***3884. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the travelling allowance drawn by the Honourable Premier, his Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries for the months of July, August and September, 1938 ;
- (b) the number of places which the Honourable Premier and his above-mentioned secretaries visited in the course of their official business during these three months ;
- (c) how many public meetings were addressed by each of them during the above-mentioned period ;
- (d) the names of the organizations, if any, which arranged public meetings addressed by the Honourable Premier at different places during these three months mentioned above ;
- (e) the names or designations of the officers who participated in these public meetings and the travelling allowance drawn by them ;
- (f) whether the Honourable Premier addressed a public meeting at Jagraon on the 2nd of September, 1938 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) The honourable member is referred to the reply given to question No. *3664¹ put by Lala Duni Chand on the 17th January 1939.

(b) to (e) The collection of this information would require an amount of time and labour out of all proportion to the results obtainable.

(f) Yes.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please read the answer to the question to which reference has been made in his answer ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is against parliamentary practice to read the answers to questions which are already published in books which are accessible to honourable members.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it also against public interest?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is in the public interest of my friends who are interested in this particular question to refer to the previous debates and if necessary to put further supplementary questions.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that the travelling allowances drawn were much too excessive ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed, as it asks for expression of opinion.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that bills are prepared for drawing travelling allowances ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, bills are submitted in this province as in other provinces.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : A record of these bills is also kept I suppose ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If my honourable friend would apply himself with his usual industry to the question put and the information sought he would easily see that all that information cannot be obtained by merely looking at the bills. Moreover, even looking at the bills as they stand would not be commensurate with the labour involved and the time of the House would be wasted.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What are the reasons for saying that the labour involved in examining the bills for three months and collecting the required information will be out of proportion to the advantage to be obtained thereby ?

Premier : The information asked for can easily be ascertained from the press by the honourable member just as well as by the Parliamentary Secretary.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will the Honourable Premier please say whether when he addressed meetings during the last three months he told the zamindars that they could approach him for eradication of corruption ?

Premier : I have told my audiences everywhere that not only their grievances in regard to corruption, but also in regard to other matters should be brought to the notice of local authorities and finally after exhausting all channels they should bring their complaints to me.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : My question is whether the Honourable Premier in his public speeches has asked the audience to bring complaints of corruption to his notice ?

Mr. Speaker : How does this question arise ?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : He has addressed public meetings and I ask what he has said in those public meetings.

Premier : I have already answered this question.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that when in the course of their tours the Premier and the Honourable Minister for Development visited Chichawatni the Honourable Minister for Development remarked in his speech that Sardar Ajit Singh, Member Legislative Assembly, was no longer a Jat but had become a *bania* ?

Parliamentary Secretary : On a point of order. I invite your attention to rule 31 of our rules of procedure according to which supplementary questions may be put for the elucidation of the answer that has been given to a starred question. The answer given is that the collection of this information would require an amount of time and labour out of all proportion to the results obtainable. It means that these supplementary questions are out of order.

Diwan Chaman Lall : When my honourable friend wishes to get into purdah and refuses information to this House, the only manner in which elucidation of the answer can take place is by putting further supplementary questions. What are his grounds for refusing to answer the question? Is it in the public interest ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It has been answered already that the time and labour involved will not be commensurate with the results obtainable.

Chandhri Kartar Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly state whether public interest includes allowances for attending the meetings of the Chamber of Princes ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that in the public meeting at Jagraon a sword and a pen were presented to the Honourable Premier on behalf of the Zamindara League ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Did he say a word about eradication of corruption ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Lal Singh : Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that these visits of the Honourable Ministers to Ludhiana are becoming too frequent and even the officials complain that their work is being dislocated ?

Premier : I am afraid my honourable friend is unnecessarily agitated on behalf of the officials. He has no right to do so. But I think these visits are becoming uncomfortable for Congress men and for those of his view of thinking.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that the visits of the Honourable Ministers are becoming scandalous for the zamindars of the Ludhiana district ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Parliamentary Secretary : I beg to object to the language used ; it is not parliamentary.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Are the frequent visits of the Ministers to the Ludhiana district due to the fact that all the members from that district are Congressites ?

Premier : It is not correct.

Sardar Lal Singh : May I ask the Honourable Premier to let me know how it can be brought home to him that the zamindars of the district think that these Ministers are pestering them by their frequent visits ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : How many colleagues of his were present in that public meeting at Jagraon on the 2nd September ?

Mr. Speaker : Does not arise. Disallowed.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the Honourable Premier feels some satisfaction when he learns that his visits or the visits of the other Ministers make the Congress friends uncomfortable ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : He enjoys it.

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HONOURABLE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT, AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND PARTICIPATION OF LATTER IN PUBLIC MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY FORMER.

***3885. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the travelling allowance, drawn by Honourable Minister of Development, his Parliamentary and his Private Parliamentary Secretaries during the months of July, August and September, 1938 ;
- (b) on how many occasions the officiating Director of Agriculture accompanied the Honourable Minister of Development on his tours ;
- (c) how many public meetings were addressed by the said Honourable Minister during these three months ;
- (d) who were the organizers of the public meetings addressed by the Honourable Minister of Development at different places ;
- (e) whether the officiating Director of Agriculture participated in public meetings ;
- (f) the names and designations of the officers of the departments of Agriculture, Co-operative and Industries who participated in the public meeting addressed by the Honourable Minister on 2nd September, 1938, at Jagraon ;
- (g) if some of these officers participated in the public meeting mentioned above, the nature of duties they performed on 2nd September, 1938 ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Such travelling and other allowances as were due under the rules and within the vote of the Assembly have been paid.

(b) to (f) The collection of this information would require an amount of time and labour out of all proportion to the results likely to be obtained.

(g) Unless they had any specific departmental business to attend to at the meetings, they presumably attended the meetings while they were on duty with the Minister on tour. It was necessary for them to hear the exposition of Government policy by the Minister or Ministers who addressed the meetings particularly regarding grant of relief and amelioration of famine conditions prevailing in South-Eastern Punjab. They were then in a position to counteract authoritatively malicious and false reports against the activities of the Government.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the Honourable Minister for Finance is perfectly satisfied with the answer to part (a) of this question? Does he feel that it is the intention of the question to know whether all these expenses are admissible under the rules or not? Every one knows that we want to know the amount. Why is he fighting shy of exposing the amount which has been drawn by Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Minister : Sir, the amounts that are the subject of enquiry have as a matter of fact been given on more than one occasion. But there is nothing new in these questions and I think the answer as given now is perfectly correct, it is the only appropriate answer.

RELEASE OF NAND LAL OF AMRITSAR.

***3908. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a young man of Amritsar named Nand Lal, son of Nathu Ram, was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in 1931 in the Amritsar shooting case and his release was due in the month of June last, without taking into account the remission which he has earned ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the mother of the said prisoner sent letters to the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister of Finance reminding them that the release of the said prisoner was long overdue ; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Prisoner Nand Lal was released before the completion of his sentence.

RENT CHARGED FROM PETITION-WRITERS.

***3917. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to abolish the rent charged from the petition-writers for the accommodation assigned to them in court compounds ;
- (b) whether the petition-writers of Sialkot sued the Government for the abolition of this rent ; if so, the result of the suit ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) No.

(b) Yes. Government have not yet received intimation of the termination of the suit.

REMUNERATION TO THE COPYISTS IN THE PUNJAB.

***3968. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the copyists in the Punjab to be employed in future will get only a fixed remuneration of Rs. 25 a month without any increment during the period of their employment ;
- (b) whether they will get any pension or gratuity and if so, under what circumstances ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sardar Jagjit Singh Man) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

APPLICATIONS FOR WARRANTS OF ARREST.

***4026. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state in how many civil suits applications for warrants of arrest

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

were made and in how many cases warrants were issued and in how many cases applications were rejected in all the districts of the Punjab during the years 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 ;

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I regret that the labour and expenditure involved in collecting this information would be out of proportion to the results achieved by such a method of enquiry.

AMOUNT REALIZED BY EXECUTION OF DECREES.

***4029. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount realized by the execution of the decrees districtwise during the years 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 in the Punjab ;
- (b) the average of the money so realized to the sums decreed ;
- (c) the amount in respect of the pending applications for the execution of the decrees on 1st July, 1937, districtwise in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I am afraid that this information could not be collected without an expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the results to be obtained.

COUNTRY LIQUOR SHOP IN MOZANG.

***4030. Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a country liquor shop for the sale of unopened bottles as well as for actual consumption of retail country liquor has been licensed at the corner of Mozang temple road in an *ihata* belonging to Sardar Sahib Sardar Sampuran Singh Chawla ;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that this place is primarily a residential quarter inhabited by respectable citizens including leading lawyers and other gentlemen of Lahore ;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that the existence of this shop is a source of great nuisance to respectable citizens and families who have made repeated protests against its existence ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that permission to continue the shop for another year has been again recently given by the Government in spite of the protests of the inhabitants of the locality ;
- (e) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to remove the legitimate grievances of the inhabitants of the locality and this menace to public decency and peace ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) No. Sale of liquor is not permissible in the *ihata*.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Government is not aware that this is the case, but protests have been received.

(d) Yes, after local authorities had reported that no inconvenience to the public is caused thereby.

(e) Does not arise.

TELEPHONE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FINANCE
DEPARTMENT.

***4168. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Assistant Secretaries to the Punjab Government are ordinarily allowed to have telephones at their residences at public expense ;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, whether the Assistant Secretary in the Finance Department has been allowed to have the benefit of a telephone at his residence at public expense ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : There are three Assistant Secretaries to the Punjab Government, viz., Assistant Secretary to Government, Assistant Secretary, Revenue Department, and Assistant Secretary, Finance Department. Only the Assistant Secretary, Finance Department, has been allowed a telephone at his residence because he has to deal with important and urgent cases relating to finance, ways and means and budget. Prior to the creation of this post there was a Deputy Secretary and an Additional Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department. There are now a Deputy Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. The change is in designation only and not in duties. All Deputy Secretaries to Government have been allowed residence telephones. As the Assistant Secretary, Finance Department, is doing the same work as was being done by a Deputy Secretary he has been allowed a telephone in his residence.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether the telephone allowed to the Assistant Secretary in the Finance Department is for the whole year or only for the days when the budget is being prepared ?

Minister : For the whole year.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

***4170. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of public prosecutors, temporary and permanent, at present working in the Punjab ;

(b) the names of public prosecutors promoted to the next higher grade with the amount of increment in each case since the present Government assumed office ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Permanent 28. Temporary 5.

(b) Public Prosecutors do not form service. Each post stands by itself, the salary attached to it being fixed with due regard to the volume and importance of the work in the district ; and no question of promoting

[Minister for Finance.]

a Public Prosecutor from one grade to another can arise. It sometimes happens, however, that a vacancy in a higher paid district is filled by the appointment thereto of a lawyer who has done well in a district where the salary is lower. I am laying on the table a list of the cases in which Public Prosecutors have been thus moved to better paid districts, together with particulars of certain cases in which a Public Prosecutor has been granted personal pay, above that ordinarily allotted to the district in which he is actually working.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is there any length of time fixed for a public prosecutor to remain attached to a certain district or can he remain there indefinitely ?

Minister : A public prosecutor is appointed for a period and his term is renewed, if necessary, and he remains in the district unless he is otherwise required to go elsewhere.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister as to how many promotions he has made since April 1937, the time of the present Cabinet coming into office ?

Minister : That is exactly what I have given in the statement which I have laid on the table.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : May I know whether there is any length of time fixed for a certain public prosecutor to remain attached to a certain district ?

Minister : A person is appointed to a district and remains there if he has done good work. But if a vacancy occurs elsewhere carrying higher salary, he may be selected for the other district where a higher salary is given.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister what are the qualifications for promotion from one grade to the next higher grade ?

Minister : It does not constitute a service. The public prosecutors do not form a cadre of any kind. A particular salary is attached to a particular district, because of the amount of work there and if a public prosecutor does well in a given district, say, where the salary is Rs. 500 and he is well reported on, he can be transferred elsewhere taking into account all the circumstances. All this I have put in the form of a statement in answer to the honourable member's question.

List of Public Prosecutors.

Date of order.

22nd January 1938 ..

.. **Khan Sahib Chaudhri Mushtaq Hussain**, formerly Public Prosecutor, Multan (Rs. 900), appointed to be First Public Prosecutor, Amritsar (Rs. 1,050).

3rd March 1938 ..

.. **Rai Sahib Lala Parma Nand**, Public Prosecutor, Muzaffargarh (Rs. 500) appointed to be Public Prosecutor, Multan, on Rs. 750. (The proper pay of the district was Rs. 900 but as a measure of economy the appointment was made on the lower figure mentioned).

Date of order.

- 3rd March 1938 *Sheikh Abdur Rahim*, formerly Public Prosecutor, Shahpur (Rs. 750), appointed to be First Public Prosecutor, Ferozepore, on Rs. 900. (The full pay of the appointment at Ferozepore is Rs. 1,050 but as a measure of economy the new appointment was made on the lower salary).
- 3rd March 1938 *Lala Har Parshad*, Public Prosecutor, Rohtak (Rs. 500), appointed to be Public Prosecutor, Shahpur. (The ordinary pay of this appointment is Rs. 750 but as a measure of economy Lala Har Parshad had been allowed Rs. 650 only).
- 3rd March 1938 *Sardar Ude Singh*, Public Prosecutor, Karnal (Rs. 400), appointed to be Public Prosecutor, Rohtak (Rs. 500). The ordinary pay of the Karnal district is Rs. 500 but as a measure of economy Sardar Ude Singh had originally been appointed in that district on the lower pay.
- 3rd March 1938 The salary of *Lala Diwan Chand*, who had been appointed as Public Prosecutor, Lyallpur, in 1936 on Rs. 650 was raised to Rs. 750, this being fixed as the proper salary hereafter for the district. (The salary attached to the appointment was formerly Rs. 900. In view of the fact that Lala Diwan Chand had not adequate experience as a Public Prosecutor he had not previously been allowed the full pay of the district).
- 3rd March 1938 Orders issued for *Lala Karam Chand Jain*, Public Prosecutor, Gurdaspur, to be given the full pay of that district (Rs. 650) instead of the Rs. 500 previously sanctioned for him.
- 3rd March 1938 The personal pay (Rs. 100) previously sanctioned to *Bakhshi Mulkh Raj*, Public Prosecutor, Gurgaon, in addition to the salary of the district (Rs. 400), was raised to Rs. 250.
- 21st December 1938 *Mr. Muhammad Akbar Khan*, Second Public Prosecutor, Ferozepore (Rs. 400), appointed to be Public Prosecutor, Jullundur (Rs. 500). The ordinary pay of the second Public Prosecutor, Ferozepore, is Rs. 500 but as a measure of economy Mr. Muhammad Akbar Khan had originally been appointed thereto at the lower rate.

OPENING OF A COURT OF AN HONORARY MAGISTRATE AT ANI,
DISTRICT KANGRA.

***4175. Rai Bhagwant Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a separate court of an Honorary Magistrate at Ani in Tahsil Seraj, district Kangra, which is situated only at a distance of 16 miles from Bangar, where there is a regular stipendiary court of a Naib-Tahsildar, has recently been opened ; if so, the reasons or justification for opening this new court ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : No. There is one honorary magistrate, appointed in 1931, who holds his court at Ani. No new court has been opened there.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Can you give me the total number of cases filed during the last year ?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise out of the question asked or the answer given.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Is this appointment justified by the present conditions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There has been no appointment. It was made as early as 1931 and the question is 8 years too late.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Is the court still functioning ?

Premier : No.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is it located in an Indian State and not in the British Territory ?

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Is that so ?

Premier : No.

RELEASE OF BUDHA SINGH AND OTHERS.

***4184. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state when Budha Singh of village Barianwala, thana Attari, district Montgomery, Kartar Singh, son of Kirpa Singh, village Horon, thana Kharar, district Ambala, Shamsheer Singh (*alias* Gagi), village Badarpur, tahsil Kasur, district Lahore, and Hira Singh, village Manhala, district Lahore, who were sentenced to transportation for life and who are now lodged in different jails of the Punjab and have been in jail for more than 16 years are due to be released ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : In the absence of more precise particulars than those supplied by the honourable member it has not proved possible to trace all prisoners he mentions. Such facts as it has been possible to discover are these :—

(a) Budha Singh has been released very recently.

(b) Kartar Singh is undergoing an aggregate term of 18½ years' rigorous imprisonment. He has not been in jail for 16 years. In fact he has been in jail a little over 12 years.

It has not been possible to identify the other two persons named by the honourable member. If he will provide particulars of the cases in which they are alleged to have been convicted or the jails in which they are confined I will make the necessary inquiries.

PANJOTRA FOR COLLECTION OF REVENUE FOR POPPY IN HOSHIA- PUR DISTRICT.

***4193. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** With reference to answer to part (b) of the unstarred question No. 650¹, asked on 17th January, 1939, will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state reasons for not paying any panjotra to lambardars who collected revenue for poppy crop in Hoshiarpur district ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The collection of revenue from the poppy crop is covered by the duties of lambardars given in rule 20 (a) of the Land Revenue Rules, and no separate panjotra is admissible.

MR. KISHORI LAL, A PRISONER IN THE BHAGAT SINGH CONSPIRACY CASE.

***4195. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the present state of health and weight of Mr. Kishori Lal, a prisoner in the Bhagat Singh Conspiracy Case ;
- (b) his weight at the time of arrest ;
- (c) the class in which he has been placed ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) The health of prisoner Kishori Lal is good and his present weight is 129 lbs.

(b) His weight at the time of arrest is not available in the records of the Lahore Central Jail but his weight at the time of admission to that jail was 118 lbs.

(c) He is being treated as ' B ' class prisoner.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ELECTORAL CIRCLES OF THE ROHTAK DISTRICT BOARD.

704. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether in the newly proposed electoral circles of the District Board, Rohtak, the Hindu Rajput zails of Patandh and Kutani, which previously formed one constituency, have been separated into two ; if so, the considerations or reasons which led to the separating of this constituency into two separate constituencies ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : I must remind the honourable member that it is not the practice of Government to disclose the recommendations of its subordinate officers. The question of the re-arrangement of district board electoral circles in Rohtak is being considered, and I shall keep in mind the point raised by the honourable member.

**VERNACULAR TEACHERS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTE IN
AMBALA DIVISION.**

705. Chaudhri Prem Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of vernacular teachers belonging to the scheduled castes employed so far in the Government schools of Ambala division with the dates of their employment and also of confirmation of each of the said teachers in Government service ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement.

Number of teachers.	Date of employment in Government service.	Date of confirmation.
One	24th June 1936	24th June 1937.
One	11th January 1939	Is still on probation.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS OUT OF
SILVER JUBILEE FUND.**

706. Chaudhri Prem Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of scholarships awarded so far to students belonging to the scheduled castes in the Ambala division which were sanctioned for them out of the Silver Jubilee Fund?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Two.

**ADMISSION OF SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS TO J. V. AND S. V.
CLASSES IN AMBALA DIVISION.**

707. Chaudhri Prem Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of applicants belonging to the scheduled castes for admission and the number of them admitted in the year 1938 in the J. V. and S. V. classes of different normal schools of the Ambala division?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :—

<i>Class.</i>	<i>Number of applicants belonging to the scheduled castes for admission.</i>	<i>Number of scheduled castes admitted.</i>
J. V.	5	3
S. V.	1	..

**GRANT OF EXTENSION TO MR. J. W. THOMAS, PRINCIPAL, HAILEY
COLLEGE OF COMMERCE.**

708. Dr. Satyapal : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that it is intended to grant one year's further extension to Mr. J. W. Thomas, Principal, Hailey College of Commerce; if so, the grounds for this proposed extension;
- (b) how much additional gratuity will be earned if the proposed extension is granted to him;
- (c) whether competent Indians possessing much higher qualifications than Mr. Thomas are available to fill the post?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Government have no information.

(b) Mr. J. W. Thomas, Principal, Hailey College of Commerce, will not be entitled to any gratuity at all even if one year's further extension is granted.

(c) Government have no information.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

709. Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any instructions have been issued to the Inspector-General or the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, Punjab, to encourage the recruitment of Indian Christians in the Police Department;

- (b) the number of Indian Christians who applied for the post of Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the Central Range in response to the advertisement for selection to be made in the year 1939 ;
- (c) the number of such applicants rejected ;
- (d) the number of the Christian applicants called for interview ;
- (e) the number of such applicants for the post of Prosecuting Sub-Inspector in each range ;
- (f) the number of rejections among them without interview ;
- (g) the number of Christian Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors now serving in the province ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Yes.

- (b) 13.
- (c) 13.
- (d) 10. Nine were interviewed by the Superintendents of Police and one by the Selection Board.
- (e) Eastern Range 1.
Central Range 1.
Western Range Nil.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) Nil.

I may mention that provided funds are voted, eighteen new appointments of prosecuting sub-inspector will have to be filled shortly, and the claims of the Christian community will be carefully considered in connection with these, if suitable candidates are forthcoming.

VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT KASSOWAL.

710. Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is no veterinary hospital at Kassowal which is situated at a distance of 13 miles from Chichawatni ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that there are a civil dispensary, a sub-post office and a middle school in Chak No. 4/14-L. Kassowal ;
- (c) whether the Government has recently received several representations from the inhabitants of the *ilaga* for the opening of a veterinary hospital there ; if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter ; if no action is contemplated the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Kassowal is ten miles from Chichawatni and not thirteen. There is no veterinary hospital at the place ; but there is an outlying veterinary dispensary which is periodically visited by the Veterinary Assistant from Chichawatni.

[Minister for Development.]

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Does not arise.

PUNJAB POSTPONEMENT OF DEBT REALIZATION BILL.

711. Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government is aware of the fact that due to the introduction of the Punjab Postponement of Debt Realization Bill the creditors are rapidly filing suits to get the decrees executed against the debtors; if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Government have not yet seen the figures of institutions for the last quarter of 1938, but doubt whether they will be found to bear out this suggestion.

LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL COLONY.

712. Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that Chak No. 67/12-L, in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony, district Montgomery, suffered heavily last year owing to insufficient water supply;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that because of this shortage of water supply the *rabi* cultivation has been rendered to one-fourth of the normal;
- (c) whether the residents of this chak have sent several telegrams and representations to this effect to the higher authorities; if so, the action taken on them;
- (d) the reasons for this shortage of water supply;
- (e) whether any previous grantees migrated from this chak; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) what action, if any, Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the residents of the above-named chak in this connection?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to Assembly question No. *4064¹ raised by Munshi Hari Lal.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,03,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of General Administration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,08,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of General Administration.

3. P. M.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : On a point of order, Sir. I want to enquire as to who has settled the question of demands that are to be discussed during this budget session? I want to know why demands Nos. 1 to 9 have been omitted.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister for Finance is entitled to move any demand he likes.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : There is a second point of order. I have before me a notice dated the 14th of March 1939 wherein it is stated that General Administration is the demand that would be first taken up and discussed. I think the demands to be taken up should be decided on the day the financial statement is read in this House so that members of the House may get proper time to give notices of amendments. The position, at present is that we, the members, give notices of amendments to all the demands but at the end of a few days, before the actual discussion takes place, we come to know that certain demands are not going to be discussed and other demands are going to be discussed.

Mr. Speaker : According to parliamentary practice, the Finance Minister is quite in order in moving any demand he likes. But I understand that some arrangement has been arrived at between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Why is the central bloc ignored? We should be consulted.

Premier : My honourable friend ought to know by now that there is such a thing as parliamentary convention and the convention which we set up in this House from the very beginning, i.e., 1937, is that in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition we decide upon certain demands which the House should take up for discussion. I am sorry to say that my honourable friend does not come in either category. He does not come in the category of the Opposition—if he does he naturally would support his leaders, but if he does not come in that category it is not my fault—or in any other category. The convention is that it is only the Opposition—His Majesty's Opposition—that has to be consulted and not the heterogeneous groups that sit in between.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : That is a very bad convention that an ordinary member has not any say in the matter of discussion of the budget. There may be more parties than two in the House and if a convention like that is set up that two parties between themselves can settle what they ought to do or ought not to do, then it is a very serious interference with the rights of honourable members of this House.

Mr. Speaker : For which party is the honourable member speaking?

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : I am speaking for the Independent Party.

Premier : Apparently the honourable member is a very busy lawyer and he has not the time to read the rule, but I might inform him that it is

[Premier.] entirely within my discretion to settle the business of the grants and the order in which the grants are to be taken up. As a matter of courtesy and in pursuance of the convention which we set up, I consulted the Leader of the Opposition, otherwise it is entirely within my right to put up any grant which I want to. I refer the honourable member to Rule 183 which says—

The demands for grants shall be arranged in such order as the Leader of the House may intimate.

I have got the fullest possible authority but, as I have said, we wanted to set up a convention identical to that in the British Houses of Parliament and I invariably consult my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, before deciding as to what grants should be taken up. But I cannot possibly give an undertaking to consult every member or every group in this House. It is only the Leader of the Opposition whom I can consult.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : But the Honourable Leader of the House has arranged the demands in a particular fashion. What is the reason for departing from the usual arrangement? We are certainly deprived of our right to give notices of amendments. They should not be arranged in this particular fashion.

Premier : My honourable friend did not follow me when I read the rule which says—

"In such order as the Leader of the House may intimate."

I have intimated to the Secretary that they should be arranged in this manner so far as they are to be discussed and they should be on the agenda.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I say one word in regard to what the Honourable Premier has said. He is perfectly correct in regard to what he has stated to the House. It was in pursuance of the convention which was adopted in the very beginning of the life of this Assembly that this procedure was put into effect. There is no such thing here as a Finance Bill. Therefore, it was necessary to adopt some method of providing general and detailed discussion of the budget on any one particular motion. The Honourable the Leader of the House consults, as usual, the Leader of the Opposition in regard to the particular motion which is sought to be discussed in this manner and this year it so happens that No. 10, General Administration, has been chosen and I do not think any honourable member should have any complaint in regard to the method that has been adopted which is in the interest of every one in this House and not necessarily in the interest only of the official opposition. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. Speaker : For the information of the honourable member, I may quote the following three lines from May's Parliamentary Practice, page 580 :—

"Motions for a grant may be submitted to the Committee in the order selected by the mover without regard to the order and arrangement of the estimates."

I remember to have ruled some years ago that strictly speaking it is for the Opposition to select the demands which it would like to discuss. According to our Rule 183 the demands for grants are to be arranged in such order as the Leader of the House may intimate; but this is not consistent with Parliamentary practice and my ruling.

Minister for Finance : I have already moved Demand No. 10.

Economic and social conditions of Scheduled castes.

Lala Harnam Das (Lyallpur and Jhang Reserved Seat, Rural) (Urdu) :
Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 92,900 on account of Total Ministers (Voted) be reduced by Re. 1.

I move this cut in order to discuss the general indifference of Government in improving the economic and social condition of the scheduled castes throughout the Province. As compared with other provinces the condition of the scheduled castes in the Punjab is going from bad to worse. (*Interruptions.*) I know that the honourable members over there do not like to hear such remarks about their Government. In this connection I do submit that the treatment that is meted to them in other provinces is not better than that of the Punjab but this does not mean that they are content with their present lot. I can claim that since the inauguration of the provincial autonomy the condition of the scheduled castes has become all the more pitiable in this province. In all other provinces their condition is improving every day and they are well on the way to social progress. But I regret to say that here in the Punjab they are going backwards and all the doors of improving their lives have been shut against them. (*Hear, hear.*) (*Premier : Migrate to other provinces.*) (*Laughter.*) Sir, the Honourable Premier is suggesting that the scheduled castes with all their population of 40 lakhs should migrate to other provinces. I submit that this is the mentality of the Government. I regret to say that by saying these words the Honourable Premier is not acting in a responsible manner. May I know whether such remarks befit the exalted position he is holding? I am definitely of the opinion that there is not a single nation in the world which is being treated like the scheduled castes of the Punjab. Before I try to throw a flood of light on the treatment that is being meted out to us, I would like to say a few words as regards the work that is being done by our Government towards the welfare of the untouchables. A few days ago a *communiqué* was issued by the Punjab Government that it was doing a lot towards the upliftment of the scheduled castes. I do not propose to go into the details of the so-called achievements of this Government but I would like to point out that if it looks to the doings of the Mysore Government it would find that that Government has done a lot towards the welfare of these backward classes. It has provided facilities to the scheduled castes in the matter of education, houses and other things. Our Government should take a lesson from that Government. In addition to this that Government has provided lands free of cost to them for the purposes of agriculture. On the other hand in the Punjab these backward classes have not even a patch of land for setting up their hearth. All the religious recognize this principle that when a child is born God says, "O thou son of man I have created thee and the Earth and the Heavens and Air so that thou should go and live in the world and derive benefit out of them." But it is a curious thing that here in the Punjab the whole land is in the possession of my friends the landlords and the poor untouchables cannot even claim their very hearth as their own. May I know whether it is justified that when an Aechut is born he should not be given even sufficient room to hide his head

[Lala Harnam Das.]

in? Can he in the presence of God claim that Heaven and Earth were created for him in the Punjab? Thank God they have control over the earth only. Had they been given control over the air, surely they would have deprived us of that amenity of life as well. No wonder in that case we would have surely died. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the Honourable Premier has just now left the House. I am constrained to remark that he does not even like to hear our tale of woes. Besides it has been said that the system of *begar* has been put an end to in the Punjab. This Government issues *communiqué* after *communiqué* saying that the taking of *begar* is totally prohibited in the Punjab. This is not correct. Even if we compare their present life to the so-called life of serfdom, we would find that their condition then was much better than that of to-day. (*Hear, hear*.) When the slave trade was at its height and the slaves were actually bought and sold like chattels, even then their condition was much better. At that time the owners of the slaves, whether they bought them for Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 500, were responsible for providing all the necessities of life to them. Not only were they responsible to provide victuals to them but they had also to look after their health and clothing as well. But in the Punjab our condition is quite the reverse. Many of my honourable friends must have seen that these backward classes in the Punjab are forced to do *begar*. Weights of 1½ or 2 maunds are placed on their heads and in the hot season of the year they are made to walk 8 to 15 miles a day. In this way they are compelled to do this forced labour. Besides, I may point out that the officers who exact *begar* from those people treat them very badly. They themselves sit in a room and a cooly draws the fan, but for the poor untouchables, not to speak of cold water, there is not even a shady place to sit or lie down. The honourable members are aware of the fact that in the hot season the sun shines fiercely and it is very difficult even to stand for a minute in the sun. In such a hot season these forced labourers pass their day in the shade of some nearby wall. In short their condition is pitiable indeed. In this connection I may submit that a deputation of the scheduled caste members of the Kangra district waited on the Honourable Premier at Simla. They stated their grievances before him and also told him that other facilities were not provided to them. In support of their grievances they quoted many instances as well. But I am sorry to say that nothing has been done in this connection. I may submit that their condition is so bad that they are made to carry decomposed dead bodies which have been lying for 15 or 20 days. They have preferred death to the carrying of those putrified dead bodies. In this connection I may also point out that these people are receiving very bad treatment from the Government. Their women folk are insulted and are exposed to all sorts of indignities. They have been treated so badly that they have even forgotten what insults and indignities are. If the Government wished, it could have removed their troubles and could have helped them in every possible way. But it is a pity that Government is not prepared to do anything for them. It simply gives verbal promises but does not fulfil them. You may ascertain it from Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. When men of his position are starving due to the famine conditions in Hissar and Rohtak districts, you can very well imagine what must be the lot of the poor Achhuts (*laughter*). You laugh as if it gives you pleasure

to hear the woeful tale of the Achhuts and this has reminded me of what a poet has said for such an occasion

بلبل کے کاروبار پر ہیں خاندانے کل

کہتے ہیں حاکم عشقِ خلل میں دماغ کا

(An honourable member: It is an obsession!) You think that we are mad. No, you are mistaken and if we appear to be mad it is because the miserable plight of the Achhuts has made us so. It is an irony of fate that while relief is being granted to the people in the famine-stricken areas, the Achhuts who deserve as much relief as any other class of people, are being burdened with professional tax and such other taxes. You will have learnt that in the Ludhiana district great injustice has been done to the Achhuts. The professional tax imposed upon them there has been realised by the use of force inasmuch as those who could not pay the same were handcuffed and in the case of others their houses were broken open for the realisation of the tax. I may here say that telegrams were sent by these Achhuts to my honourable friend Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa but these had no effect upon him as he did not move even his little finger to do anything for his voters. But he was also helpless as he was tied down by another and a bigger handcuff of his salary of Rs. 250.

I ask whether in these circumstances anyone will have the hardihood to say that anything is being done for the amelioration of the condition of the Achhuts. I am sure that none will say that. The Honourable Premier will remember that while presiding over the Zamindara Conference at Lyallpur, he got a resolution carried by that conference that something must be done for the social uplift of the Achhuts. But it appears that he also possesses a convenient memory and he has thought fit to forget what he promised on that occasion and we now feel inclined to think that it was all lip sympathy that he expressed at that time for the Achhuts. I have, therefore, no choice but to say that the Unionist Government has not done a bit for the good of the Achhuts and it requires no proof to convince anyone. If in spite of it, the Unionists were to claim that they have done any good to the Achhuts, it will be merely to deceive the world outside. I think I will not be disclosing any secret if I say that at the time we were persuaded to join the Unionist Party, we were promised big things. But all those promises appear to have been forgotten after such a short time. How a poet has described the occasion like this in his verse is:

ترے وعدہ پوئے ہوئے ہم تو یہ جان جھوٹ جانا

نہ کہوئی تیرے نہ جانے اگر اعتبار ہوتا

This tale of woe and misery is a pretty long one and I do not know where to end it. The House will be surprised to learn that only recently when we the representatives of the Achhuts waited upon the Honourable Premier and talked to him of the misery of the Achhuts, he gave us a very discouraging reply. Instead of giving us a patient hearing and applauding us, as it was his duty to do as the Premier of the province for coming to him to plead a noble cause, he dismissed us by saying that we would do no good to the cause by relating in detail the sufferings of the Achhuts and thereby exhausting his patience. It appeared to us that he did not like to hear what we had

[Lala Harnam Das.]

to say because he was pleased to remind us that the child which weeps too much is thrown out of the lap by the mother. But he forgot when he said this that a child which is suffering from palsy is never thrown out of the lap by the mother even if it continues to weep and cry for a very long time and even unceasingly because it is sure to die if it is thrown out in that condition. It is a pity that we the Achhuts who are suffering from that malady are not being administered any remedy at once. Perhaps it will be after a period of fifty years that we shall be looked after.

Our Government is never tired of making announcements in the papers and on the platforms that it is opening the doors of service to the Achhuts. But I have to say with some regret that it has not done so far what it ought to have done for the Achhuts. The Achhuts in the Punjab are 40 lakhs in number, but the number of those among them who have been offered appointments under the Government can be counted upon fingers' ends. Last year in this very month it was announced that thirty Achhuts would be recruited as police constables, but so far only ten such posts have been given to the Achhuts. Some of us have been favoured with posts in other departments also, but their number does not exceed two or three. This is all that has come to the share of the Achhuts who are as many as forty lakhs in number. In the last two years only two Achhuts have been recruited as clerks and I say with a feeling of gratitude that the Honourable Minister for Education and not the Government has been kind enough to appoint an Achhut who is an M.A., B.T. as a teacher though on a salary of only Rs. 60 a month. I have also to say that whenever an application is submitted by or on behalf of an Achhut for a responsible post under the Government, the usual reply comes that the applicant is not fit for the post. I ask if B.As., M.As. and B.A., S. A.-Vs. are not fit for responsible positions, who are then fit for these posts and what other criterion is there to judge the fitness of a candidate? Does the Government want that big bellied persons or thin and lean men or tall and stout persons or men with long *turra*s should apply for such posts? (*Laughter.*) At this time selection is being made to fill the posts of the tahsildars, but I know it for a fact that the claims of the Achhuts have not been considered for these posts. Of course an Achhut has been selected for the post of a sub-judge, but he is yet to be appointed and it will be nothing strange if efforts are made by the Unionist Government while in power to get him declared unfit for service in the medical examination. (*Laughter.*) Sir, justice demands that the Unionist Government should not remain for long in power because we find that every other Government in this country has reserved not less than one lakh of rupees for the uplift of the Achhuts while this Government has made no such provision. (*Hear, hear.*) While other provinces are making rapid progress we have not advanced a single step further than where we had been. Allow me to read out a registered letter which I have received from Chak No. 217-G. B. I can show to the Honourable Premier the envelope if he so desires. (*Laughter.*) The gist of this letter is that originally every zamindar had good many squares of land and he used to give some of them to the poor people for cultivation. But now on account of a steady increase in his progeny matters have come to such a pass that even his own children do not possess more than a few kanals of land per head. This is the condition in the districts like Lyallpur and this shows that the holdings

in district like Hoshiarpur must have been reduced to one marla per head. Thus we have been deprived of even such meagre means of subsistence. Biru and Bhagwana, two residents of Chak No. 217-G. B., have written to say that they have no work to do and that if nothing can be done even to provide them with means of subsistence they may be shot dead so that they may get rid of this wretched life. I must say, Sir, that they are justified in writing such a letter because life in such conditions is not worth living. Now, with the exception of the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal and the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, all the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries possess large tracts of land and they are living in affluence on those lands. They cannot even think of ameliorating the condition of the poor people because they know that if these kamins and other poor people are relieved of their distress and unemployment, then these big landlords will not get any slaves to water and plough their lands. This is the real obstacle in the way of the condition of those poor people being ameliorated. You will be pleased to observe that home truths have turned out all the Ministers and I think that if all the famished untouchables were to come here perhaps even the Chamber itself will disappear. (*Laughter.*)

Now look at the anomaly. The kamins and untouchables are not considered to be the owners of the sites of their own houses although even the British Government may not be able to say for how long these people have been living in this province. In the districts of Rohtak and Hissar we have to pay a tax in one form or other for residing in our own houses. Then there is the *khurpa* tax, i.e., the tax for obtaining grass for our cattle from the common land of the village. This tax amounts to Re. 1 per animal. Similarly there are other *kuri kamini* taxes. (*An honourable member : Question.*)

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : It is a fact. Let anybody disprove it.

Lala Harnam Das : If you really want to relieve us of the present state of unemployment then do not auction the lands that you are going to auction in the Montgomery district but give them for cultivation to those whose wives and children have no food to eat and no clothes to cover their famished bodies. If you were presented with the rags in which we have to live our whole lives you would prefer death to putting them on even for a moment. You claim to be well-wishers of the poor and the rural population. You have got a Rural Reconstruction Department. But what benefit can those dying of starvation and want of clothes derive from your ventilators and skylights?

Then I would draw your attention to the fact that since the cloth mill has been started at Lyallpur there has been much increase in unemployment in that part of the province. Instead of the poor people of the district being given employment, all the labourers have been imported from the United Provinces. It is the bounden duty of the Government to see that in all the mills and factories in this province all the workers employed, higher as well as lower, should be Punjabis. (*Hear, hear.*) This is the only way to provide work for the untouchables and other poor classes.

Then let us look at the lot of the poor tenants and untouchables. If after working hard all the year round they produce 100 maunds of wheat, our benign landlord members very graciously grant them a munificence amounting to two or three maunds. What a liberal share! The result

[Bala Harman Das.]

of such practices is that their debts are piling up every year. Now they are in a great fix. They can neither give up this work and take to some other business nor is the yield from their labours in this profession enough to feed and clothe their families. Thus they have to put up with these chains of slavery throughout their lives.

Government gives out land on tenders in the Lyallpur district. But to whom? It is given to those persons only who have already got sufficient land or are otherwise rich. The poor persons, particularly the Harijans are totally ignored. That is how the unemployment of the Harijan is sought to be removed by the Unionist Government. They are reduced to poverty to this extent that they have nothing to eat. They are face to face with innumerable difficulties. An Urdu poet seems to have aptly described their condition in the following couplet:—

اک جاگ ہو تو سی لورن یا رب کریمان الہا
ظالم نے بہارِ دہلائے تارِ نر کر کے

In short, the pitiable condition of the Harijans can only be realised by those who would become Harijans themselves and then live among them. They know no peace or comfort. Comfort is available to the Ministers alone. If the Ministers were to pass even a single night as the poor Harijans do, I am sure they will realise the hard lot they are put to. The Honourable Minister of Education is laying emphasis on the education of the Harijan boys but can he tell me as to whence they should obtain the necessary funds for education when they are starving for want of dry bread? I have seen Harijan boys going to cotton fields instead of going to the school. But the farmer gives them only one-twentieth of the cotton which they pick up from the field. In this way they buy one or two seers of rice and eat it at night. They cannot afford to mix sugar or 'gur' in the rice but they have to be content with salt worth an anna and use it for a full month.

Mr. Speaker, it is too much for me to narrate the pathetic tale of the woes and miseries of the Harijans. My heart is bleeding. The sufferings of the Harijans whose population in the Punjab is 4,000,000 are too numerous to be counted. But the members of the Government are enjoying all sorts of luxuries. They have no concern with the poor Harijans. It is a thousand pities that the Harijans are going from bad to worse and none comes forward to their rescue.

As other honourable friends of mine have also to make speeches, I do not want to take any more time of the House and consequently resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 92,900 on account of Total Ministers (Voted) be reduced by Re. 1.

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore (Ambala and Simla, General Reserved Seat, Punjab) (Urdu): Sir, the population of the Harijans is 36 lakhs in the Punjab but at the time of allotting seats to various communities, it was made to appear by other people that our population was less than that and the result of this confusion was that only eight seats were reserved for us. I

am pretty sure that our population is in no way less than 40 lakhs. I propose at this moment to describe what our conditions in the rural area are, and say that the present Ministry is not paying any heed to them.

Every man whether he lives in a city or in a village stands in need of three things at least and they are water, food and residence. But it is highly regrettable that all these three things are denied to poor Harijans in the villages. They are wholly fed up with life. The first and foremost difficulty experienced by them is with regard to the scarcity of water. They are dying for water. They are not allowed to take water from the wells for drinking or for washing their clothes. If they want to sink a separate well, they are not allowed to do so because the zamindars claim to be the sole owners of the village. As we do not possess any well, we cannot wash our clothes and if we take a pitcher to a well for bringing water, the zamindars threaten to make us work for them in their fields. On the other hand if we refuse to work gratis for them, they compel us to leave the village. Under this pressure we have to take water from the village pond. This water is not fit for drinking in rainy season at all, and reaches boiling point in the hot summer. This causes various troubles in the stomach. Government have this year provided a sum of Rs. 10,000 in the budget (*An honourable member*: This amount will be given every year.) But the Government should realise that it would cost Rs. 12,000 to sink a well in the districts of Hissar, Rohtak or Gurgaon. May I ask how an amount of Rs. 12,000 can be regarded sufficient for a population of 40 lakhs of people?

Now let us come to the food of the Harijans. The zamindars forcibly make our children work in their fields and although we cultivate their lands with our own hands, yet we are not declared to be agriculturists. It is our ancestral profession to cultivate land and we do cultivate land even at present. It is a pity that we who cultivate lands, are not taken to be agriculturists while others who from their very childhood take to learning, and after education spend their whole lives in offices and do not know how to handle the plough or in which season what crop is sown, are declared agriculturists by the Government. Is it fair? Sir, I am pointing out that our men are subjected to forced labour by the zamindars at the time of ploughing. They offer 18 maunds of grain to a man for the six months. They ask us to live upon that amount of grain. We are asked to send our children to graze their cattle on payment of six maunds of grain for six months. When we refuse to work on this meagre payment, we are dubbed as thieves, dacoits, and members of criminal tribes. Now let us consider that a Harijan boy gets one maund of grain for one month and his father gets three maunds for that period. You can very well calculate that a child even 6 or 8 years old would certainly eat up one and-a-half maunds of grain in a month. (*Laughter*.) What has excited your laughter? By maund I mean a kutchha maund. Pucca maund is unknown there. If a child eats up $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of grain in a month he would require 9 maunds for six months. But he is given only 6 maunds for six months. Wherefrom would he get the remaining three maunds of grain? Besides, how can he provide himself with clothes and shoes? His father also gets 18 maunds of grain for six months. He eats up three maunds in a month and would therefore eat up 18 maunds of grain in six months. What will

[Ch. Jugal Kishore.]

his wife, brother and old parents eat? Have you ever considered how these unfortunate creatures could get along? In spite of their pitiable condition you accuse them very often of having stolen your crops. This is about their food. I have already given you an idea about their water supply. Now I come to their housing facilities.

Early in the morning every able bodied Harijan is approached by one or other zamindar and asked to come to his field under threat of being sent out of the village in case of non-compliance. The threat produces the desired effect and the poor fellow submits with folded hands that he is prepared to work as his ploughman. In these days these helpless people are confronted with a new hardship. There has been a zamindar raj in villages ever since the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has assumed office and made speeches before the zamindars. Now the latter ask the Harijans to work in their fields or else they would not allow them to enter upon their fields in order to cut grass or collect fuel. The lambardars are also tyrannizing them. Professional tax is another source of trouble for them. If a Harijan happens to displease a lambardar, the latter tells him that he would soon be put to trouble. When professional tax is imposed on the poor fellow, he kneels before the lambardar and begs him for help. Then the latter asks him not to worry about it and tells him that he would accompany him to the court and make a statement there in his favour, but that also only on the condition that the poor fellow should pay them—because three persons will go there—the travelling allowance and Rs. 5 each as their diet money. Then in the court the lambardar who is himself responsible for levying the tax on the poor fellow makes a statement to the effect that the person concerned does not follow any profession and that he is his ploughman. This is how this tax is proving another source of trouble to these poor people.

Now I come to their education. My friend on this side has already thrown sufficient light on this point. It would therefore suffice to say that we are being very badly treated in this matter. The number of scholarships granted by the present Ministry is very small. In the budget session last year we made speeches and in reply to them the Honourable Premier announced in the heat of the moment that thirty Harijans would be recruited to the Police Department. So far only 8 Harijans have been enlisted and about the remaining number I cannot say anything. According to my calculations I think they will be recruited within the next five thousand years. (*Laughter.*) Since the time this Ministry have come into existence they have been giving us promises of providing us with certain facilities. But these promises, though a period of 18 months has elapsed, have not as yet been fulfilled. I am sorry to remark that the Government has created disunity among us. It would not have mattered at all if we had been be-fooled by the Unionist Party alone. But the irony of it is that our own people have cheated us. Two of them are now sitting on those benches as Parliamentary Secretaries and the third as their attendant.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should not be personal.

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore : Sometime back the Parliamentary Secretary, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, asked us to send him applications of suitable Harijan candidates to be employed in different Government departments. Consequently we sent bundles of applications to him which were eventually consigned to the waste-paper basket. We always receive

4 P. M.

some such answer as : "Do not be impatient ; everything will be done for the untouchables." Further we received this offer from the Government that each one of us could have two squares of land and titles for himself. We replied that we did not stand in need of titles or lands. Both these things would be of no use to us. Previously we had been taking only two loaves of bread and in future we propose to continue the same practice. Therefore, these two squares of land would be of no use to us. We also stated in our reply to the Government that we were anxious for the welfare of those people who had sent us here as their representatives. Those people were looking to us that we should do something to better their condition. That was in nut shell the reply that we sent to the Government. Now when we have seen that the Government has done nothing to redress our grievances and to improve our hard lot we have left their party and have come over to this side. I do not wish to say anything more because we cannot blame and curse others when there is disunity among our own rank and file. A few of us have left the Government party and there are other representatives of the scheduled castes who are still siding and supporting the Government. When I see them occupying those benches I am reminded of a verse which aptly applies to them :

دل کے پہچولے جل آئے سینے کے داغ سے
اس کو دو آگ لگ گئی، آگ کے چراغ سے

We cannot attach any blame to others when our own kith and kin are siding with them. With all this I wish to make it clear to the Government that they should not harass the poor. They should remember that even the kingdom of Sikandar the Great could not continue for long. How can their Government go on for ever ? (*Hear, hear.*) I, therefore, suggest that it would be better for the Government to help the poor as far as possible. I have drawn its attention to the pitiable condition of the scheduled castes and I request it to do something to remove their hardships.

Sardar Mula Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General Reserved Seat, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, after full one year I rise to say something about the woeful condition of the backward classes. At the very outset of my speech through you, I like to make it clear to the honourable members that the Honourable Ministers who are at the helm of affairs to-day are not prepared even to listen to the grievances of the Achhuts. Out of 6 Ministers only 2 are present in the House and the rest are not in their seats. I may also submit that one of the two Honourable Ministers who are present here, has never taken any steps for the betterment of the public at large. With all this I do hope that after hearing me he would do something for improving the social and economic condition of the scheduled castes.

Now I wish to say a word about the woeful tale of the Achhuts. Their tale is full of miseries and misfortunes. It is indeed a pathetic tale. To begin with I may state that once I waited upon the Honourable the Revenue

[Ch. Jugal Kishore.]

Minister along with some scheduled caste members of Hissar and we stated before him all the grievances of the Achhuts of that *ilaga*. We also told him that those poor people were dying of hunger and starvation and therefore he should do something to alleviate their misery. But I regret to say that he gave us a very curt reply. It is a thousand pities that our Government accords differential treatment to different sections of its own people. Even in the matter of disbursement of relief it treats different people differently. I may suggest that it is its duty to treat everyone equally. Besides, I will quote another example. Last year many houses in the village Sailan Kalan, district Hoshiarpur, were destroyed by the overflowing of a *khad*. The poor Achhuts suffered losses heavily. It is estimated that the loss amounted to 20 or 25 thousand rupees. The poor Achhuts made representations to the Tahsildar and the Deputy Commissioner and through them they also represented to the Honourable Revenue Minister to help them in their distress, and to open some relief work there. But the Honourable Minister paid no attention and did not help them. These are the glorious deeds of the Government, which day in and day out and in season and out of season proclaims itself as the well-wisher of the Achhuts. I think these things are a stigma on the fair name of the Punjab. (*Hear, hear.*) The treatment that is being meted out to Achhuts by this Government has no parallel in history. Besides, in the Zamindara Colony at Lyallpur, my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood stated that his Government has prepared a programme for improving the social and economic condition of the scheduled castes. Up till now we have not been able to know what that programme is. A few days ago a *communiqué* was issued by the Punjab Government that they had done this and done that and even much more. (*Laughter.*) This is merely action on paper and nothing more. The Honourable Minister over there smiles as he hears these things. He cares a fig for them even if they are hanged. I wish to make it clear to you that we will expose all the misdeeds of this Government. And we will leave no stone unturned to bring this Government into disrepute with the public. May I question whether you are running the machinery of the Government or are simply cutting jokes with the public? The population of Achhuts in this province is 40 lakhs. In this years' budget only a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for them. I may submit that this small sum has been provided in the third budget of this Government. In the beginning when this Government assumed office Sardar Gopal Singh stated in the Jullundur Conference in the presence of Sir Sikander and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram that the Government would provide one lakh of rupees in the first year for the Achhuts and two lakhs in the second year (*cries of no, no*).

Mr. Speaker : I have pointed out before and point out again to-day that the honourable members should not bring in the verbal or conversational promises of each other for the simple reason that they may be denied and thus result in unpleasantness.

Sardar Mula Singh : I have felt the necessity of saying these things because many wrong speeches have been delivered in the public. As you have ordered me, I bow to your ruling. Besides, Sardar Gopal Singh stated in the Conference of Achhuts that Sir Sikander is proposing to allot 800 squares

of land to Achhuts in the Hoshiarpur district. Further, when Mian Abdul Haya paid a visit to that *ilaga* we represented to him that no facilities were provided to the Achhuts in the matter of education. Last year he stated that the Government should give half fee concessions to the Achhut students studying in the Government Schools. But those scholarships have been awarded to Muslims and the Achhuts were deprived of it. This is the treatment that is being meted out to the Achhuts and this is how they keep their word.

I fail to find words to express my regards for the Congress. I feel that anything said in praise of this great organisation will certainly fall short of what one ought to say about it and it is our misfortune that it has not succeeded to establish itself in the Punjab and also in Bengal. But it must be said to the credit of the Bengal Ministry which like the Punjab Ministry is a Muslim League Ministry that in the Budget for the last year it made a provision of as many as 5 lakhs of rupees for the amelioration of the condition of the Achhuts. I ask what the Punjab Government has done for this backward class of people. It is a pity that it has not cared to reserve a penny for the Achhuts. I am aware that it has been making high sounding promises and trying to feed this class on such empty words. I know that some of the Ministers of the Punjab Government have been making promises to grant lands or what they call *murabbas* to the Achhuts, but so far not even a pickle or what they call *achar* in Punjabi, has been given to them (*laughter*).

The Land Alienation Act has done incalculable harm to the untouchables and in spite of this Sir Chhotu Ram is busy day and night in finding ways and means to further tighten its grip. The poor untouchables are permitted neither to purchase land nor to cut grass from land belonging to other people. Nor are they permitted to build their own houses. Another blow has been dealt to our interests in the shape of *raiyyat nama*. This means that we people are considered the owners of our houses so long as we dwell in them. If we leave our houses or are ejected by the zamindars, we have no right to dispose of the sites and pocket the price. Even if our possession of the sites of our houses may be as old as centuries, the right of ownership is denied to us. In spite of all these things Sardar Gopal Singh and other honourable friends have gone over to the camp of this Government. We know not why?

What is happening in the municipal committees? The untouchables comprise one-fourth of the population of the Hissar district. But only three or four members belonging to the scheduled castes have been so far nominated as members of the municipal committee. Another gentleman nominated was a member of the Unionist Party, Rai Sahib Chaudhri Het Ram. Further we have no hope of securing any nomination in the Gurgaon district. Last year a deputation went to Simla on our behalf in connection with the affairs of the Jullundur Municipal Committee. But not a single untouchable member has been nominated to that committee. Elections to this Committee are about to take place in the near future as well but we have no very great hopes of the future.

Now, what is the condition of the sweepers who are employed by the municipal committees? They are given five or six rupees per month and

[S. Mula Singh.]

are allowed no off days. Even jamadars are not selected from among them. They are given neither pensions nor the benefit of the provident fund.

So far as the police is concerned, an undertaking was given last year that thirty constables would be recruited from among the scheduled castes all at once. But this promise has not been fulfilled so far. Electoral rolls are being prepared for the elections to the Hoshiarpur district board. We demanded that the votes of the untouchables be recorded on the same basis as the votes for the Assembly are recorded. But this demand has not been acceded to. This is all the sympathy which the Government shows for the cause of the untouchables and for which it claims all earthly credit. The tyrannies of the Punjab Government have now reached such a limit that the untouchables will not rest until they have thrown out the present Government and brought its tyrannies to an end once for all.

Sardar Gopal Singh (American) (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General Reserved Seat, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have listened attentively to the speeches of my honourable friends who have spoken before me. I have listened to them with mixed feelings of sorrow and surprise. They have brought certain things in their speeches which, I feel, ought not to have been mentioned on the floor of this House. I have every sympathy with all the views which they have expressed while ventilating the grievances of our untouchable brethren. In fact there is no untouchable member in this House who does not sympathise with the 17 to 18 lakhs of untouchables in this province and does not wish that all of their genuine grievances are removed. Lala Harnam Das has been pleased to bring in other provinces in his speech and has told us that whereas Governments in other provinces has treated the untouchables with justice, the Government in this province has not done its duty by them. I had no mind to refer to the Governments in other provinces, more particularly when I find that there is a tendency in some parties and individuals to treat the word "Congress" with as much reverence as, for instance, one would treat the Quran or the Granth. Any how as my honourable friends have brought in other provinces in their speeches I shall have, very reluctantly, to tread on that sacred ground. I shall, for instance, refer my honourable friend, Lala Harnam Das, to the case of a province beyond Delhi. The United Provinces do not contain a population of 17 to 18 lakhs of untouchables like the Punjab. Nor is the population of untouchables there is 70 or 80 lakhs. Full one-third of the population in the United Provinces is that of the untouchables whose total number reaches the very considerable figure of one and a half crores. There are 25 representatives of untouchables in the United Provinces legislature. Now, at the time of appointing Ministers, Hindu and Muslim Ministers were promptly appointed. But when the untouchables demanded representation in the Cabinet, it was agreed that one Minister in the Cabinet will be included from among untouchables and women. (*Laughter*). Those of us who understood the mentality of the Caste-Hindus knew that nothing would be done for the depressed classes and all these assurances and promises made to these classes would eventually prove to be utterly false. The blame for this state of affairs lies with those who have been committing all sorts of atrocities in the name of religion in this country.

Lala Harnam Das : I rise on a point of order, Sir. The motion before the House is the failure of the Government to do anything substantial for the welfare of the untouchables. Now may I ask whether the honourable member is speaking to the motion?

Mr. Speaker : If I remember aright the honourable member himself or one of his supporters brought in other provinces, especially Bengal, where, he said, there were 5 lakhs Achhuts. Some other provinces were also mentioned.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Anyway, let me tell my friends opposite that those who know something about the ways of these people had some misgivings as the result of this announcement that one Minister would be taken out of untouchables and women. And you are aware, Sir, how their misgivings were justified. What was the result of this announcement? Mrs. Pandit, the sister of the second greatest man of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, was appointed a minister and the untouchables were left in the lurch.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not want to interrupt the honourable member, but may I ask him if he would be kind enough to be fair to this House and give us a reference of the *‘‘Ans’’*—the statement made by the United Provinces Government that it would appoint an Achhut woman as Minister (*An honourable member :* No, no.). If I have misunderstood him may I ask him to give me the date of that particular announcement by the United Provinces Government?

Sardar Gopal Singh : I think my honourable friend has not heard what I said. Let me tell him for his information that when the present Government of the United Provinces was formed, a news item appeared in almost all the newspapers that one minister would be taken out of women or untouchables.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Stupid nonsense!

Sardar Gopal Singh : Am I to understand that the position taken up by my honourable friend is that they never even made any promise to the untouchables?

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask, is it fair to treat this House in this way? If my honourable friend has not got the facts why does he not withdraw the statement?

Sardar Gopal Singh : I have got facts.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Then give us those facts.

Sardar Gopal Singh : If my friend is a little patient he will get those facts.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should not interrupt the speaker. He may contradict him at a later stage.

Sardar Gopal Singh : If this mention of what happened in the United Provinces is so unpalatable to my honourable friends then I will pass on to another of the Congress Provinces.

Mr. Speaker : It is not fair to bring in the governments of other provinces. So, I disallow any further reference to them.

Sardar Gopal Singh : It is only in reply to the remarks made by my honourable friends Lala Harnam Das and Sardar Mula Singh that I am pointing out that justice has not been done to us in other provinces. I admit that nowhere in the country are we receiving proper treatment in the matter of our rights but it is absolutely incorrect to say that the Punjab Government is the worst offender in this respect. I may say just one word about what has been done in the Central Provinces.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not bring in other provinces any more.

Sardar Gopal Singh : Very well, Sir. Then one of my honourable friends was pleased to remark that the curse of *begar* is found in its ugliest form in the Punjab. He forgets that for thousands of years the Punjab was ruled by Hindus. Then came the Mughal regime which was followed by pure Sikh Government. After the Sikhs we have been under purely British Raj for such a long time. But none of these Governments did anything worth the name to eradicate *begar* from this province. It is to the credit of the Unionist Government that no officer from a Patwari to Deputy Commissioner and from a constable to a Superintendent of Police, whether low or high takes *begar* now-a-days. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker : No interruptions please. Let the honourable member proceed.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I have travelled throughout the Punjab and nowhere have I heard any complaint about the officers taking *begar* and what is more, nobody is prepared to give forced labour now-a-days. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : I warn Mr. Faqir Chand not to make any remarks hereafter. If he does, I am afraid, I shall have to use my extra-ordinary powers, though reluctantly.

Sardar Lal Singh : I want to point out the mistake which the honourable member is making.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may correct him afterwards, not at this stage, as such an interruption might break the thread of one's speech. Interference at this stage is very objectionable and, therefore, I am not going to allow it.

Sardar Gopal Singh : This Government has issued two circulars prohibiting *begar* in the strongest language and if somebody gives *begar* in spite of those circulars, it is his weakness. The fact is that some people are afflicted with a superiority complex and they cannot but take *begar*. But it is not the Unionist Government that is to blame for it. The blame lies with those who have been creating such a mentality for about ten thousand years. The Unionist Government has no magic wand to change overnight a mentality which has been persistently fostered for so many centuries.

The Unionist Government in the Punjab has issued instructions to all the district boards and municipal committees to place sign boards on every public well declaring it to be open for the members of every community irrespective of caste, creed or religion. In particular the untouchables are being allowed free use of the public wells, and in this connection about three hundred sign boards are being prepared by the Government.

But may I respectfully enquire as to what is the real root cause of the evil of untouchability? The real cause is that the members of the majority community in the country have an innate belief in man being of high birth or of low birth. Even though they have joined the ranks of the Congress, yet at heart they are staunch supporters of the caste system. Our Government are in no way responsible for the caste system. It is our brethren, the Congressites not excluded, who are really responsible for perpetrating this evil. A proof is not far to seek. In the *Tribune*, dated the 16th October 1938, an unmistakable proof of the Congress believing in the caste system is afforded. I will just quote a passage from it which conclusively proves that our Congress friends and not the Unionist Government are responsible for prohibiting the Harijans from taking water from public wells. The passage in question runs as follows :—

The Municipal Committee, Hoshiarpur, met last evening and passed a resolution to the effect that the depressed classes be allowed to have free use of public wells within the Municipal limits and that notices be exhibited on posts nearby to this effect.

The resolution was opposed by the leader of the Congress party in the Municipal Committee urging that the resolution was an undue and improper interference with the religious feelings of the orthodox Hindus. The resolution was taken up for consideration in consequence of a circular letter issued by the Punjab Government.

My only point in quoting this news item from the *Tribune* is that Government officials cannot by themselves uproot the evil of untouchability so far as it relates to the public wells. The need of the hour is that our Hindu friends should agree to the view that all human beings have a right to take water from the wells. (*Cheers.*) I may also point out that the trouble of untouchability is not so keen in the Punjab—thanks to the presence of Islam and Sikhism—as in those provinces where Hindus preponderate. (*Loud and prolonged cheers.*) By the grace of God, Islam and Sikhism have in the Punjab dealt a severe blow to the caste system as these two religions do not recognise any distinction between man and man. There is no caste system among Muslims and the Sikhs. They have removed the venom of untouchability and consequently rendered it less capable of harm. They have achieved this not through any legislation but by persuasion, reasoning and mutual conduct. My honourable friend Lala Harnam Das who has complained of untouchability in the Punjab and has accused the Unionist Ministry for that, would do well to observe what is happening in Madras where the tricoloured flag is flying. There he will find, not untouchability alone but unapproachability as well, that is, the poor Harijans are directed to remain at a safe distance from their fellow human beings who claim to be high born. A Harijan has always to keep himself yards away from those with whom he may have to talk or have some other business.

Another criticism levelled against our Government by my honourable friends opposite concerns the education of the depressed classes. Here too they seem to have misrepresented the true position. The Honourable Minister of Education has of course been not able to do all he wished to do for the uplift of the scheduled castes, due to the visitation of the famine in the Hissar district. Nonetheless he has provided 6 scholarships of Rs. 20

[S. Gopal Singh.]

each for the college students belonging to the scheduled castes and two more scholarships of Rs. 20 each, for those reading in the Central Training College, Lahore.

Lala Harnam Das : Will the honourable member please let me know what ratio these stipends bear to those reserved for other communities?

Sardar Gopal Singh : No such stipends are reserved for other communities. Stipends are reserved for backward communities only. Again, primary education is already free for them and 37 stipends of Rs. 6 each, are reserved for them in the high schools. Moreover, 20 students belonging to scheduled castes are admitted into Senior Vernacular and Junior Vernacular classes with Rs. 5 as monthly scholarships and 2 stipends of Rs. 15 each are earmarked for them in the King Edward Medical College, Lahore. May I ask in view of these hard facts if such facilities were ever provided to the members of the scheduled castes in India since the days of Manu, that is, for the last ten thousand years? (Cheers).

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : May I ask if the policy of the Unionist Government is under discussion or the policy of Manu?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may go on with his speech.

Sardar Gopal Singh : In this connection it is interesting to note that when the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye invited 100 persons belonging to the scheduled castes to dine with him at Hoshiarpur, the local Tahsildar who was a graduate refused to sit with the Achhuts in spite of the repeated requests of the host and said it was against his dharma to do so. At last the Honourable Minister of Education asked him to stand by and see him dine with Achhuts on the same table. The Tahsildar accepted this position and stood by watching the Honourable Minister of Education dining with 100 members of the scheduled castes. It has been alleged by my friends over there that the Harijans have not been recruited to the Police department in sufficient numbers. In this connection I would submit that some time back the Honourable Premier issued a circular to the effect that thirty Harijans should be recruited to the Police department. Consequently some 8 or 9 Harijans were enlisted only on one day and sent to the Police lines, Lahore, for training. These recruits later on complained against the inhuman treatment meted out to them by their fellow caste Hindus. When you, who claim the Harijans as your own kith and kin, cannot give up caste prejudices, how can you expect others to be kind to them? The caste disability is in itself a serious problem confronting the Government so far as the question of opening the doors of Government service to Harijans is concerned. Unless the caste Hindus give a clear proof of a change of mind there can be no hope for the uplift of the Harijans. My friends ask for more representation in services. This Government have every sympathy for them. We might be prepared to give them 50 per cent. representation but their brethren, the caste Hindus, a stumbling block in their way, are not prepared to budge an inch from the position they have already taken up against them. The majority community in India has refused them even the elementary rights of mankind. (Hear, hear). Of course as my friends have asserted, not many Harijan constables have been recruited to the police during the last 18 months but the number of those recruited has been far larger than the number

of those recruited during the last ten thousand years. (*Loud applause.*) Not a single Harijan was ever recruited to the police from the time of Manu right up to the time the Unionists assumed office. We are responsible members of a responsible Government (*hear, hear*), and we are always prepared to grant what is due to every community. But your so-called sympathisers whom you take as your friends indeed have never proved and will never prove to be friends in need. It appears to me that there is some ulterior motive in my friends opposite when they press forward the demands of 50 per cent. recruitment of the Harijans in the Police department and that can be nothing else than to bring the Unionists into disrepute with the people by creating indiscipline in the police and mutinous conditions in the country. (*Loud applause.*) My friend Lala Harnam Das in a spirited speech (*laughter*) was pleased to ask what this Government has done for them. It has accepted only one Harijan as a sub-judge. But my friend ignores, I do not know why, that previous to this there was not even a single Harijan peon who calls the parties to the court room in the whole of the province. Does it not go to the credit of this Government that it has begun to recognise and grant rights to a community that was suffering from serious caste disabilities for the last so many centuries?

My friends, in particular Sardar Mula Singh, have stressed the point that the Punjab Alienation of Land Act has been a great source of hardship to them ever since it came into force, and that it should therefore be repealed. So far as my information goes, 80 per cent. Harijans depend upon agriculture as the only source of their livelihood. I therefore request the Government that they would be well-advised if they would exempt the Harijans from the operation of the Act. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition benches.*) We don't ask for the repeal of the Act, which if done, would enable a millionaire money-lender to purchase the whole land in a village. (*Hear, hear.*) In this connection the position taken up by Sardar Mula Singh is like that of a prisoner, who may not be anxious for his own release but likes others to be confined in jails. We want ourselves to be lifted up and not others being brought down to our level. We want to get the same facilities as the Jats have got. We refuse therefore to be duped by our friends opposite. They are trying to shoot by putting the gun over the shoulders of others. They are not our friends and are not likely to be our friends in future too. Again my friend Sardar Mula Singh said one or two things more. He said that in Bengal 5 lakhs of rupees have been earmarked for the education of the scheduled castes. Perhaps my friend does not know, as Mr. Mullick, a Minister in Bengal explained, that this sum was not provided but the interest on it was provided for the education of Harijans. Besides, my friend has lost sight of the fact that in the Punjab and Bengal the conditions are not similar. In the Punjab there are only 8 representatives in the Assembly while in Bengal there are as many as 31 representatives of Harijans in the Assembly. Let me point to my friend that in our budget Rs. 10,800 have been provided for constructing wells for the use of Harijans and Rs. 22,000 for their education. Then again my friend remarked that no representation has been given to them in the district boards. Let me tell my friend, if he is not aware of it already, that

[8. Gopal Singh.]

since 1st April 1937 when this Government came into existence one Harijan has been nominated to the Ludhiana district board, one to Amritsar municipal committee, one to Ambala district board and one to Lyallpur Municipal Committee. (*Premier* : But he is not his man.) Well, Sir, I would like to sound a note of warning to my friends who have preceded me that those whom they consider their friends are in fact their deadly enemies and are out to ruin them. My friends should know that their so-called friends are now making efforts to have an amendment made in the Government of India Act, which if made, would introduce a distributive system of vote in election in the country. Under this system there would hardly be a constituency out of 150 constituencies where the scheduled castes would have majority of votes. The caste Hindus would then be able to send in persons of their own choice everywhere. Protesting against this our leader Dr. Ambedkar has addressed a telegram to the Secretary of State for India in the following words :—

On behalf of the untouchables I emphatically protest against the proposal to introduce distributive system of voting as antagonistic to the spirit of Poona Pact.

This is what is all important and vitally affects our interests. I am sorry to say that you are focussing your attention to questions of little importance, that is, why 80 Harijans have not been recruited or why 3 instead of 4 Harijans have not been nominated to district boards. You are now face to face with the most serious situation and I wonder why you are not preparing yourself to take by the horns the bull which is going to peril your political existence in the country.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the item of Rs. 92,900 on account of Total Ministers (voted) be reduced by Re. 1.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 32, Noes 69.

AYES

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harnam Das, Lala.
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.

Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishen Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lal Singh, Sardar.
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
Chaudhri.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
Mula Singh, Sardar.
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.

Rur Singh, Sardar.
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sar-
 dar.

Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
 Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
 Sita Ram, Lala.
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.

NOES

Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdas-
 pur).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
 Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.
 Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan
 Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable
 Chaudhri Sir.
 Dasuandha Singh, Sardar.
 Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major
 Raja.
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab
 Chaudhri.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Few, Mr. E.
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Baha-
 dur Maulvi.
 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
 Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Jalal-ud-Din Ambar, Chaudhri.
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan
 Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Na-
 wabzada.

Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani,
 Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan
 Bahadur Khan.
 Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan
 Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jee-
 lani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan
 Bahadur Mian.
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur
 Captain Malik.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri
 Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Rashida Latif Baji, Begum.
 Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib
 Chaudhri.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Hon-
 ourable Major Sir.
 Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sar-
 dar.

(Mr. Speaker at this stage left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

General Policy of Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the motion that I have to move is—

5 P. M.

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The object specified in reference to this motion reads as follows :—

To discuss the general policy, achievements and work of the Government.

But before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I go on to deal with the general policy of this Government and the general policy underlying the budget, it is necessary for me to say one word in congratulation of the speech that we have just heard—I believe it is a maiden speech—from one of the Parliamentary Private Secretaries. Although I do not agree with my honourable friend in regard to the substance of that speech and I wish to register my emphatic dissent, nevertheless it is up to me to congratulate him on the manner of it. (*Hear, hear.*) Now I do think that my honourable friend went off at a tangent in discussing the subject that he had in hand particularly in reference to the comparison that he drew between the United Provinces Government and the present Unionist Government of the Punjab and the comparison that he drew between the Madras Government and the present Unionist Government here in their attitude towards the scheduled castes or the Harijans. I am one of those, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who definitely believe that this distinction based upon caste should be done away with (*hear, hear*) by legislation if necessary, by the exercise of public opinion and by every means possible in order that no man should be held to be unequal to another man. (*Hear, hear.*)

Premier : Bring in a Bill.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend says 'bring a Bill.' But if I refer to the fate of the Bills that I have had the privilege of moving on the floor of this House it does not encourage me to waste my time or my energy in drafting any further Bills. (*Cheers.*) But may I remind my honourable friend the Parliamentary Private Secretary, that in attempting to justify the position in the Punjab, we should not be ungenerous and incorrect in regard to the position of the Congress provinces. My honourable friend was challenged, when he was speaking, to produce the actual document on which he relied, namely when he stated that a guarantee had been given to the scheduled castes that in the formation of the ministry in the United Provinces, one member of the scheduled castes would be appointed a Minister in that Government. My honourable friend unfortunately fell back upon generalities and I do hope, since he will get more and more opportunities of speaking on the floor of this House, that he will bear this in mind that when he gets up to make statements of that kind they will in future be based upon facts. This House has the right to demand that those facts should be unchallengeable and that those facts should be proved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is not in order in referring to the speech of the honourable member on this side.

Sardar Gopal Singh : I never said that a promise was made or a guarantee given by the United Provinces Congress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I have already held that reference to the honourable member's speech is not permissible.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps there is a little misunderstanding. I think my honourable friend, the Premier, will bear me out when I say that this particular demand has been closed in order that we may roath over a wide range in reference to the activities of the Government and that there is no restriction in regard to any subject that may be discussed, provided it is in reference to this budget or to the activities of the Government. My honourable friend will bear me out.

Premier : Yes, I agree with my honourable friend that so far as this particular demand, namely General Administration, is concerned, he has the utmost latitude to speak on any subject he likes. But with regard to this particular item which he is discussing, the House has already disposed of it and my honourable friend will agree with me that that is a closed chapter. We are now dealing with the rest of the matter. My Honourable friend was at perfect liberty to speak on that point when that was under discussion. But I think it is unfair now to revert to that topic because we on this side will not be able to answer him nor will my honourable friend be because he has already spoken. I therefore suggest that we may discuss other points and not my honourable friend, Sardar Gopal Singh's speech.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think there is again a little misapprehension, but I am quite prepared to let my honourable friend alone, if that is the wish of my honourable friend the Premier. But it is not correct to say that my honourable friend would not have the opportunity to speak. He will have every opportunity, if he catches the eye of Mr. Deputy Speaker, to give a reply to anything that I am saying. My point is merely this that this Government has not done one millionth part of what Congress Governments have done in regard to the scheduled castes. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition and "Question" from the Government benches.*) My honourable friend the Premier smiles. He will not smile when I give him some facts. What have they done here and what has been the position adopted by my honourable friend? What are the tangible results of the policy adopted by my honourable friend in regard to the Harijans? What is the tangible result of the policy adopted by the Congress Governments? In the United Provinces—I hold this document in my hand (and I do not speak from memory or make any reference to newspaper articles)—definite instructions have been issued by the U. P. Government that in recruitment, where the minimum qualifications are there, preference is to be given to the scheduled castes. I hold this document in my hand again which details the amount of money that has been expended—and remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amount of money expended for Harijans is over and above the amount of money that is expended generally for this particular department namely Education. There is no restriction placed on any member of the scheduled castes enjoying the same privileges that other castes enjoy in the matter of education but over and above....

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : On a point of order. I beg to invite your attention to rule 58 under a which a motion or amendment must not, except with the permission of the Speaker, raise a question substantially identical to the question on which the Assembly has given its verdict in the same

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

session. I submit, we are delighted to hear the honourable member with regard to these aspects of the Government policy but this particular question has already been settled and in fairness to the rules of the House he must not develop this point.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I suggest to my honourable friend that probably he has not understood this rule correctly. I am not pressing the motion that the amount of Rs. 92,000 be reduced by one rupee. Rule 56 would be operative only if I were doing so. (*Hear, hear*). My honourable friend should exercise a little patience and listen to what I have to say. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Rs. 50,000 is what the Government in the United Provinces budgeted this year for the extension of education for the depressed classes. Do I find in these volumes that are before me a sum of Rs. 50,000 budgeted for the education of the depressed classes ?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : How much ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Rupees 50,000. My honourable friend will find it on page 26. If he wants the actual reference, it is "Public Information United Provinces, dated February, 1939." I say I do not rely upon my memory nor on what newspapers say. I am giving my honourable friend chapter and verse for these statements. My honourable friend should know that this money has been utilized for this purpose. Take another example of a province where the problem is of a very serious nature. In this particular province half fee concessions have been granted. Half fee concessions to Harijan students. In this particular province something more has been done and that is that 11 lakhs (*interruption*)—I will come to it. My honourable friend is suffering from impatience. I will go further and give him chapter and verse. He need not have any anxiety on that score. In this province.....

Premier : Which province ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Madras. In this province, Rs. 11,29,200 and not Rs. 50,000—Rs. 11,29,200 is the amount—that has been sanctioned for two departments *exclusively* for Harijans, Education and Public Health. My honourable friends may pat themselves on the back and say "we have done great things for the Harijans" without telling us what exactly they have done. Here are concrete figures to show what the people in this province where the problem is acute have been able to achieve for the Harijans and how much money they have been able to spend. In face of all these facts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to raise a point like this, gets my honourable friend and me nowhere and gets this House nowhere. I submit that it is irrelevant to discuss this matter. What is relevant is to ask my honourable friend over there, the Leader of the House, as to what he is prepared to do for these Harijans to which class my honourable friend the Khalsa belongs and for which class my honourable friend's heart bleeds, as it does. It is up to him not to address his remarks to this side of the House but to that side of the House. As far as we are concerned, he may rest assured that what our Governments have done in other provinces, we shall do and do as well if ever we get a chance of dealing with the Harijans (*hear, hear from the Opposition*). I would ask Mr. Khalsa to remember that he owes his position here not to the Unionists but to Mahatma Gandhi whose fast unto death provided him with special representation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this was only by the

way and with your permission I beg to say something in regard to a matter which agitated this House to some extent a little while ago.

I have listened to the speeches made on the budget during the general discussion for a period of three days and I have found that out of the ~~plethora~~ of these speeches one can discern a common thread. Most of them have been of a congratulatory nature containing commendation of the efforts of my honourable friend who does not happen to be seated in his seat, and who is responsible for the budget. There has been one common thread and that thread was the thread of criticism, of querulous comment not merely from this side of the House, but speaker after speaker got up from the treasury benches and struck that particular note of querulous and sometimes bitter criticism of the activities of this Government. That was the common thread. Even when during these three days my honourable friends over there were wringing their hands because of this grievance or that which had not been rectified by this Government, all that they were doing with these very hands, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was to put a garland of rather faded roses round my honourable friend's neck. *(Laughter.)* Yet the wringing of the hands was there all the time. It shows, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the depth of this agitation, of this misery, of this unfulfilled hope which honourable members had of this Government setting things right and which this Government has not been able to do. My honourable friend the Finance Minister—himself not a very modest individual since he does not belong to a very modest fraternity, namely his colleagues of the Unionist benches *(hear, hear)*—himself set the ball rolling regarding the matter of self-congratulation. *(Laughter.)* I was greatly surprised, indeed amazed, when I sat here in my seat and heard my honourable friend in ringing tones say this. He said that he was a very good Finance Minister and that this was a very good Government, but he did not stop at that. "Is it too much," he asked, "to affirm that this constituted this Government's unchallengeable title to be regarded the most loyal and efficient servants of the province that history has known?" *(Laughter.)* Not only that, Mr. Deputy Speaker—not only what history has known but, although he denied that he was a prophet, yet he went on to say, 'I was going to say that history shall ever record.' No Government like this is ever likely to grace this province, in my honourable friend's opinion, for all time to come! *(Ironical cheers.)*

No Government like this has ever graced this soil in the historic past of our land. As I have said, my honourable friend is not modest *(Laughter)*. His modesty does not extend to his office. In fact he takes the fullest advantage of his office to assert not only that is he the best Finance Minister ever produced by this country but that this country shall never be able to recruit a better Finance Minister than the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal. *(Laughter.)* That is the sum total of this boast on the part of my honourable friend. But I do hope that my honourable friend will not rest merely on boasting, that he will examine his record and the record of his budgetary position not by mere statements—exaggerated statements—of this nature, but probe into the matter and see what he has been able to achieve and whether, in reality, there is anything in the achievements of the Government or in the achievements of his own budget upon which he can base this boast of his of being not only the best Finance Minister that history has

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

known but the best Finance Minister that history shall ever record. I remember having read some time go what my honourable friend said in regard to a Government of which he was not a member. At that time my honourable friend used to sit on these benches. I am going to tell you not of what he says to-day but of what he said then as a member of the Opposition, and I am going to ask my honourable friend whether, if I were to say about this budget of his and of the achievements of this particular Government what my honourable friend said in regard to the Government of that day, that would not be a correct statement truly describing the budgetary position of the present Government. My honourable friend remarked then that the Member for Agriculture had said that when a year or two hence they had reconstituted their councils under the reforms, it would be open to them to float a development loan and launch various enterprises to reconstruct the province. My honourable friend with his famous gesture stretched out his fingers—I can just visualise the time when, spreading out the fingers of his hand (*laughter*), he pointed to the ministry of the day and said, “Why not do so here and to-day.” He went on to ask as to “who had forbidden him (the Member of Agriculture) and his colleagues on the Government benches to chalk out a proper economic plan to be worked out there and then and to be put into practice at once.” That was my honourable friend’s criticism of the Government of the day then. I am sorry my honourable friend is not here and, therefore, I feel very reluctant in saying anything in his absence but I hope he will forgive me since the sum total of what I have to say refers to his department. He will, therefore, forgive me if I speak in his absence. Courtesy demands that I should not criticise him when he is absent, but I am compelled, through no fault of my own since it is his department that is under discussion, to ask my honourable friend whether during these months that the ministry has been in power, there has been any inkling of that economic plan visualised by my honourable friend. Has anything been done by this Government, has there been anything suggested in the budget about economic planning on which grounds criticism was levelled by my honourable friend; that is to say, the demand that my honourable friend made at that time that there should be an economic plan which should not be postponed until the advent of a popular Government but put into execution there and then? Has that popular Government, my honourable friend claims it is a popular Government, of which my honourable friend now becomes a member, thought of economic planning—did it think of economic planning at that time—did it put it into execution? It had funds at its disposal to do so, it could have raised a loan as my honourable friend visualised later on in his speech, namely a development loan, but the moment my honourable friend occupies those treasury benches he forgets completely what he himself wished the bureaucratic Government to do, namely to proceed upon a basis of economic planning for the reconstruction of the province. (*Cheers*.) And yet my honourable friend said that history had not recorded any Government like this and any Finance Minister like him. And history would never record one of this description.

Referring to the budget my honourable friend said—

We hear ‘small tales of how we are not as badly as we were a little while ago.....’

Very reminiscent of what my honourable friends have been constantly saying—

We have had a famine. We have realised enormous sums of money from the peasants. We have no money left; but we shall not be worse off next year than we are at the present moment. We shall be better off next year.

And this was my honourable friend's own criticism of the budget of his time. He said—

Do we, in any seriousness, ever find ourselves facing the idea of proper planning? The Minister would throw the burden on future councils..... That is not the right approach to an issue of this character.

I ask him is he in all seriousness facing the problem of proper planning? My honourable friend sitting over there is the Honourable Minister for Development. (*Interruption*). Development means development of the province. He is in charge of a tremendously important portfolio. Has he ever thought of economic planning as visualised by his honourable colleague when he happened to be sitting on these benches? He said—

Government in this country, and no less the Government in this province, seems to live from hand to mouth and from day to day. They seem to be overwhelmed with the difficulty that is upon them at any time. They are glad to see little solutions of small matters that are about. They do not face the issue out of which alone some measure of real prosperity may be attained.

Premier : Not of this Government.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Not of this Government? "We are going to live for eternity," is what my honourable friend said, (*Laughter*).

Premier : Now you are nearer the truth.

Diwan Chaitian Lal : I am nearer truth. Five thousand years. The honourable member said his Government would last five thousand years! There is no lack of modesty on the part of my honourable friends. (*Loud laughter*). There never was and it is useless to expect any sort of modesty from my honourable friends.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It was broken long ago.

Diwan Chaman Lal : My honourable friend, Mr. Manohar Lal, at the time when the heavy weight of office was not upon his shoulders, when he was a free lance, could come into the Assembly Chamber and lecture honourable members upon high finance and upon the necessity of planning in order to save this province and go back with a peaceful mind, having done his patriotic duty to the High Court and practice, but now he is a responsible official of this Government, a pillar of support of the Muslim League party. (*Ironical cheers*.) I do not know what a Hindu is doing—supporting a Muslim League party—but that is his concern. He is a pillar of the Unionist Party, but he forgets all the things that he stood for at the time when he was not a member of this Government, and yet he congratulates himself; and his honourable friends, the cohorts behind him—each one in office, small or big office,—shower eloquent congratulations on my honourable friend. I do not know what they congratulated him on. What is there in the budget itself, I ask my honourable friends in all seriousness, upon which they can congratulate themselves? Have you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, up-to-date heard one single

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

fact in justification of this that my honourable friends are to be congratulated upon the budget? Have they brought heaven upon earth so far as the Punjab is concerned? Do I find that the state of peace between the communities is a little better than it was before they arrived on the scene of action? Do I take it that communal harmony has been achieved? Do I take it that illiteracy has been removed? Do I take it that the health of the province is better? Do I take it that poverty has been eradicated from this province? (*Honourable Members*: How?) My honourable friends say, "how." Yes, how? (*Laughter*.) Why not? What is the object and meaning of Government? The object and the meaning of Government, according to my honourable friends over there, happens to be to go perambulating right through the province and making speeches. (*Cheers*.)

Minister for Development: Exposing you.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My honourable friend says, "Exposing me." The exposure is always of my honourable friend of his own weak and insecure position (*cheers*). A man who is so afraid of public opinion that he has to go and canvass public opinion, willy-nilly, every time, must necessarily realise that public opinion is not with him and it is because my honourable friend wishes to work up public opinion in his favour that he goes about perambulating right through the province and making those platitudinous speeches. (*Cheers*.)

The real object of Government, I will tell my honourable friend who finds himself for a second time on the Treasury Benches, is to put an end to poverty about which he was exclaiming a little while ago. The real object of Government is to raise the standard of life of the people, to bring more happiness to the average citizen of the province. This is not what my honourable friend considers to be the aim and object of Government. His aim is to make a few set speeches with a lorry borrowed from his department and not paid for (*laughter*) and with a loud speaker also borrowed from the department and not paid for and incidentally work up something like Rs. 900 a month as travelling allowance for the benefit of doing it. (*Laughter*.) I do submit that that is not the object of Government. The object of Government is to do all the things which I have detailed, to bring more peace and happiness to the average citizen. My honourable friend, the Premier, will have the fullest support of every member of this House in every attempt he makes to bring peace and prosperity to this province. He stated in his speech during the budget discussion that he wanted the co-operation of these benches. He may rest assured that he will get the fullest co-operation from these benches—the fullest co-operation I repeat—if he would concert measures which will bring real prosperity to the people of the province, but Mr. Deputy Speaker, not with the object of deriving temporary political advantage and not for the purpose of securing at least some portion of the permanency when he visualises that he has to last five thousand years. May I remind my honourable friend that not six months ago Mr. Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, also assured permanency to the state of Czechoslovakia? Czechoslovakia was wiped out in one night

and the British Empire to-day is on the road to becoming a second class power ; and if that can happen to the British Empire, I do not know what fate may be in store for my honourable friend's Government and the present Government throughout this country within the next few months. The fate of everybody is in the balance. Let not my honourable friends be so cock-sure about the permanent position which they have been visualising. (*Hear, hear.*) Let me for a moment ask my honourable friend once again whether there is anything of outstanding merit to attract the attention of the poverty-stricken people, in the budget which he has presented to the House. It is a very vital test, a crucial test, a test by which my honourable friends should stand or fall, and by that test they should congratulate themselves or condemn themselves : by that test they shall be considered either as members of a good Government or those who have forfeited the confidence of the province. (*Cheers.*) Where is that development loan that my honourable friend wanted ? Where is that development loan visualised by my honourable friend, so large a loan for the purpose of helping the province, not the sum of 55 lakhs taken out of the revenues, with which I shall deal in a minute, and put away for the purpose of development and gradual rehabilitation for a period of a year ? Where, may I ask my honourable friend, is the development loan ? No sign of it. Is that true ? My honourable friend does not remember ! It is my honourable friend's own suggestion that I am referring to. May I ask my honourable friend to remember that neither in spending for the reconstruction of the Province nor in attempting to put an end to the poverty and the misery of the people, has my honourable friend achieved anything in the budget : nothing whatsoever. What has been achieved is this that our revenues have gone up and have got swollen but our expenditure for the beneficent departments remains practically where it was. The incidence of taxation bears more heavily on those who are less able to pay. No relief has been given to those people.

The difficulty in dealing in detail with these matters in order to convince my honourable friend is this. First of all no intelligent criticism of the budget can ever take place on the floor of the House and I will tell my honourable friend why. My honourable friend the Premier said the other day that no particular item, not one single item, had actually been criticised. I am correctly quoting my honourable friend. (*An honourable member : It was a wrong statement.*) It was not a wrong statement on the part of the Premier. It was a perfectly correct statement. I do not know how many honourable members know it but the Treasury benches are aware of the concordat that exists between the Auditor-General of the Government of India and the Finance Department of the Government of the Punjab. According to this concordat, any case of any importance upon which criticism may be levelled by the Auditor-General's department goes straight to my honourable friend's Finance Department, and the orders of the Finance Department in regard to these cases are final. Why does not a single case of this nature appear in the Auditor-General's report ? (*An honourable member : It cannot appear.*) My honourable friend says no, it cannot appear. In the past it used to appear. Cases of importance upon which honourable members of the legislature could offer criticism, those cases, were brought to the notice of the House, but now

[Diwan Chaman Lal.]

according to this concordat the word of the Finance Department is final, with the result that we are not in a position to know exactly what is happening. My honourable friend should know that there is a provision for a Public Accounts Committee. How many meetings of the committee have taken place? My honourable friend should know. There is no provision for a finance committee nor for a Finance Bill. Ordinary financial procedure demands that expenditure should be vetted before it is passed. Expenditure should be vetted after it has been utilised. Money before it is spent must be considered closely by honourable members of the House sitting in a committee: money when it has been spent should be scrutinised closely by honourable members of the House sitting in a committee. Is that procedure in action since this Government took office? We requested my honourable friend to let us have a finance committee. The old wretched bureaucratic Government which rules at Delhi to-day, even that Government has a finance committee composed largely of elected members which vets every item of new expenditure before it is sanctioned. Here my honourable friend gets up one day and announces a donation of Rs. 20,000 to a particular institution. I do not object to the purpose but to the manner. My honourable friend gets up another day and announces another donation of Rs. 5,000 to some exhibition somewhere in Bihar. There is nobody to ask any questions because we are not competent according to the procedure adopted to discuss items of expenditure of this nature.

■ Had my honourable friend accepted the proposal that I put before him and had he agreed to the formation of a finance committee, I submit all these items of expenditure before they are sanctioned would have been discussed threadbare in this committee and some measure of decent control over the finances would have been available to this House acting through this committee and acting through its representatives. This is the position regarding the lack of control over our finances. How many meetings, may I ask, of the Public Accounts Committee have taken place? (*An honourable member*: Not a single one.) I consider this is one of the most serious things that is happening in this province, a thing, such as, if we were to leave it to the judgment of those who are to come after us, will result in the utter condemnation of those of us who happen to be in charge of the financial destiny of this province. It is scandalous that there should be a *Junta* of six men sitting on those benches possessing complete control over the finances of this province, 12 crores of our money, and not a single member of this House able, under the constitution, to vet that expenditure before it is sanctioned. May I ask my honourable friends what justification have they for adopting this procedure? I ask them whether it is not a fact that time and again they get up on their feet with enthusiasm, born of the British connection, written all over their faces, and say: "We must be governed by parliamentary procedure." (*Laughter*). The rock basis of parliamentary procedure is the control of finances vested in the hands of the representatives of the people working through two committees. These committees are not merely nominal committees and not committees of the type that my honourable friend has suggested and has actually brought into

existence, namely, the Public Accounts Committees. They are committees of the House which deal with these two aspects of finance. That particular attitude towards the control of our finances had been adopted in the past under the bureaucratic procedure of my honourable friends' predecessors. My honourable friend, a member of the bureaucratic Government of the day, was fully aware of this fact that even here before the new constitution came in, there was a Finance Committee. (*Premier*: Several other committees.) Yes, several other committees. I am not worried at the present moment about several other committees. I am worried only about one essential and important committee, that is, the Finance Committee. I had been a member of the Finance Committee for many years of the Central Government and I know how important the work of the Finance Committee was. Every new item, as I submitted, was brought by the Finance Members, by Sir Basil Blacket or Sir George Shushter as the case may be, before that committee to be vetted and then allowed to be incorporated in the budget and naturally every member of the Finance Committee had his say. There you have full and complete control, but here we are blind, searching in the dark for the truth regarding our financial position, how our money is collected and how it is sanctioned and how it is spent, and what are the checks and what are the controls. My honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, reminds me that this is provincial autonomy in action. This is the type of action for which my honourable friend, the Finance Minister says, "I am a better Finance Minister than has ever been recorded in the history of the province and I do not think that the entire history of this province is likely to record a better one." (*Laughter*.) My honourable friends must not pass over this very serious aspect of the problem, because this is an aspect to which they should give their thought and it is of such a serious nature that they should not, if they are convinced, hesitate in changing and altering the procedure now in force. Let me see, therefore, what there is to congratulate ourselves on in regard to this budget in view of the facts that we have at our disposal. My honourable friend said in his budget speech, "The budget is a successful document, we are not relying on the the Government of India, we are conserving our resources." Let me take these very three points, first, that "we are not relying on the Government of India," second, that 'the budget is a successful document' and, third, that 'we are conserving our resources.' You are conserving your resources. May I ask, is it a fact that extraordinary receipts amounted to something like 21 lakhs last year by the sale of land which belonged to the people of this province but was sold to private individuals? Has that money been put apart and conserved for the benefit of future generations to come or has that money, year after year, been utilised by my honourable friend to meet current expenditure? My honourable friend shakes his head. "No? This sum of 21 lakhs has been utilised to meet current expenditure. The actual figures are Rs. 21,24,000, the revised estimate of 1938-39. Rupees 35,18,000 is the budget estimate for this year. Is that called conserving? If it is called conserving then my knowledge of the English language is decidedly defective. But if it is what I suggest, then they are playing ducks and drakes with our finances. Is my honourable friend prepared to revise a position like that and prevent the continuance of a system of this nature? My honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, gives me page

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

74 of the Budget. I do not want to go into the details, but since my honourable friend over there shook his head a little while ago, let me remind him that this is the manner in which the money is going to be realised :—

	Rs.
Sale-proceeds of Nazul lands	6,91,000
Sale of town sites in colonies	11,57,000
Sale of estates under Government management .. .. .	..
Sale of undeveloped agricultural land by auction or private treaty .. .. .	..

I hope my honourable friend Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana will not be a candidate for this private treaty. (*Laughter.*)

	Rs.
(i) In colonies	11,49,000
(ii) Elsewhere .. .. .	..
Sale of proprietary rights to tenants—	
(i) In colonies	5,23,000
(ii) Elsewhere .. .. .	..

These are our assets which are not being utilised for the purpose of assuring a return in future but which are being wasted and utilised for the purpose of current expenditure. Is that correct or not? My honourable friend now is in a soporific mood (*laughter*) although originally he did start by shaking his head. My honourable friend referred in his budget speech to a well-known Latin Poet and gave the benefit of Alexander Pope's translation to this House. May I remind him of another Latin Poet also?

Rufe mihi frustra at nequiquam credit amico (Frustra Immo magno cum pretio atque malo).

The poet says :—

Rufus, whom I, your friend, trusted in vain and to no purpose—in vain? Rather at a great and ruinous price.

This is a friend that we are trusting and trusting in vain, and we are trusting him rather at a great and ruinous price. (*Laughter.*) It was Catullus, who said that many centuries ago and it happens to be very apt to-day in the circumstances of the Punjab. (*Cheers.*)

My honourable friend must remember that this rate of progress is not likely to lead him into safe waters. It is likely to lead this Punjab—I have not the slightest doubt about it, if things continue at this rate and the poverty and the misery of the people continue unabated—it will lead us not into safe waters, but into a revolutionary state of affairs. Therefore I can find nothing in my honourable friend's budget and in the policy of the present Government on which I can either congratulate myself or congratulate this province or congratulate my honourable friend. (*Cheers.*)

Let me see. Has the situation in the Punjab altered definitely from the days when my honourable friend happened to be an Opposition member? The economic situation is, if anything, worse to-day than it was three or four years ago. My honourable friend said in those days :—

Just imagine a province like ours with increasing dependence on agriculture, and the ratio of international exchange deteriorating; one is only bound to feel, if one has the imagination, and it does not require very much imagination either, to feel that we are heading for economic misery if not collapse.

Did my honourable friend say that? Yes. If he does not remember it, let me remind him.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Thank you.

Diwan Chaman Lall : He need not thank me. I would thank him if he were to take this to heart and do something to avoid this economic misery and collapse. He said : 'It is my duty to avoid this misery and collapse.' If my honourable friend said that, may I ask him and those gentlemen who unfortunately got up in a moment of enthusiasm and congratulated my honourable friend—it seems to be a general courteous custom, Mr. Speaker, to do so, particularly on that side—what there is in the budget—keeping this dictum of my honourable friend's in view—on which any one of them can congratulate either himself or my honourable friend? Is not the province nearer collapse to-day than it was a few years ago? Does he believe that it is not or does he really believe in sweet innocence that merely because of the advent of the Unionist Ministry all that economic misery and collapse which threatened this province have disappeared for the next five thousand years? I may remind my honourable friend that when he criticised his predecessor he said : "They are pleased to see that they have introduced new seeds and better seeds." That is exactly what my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram has been saying on this point. His argument is : "You say that the Unionists have done nothing; see what we have done—we have given two scholarships to Harijans, we have appointed one Parliamentary Private Secretary from amongst the Harijans", and so on. In those days Mr. Manohar Lal is reported to have said :

They are pleased to see that they have introduced new seeds and better seeds, and helped in the production of better cotton and more sugar. We are all conscious of it and duly grateful. But, is it not even more important to see that all these things are increasing as fast as the population?

And my honourable friend reckoned that the population of the province was increasing at the time at the rate of 1 per cent per annum, that is to say 10 per cent in a decade which is a very serious matter, but that the production was not increasing *pari passu* with the increase in population. He added :—

If that is not happening and if simultaneously with that our prices are falling and our trade with the world is carried on at increasing disadvantage then I think we are on the brink of economic disaster, howsoever long we might postpone it.

We are on the brink of economic disaster. I ask my friend, is my honourable friend congratulating himself that we have come near the brink of disaster, or is he congratulating himself that he has done something to prevent us from getting to this brink of disaster? And if he has done something, will he kindly tell us, what? I know my honourable friend will immediately say : "Here is the Bhakra Dam project, we are going in for it; here is the Thal project which we have just completed." But that is nothing new—this that my honourable friends have done. They have spent three crores on the Haveli project which was initiated by their predecessors. If they have spent a large sum of money, if they have spent three crores on the Haveli project and eight crores on the Sutlej project, they did so with the object of earning a very good return. My friend knows that the Sutlej project, although it was not expected to pay before 1946-47, has actually paid 7.9 per cent and that was a great windfall which enabled this Government to put aside 50 lakhs for the development fund. It was not

[Diwan Chaman Lall].

said so on the floor of the House. The truth was never told in so many words. It was left to the imagination of the members to realise that all this extra money had come into the possession of this Government because of the doings of the Unionist Ministry.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)

But that is not the development which my honourable friend had in mind when he criticised the activities of the Government of the day. The development at that time was development of a real national kind—spending a large sum of money raised at a small rate of interest for the purpose of civilising this province of ours—which cannot be considered to be a civilised province—dealing with the health, dealing with the standard of life, dealing with the education of the people, and making us a civilised nation.

My honourable friend also said at that time :

When the history of this country, and particularly of this province comes to be written, the saddest condemnation of the Government would be this that it did not shape its policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my honourable friend in all seriousness, will he enlighten this House and through this House enlighten this province, as to what the policy of my honourable friend is in order to bring economic recovery, peace and prosperity to the people of this province? Has he any policy or has he none? If he has none, may I ask my honourable friend to confess that he has failed and that this Government has failed? If he has none then he does not deserve the congratulations of anybody, but on the contrary the severest condemnation of this province.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend knows that one of the most important problems is the problem of the urbanisation of this province, not ruralisation. I remember reading somewhere my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram's remarks when a matter relating to the urban part of the province came up before the old Legislative Council. The very pointed remarks of my friend was that he had to persuade himself to take an interest in this matter because it did not happen to be a rural matter and because it was an urban matter. My honourable friend should know that the curse of this province is the intensive ruralisation of this province and that the salvation of this province lies in the continued urbanisation of this province, the development of the industries of this province. The reduction of the ratio of the urban and the rural population are matters which, because my honourable friend, the Development Minister does not happen to be an economist, are probably wide of the mark so far as he is concerned, but they should not be beyond my honourable friend, the Finance Minister. He should say—in fact he has said so repeatedly. If he so desires, I am prepared to read out to him what his own opinion has been in regard to this matter. He said that he was in favour of continual urbanisation of the province.

In fact the urban population in 1881 in this province was 9·36 per cent. After 40 years the proportion remained the same. Now, it may be 10·57 per cent. May I remind the Minister for Development that every one is agreed that this

is a most dangerous proportion? What is this Government going to do in order to further the urbanisation, if I may use that expression, of this province? The one thing that this Government is going to do is to threaten the urbanites, as the Minister has been doing, with further taxation to the extent of four crores in order that there may be further ruralisation of the province. Economists are agreed on this point while the Honourable Minister may not agree. Evidently he wants to reverse all canons of economic welfare in this province, not to take advantage of all the wisdom that financiers and economists teach us, but to take advantage of the theories that he seems to evolve for himself. 'Our dependence,' said Mr. Manohar Lal, "our dependence on agriculture is increasing in a menacing manner. Forty years ago it was 61 per cent, 50 years ago it was 66 per cent, in 1931 it stood at 72 per cent and it has gone up ever since." If that is the correct state of affairs, how can I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister in regard to his budget when there is no inkling as to what he proposes to do in putting an end to this state of affairs, for civilising the province, for the urbanisation of the province and for putting an end to this disproportionate in the two sets of people of this province? Formerly the Finance Minister used to say that "we cannot rest our economics on one foot alone," that is, the village. To-day the other foot has gone to sleep (*laughter*) or it has been given into the charge of the Minister for Development. The tragedy of it is that my honourable friend as a minister forgets all the canons of good Government that he admired as a member of the Opposition. I do not know the reasons for it, perhaps they are well known to him. If I were in his position, I would consider it below my dignity, holding the views that he does, to be a member of this Muslim League Government. (*Cheers*.) There are some things, Mr. Speaker, dearer than finance, dearer than possession of power either official or otherwise. Those things are the safety and honour of one's own country and one's own province, and the agreement with one's own principles. I appeal to my honourable friend, holding the views that he teaches us, that instead of sitting there and receiving congratulations of people with whom he does not agree, of people who do not hold the views that he does, he should come over and occupy a seat on these benches if he is going to be true to what he stands for. (*Minister for Finance*: I do not agree with your economics.) My honourable friend does not agree with my economics. But these are not my economics. These are the economics propounded by him himself. That is why, I started by quoting speech after speech delivered by my honourable friend on occasions which he seems to have forgotten. (*Minister for Finance*: No.) But we will not allow him to forget. (*Laughter*.) The well-considered passionate pleas that my honourable friend put forward in the olden days, he has now forgotten. He is growing older, and with age he is likely to forget that he once showed a great deal of enthusiasm particularly when the mantle of responsibility was not upon his shoulders. My honourable friend said, 'These are not my economics.' Perhaps his honourable colleague, Sir Chhotu Ram, will also say that these are not his views. I shall come to his views presently. (*Laughter*.) This reminds me of one Maulana Nasir-ud-Din who was commonly known as Maulana Chhotu Mian in the olden days in Persia. He was highly individualistic and wanted to be reckoned a personality quite different to any other. In

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

those days there were no bathing costumes and they used to bathe in their natural condition. When he went to a bath and saw people bathing in their natural condition and he one amongst the many, he rushed up to his servant and asked him to tie a red string round his arm. 'Why do you want this red string?' asked the servant. "Fool, don't you know? How will I recognise myself when I get into the water?" (*Laughter.*) Now the Minister adopts his own policies, his own attitude and one day he may ask for a red string to be tied round him lest he should be mistaken for somebody else, lest he should not recognise himself. I hope he will take a lesson from Maulana Nasir-ud-Din Chhotu Mian when going about the country doing his propaganda. He has not realised with sufficient clearness the fact that "the buying capacity of the zamindar is getting diminished day by day." This incorrect unidiomatic English is not mine. "A very large proportion of the holdings have ceased to be economic. In these circumstances it is very difficult for these small holders to be able to meet their obligations in respect of land revenue and abiana out of the meagre income they get from their land. Unless the Government is prepared to do something to relieve the zamindars of their distress very serious trouble will ensue. We read in the vernacular papers of the zamindars being forced to sell their cattle and even their daughters in order to pay the Government dues and they do not report the matter to the deputy commissioners. If these facts are true, if the tale of woe narrated by these papers is true, then, we are heading towards disaster in this province." May I enquire from Sir Chhotu Ram whether he agrees with the statement that I have made? He seems to be rather doubtful. (*Minister for Development: Not in the least.*) Very well, these are the very words used by my friend. I may refer him to his own speeches delivered in the old Legislative Council on the 2nd of March and 21st of March 1938. These are the very expressions used by him. If this state of affairs is correct, may I ask him as to what his Government has done to put an end to that state of affairs? What has my honourable friend achieved so far? My honourable friend is raising his hand and showing me four fingers. (*Laughter.*) I do not know—I have seen many *madaris* in my life—I do not know what sort of a *madari* this is. (*Loud laughter.*) But I want to know from my honourable friend what he has done. What have they done to put an end to this state of affairs? And remember, Mr. Speaker—(*Interruption*)—I will come to my honourable friend, let him not be impatient. My honourable friend may remember what he said in connection with the reduction of the water rates. Has my honourable friend since he took charge also forgotten what he said when he was sitting on these benches?

Minister for Development : Reduced by 37 lakhs. Since I made the statement to which the honourable member refers.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend says that he has reduced it by 87 lakhs. Thirty-seven lakhs since my honourable friend took charge of his office? Since my honourable friend is exaggerating a little bit let me remind him of the story about Mark Twain, who when shown a newspaper report stating that he had died, said 'this is a little bit exaggerated' (*Laughter*). What he has done is this, Mr. Speaker. He has taken unto

himself in order to preserve—as he says, I do not know how—to preserve his dignity, a colossal sum in the shape of his salary, for the purpose of preventing these poor peasants from selling their daughters, because they have to pay so much in revenues of the Government. For that purpose he has taken from those very poor people, whether he will call it land revenue or water rate, at this exorbitant rate, this money and paid himself a very handsome salary. The pay and the allowance of a Finance Minister in this Government or a Development Minister in this Government is comparable, Mr. Speaker, to the pay of practically 9 Finance Ministers or 9 Development Ministers in the Congress provinces. (*Cheers.*) My honourable friend probably knows that 14 individuals in this province between them share 14 lakhs and amongst the 14 individuals are the six ministers. My honourable friends call this saving the poor, preventing them from selling their cattle and selling their daughters and my honourable friends say “We are the supporters of the zamindars, the poverty-stricken zamindars! We are your supporters. We will ask you to indulge in every sacrifice. But do not please ask us to indulge in any sacrifice. (*Cheers.*) We must have Rs. 3,300 a month regularly.” My honourable friend should remember this. Suppose we were to say to him that “considerable feeling among non-official members exists that Government servants are receiving salaries which are not justified by the financial position of the province or the prevailing economic condition” or that “the economic condition of the country and the province is such that there should be a permanent reduction in the salaries of the Government officials, I think that is a perfectly legitimate view” or that “I have been pressing and I desire to continue to press that view on future occasions also but after having urged an enhancement of our own allowance our moral position will get weakened”, I would ask, would my honourable friend agree with all this?

Minister for Development : Oh, Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Then I hope my honourable friend will start by reducing his own salary to Rs. 500. (*Cheers.*)

Minister for Development : We reduced our salary by 40 per cent.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend has reduced his salary by 40 per cent! My honourable friend's pay before he took office was zero—a lone lost sheep in a little party which he called the Unionist party. What was my honourable friend's salary then, may I ask him? Was he paid by the Unionist party any salary? At that time he was not paid, but the moment he gets the opportunity of sitting on those benches he forgets the very words that he himself uttered on the 13th March, 1934. He said, “I will continue to press this view on future occasions.” I have not to this day—I have been a member of this House, Mr. Speaker, from the day when you took your seat under the new constitution in that chair—I have not heard from my honourable friend one single sentence, one single word of this type regarding these high salaries that are paid all-round. If my honourable friend says that he has continued to urge this very thing on future occasions as he has promised he would, will he kindly tell us on what particular occasion he uttered those words of wisdom namely that

[*Dr. Chaman Lal.*]

these salaries are high and that they should be reduced? No, Mr. Speaker, what is happening in the Punjab Government is this. Every one is thinking firstly of himself. (*An honourable member*: "Everybody"?). I am referring to my honourable friends over there who are in charge of Punjab's finances. They think principally of themselves and secondarily of keeping the party together and it does not matter in the least what happens in regard to the real poverty and misery of the people. It does not matter to them in the least whether these high salaries which they condemned still continue to be taken and they themselves become parties to the taking of these high salaries. I ask my honourable friend, is the Congress Minister the less efficient because he takes Rs. 500 a month? Is my honourable friend's sympathy for the unhappy poor, for the injured poor, for the indigent poor, only extensive to this extent, goes only to this extent, that he is quite willing to preach to him who is poor but that he is not willing to contribute towards the relief of that poverty by reducing his own exaction from those very poor people? This money that my honourable friend draws is public money. It is not private money. They are trustees of the finances of this province and as trustees, with the majority behind them, they have given themselves these high salaries, although they have got before them the example of the provinces which are governed by Congress majorities where the ministers get Rs. 500 a month. In spite of these examples my honourable friends do not consider themselves to be trustees enough of the poverty-stricken people of this province to reduce their own exaction from the poverty-stricken people and limit the exaction to Rs. 500 a month. Why have they not done so? If they are the real servants of the people, surely the first thing that would strike them would be to do everything that they personally can, Mr. Speaker, not by proxy but they personally, to reduce the heavy burden that lies upon the shoulders of the poverty-stricken people of this province. But I am sorry to say that nothing of this sort has been contemplated by them and nothing has been done by them. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, when he was a private member, in those days, used to go beyond this and used to call for economy. He moved once actually a cut of 8 lakhs in the Public Works Department budget. But how many cuts has my honourable friend made since he became Minister, in that particular grant? Nothing. The rake's progress is continuing, Mr. Speaker, and all those ideas and conceptions of my honourable friend—good ones, very good ones indeed and I give my honourable friend credit for being able to see the real essential factor that governs the economic situation of the Punjab, I give him the fullest credit for it—but all those things he seems to forget now, drunk with power as a Minister of this province, drunk with prestige as a Minister of this province, drunk with his own theories of economics and his own quixotic conceptions regarding the fate of this province. My honourable friend has forgotten all that and now enters into a period of serious controversy between class and class, unit and unit between people and people and thinks that he is doing the right thing by this province. My honourable friend should remember that we are in for a very serious state of affairs in the Punjab, the same state which my honourable friend visualised only a few years ago when he said that

the prices of staple produce of this province had fallen considerably and therefore something should be done immediately to reduce the land revenue and water tax as otherwise disaster was looming large before this province. What is the position to-day, Mr. Speaker? My honourable friend Sir William Roberts made a very fine speech, the only realistic speech made on the budget so far, although unfortunately it happened to be a very short speech, when he said that the Punjab peasant by the reduction in the prices of staple produce had lost a sum of 7 crores this year as a result of the drop in the prices of wheat and cotton. If my honourable friends claim to be doing something for the betterment of this province, may I ask them what have they done so far and if not done so far, what have they thought of so far in the matter of securing suitable and decent prices for the staple commodities produced by us? It is immaterial to say "we have given you good and better seeds." That argument was exploded by my honourable friend, the Finance Minister. It may give you a benefit of a few annas in the maund, but when the prices of wheat drop from Rs. 8-12-0 a maund to Rs. 2-2-0 a maund, when the prices of cotton drop from Rs. 11 a maund to Rs. 5-14-0 a maund and Rs. 6 a maund, there is terrible drop in the income of the average peasant of the Punjab. And the problem of all problems, Mr. Speaker, is this. Ninety per cent of the population is really living on agriculture. From year to year the pressure upon the soil goes on increasing. More people go on to the land, and more people live on it which goes on producing less and less. The problem of problems in the Punjab is not legislation that my honourable friend undertakes, the problem is doing something constructive to secure decent prices to the peasant, to see to it that the price of American cotton does not fall below Rs. 12 a maund. (*Hear, hear.*) My honourable friend laughs. I will come to my honourable friend the Premier in one minute.

Premier : Through Birlas I suppose.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Through the Unionist Government if you want to do it. (*Cheers.*)

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Through Lala Sri Ram of Delhi.

Premier : Through the mill owners of Ahmedabad.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I will ask my honourable friend to remember that I am not oblivious of his existence. All my speech is being directed, although in name, to my honourable friends over there, but in reality to my honourable friend the Premier, because it is he who is the *Karta Sharika* of the policy of this Government. It is he who is the propounder of this policy because the entire responsibility regarding the Government falls upon his shoulders.

Premier : I am proud to bear it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I ask him what has he done to assure Rs. 12 a maund for American cotton to the producer of the cotton and what has he done (*Interruption*)—my honourable friend the Finance Minister seems to be getting bored a little by all the facts, well these facts are unfortunately of such a nature that my honourable friend is bound to feel a little uncomfortable because he has not been able to achieve the price of Rs. 12 a maund for cotton for the peasant which should be his first and foremost

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

concern. What about the price of Rs. 5 a maund for wheat? Is it not the duty of my honourable friend to see to it that suitable prices are obtained by the peasant? (*Interruption.*) My honourable friend says "how? Who is to achieve it"? Such is the sad ignorance of our custodians. I think the eyes of my honourable friends are cast merely round the Unionist Party meeting room and do not go beyond to the other parts of the world from which they can derive some light and some guidance in these matters. (*Hear, hear.*) My honourable friend knows that as far as other countries are concerned, these other countries have been able to achieve in a large measure stability of prices, for instance Great Britain which is not a very great agricultural country. But perhaps it would surprise my honourable friend to know that Great Britain saw the ruin and the disaster that was going to meet the peasantry of that country and took prompt steps to prevent it by an Act of the legislature, the Parliament to which we pay our homage every time we discuss our own constitution. By an Act of that Legislature they assured to the peasantry a fixed price of sh. 45 a quarter for wheat. Under the Wheat Act a commission was set up and under this commission every farmer who produces a maund of wheat in Great Britain gets a subsidy amounting sometimes to Rs. 2-12-0 a maund from the British Government. If the prices in the market are sh. 35 a quarter—(*interruption*)—my honourable friend's ignorance is so colossal, I will try to bring myself down to the level of honourable friend's intelligence if he so wishes—if the price of wheat in the market is sh. 35 a quarter, the difference is made up by the Wheat Commission and the Wheat Commission provides a few good millions of pounds a year and they get their money not by taxation of the average man, there is no taxation, no direct tax on the people. They do so by means of a processing Tax. Every bit of wheat that is milled in the factories, every bit that comes in from abroad has to pay a certain amount of duty which is put away for this purpose and out of which assistance is given. The same thing is achieved in France where a sum of 180 francs per quintal is paid by the French Government to the French farmer who produces wheat. Were it not for this guaranteed price both in France and England, there would be ruin of this primary industry which is so essential to the needs of the people. The same thing happens in America where the Federal Government has guaranteed a subsidy in the matter of every pound of cotton that is produced and guaranteed a subsidy for every bushel of wheat that is produced. And as far as wheat is concerned, the American Government quite recently brought in a new Act under which they guarantee 1s. 3d. for every bushel of wheat to the farmer. All these measures are taken by these Governments. My honourable friend says, who is going to do it?

Finance Minister : What is the suggestion?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Ah! what is the suggestion? I am very glad my honourable friend has asked me for a suggestion. I am very glad indeed. At last there is a glimmering of a sense of responsibility.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 2 P.M., on Monday, 20th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 20th March, 1939.

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SALARIES PAID TO IMPERIAL SERVICE OFFICERS.

***4224. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount paid by the Punjab Government to the Government servants of the Imperial service grade as salaries in the last financial year ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Rs. 65,90,766 approximately.

HEALTH OF BHAI SUCHA SINGH, CONSPIRACY CASE PRISONER.

***4231. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the state of health of Bhai Sucha Singh of Vohla Sahib, district Amritsar, sentenced in 1916 in the second Lahore Conspiracy case and kept now in the Hazaribagh Central Jail ;

(b) the date when he is due to be released ; and

(c) whether the Government has considered the question of his release before the expiry of his sentence ; if so, to what result ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Good. His weight on admission was 150 lbs. and his present weight is 164 lbs.

(b) He is undergoing, among other sentences, a sentence of transportation for life.

(c) Certain enquiries in connection with a petition for release are being made from the Bihar Government.

May I also inform the honourable member that he was sentenced in 1916 but in 1918 he escaped and remained absconding for about eighteen years, and that is why it appears that he has been in the jail for a very long time.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has the Government ever considered the question of his release ?

Minister : Why should he be released when he was absconding for 18 years ? He has made a petition and that petition has been sent to the Bihar Government because he is detained in the Hazaribagh Jail.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : What was the recommendation made by the Punjab Government ?

Minister : No question of recommendation arises in the case of a prisoner who has been absconding and remained outside for 18 years.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it a fact that the Punjab Government is opposed to his release ?

Minister : If the matter came before the Punjab Government, I think that the Punjab Government would be opposed to the release of a prisoner of this description. There can be no doubt about this matter.

REMOVAL OF LIQUOR SHOP AT MANDI KALEKI.

***4266. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether he has recently received any petition from the residents of Mandi Kaleki complaining against the establishment of a liquor shop in the Mandi and praying for its removal ; if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : No such petition has been received by Government.

EXEMPTION OF AHERIS OF ROHTAK DISTRICT FROM THE OPERATION OF CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT.

***4293. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 3414¹ is the Honourable Minister of Finance now in a position to state the result of the case which was under consideration in November last and it was hoped that the decision would be reached within two months ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The cases of Aheris resident in 84 villages are under consideration. Proposals to exempt a large number of persons from restrictive sections of the Act have recently been received in respect of 25 villages from the district authorities. Order on these proposals will issue very shortly. It is hoped that the district authorities will be in a position to make recommendations in respect of the remaining 9 villages at a very early date.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

***4327. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the strength of the 2nd class honorary magistrates in the Montgomery district ;
- (b) whether the said honorary magistrates hold courts separately or sit in benches ;
- (c) whether the Government incurs more expenditure when such magistrates hold courts separately or when they sit in benches ; if the latter method is more economical, the reasons for not asking the magistrates to sit in a bench ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) There are at present two honorary magistrates of the second class in the district, both sitting at Montgomery.

(b) Separately.

(c) The cost of a magistrate sitting singly is approximately the same as that of a Bench, but the outturn of two courts is naturally much greater than that of one.

REPRESENTATION FROM SARDAR TEJA SINGH SWATANTAR.

***4332. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has recently received any representation from Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar, M. L. A., State prisoner, confined in Campbellpur Jail, putting forth certain demands to be fulfilled by 14th February, if so, the nature of those demands;

(b) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Yes. Three requests were made: (i) for release, (ii) for an increase in the State prisoner's allowances, and (iii) for transfer to a jail in Lahore.

(b) Similar requests have been made and considered on a number of occasions, but Government have not found themselves able to accede to them.

Sardar Hari Singh: May I enquire whether the allowance which was formerly given to the prisoner in question has now been stopped?

Parliamentary Secretary: I am not aware of that.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh: Sardar Teja Singh gave an application for increase in his allowance. May I know what Government has ordered on that application?

Parliamentary Secretary: I have already said that the Government considered the matter but they could not see their way to accede to the requests. The allowance had already been increased and, apart from the ordinary allowance, the State prisoner concerned was given special funds for his books and for his admission to the examination for which he wanted to sit and certain other expenses.

Sardar Hari Singh: What objection has the Government to transfer him to Lahore Central Jail or some other jail nearer his home?

Parliamentary Secretary: The desire of prisoners to be brought nearer home is not sufficient excuse to change them from one jail to the other.

Sardar Hari Singh: Has the Government received any request from the relatives of the State prisoner that he should be nearer home so that it may be easier for them to interview him?

Parliamentary Secretary: There may have been such requests but, as I have stated, it is not sufficient reason to transfer prisoners from one jail to another.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Does the honourable member know that Sardar Teja Singh Swastantar did write that his health was not good in that jail and, therefore, he should be transferred ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I understand that the jail where the State prisoner is at the moment is one of the healthiest localities of the province and the arrangements there are quite satisfactory.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : That jail may not be healthy for one while it may be healthy for another.

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed. That is a question of opinion.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Does the honourable member know that Sardar Teja Singh's dependants have stopped taking the allowance and Sardar Teja Singh also has stopped taking the allowance ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware of that. I want notice for that question.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

***4341. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of meetings of the Public Accounts Committee, elected by the Punjab Assembly on the eve of its last Budget session during the last year with the dates on which these meetings were held and the business transacted on these dates separately ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : No meeting has been held so far.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister for Finance as to what is the fun in constituting such committees if no meetings are to be held ?

Minister : There is no question of fun, but if the honourable member wants information, I can tell him that the accounts of 1937-38 are the first accounts that will fall within the jurisdiction of the Public Accounts Committee and as soon as the Committee is now elected by this House, those accounts that have already been circulated to all the members of this House will also be duly placed before the Committee and considered by it. Any previous accounts were not within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What was the use of electing that committee here ?

Mr. Speaker : This question need not be answered.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Is it not a statutory committee ? It is under the statute.

Minister : Yes.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Meetings should have been held then because it is a statutory committee.

Minister : Why, to do what?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : To see that there was no irregularity during that period.

Minister : If that will satisfy the honourable member, I would say that the Committee was elected, that Committee sat, but it had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that no accounts could be considered by it.

TERRORIST PRISONERS IN THE PUNJAB.

***4349. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of terrorist Punjabi prisoners now confined in the jails in the Punjab or elsewhere ;
- (b) their names together with their native places ;
- (c) the total term of their imprisonment with the total period of imprisonment already undergone by each one of them ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I am not quite certain what the honourable member intends to convey by the expression terrorist prisoner, but it is correct that the Punjab Government have classified certain persons convicted of violent crime as terrorists. This classification is based on purely administrative reasons connected with the desirability of confining such prisoners in particular jails and does not imply any differentiation in treatment. The number of Punjabi prisoners convicted by our courts who have been so classified is 11. I regret that I am not prepared to give individual particulars of these persons. The list does not contain all persons who have been convicted of crimes of a terrorist nature and for this reason it cannot be considered exhaustive. There are in addition to the above 11 persons, 4 prisoners convicted by Punjab courts, who have been classified as terrorists but who are not Punjabis. All but one of these four prisoners are confined in jails outside the Punjab. There is also one Punjabi terrorist in our jails who was convicted in another province.

DISTRICTS WHERE ACHHUTS ARE ALLOWED TO USE PUBLIC WELLS.

***3733. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the names of those districts in the province where the Achhuts are allowed to draw drinking water from the public wells and the names of those places where sign boards have been put up at the wells declaring them to be public wells ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 3579¹ on the 28th November, 1933.

Sardar Mula Singh : Will the Honourable Minister please enlighten us as to whether a public well means a well which is used by several communities ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a question of interpretation.

Lala Faqir Chand : Government claim to have put up notice boards on public wells. May I know in which districts it has been done ?

Minister : Government have no reason to believe that instructions have not been carried out ; if the honourable member would cite any instance the matter will be looked into.

Lala Harnam Das : Is the Government prepared to pass it into law ?

Mr. Speaker : What does the honourable member mean ? If it is a public well it can be used.

Lala Harnam Das : Then what is the use of issuing instructions ?

Sardar Mula Singh : Would you call that well a public well which is used by more than one community ?

Minister : That does not arise out of this question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Minister give a definition of a public well ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : We are not here to give definitions.

Minister : That does not arise from the present question. I require notice for that question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Does the Minister know the definition of a public well ?

Mr. Speaker : Does not arise from the answer, disallowed.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Minister aware that in Rohtak particularly the members of the depressed classes are not allowed to use public wells ?

Minister : This is giving information.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I want to know whether it is a fact.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is the Honourable Minister aware of this fact ?

Minister : I have not heard any complaints. If the honourable member will give any specific information we will find out whether there is anything in it.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Has the Honourable Minister received any complaints from any part of the province that the public wells are closed to the members of the depressed classes ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Has the Honourable Minister ever cared to enquire whether there was any complaint on this point ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

INTERFERENCE BY THE ZAMINDARS WITH THE RIGHT OF ACHHUTS
TO USE THE VILLAGE WELL OF MANANA. DISTRICT KARNAL.

***3734. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Achhuts of village Manana, district Karnal, are not allowed to draw drinking water from the village well by the zamindars ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : The Chamars of village Manana have a separate well of their own and consequently no action appears necessary.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Is it a fact that the well dug by Harijans at their own cost was filled with stone and usurped by the zamindars including one Nanak a relative of the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, the Minister for Development ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The offender whether he be a Minister's relative or the Minister himself can be sued in a court of law even if he offends the humblest member of scheduled castes.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Will the Government throw open the public wells to Harijans ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government stands committed to its policy with regard to the public wells and means to carry it out.

Lala Harnam Das : On a point of order. That is not a public well.

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Lala Harnam Das : The well was dug by Harijans at their own cost and possessed by the zamindars. It is not a public well.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please explain himself ?

Lala Harnam Das : The zamindars have forcibly dispossessed the Harijans of their own well.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether there is any public well in the village mentioned in the question under reference ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require fresh notice for that question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that this question makes it perfectly clear that the use of the public well in that village is not allowed to the *achhuts*. The answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary is that the Chamars of village Manana have a separate well of their own and consequently no action appears necessary. May I know whether there is any public well in that village the use of which is denied to the *achhuts* ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the honourable member puts a question I can assure him that if it is a public well its water shall be open to all communities.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know whether the use of public wells in that particular village is denied to the depressed classes ? That is a definite question.

Parliamentary Secretary : I should like to have notice for that question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Does the Parliamentary Secretary know that there is a public well there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I do not know ; if the honourable member would give notice of that specific question it will be looked into.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I want to draw your attention to the question which says : ' will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the *achhuts* of village Manana, district Karnal, are not allowed to draw drinking water from the village well by the zamindars ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ? (Premier : Village well). I want to know whether Government draws a distinction between a village well and a public well. A village well is owned by the whole village.

Parliamentary Secretary : I am afraid I am not prepared here to enter into the intricate legal subtleties of a village and public well. I have already said that if the honourable member puts a question we will ascertain the facts.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : What is the policy of the Government in regard to the use of public wells ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The policy of the Government with regard to public wells is that water from such wells shall be open to all communities.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Was any instance brought to the notice of the Government where the use of public wells is denied to the depressed classes ? If so, what steps has the Government taken to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No such instance has been cited.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it a fact that some of the Honourable Ministers know it full well that in their own constituencies the use of public wells is denied to the depressed classes ? Can the Honourable Minister for Development deny that fact ?

PROFESSIONAL TAX IMPOSED ON GOLDSMITHS BY MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, SADHAURA.

*3980, **Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state--

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee of Sadhaura, district Ambala, had recently imposed, under sections 51 and 62 of the Punjab Municipal Act, professional tax on a small number of persons called sarafs or goldsmiths at the rate of Rs. 50 per head ;

- (b) whether this was done without referring the matter to and obtaining the previous sanction of the Local Government as required by section 61, in view of the fact that the cash balances of the Municipal Committee had fallen below one-tenth of the income of the last financial year during three months preceding the date of the imposition of the tax as admitted by the committee itself in its resolution of the 29th July, 1938 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that an application has been made to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, requesting him to suspend the said resolution under section 232 of the Municipal Act ; if so, whether the Deputy Commissioner has since suspended the resolution, and, if not, why not ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) The Municipal Committee of Sadhaura resolved to impose a professional tax on persons carrying on the trade of sarafs within the municipal limits at Rs. 60 per annum per head.

(b) The proposal has not so far reached Government.

(c) The resolution of the committee has been suspended by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether the Municipal Committee of Sadhaura possesses the power to impose such tax or is it really the Government which possesses such powers ?

Minister : How does it arise out of the answer given ? The Committee passed a resolution and took certain action but that resolution has been suspended by the Deputy Commissioner. The proposal has not so far reached the Government.

Lala Duni Chand : May I invite the kind attention of the Honourable Minister to part (b) of the question ? It says :—

Whether this was done without referring the matter to and obtaining the previous sanction of the Local Government as required by section 61 in view of the fact that the cash balances of the Municipal Committee had fallen below one-tenth of the income of the last financial year during three months preceding the date of the imposition of the tax as admitted by the committee itself in its resolution of the 29th July, 1938.

How does the Honourable Minister say that this question does not arise ? This is the very question that has been raised in part (b) of the question.

Minister : I do not know what the honourable member is aiming at. I have said positively that the proposal has not reached the Government and even the resolution of the Committee has since been suspended by the Deputy Commissioner, and this is the end of the whole matter.

Lala Duni Chand : But I want to know, in view of the fact that the cash balances of the Municipal Committee had fallen below one-tenth of the income of the last year, the Municipal Committee had any power to impose such tax and whether the matter was referred to the Honourable Minister and whether under these circumstances he is prepared to take action against the said Municipal Committee ?

Minister : The honourable member has nowhere said anything about cash balances in the original question nor does it arise out of this question. If a fresh notice is given he would get the reply.

Lala Duni Chand : I would request the Honourable Minister to have a look at the original question part (b) where it is mentioned :

.....in view of the fact that the cash balances of the Municipal Committee had fallen below one-tenth of the income of the last financial year.....

Minister : I have said that the proposal had not reached the Government.

Lala Duni Chand : I want to know whether this is true, that the Committee had no power to impose the tax, but that it imposed the tax ?

Minister : The honourable member wants to find out something about a hypothetical case which has not arisen. How can I anticipate the decision of the Government ?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Does the Government hold that the action of the Municipal Committee was *ultra vires* in passing that resolution ?

Minister : It never reached the Government and this is what I have been trying to explain. The Deputy Commissioner under the law suspended the resolution then and there.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Does the Honourable Minister mean that even to-day the resolution is not to his knowledge and that even after an enquiry made through this question, he is not in a position to say that such a resolution was passed by the Committee ?

Minister : Apparently there was something wrong and I cannot specify the defect in the resolution which was suspended by the Deputy Commissioner.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the Municipal Committee, apart from the question of cash balances, was within its power to impose a professional tax only on a small number of people ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a question of law.

Lala Duni Chand : That is not a question of law. The question is whether the Government accept that position or not. I want to know whether the Government can give information on the point whether the Municipal Committee has got the power to impose such a tax.

Minister : The case will be considered, if and when it arises, according to law and the rules in force.

NOTIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS IN BYE-LAWS OF DISTRICT BOARD, LYALLPUR.

*4014. **Sardar Kishan Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that over a year ago the District Board, Lyallpur, made some amendments in its bye-laws of procedure and sent them to the Government for notification, through the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, who is the Chairman of the District Board ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the said Deputy Commissioner has kept them pending in his office ; if so, the reasons for the same and the action Government propose to take in the matter ; if no action is intended, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) The draft bye-laws, which did not follow the prescribed model, were considered by the Deputy Commissioner to be unsuitable in certain respects. The Deputy Commissioner accordingly referred them back to the Chairman of the board who placed them again before a meeting. I understand that at this meeting the board agreed to consider the question of certain amendments to the draft bye-laws as previously approved, and that is how the matter stands at present.

EMPLOYEES OF LAHORE MUNICIPALITY DRAWING RS. 100 OR ABOVE AS SALARIES.

***4056. Lala Sita Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of persons drawing Rs. 100 or above with their designations in the service of the Lahore Municipality before its supersession ;
- (b) the names of the persons drawing Rs. 100 or above with their designations in the service of the Lahore Municipality on 1st December, 1938 ;
- (c) the names and designations of the persons drawing Rs. 100 or more whose services after the supersession of Lahore Municipality have been terminated with the reasons for terminating their services ;
- (d) the name or names of the persons who have been appointed in his or their places ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : A statement¹ giving the required information is laid on the table.

VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF LAHORE MUNICIPALITY AND OFFICERS INCHARGE OF THESE DEPARTMENTS.

***4057. Lala Sita Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

- (a) the various departments, in which the administration of the Municipality is divided ;
- (b) the names of the heads of such departments ;
- (c) the names of officers next in rank to the heads of such departments ;
- (d) the pay and allowances, if any, each one of them gets from the Municipality ?

¹Kept in the Assembly Library.

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : A statement giving the information is placed on the table :—

Statement showing the various Departments of the Municipality of Lahore.

1. *Secretary's Department :—*

(i) Secretary .. ..	..	..	Sheikh Muhammad Ariff, B.A., LL.B., P.C.S.
Pay .. ..	..	..	Rs. 1,000 per mensem.
Conveyance allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 50 per mensem.
(ii) Assistant Secretary .. ..	..	..	Mr. J. A. Gillon.
Pay .. ..	..	..	Rs. 437-8-0 per mensem.
Conveyance allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 37-8-0 per mensem.
H. R. allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 60 per mensem to compensate him for the loss of his Government quarters.

2. *Medical Officer of Health's Department :—*

(i) Medical Officer of Health .. ..	..	..	Captain B. B. Kapila, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Calcutta).
Leave pay (half average pay) .. ..	..	..	Rs. 500 on leave preparatory to retirement.
(ii) Medical Officer of Health .. ..	..	..	Dr. Balmokand, M.B. B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H.
Pay .. ..	..	..	Rs. 725
Conveyance allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 100
			Half the salary of the M. O. H. is defrayed by the Provincial Government.

3. *Municipal Engineering Department :—*

(i) *Water Works and Drainage—*

Consulting Municipal Engineer .. ..	..	..	Mr. D. A. Howell, M. Inst., C.E., M.I. Mech. E.
Pay .. ..	..	..	Rs. 400.
Conveyance allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 50.
Municipal Engineer (Water Works and Drainage) .. ..	..	..	Mr. J. M. J. Drane, M. Eng., B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E.
Pay .. ..	..	..	Rs. 800.
Conveyance allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 37-8-0.

(ii) *Building and Roads—*

Consulting Municipal Engineer .. ..	..	..	Mr. H. A. Harris, A.C.G.I., M.R.S.I.
Pay .. ..	..	..	Rs. 300.
Conveyance allowance .. ..	..	..	Rs. 25.

4. *Medical Relief :—*

Civil Surgeon	Lieut.-Colonel W. Ross Stewart, C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).
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Not paid from the Municipal Fund.

Officer next in rank	None.
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IMPOSITION OF TAXES BY LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

***4058. Lala Sita Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the various taxes which have already been imposed and are at present collected by the Lahore Municipality and also the taxes the imposition of which has either been lately sanctioned or is under consideration of the Government on being proposed by the Administrator?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : The taxes at present imposed and collected by the Lahore Municipality are :—

- (a) Octroi (without refunds).
- (b) Tax on vehicles (wheel tax).

Further taxes under the consideration of Government are :—

- (a) Tax on horses used for riding.
- (b) Tax on bicycles, trieycles and dogs.
- (c) Tax on non-vaccinated servants.
- (d) Modification and revision of the tax on vehicles.
- (e) Tax on milch cows and buffaloes.

2. In addition a house tax has been recently imposed but it will be collected from the 1st July next.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : The Honourable Minister said that taxes under consideration were so many and in this he included the tax on dogs. May I know whether the tax on dogs is not realised at present ?

Minister : I have said that certain taxes were being revised, that is, all the taxes are under revision or under consideration. If the honourable member gives a fresh notice I will let him know what the actual state of affairs is.

TARNAL ROAD IN PAKPATTAN TAHSIL.

***4062. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Government is aware of the bad condition of the “ Tarnal Road ”, in Pakpattan tahsil ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is no pakka bridge to connect the said road ;
- (c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, and to (b) in the negative, the action the Government intends to take for the improvement of the said road ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) The meaning of this query is not clear as it is not stated where a pacca bridge is needed on the road. It has been ascertained, however, that small culverts are needed on watercourses crossing the road at certain places. These culverts are to be provided by the zamindars under section 18 of the Canal Act, 1878. The district board however is taking action to have them constructed.

(c) The district board had decided to take up the work of improving the road, which is not an important one, when funds permit.

IMPOSITION OF TAX ON SHEEP BY DISTRICT BOARD, MONTGOMERY.

***4082. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the district board, Montgomery, have imposed any tax on sheep ; if so, the principles underlying such assessment and the amount of annual income therefrom ;
- (b) whether any other district board in the Punjab have imposed any such tax ; if so, the name or names of such district boards ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) No sheep tax has been imposed. But sheep dealers whose annual income exceeds Rs. 400 are assessed like people following other professions to a profession tax at the rate of Rs. 4 per annum. I have no information as to the annual income derived from this source.

(b) In somewhat similar circumstances profession tax is levied on sheep dealers at the rate of Rs. 2 per annum by the district boards of Attock and Sheikhpura.

IMPOSITION OF TAX ON KAMINS BY DISTRICT BOARD, MONTGOMERY.

***4083. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the district board, Montgomery, have imposed any tax on the Kamins residing in villages in the said district ; if so, who was the assessing officer ;

(b) the matters considered at the time of such assessment and the annual income therefrom to the district board ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) and (b) By Punjab Government notification No. 24767, dated the 1st August, 1929, haisiyat tax was imposed in Montgomery district. This was a tax upon all persons resident in the district board area at rates varying with the annual income of the assessee but no person was liable unless his income exceeded Rs. 400 per annum. The work of assessment was done by committees or persons appointed by the district board. Any Kamin with an income exceeding Rs. 400 would have been liable. I have no information as to the amount realised from Kamins.

As from the 10th October, 1938, the above haisiyat tax was abolished, and a profession tax was substituted. I would refer the honourable member in this connection to Punjab Government notification No. 3614-L. G. 38/23284, dated the 4th July, 1938. Persons following the various professions are now assessed at different rates. The last entry in the schedule is "any other trade, profession or calling not specified elsewhere in this schedule." Kamins would come under this head, and are liable to a tax of Rs. 2 per annum. At the same time no tax is leviable from any person whose annual income is less than Rs. 300 per annum. Assessment is made by committees appointed by the district board, and any person dissatisfied with his assessment has an appeal to the Commissioner. I have no information as to the amount assessed upon Kamins.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that if a Kamin fails to comply with the orders of a zaildar, he is assessed to tax ?

Minister : I think it is an incorrect allegation.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is it a fact that a question was lately asked whether zaildars and lambardars punish with imposition of tax those Kamins who refuse to give *begar* ?

Minister : There are rules and there is an appeal and I do not think any such evil exists on a large scale.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : May I point out that so far as we are concerned, the British Government was much better

Mr. Speaker : Please do not make a speech but put your supplementary question, if any.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : The lambardars earn a good amount by giving impression of the professional tax.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is again making a speech.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Has the Honourable Minister received any complaints, verbal or otherwise, about the corruption amongst lambardars and zaildars with respect to these taxes ?

Minister : No complaint of a general nature has been received, but I would say that there is no community or class which does not have corrupt or dishonest men.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will he take steps to prevent such cases of corruption ?

Minister : But when I am not aware of the general evil, how can I prevent it ?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : In view of the admission of the Honourable Minister that the evil does exist, though not on a large scale, what action, if any, have the Government taken for eradicating the evil which exists to their knowledge ?

Minister : I did not admit that the evil existed on a large scale. I said that there might be black sheep in every community. Beyond that I am not aware of any general complaint. There is an appeal provided for the benefit of persons who are dissatisfied with their assessment.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I take it that the evil to which the Honourable Minister referred does not exist in a degree which will call for special action being taken by the Government ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government ever tried to enquire into the complaints about this question ?

Minister : I have not had any general complaints, but there are rules and there is a procedure laid down. Any one who considers himself aggrieved can seek redress and I do not think there is any further enquiry needed.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Have Government considered the desirability of issuing a circular to the effect that thereafter no class will be described as Kamin ?

Minister : There is no such thing as Kamin. I said Kammi.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I am not a Punjabi to that extent, but the Honourable Minister is probably not aware that in my part of the district in the Ambala division these Kamins are called *Kammi*.

Minister : That might be so.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I would like to know whether Government have considered the desirability of issuing instructions that these people should not be called Kamins ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the Honourable Minister aware that at the time of filing the appeal every applicant is required to deposit the amount assessed for him as profession tax ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed, as it does not arise from the answer.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Did the Kamins make a representation to the Honourable Minister that this tax may not be levied on them ?

Minister : I dare say nobody wants to be taxed, but I have said that there is no hardship involved. The tax is levied on proper basis and is a justifiable tax.

Lala Harnam Das : Were some representations submitted to the Honourable Minister through me last year, and if so, is it a fact that these representations were returned without any consideration ?

Minister : I am not aware of complaints nor do I recollect them at the time, but I do remember the honourable member wanting certain rights and making a request to myself and to a colleague of mine. Beyond that I do not recollect anything.

Munshi Hari Lal : Were those requests acceded to ?

Minister : Those that were justified re nomination to local bodies have been looked into.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that Sardar Gopal Singh brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister several cases of hardship ?

Minister : Then let him ask the question.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact or not that Sardar Gopal Singh brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister several cases of hardship to Kamins ?

Minister : If any cases have been brought to my notice, they must have been looked into.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : But is that a fact or not ?

Minister : I am not able to say what happened a year ago.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Does the Honourable Minister consider this part of the humanity beneath his consideration, that he does not even remember their complaints ?

Mr. Speaker : Not a fair question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it because the complaints made by Sardar Gopal Singh were of a domestic nature that the Honourable Minister is not prepared to answer the question ? (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker : The question is disallowed.

SUB-REGISTRAR, GARH SHANKAR, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

*4090. **Rai Hari Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the post of the sub-registrar, Garh Shankar, district Hoshiarpur, fell vacant ;

- (b) the number of applications received for that post ;
- (c) the qualifications of each candidate ;
- (d) the name of the person appointed ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) 1st July, 1938.

(b) and (c) About twenty names were before Government. I do not think the public interest would be served by my reciting the qualifications of each of the candidates, and the gentlemen concerned might find that course embarrassing.

(d) Khan Sikandar Khan of Mehtpur.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that the present sub-registrar was suspended by the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur ?

Minister : I require notice of the question.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Did this suspended sub-registrar come to pay his respects to the Honourable Minister three times at his residence ?

Minister : No.

Sardar Mula Singh : Is it a fact that before the appointment of the present sub-registrar his application was not included in the list of applications for consideration ?

Minister : I say he was one of the applicants and he was eventually selected.

Sardar Mula Singh : Is it a fact that his application was returned by the Deputy Commissioner ?

Minister : I cannot say off hand.

Sardar Mula Singh : Is it a fact that at the time of the appointment of the sub-registrar the Deputy Commissioner was a Muhammadan ?

Minister : I am not sure who was the Deputy Commissioner at the time. But, whoever he was I would decline to answer the question, because the honourable member is trying to give it a communal turn.

Munshi Hari Lal : Is it a fact that the present incumbent of the post was at any time suspended by the Deputy Commissioner before his appointment as sub-registrar ?

Minister : I require notice of the question.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : In answer to part (c) of the question the Honourable Minister has stated that it is not in the public interest to answer this part of the question. May I know what sort of public interest is involved in answering this question ?

Mr. Speaker : It is for the Honourable Minister to decide that point.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Has it been brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister that the sub-registrar is corrupt ?

Minister : Complaints, I understand, have been made against him. The matter is, however, under enquiry ?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : It is not a question of understanding. The question is, whether the complaints have been brought to his notice or not.

Minister : Some complaints were addressed to the Government as well as to local officers. The matter is under enquiry. Beyond that I am unable to say anything at present.

Lala Dushbandhu Gupta : What is the nature of complaints received by him ?

Minister : That the man is corrupt. There are one or two other complaints of a similar nature.

Munshi Hari Lal : When were these complaints received ? Could it have been six months or a year ago ?

Minister : I am unable to satisfy the curiosity of the honourable member in this respect.

Sardar Mula Singh : Is the Honourable Minister aware that the inhabitants of Garhshankar are not satisfied with the appointment of the present sub-registrar ?

Minister : I am not aware of it.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

HOUSE TAX IN LAHORE.

*4100. **Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Lahore Municipality is in these days measuring the houses in Lahore for the purpose of assessment of house tax ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the basis of assessment of house tax will be the area of a house or its rental value ;
- (c) the benefits the city of Lahore within the walls will derive from the proposed house tax raised from that part of the city ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Rough measurements are being recorded where this can easily be done, in order to give the assessing staff material for comparison between one house and another, so that in cases where a full fair rent is not being paid the annual value may be assessed as accurately as possible.

(b) The basis of assessment of the tax on buildings and lands will be the annual value as defined in section 3 (1) of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

(c) The tax on buildings and lands will be collected for the benefit of the Municipality as a whole, and the amount recovered will form part of the municipal fund from which expenditure will be made upon the objects enumerated in section 52 of the Punjab Municipal Act. The enhancement in the income of the Municipality will make it possible, among other benefits to finance the new Drainage Scheme for Lahore. That scheme includes a proposal to construct underground sewers running immediately outside the Old City on all sides. The Northern and Southern branches of this sewer will meet to the West of the City and carry off all sewage which at present runs into the surface drains. Nightsoil from the City will be dumped direct into those sewers through traps located at suitable

places. This will greatly mitigate the nuisance at present caused by filth deposits all over the City, and the nuisance caused by the existing surface drains at present running through the circular gardens will also disappear.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : May I know whether before levying this tax the Lahore Municipality will be restored ?

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Lala Sita Ram : May I know whether the interior of the city will benefit by the scheme ?

Minister : I think the honourable member was not following me when I made reference to the walled portion of the city.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : May I know whether the question regarding the restoration of the Municipality cannot be raised at this stage ?

Mr. Speaker : Not as a supplementary question.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : May I know what right the Government has to impose the tax without consulting the citizens of Lahore ?

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Mrs. Duni Chand : Before levying the tax will the Government make a thorough enquiry as to the paying capacity of the house-holders ?

Minister : The assessing department will look into that very carefully and see that no hardship is involved.

Mrs. Duni Chand : Is the Government aware that the Administrator is not aware of the real condition of the people of Lahore ? If so, will the Honourable Minister instruct the Administrator that before he proposes to levy the tax he should make full and thorough enquiries ?

Minister : Government has already sanctioned the tax and it is going to be recovered from the 1st of July next.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Is it a fact that the Administrator is fully aware of the condition of the city of Lahore ?

Mrs. Duni Chand : Is the Honourable Minister aware that there are many houses where due to unemployment for days together no meals are cooked ? Will he restore the municipal committee so that it may enquire into the paying capacity of the citizens of Lahore ?

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Lala Sita Ram : Is it not a fact that on a previous occasion the Honourable Minister said that the scheme would not benefit the interior of the city ?

Minister : I have already answered this part of the question. Evidently the honourable member has not followed my answer.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Has any scheme been prepared for the purpose ?

Minister : I am not speaking in a dream. It is part of the scheme.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Will the Honourable Minister kindly explain the scheme ?

Minister : The scheme is a big affair. I shall be only too glad to let the honourable lady member know whatever she wants to know about any part of it.

Mrs. Duni Chand : May I know whether those who depend on the rent of their houses.....

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : How will the filth of the city disappear ?

Minister : The filth will be thrown into the traps and the filth depôts will not be necessary.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will it therefore be necessary for each householder to arrange for the removal of the filth from his house to outside the walls of the city instead of to the depôt which is nearer ?

Minister : No. At present the filth is brought to the filth depôt and there it is stored and it is a nuisance to all the surroundings. This will be stopped in future and the filth will be thrown into the traps and it should be welcomed by all the citizens.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Where will those traps be—outside the walls or inside the walls ?

Minister : There will be a circular sewage round the city.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Then it will necessitate the conveyance of the filth by each householder from inside the city to outside the walls at his own expense ?

Minister : As far as that part is concerned, there will be no change. The only change will be that these filth depôts will disappear and the carting of the filth from the depôts to the traps will be done in properly sealed carriers.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will the municipal committee have to pay for this or will each householder have to contribute to the extra expenditure on this account ?

Minister : I do not think the honourable member expects that the cleanings and the sweepings will be done at the cost of the municipal committee. That will be done by the owners and the rest of the thing will be done by the municipal committee.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Do I therefore understand that people living inside the city, in addition to paying a house tax, will have to incur further expenditure on conveying their filth from their houses to traps outside the walls ?

Minister : No. They are already required to convey it in a proper way. It is already there.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : At present every householder conveys it to a pit or a filth depôt. Will he now be compelled to carry it from inside the city to outside the city walls ?

Minister : That is not part of the scheme. The depôts are already there.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Am I right in understanding that the removal of filth from within the city walls of the city, will remain as it is and no change will be made in the present arrangements ?

Minister : There will be a change because the filth depôts are not in the city and they will disappear.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : So according to the Honourable Minister, the arrangements within the city will be as they are because he said that no extra payment will have to be made by any citizen ?

Minister : Not because of the drainage scheme. The powers under the Municipal Act are there.

ELECTIONS OF DISTRICT BOARD, HOSHIARPUR.

***4101. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the next district board elections of the Hoshiarpur district are coming off during the Hola Mohalla mela of the Sikhs ; if so, the action Government propose to take to enable the Sikh voters to participate in the elections ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : No. The Hola Mohalla fell on the 6th March, and no polling took place from the 1st to the 6th March.

AUCTION OF TREES ON GRAND TRUNK ROAD, AMRITSAR TO LAHORE.

***4102. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the details of the auction of trees which took place on the 24th and 25th November, 1937, on the Grand Trunk Road, Amritsar to Lahore ;
- (b) the price obtained by auction referred in part (a) above and whether the accounts were verified, and if so, by whom ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) After approval by the Executive Engineer, 2nd Lahore Provincial Division, 886 number of trees in various miles from mile 251 to mile 295 on Grand Trunk Road in Amritsar district were auctioned by the Government Auctioneers, Messrs. Uma and Co., on the 24th and 25th November, 1937, in the presence of the Overseer-in-charge of the road ;

(b) The total price obtained at the auction was Rs. 1,478 which included Rs. 48-10-0 auctioneer's commission. The sale account was sanctioned by the Executive Engineer on 18th December, 1937, after obtaining the approval of the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, and a credit of Rs. 1,429-6-0, being the net balance of the sale proceeds, was made to Government on 21st January, 1938, which was duly verified by the Executive Engineer, 2nd Lahore Provincial Division.

APPOINTMENT OF PANCHAYAT OFFICERS.

*4109. **Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the interview of the candidates for appointment as panchayat officers took place on the 5th September, 1938 ;

(b) whether the decision making these appointments was taken in December, 1938, and that the final orders have not been issued so far ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under consideration. Final decisions cannot be taken until certain matters which are still outstanding have been settled.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Government follow the various proportions, communal and tribal, enunciated by the Premier in making these appointments ?

Minister : All these matters will be taken into consideration. Nothing has been decided. I cannot anticipate the decision of the Government.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Does the Government consider it as an honorary office ? Does it consider the appointment of panchayat officer as something outside the general rule, i.e., the proportions fixed by the Government ?

Minister : When the appointments are made and all these matters settled, then the honourable member will know the decision of the Government.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Have any instructions been issued that preference is to be given to an applicant who manages to obtain the signatures of the largest number of Unionist M.L.As. in support of his application ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed, as it contains an insinuation.

Minister : I repudiate that insinuation.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Has the Government ever taken into consideration the promises made to us when we used to sit on the ministerial benches ?

Sardar Mula Singh : Is it a fact that the names of persons who were not called for an interview are now being added to the list of candidates ?

Minister : I think the honourable member is confusing the interview with appointment. Interviews are made to select persons and no appointments have taken place.

Lala Harnam Das : Have any applications been received after the interview and if so, are they being entertained ?

Minister : In addition to those who were called to interview it is open to the Government to consider other candidates. There is no finality about it.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Muhammad Lal Pari : Is the Government prepared to receive applications now ?

Minister : Applications come whether we call for them or not.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Are the appointments of panchayat officers to take place after the budget session is over ?

Minister : When Government think it advisable they will make the appointments.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

POLLING STATION AT JAHAN KHELAN.

Sardar Hari Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has recently received a representation on the subject of the fixing of a polling station at Jahan Khelan in connexion with elections to district board, Hoshiarpur ;

(b) if answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, exact contents of the representation and the action taken or intended to be taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) This representation was forwarded for disposal to the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, who is the proper authority to deal with such questions.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether the Honourable Minister has received any reply from the Deputy Commissioner as to the action taken on that representation ?

Minister : I have not received any reply so far, but the representation must have been dealt with under the rules and on its merits.

Sardar Hari Singh : What were the contents of the representation ?

Minister : The honourable member knows it better.

Sardar Hari Singh : My question is what are the contents of the representation ?

Minister : No useful purpose would be served by giving the contents of the representation which has been passed on to the authorities of the district.

Diwan Chaman Lal : May I ask my honourable friend whether he has noted anything in forwarding that particular communication to the Deputy Commissioner, after having read the communication ?

Minister : I have already stated my reply which is clear and I think the honourable member knows about it because he himself saw me in that connexion and he would not like me to read that again.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order. May I know if it is open to the Honourable Minister to refuse to give information to the House on the ground amongst others that a certain member has seen him? Will that information constitute sufficient information to the House? He may refuse to divulge a matter. That is a different thing, but can he do so on the ground mentioned by him?

Mr. Speaker : According to rules the only ground on which answer may be refused is the public interest.

Minister : I have said that no useful purpose would be served, because the honourable members know the contents of the representation. They brought that representation to me and it was only for the change of a polling station. There was nothing special in it and I merely passed it on.

Sardar Hari Singh : Without reading it?

Minister : If I had not read it, how could I have told him that it was about the change of polling station?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that the particular polling station has been fixed in a village which is the entire property of one of the candidates?

Minister : All these facts will be looked into.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN BEIT ILAQA OF JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

713. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Beit *ilaqa* in the Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils of the Jullundur district is malarial tract and as a consequence thereof the health of the residents of that *ilaqa* suffer very much;

(b) whether it is a fact that facilities for medical treatment have not been sufficiently provided by the Government or by the district board for the backward *ilaqa*; if so, the measures that the Government propose to adopt in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) From the data available it appears that the Beit *ilaqa* of Jullundur does not suffer more from malaria than other similarly situated areas elsewhere. I am informed that since 1934 there has in fact been very little malaria in this *ilaqa*.

(b) There are generally in this *ilaqa* the same facilities for the treatment of malaria as exist in other districts, and quinine is distributed each year in the fever season to persons requiring it.

RURAL DISPENSARIES AT SHAHKOT AND SHANKER.

714. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of annual expenditure incurred by the district board, Jullundur, on the Shahkot and Shanker rural dispensaries, respectively;

- (b) the total number of patients who visited these dispensaries during the year 1938 ;
- (c) the number of visits that the Civil Surgeon, Jullundur, and the District Medical Officer of Health, Jullundur, paid to the said dispensaries during the year 1938 ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the information required in respect of Shahkot and Shanker Dispensaries.

Name of Dispensaries.	Annual expenditure incurred by the District Board in 1938.	TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS VISITED IN 1938.		Total.	Number of visits done by Civil Surgeon.	Number of visits done by the District Medical Officer of Health.	REMARKS.
		Outdoor.	Indoor.				
	Rs.						
Shahkot ..	3,923	30,109	615	30,725	2	Nil	
Shanker ..	3,531*	12,681	90	12,771	2	Nil	

*NOTE.—Rs. 2,500 have been contributed by the Government.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

715. Malik Barkat Ali : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the proportion of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in the population of Jullundur district ;
- (b) the number of seats, community-wise, secured in the last election to the district board, Jullundur, by members of the three said communities ;
- (c) the number of seats, community-wise, filled by Government by nomination in the said district board ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the number of seats secured by the Muslims by election as well as nomination is less than their share according to their population in the district ; if so, the reasons which are responsible for this disparity and the action that he intends to take to remove that disparity ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :

(a) Muslims	840,659
Sikhs	242,162
Hindus and others	215,641
Total	798,462

[Minister for Public Works.]

These figures relate to the district board area only—

	Seats.
(b) Muslims	12
Sikhs	18
Hindus and others	4
(c) Muslims	2
Sikhs	1
Hindus and others	2

(d) According to the usual formula Muslims were entitled to 14 elected and 2 appointed seats on this board. They secured 12 seats by election and 2 by appointment. The reason for their securing 2 seats less by election is not known. No action is intended to be taken in the matter for the present.

DEPUTY DIRECTORS AND EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE.

716. Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazal Ali Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Deputy Directors of Agriculture and Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture in the province, with the names of the districts under their respective jurisdiction;
- (b) whether the number of districts allotted to each varies, if so, the reasons for this variation.

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) Yes. So far as areas of Deputy Directors of Agriculture are concerned, an attempt has been made as far as is possible to form the circles according to agricultural and climatic conditions. Thus the Rawalpindi and Hansi Circles are largely barani in nature, Jullundur Circle represents well irrigation, Gurdaspur has sub-montane areas, and the others are principally canal irrigated. In following out this division it is not possible to have an equal number of districts under each officer and division has to be made according to conditions prevailing.

As regards Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture, the aim has been to give each such officer two districts and eventually it is hoped to do so. At present there are 14 Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture for the 29 districts, but at the moment two Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture have been allotted one district only, in one case (Kangra) because the district is very backward and improvements need to be pushed forward, and in the other (Multan) because the district is unusually large in area and important agriculturally, whilst in addition a large area has been colonised more recently than other canal areas and thus requires special attention.

Statement.

Serial No.	Deputy Director of Agriculture.	Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture.	Districts included in their respective jurisdictions.
1	Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur and Amritsar.
		Gujranwala	Gujranwala and Sialkot.
		Hansi	Hissar and Rohtak.
2	Hansi	Ambala	Ambala and Karnal.
		Gurgaon	Gurgaon and Delhi Province.
3	Lyallpur	Lyallpur	Lyallpur, Sheikhupura and Jhang.
4	Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery and Lahore.
5	Multan	Multan	Multan.
		Muzaffargarh	Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan.
6	Rawalpindi	Rawalpindi	Rawalpindi, Attock and Jhelum.
		Sargodha	Shahpur, Gujrat and Mianwali.
7	Jullundur	Jullundur	Jullundur and Hoshiarpur.
		Ferozepore	Ferozepore and Ludhiana.
		Palampur	Kangra.
		In direct charge of the Deputy Director of Agriculture.	Simla.
Total	7	14	

LOAN OF THE SERVICES OF MUQADDAMS.

717. Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazal Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether requests have been made from time to time by zamindars and other owners of private farms to the Agricultural Department for loan of the services of muqaddams and, if the answer is in the affirmative, whether these requests have generally been granted, and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: Only two large land-lords have asked for the loan of the services of muqaddams of the Punjab Agricultural Department up to the present. Hitherto it has not been the policy of Government to lend the services of its permanent officials to private

[Minister for Development.]

persons, but in the case of one person Government permitted the transfer of a muqaddam on foreign service under this gentleman for one year. The special ground in this case was the fact that it was hoped to make his estate serve as a propaganda centre for the Department in the tract in which it is located.

In reply to a request from the second gentleman, he was informed that there is no scarcity of suitably qualified Vernacular Class pass men with subsequent experience as beldars under the Department, and he expressed his willingness to appoint one such man.

DEPUTY DIRECTORS AND EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE IN THE PUNJAB.

718. Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazal Ali Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of days spent on tour by each Deputy Director of Agriculture and Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture in the Punjab during the last five years ;
- (b) the number of letters received and despatched by the office of each Deputy Director of Agriculture and Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture during the course of the last year ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the office work entrusted to these officers is heavy and that it leaves them very little time to attend to the field work, if so, whether Government intends to relieve them of the responsibility of attending to the office work ;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the amount of travelling allowance is fixed for each Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, if so, the reasons for fixing the amount of travelling allowance and whether in fixing this amount it was taken into consideration that these officers have to remain on tour for a number of days every month ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) and (b) Statements giving the required information are laid on the table.

(c) It is a fact that the office work entrusted to Deputy Directors of Agriculture and Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture is heavy, but it is not correct to say that these officers have very little time to attend to field work.

(d) The travelling allowance of all district work beldars, muqaddams, Agricultural Assistants, Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture and their clerks and peons and Deputy Directors of Agriculture (other than I. A. S. officers) and clerks and peons of all Deputy Directors of Agriculture is debited to one budget head. There is a very large number of such officials when lumped together and in order to estimate budget requirements in the first instance, and later to distribute the funds amongst subordinate offices, it is necessary to work on the basis of certain approximate average monthly allotment for each class of official concerned. The figure for each class is based roughly on their average expenditure.

monthly in past years. While there are no rigid limits of travelling allowance prescribed for Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture or any other class of district work officials, all are required to work as closely as possible to the rough averages on which the total allotment is based and adjustments are made towards the close of the financial year in order to meet any special demands which arise.

Statement showing the number of days spent by each Deputy Director of Agriculture on tour during each of the last 5 years.

	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Lyallpur.	105	85	95	130	100
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Multan.	Circle not in existence.		171 (from 1st May 1935 to 31st March 1936).	179	170
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Montgomery.			146	142	192
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Gurdaspur.	113	124	131	157	140
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi.	175	166	172	149	187
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Rawalpindi.	114	105	127	134	166
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Jullundur.	Information not available.	199	171	176	173

Statement showing the number of letters received in and despatched from the office of each Deputy Director of Agriculture, during the year 1938.

	Number of letters received in 1938.	Number of letters despatched in 1938.
1. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Lyallpur ..	18,564	21,940
2. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Multan ..	15,433	17,949
3. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Montgomery	18,078	20,791
4. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Gurdaspur..	22,444	24,695
5. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi ..	20,962	26,041
6. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Rawalpindi	21,872	26,027
7. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Jullundur..	23,440	28,317

[Minister for Development.]

Statement showing the number of letters received in and despatched from the office of Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture who have separate offices.

Serial No.	Circle.	Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture.	Letters received in 1938.	Letters despatched in 1938.
1	Gurdaspur ..	Gurdaspur ..	Has a combined office with Deputy Director of Agriculture, Gurdaspur.	
			13,499	12,970
2	Hansi ..	Gujranwala ..	Has a combined office with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi.	
		Hansi ..	5,695	5,294
		Ambala ..	(for 5 months only).	(for 5 months only).
			7,329	8,161
3	Lyallpur ..	Gurgaon ..	Has a combined office with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Lyallpur.	
		Lyallpur ..	Has a combined office with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Montgomery.	
4	Montgomery ..	Montgomery ..	Has a combined office with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Multan.	
5	Multan ..	Multan ..	11,590	10,285
6	Rawalpindi ..	Muzaffargarh ..	Has a combined office with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Rawalpindi.	
		Rawalpindi ..	11,274	13,536
7	Jullundur ..	Sargodha ..	Has a combined office with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Jullundur.	
		Jullundur ..	7,966	10,340
		Palampur ..	4,248	7,776
		Ferozepore ..		

A statement showing the number of days spent by the Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture on tour in the Punjab during the last five years.

Serial	Circle.	Headquarters of Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
1	Lyallpur ..	Lyallpur ..	106	90	134	137	211
2	Multan ..	Multan ..	171	175	130	136	179
		Muzaffargarh ..	127	145	128	149	105
3	Montgomery ..	Montgomery ..	145	141	121	138	180
4	Gurdaspur ..	Gurdaspur ..	109	103	82*	99	123
		Gujranwala ..	123	113	135	127	119
5	Hansi ..	Hansi ..	115	121	107	169	159
		Ambala ..	†	..	..	..	..
		Gurgaon ..	146	140	117	116	173
		Karnal ..	132	165	34†	..	..
6	Rawalpindi ..	Rawalpindi ..	154	128	148	148	163
		Sargodha ..	170	156	168	157	168
7	Jullundur ..	Jullundur ..	Not available.	121	155	142	155
		Palampur ..	Do.	135	164	209	173
		Ferozepore ..	§	§	141	149	152

* Remained on leave.

† The Ambala sub-circle was opened in July, 1938.

‡ Circle abolished on 1st July, 1935.

§ Office opened from June, 1935.

REDUCTION OF ALLOWANCES OF THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES.

719. Sardar Sohan Singh Jasb : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pays and allowances of the Lahore Municipal employees some of whom have 15 years' service at their back have been reduced since January, 1933 ;
- (b) whether the pays of the higher officials, those earning more than Rs. 200 per mensem, have not been reduced at all ;
- (c) whether the percentage rate of reduction of the pays of all employees has been the same ;
- (d) The reason for this reduction ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) I understand that this suggestion is not correct ; in particular certain highly paid posts have been altogether abolished.

(c) No. Each case has been dealt with on its own merits, regard being had to the responsibilities attaching to the post and the qualifications needed in the incumbent.

(d) Salaries paid before the supersession of the Lahore Municipal Committee were in many cases excessive, and a great number of unnecessary staff was employed. The effect generally of the reductions has been to give the rate-payers better value for their money.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for General Administration.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, I rise to a point of order. I gave notice of a few amendments which were not in time day before yesterday. They are in time to-day and they have appeared in the agenda that has been circulated to us to-day. Unfortunately they fall before the cut that is under discussion moved by Diwan Chaman Lal, that is No. 88, and my amendments are Nos. 48, 45, 47 and 49 about the reduction of land revenue, etc. Will you kindly allow me to discuss them ?

Mr. Speaker : After a subsequent item has been taken up, a prior item cannot be taken up. In this case the discussion of an amendment moved on the total demand is proceeding. Therefore, the House cannot now return to items.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : These were not then on the agenda.

Mr. Speaker : This is another reason why they cannot be taken up to-day.

General Policy of Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab, Non-Union, Labour): Sir, when we adjourned on the last occasion, I was discussing the question of the fixation of the prices of staple produce like wheat and cotton in the Punjab and at that time my honourable friend who again is not in his seat to-day, the Honourable Finance Minister, asked me as to what I would suggest in that matter. I should have thought that that particular matter was one within his own competence, that it was he who should bring forward whatever proposals there might be, if he were satisfied that there is a need for the fixation of prices of cotton and wheat. But my honourable friend perhaps may seek some guidance by reference in this matter to what is being done in other countries of the world. I did make a passing reference to some of the countries, the first one was the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, as I said on the last occasion, under the Wheat Act a commission has been set up and this commission fixes 45 shillings a quarter as the minimum price of wheat produced by the farmers of Great Britain and it operates in this fashion. If the price of wheat in the market happens to be 30 shillings a quarter, then the Wheat Commission is, under the authority of Parliament, bound to make good the deficiency between 30 shillings a quarter and 45 shillings fixed by law. (*Hear, hear*). In 1935-36 as much as 15 shillings a quarter was paid by the Wheat Commission in deficient payment to the farmers because the price of wheat in the market did not rise beyond 30 shillings a quarter. In regard to the latest figures, the Wheat Commission has agreed to pay out to the farmers something like two million pounds, a little over two million pounds, and yet the fund specially created for this purpose is not a deficient or a bankrupt fund. It is a fund which shows a surplus of nearly 199,000 pounds, so that whatever money is paid into the fund is utilized for the purpose of making it possible for every farmer to produce wheat at a suitable price and if he cannot get it in the market the Government have the duty imposed upon it to make good the deficiency. I should have thought that my honourable friend the Premier who is surely wide awake, who should be in full sympathy with the needs of the agriculturists of our province, I should have thought that my honourable friend the Premier would have seen to it that the first duty of this Government was to concert such measures as would produce stability in the price of agricultural commodities in the province. But I know that nothing of that kind has been done. There is no indication that such a step is likely to be taken in the future and yet my honourable friend the Finance Minister wishes me to congratulate him in not doing what he should have done, what he should have proposed, if he wishes to save the agriculturists from the calamity which he himself visualized only a little while ago. Mr. Speaker, the United Kingdom is not alone in this matter of fixing prices for the staple produce of its people. In the United States of America, in the month of August, 1938, payments of help guaranteed by law were increased and I have the figures before me. The United States Federal Legislature has provided a sum of 142 million pounds for the assistance of the farmers, those who produce wheat and those who produce cotton; and it might surprise my honourable friend, the Minister for Development—because I am going to refer to him in a minute in reference to this very matter—it might surprise him that in America under the new scheme which was introduced

after the Wages and Hours Act was brought in, the payments for cotton were raised from 1½ pence to 2 pence per pound for every bit of cotton produced in America.

This works out—I am not a mathematician and I may be quite wrong in my calculation—to something like Rs. 9 a maund. We have our long staple—the American—cotton in the Punjab. The best cotton that is produced in the whole of India is produced in the Punjab. We produce it. And yet to-day that cotton is selling at Rs. 6 a maund in the markets and the price has dropped within the last three or four years from Rs. 11 to Rs. 6 a maund, thereby practically halving the income of the agriculturist and my friends sitting over there on those benches expect the public to support them when in this vital matter which affects every agriculturist in the province they have not raised their little finger to give them any assistance. My honourable friend did say the other day that the Government has helped to get better seed for the farmer. If my honourable friend looks upon the situation as he should, he will know that the production of better seed has meant a few annas in the maund as extra price for the agriculturists; but what is this few annas per maund when you compare the loss that the agriculturist suffers because of the drop in the prices of agricultural produce? (*An honourable member*: Not even a few annas.) My honourable friend says, “Not even a few annas” is the advantage derived by the peasants out of better seed; but let me now proceed and refer to the assistance given to maize producers in the United States of America. From 6½ pence to 8 pence per bushel was the rise in the subsidy granted in the United States of America last year. Even in the matter of rice, from 10 pence to a shilling and a half per hundredweight was granted to rice growers; and so on in the case of tobacco and other produce. There is another agricultural country—France—where the system has again been tried with success. In France the payment guaranteed by the French Government, as I said the other day, is 180 francs per quintal which works out to the equivalent of 59 shillings a quarter. The British price is 45 shillings a quarter, the French price is 59 shillings a quarter. Twelve shillings a maund—say roughly eight rupees a maund—is the guaranteed price which the French Government assures the farmer who produces wheat for the French citizen. Last night’s report of the Amritsar market shows that ready wheat is selling at Rs. 2-5-0 a maund. I happen to recall that my honourable friend, the Minister for Development, once stated that that was rather a dangerous limit. He said that if the price of wheat fell below Rs. 2-8-0 a maund, that is bound to affect the revenue situation of the Punjab Government. Is that correct or not? Does my honourable friend still agree with that statement? I am asking my honourable friend, the Minister for Development, whether he is still of the same view. If he agrees with that statement, does he realize that a most dangerous situation has arisen now? A very serious situation has arisen for the farmers of the Punjab—for those small peasants for whom the heart of my honourable friend bleeds all over the province, when he journeys with the loud-speaker lorries of the Publicity Department. Instead of merely suggesting that he is in sympathy with these peasants, it is up to him, and he will get the fullest support from this side of the House, to concert measures for the betterment of these people. My honourable friend laughs and shakes his head as if he were

[Diwan Chaman Lal.]

rather doubtful about this proposition. He need not be doubtful. If he has the courage to announce on the floor of this House to-day that he is going to adopt measures for the purpose of assuring stable prices for cotton and wheat, there is not a man sitting on these benches who will not be voting with him in the lobbies. (*Hear, hear.*) This is our policy. I do hope my honourable friends from the other side who say, "*Hear, hear,*" will now announce before this Assembly finishes—before this day's session finishes—that they are willing to do so and that they would do so here and now, as the Honourable Minister for Finance stated, in reference to another budget, when he asked for a development loan 'here and now,' and not wait until they are no longer occupying those benches. (*Laughter.*) I think it would be a very wise step for them. That would be not only in the interest of the administration, but it would also be in the interest of securing peace and harmony in the province, it would raise the standard of life of the people of this province and get us out of all that misery of debt and of low income that we find wherever we turn in the Punjab.

Before I go over to Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, I would refer to my honourable friend, who is very busily engaged in conversation, whose speech I heard the other day. My honourable friend with the diamond ear-rings—I forget his name for the moment—while referring to my honourable friend the Minister for Finance, said :—

Whether the Finance Minister has made any progress towards enlightening the masses and strengthening them for achieving independence that is the question. I say that the Honourable Minister for Finance has done so.

There are all sorts of things said in the course of a debate but I do ask my honourable friend whether he said this in a moment of sober reason or whether he said it merely because he wanted to please my honourable friend, the Minister for Finance? If he said it with sober reason, what is the significance of this statement? What has my honourable friend, the Minister for Finance, done to enlighten the masses? Which masses has my honourable friend enlightened and in which manner has he enlightened them? My honourable friend said, "strengthening them for achieving independence." May I ask since when has my honourable friend over there joined the army of Mahatma Gandhi that he is eager about independence and in what way, I ask, has the Honourable Minister for Finance strengthened the masses for independence? It is such statements which have no relevance to the point at issue at all and which are merely uttered as probably courtesy statements, in order to please the bosses who happen to sit on those benches, which should not be uttered on occasions like this, because we are dealing now with the life and blood of the province. All this money that is drawn out of the peasants of this province is money which is sacred, the money and occasion are sacred ones, and we must try to assist in every way we can in propounding schemes for the purposes of the betterment of the people for whom we are here the trustees in this House.

My honourable friend, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, nodded when I was referring to prices. After all he takes an interest—he is a Jat—in the matters that concern Jats, although he may say, as he did say, that it costs him some energy to divert his attention from the rural part of the Punjab

to the urban part of the Punjab. My honourable friend stated that the drop in prices had been so colossal that something should be done and, quoting figures, he said that in 1905-06 cotton was selling at Rs. 7-4-0 a maund but in 1931 the price increased by four annas only as far as cotton was concerned. In the matter of wheat in 1905 the price was Rs. 2-8-0 but in 1931-32 the price of wheat had dropped to Re. 1-14-0 a maund. With regard to gur the price in 1905 was Rs. 5 a maund and the price had dropped to Rs. 3-8-0 a maund. My honourable friend is quite right. He drew the attention of the Government of that day to this colossal drop in prices, to this increasing rise in the cost of living but decreasing prices in the matter of commodities that are produced by the agriculturists. But then what did he have to say with regard to this matter? He said:—

On the other hand, water rates have increased by 113·3 per cent in the year. In the case of sugarcane 81·8 per cent, in the case of rice and in the case of cotton by 110 per cent, wheat 70 per cent, rapeseed 85 per cent, and so on and so forth.

“There has been a substantial drop in prices,” he said, and “there is a tremendous rise in water rates.” May I ask my honourable friend, if the statement was correct,—my honourable friend made this statement on the floor of this House in 1936—then is it not correct to-day that where cotton was selling at Rs. 11-8-0 a maund, the very same cotton is selling at Rs. 6 a maund in the markets to-day?

Wheat was sold at Re. 1-14-0 a maund: they now sell it at between Re. 1-14-0 and Rs. 2-15-0 a maund. Does my honourable friend still believe that although the prices of the commodities have fallen disastrously there has been any substantial decrease in the water rates which he contemplated when he said that water rates have increased by 113 per cent. in the case, let us say, of sugarcane? My honourable friend said that on the last occasion he had obtained a decrease of 37 lakhs in water rates. I do not know where my honourable friend got the figures from.

Revenue Minister : 88½ lakhs.

Diwan Chaman Lal : I do not know what my honourable friend is referring to. The figures change with each Minister. It was 37 lakhs before.

Revenue Minister : Water rates have been reduced by 88½ lakhs.

Diwan Chaman Lal : I ask whether the prices were exactly what they are to-day. I will deal with the question of water rates which my honourable friend says were reduced by 88 lakhs. Did my honourable friends knowing that the prices have dropped in this terrible manner, lift their little finger to bring about a decrease in water rates? I ask in all solemnity. This Government has not reduced water rates by one anna. They may befool this House: they may befool the public but let us have the truth. Have they or have they not reduced water rates? If they have not, do they really believe that to-day there is increased prosperity of the very people on whose exertions this Government and this province is subsisting to-day? Has there been any increase in the prosperity of the people? My honourable friend in 1936 said nobody in justice could suggest that water rates ought to be kept even at the existing level. Has that existing level been reduced or not? I stop for an answer from my honourable friends. I see that there is no answer. Can they assure this House or the

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

public at large that since they took charge of the affairs of the province they have reduced the water rate? If they have reduced it, then to what extent have they reduced it? Has it been *pari passu* with the drop in prices? Have they in any manner assisted those very people about whom my honourable friend claimed that when the price of wheat was below Rs. 2-8-0 the effect on the revenue begins to be felt? Is that correct that its effect on revenue begins to be felt? The price of wheat is below Rs. 2-8-0 at the present moment. Does my honourable friend not believe that the adverse effect of that will be on the land revenue position of this province? If the price of wheat has gone below Rs. 2-8-0, is not Government in a position to reduce the water rates and land revenue? I ask therefore what relief have they given to those very people for whom their hearts' blood has been flowing for so many years without the desired effect? I submit that the claim made by my honourable friend over there with diamonds scintillating in his ears, that my honourable friend the Finance Minister had enlightened the masses, was a bit premature and quite untrue. My honourable friend will have an opportunity of knowing presently from the Finance Minister in what respect he can enlighten the masses in reference to the reduction in the water rates or land revenue, what announcements are up his sleeves in regard to this reduction, and whether he is prepared to accept the challenge given from this side of the House to reduce the rate by 50 per cent and at the same time stabilize the prices of cotton and wheat. My honourable friend will have his task cut out if he accepts this challenge. I doubt if he is going to accept it.

The position in regard to the economic situation in the Punjab has deteriorated as I have said in a most serious manner. I refer to my honourable friend Sir William Roberts. He knows; he has his finger on the pulse because he lives in the midst of those very people whose income according to him has been reduced by 7 crores as a result of the drop in prices. You must realize that during the year ending August, 1936-37, and the corresponding period of 1937-38 the export of cotton—and cotton is a very important commodity as far as we are concerned—decreased from about 4,000,000 bales to about 2,000,000 bales, i.e., less than half. Again during the 10 months alone up to October, 1938, Japan took a little over a million bales. In 1934-35 the figures were over 3 millions and in 1935-36 the figures were 3½ million bales. Thus there has been a tremendous drop in the export of cotton. Due to the great drop in the export of this staple commodity, the farmer in India and particularly in the Punjab is facing utter ruin. The result has been that there is a tremendous drop in prices. Am I to congratulate my honourable friend on this? I can congratulate my honourable friend on his good delivery, on his choice English and on his quotations from the Latin poets? Our highly educated press, when he quotes from Latin, attributes that quotation to French, not knowing the difference. (Laughter). Am I to congratulate him on his quotations from Latin and on his beautiful delivery? No; I want to congratulate him on his solid achievements and there is none. I ask my honourable friend what are his solid achievements in regard to the economic situation? Let me sum up by saying that his achievements are absolutely nil; he has no achievements to his credit in regard to the economic position of the province. My honourable friends

cannot take credit for what they have not achieved. My honourable friends cannot go about beating big propaganda drums of their own without justification when they have not been able to achieve anything at all. How can they turn to the public here and throughout India and say 'history has not recorded people like us'? I do not wish to say it but it is probable that history may never record people "like us." These are the words uttered in a moment of forgetfulness by my honourable friend, the Finance Minister, and this is the picture of their failure.

What has happened to the industrial workers in the province? No doubt a few more factories have been opened, covered by the Indian Factories Act, and the industrial workers have increased by a few thousands—so far as the Punjab is concerned we find the figure of industrial workers as 70,000—but has their prosperity increased and have their wages gone up since the depression? The condition of Punjabi workers in industries, I say, remains exactly what it was; and during these two years that my honourable friends have been in charge of the destiny of this province, they have not been able to do one single thing for the betterment of the industrial workers of this province—not one single thing I say deliberately. Are the inspections of factories defective and have the factories been properly inspected in the course of the year? Are the inspections so perfunctory that nothing can be achieved by them?

Has my honourable friend done anything to remedy that state of affairs? He has appointed, as he told us the other day, on the floor of the House, a Director of Public Health to be one extra Inspector of Factories for the purpose of doing away with the difficulty that has arisen in regard to the inspection of factories. Does he sincerely believe that he has achieved the purpose of preventing the sweating of labour and preventing those workers from doing work overtime or over the regular scheduled period allowed under the Factories Act? His own official records will reveal ample proof of the fact that this inspection has not prevented labourers from being worked overtime beyond that allowed by the law; nor has it prevented little children from being exploited. If my honourable friends are the trustees of the people of this province, then the life, safety and prosperity of every Punjabi should be safe in their hands. They claim to be the trustees of the people of this province. How are they discharging this trust of their own? They have nothing to their credit in regard to the industrial worker. ~~The wage, for instance, of a coolie working in 1921 was 3 annas a day. Within a decade, that is, in 1931, it had gone down to 5 annas a day. The wage of an industrial worker was Rs. 1 per day in 1921 and that wage of his had dropped to 11 annas a day.~~ Has my honourable friend concerted measures for the purpose of securing a minimum wage for the industrial worker? What happens to them when they are thrown out of employment? What happens to the workers when a factory is closed down, as happened only the other day here in Lahore? A factory run by Indians was bought up by a Swedish combine and 500 workers were thrown out. They remain idle and what happens to them? Did my honourable friend provide unemployment relief for them? The primary duty of a civilized Government to-day in the year 1939 is to provide adequate relief for those who are unable to find employment because of no

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

fault of their own. The primary duty of a civilized Government is to see that the health and the standard of life of its citizens is fully secure. Has this Government done a single thing to their credit? It would be to their credit if they could secure a better standard of life, secure the health of the province and provide for those people who are unable to find jobs and save them from starvation because they are unable to find jobs. I would have been willing to congratulate my honourable friend if he had taken a modern view of the situation, instead of providing for income and expenditure and showing us the accounts of high salaries and high expenses. I would have been willing to congratulate him if he had concerted measures, which he himself anticipated at a time when he was not a responsible member of the Government, for the betterment of the people. It is all very well to say that they have provided for the benefit of the province a series of controversial measures. They do not give us health, they do not raise the standard of life. They take away money from one pocket and put it in the other pocket. Is that raising the standard of the people? My honourable friend knows that full well. What has been the result of this? The result has been that there has been, during the decade, an increase of people who are partial agriculturists. The terrible depression has resulted in this that people who are unable to find any means of sustenance fall back upon their villages and upon their own relatives for the purpose of finding some sort of sustenance. Have my honourable friends under legislation and by the sanction of this House sought to provide for those citizens who are unable to obtain any means of livelihood? The result has been disastrous, that is within a decade there has been an increase in the number of those who are partial agriculturists, from 149,230 to 486,481, an increase of nearly 300 per cent, in the class of people who are eking out a miserable existence, and who fall back on agriculture as a subsidiary occupation because they must perforce live. I must seek enlightenment at the hands of my honourable friend, the Finance Minister. Let him enlighten us in regard to the achievements of the Unionist Government in this particular respect. Not only has there been this increase of dependents upon agriculture and of those who have no other means of livelihood, but a very significant fact in the economy of our province is the terrible increase in the numbers of agricultural workers. We have no figures later than the last decade. My honourable friend will see that this number has increased from 463,906 to 736,028, that is an increase of 58·7 per cent in the number of agricultural labourers. The people who did own a little bit of land do not now own it any more. They have now been turned into slaves because misery, poverty, dependence, depression and lowering of prices have robbed them of the little property they possessed. But they must perforce live. Has my honourable friend done anything for these agricultural labourers? (*An honourable member*: He is not a zamindar.) It does not require a zamindar to be able to do things of this nature. It requires a large hearted individual, who is worried not about his own emoluments or the fate of his party or the position that he holds, but a large hearted individual who wants... (*An honourable member*: Like you.) Yes, I am suggesting this and if he has not heard it I say, just like me and I will repeat it again and say, just like me. (*Cheers*.) My honourable

friend has not suggested anything for the benefit of these people. (*Interruptions.*) Instead of merely making a polished speech, it was his duty to do something for them if he owes a duty to his country and to his constituency. (*Hear, hear.*) May I ask my honourable friend what he has done for these agricultural labourers? He has done nothing whatsoever in this direction. We have suggested time and again that a measure should be brought forward for the purpose of securing a minimum wage for these agricultural labourers. We have made this suggestion to my honourable friend, but who is going to listen when it is not a game which is being played for the purpose of benefiting the province, but a game which is being played in order to secure one's own tenure of office? The trouble over there is this that they are much too busy trying to hold on to power over this wreckage which is the Punjab of to-day. They are too busy to think of the needs of the people when their own needs are so urgent that they cannot cast their eyes beyond their own interests. We have had many suggestions in regard to the betterment of the province. I ask my honourable friend to cast his eyes once again and look to the health of the people. Surely it ought to be the primary duty of my honourable friends, if they call themselves a civilized Government, to secure the better health of this province. In what way should they secure a better health of this province? Gentlemen of the Opposition, time and again, have suggested during the two years of their tenure here in this Assembly that my honourable friends should at least consider, in a scientific, proper and absolutely independent manner, the proposition regarding health insurance. Have we suggested it or not? Have my honourable friends thought of it? No, they have not thought of it. The loud speaker lorry is utilized more for the purpose of befooling the masses than for matters of this kind. It is nothing but political propaganda, that interests the Ministry and its supporters.

Either it is aimed at honourable members over here or it is sometimes even aimed at my friends' own colleagues over there. The House will remember the derogatory terms in which my honourable friend, the Development Minister, talked about that servant of his, the Finance Minister. The word used was "taleytoo." I suppose it means "under the sole of one's foot." If this is the attitude of my friends over there, that even they amongst themselves are a house divided, unable to respect each other in reference to each other's position, what can the Punjab expect from the Honourable Members sitting over there?

My honourable friends have time and again utilized the press and the platform for this purpose. Rumours have been afloat that attempts have been made to throttle the press, to silence the press. I should be very sorry, Mr. Speaker, as a man who loves his own individual liberty and the liberty of his fellow citizens, as one who loves enlightenment and not darkness, that any attempt should be made by any person responsible, to control the press in this province, whether by one method or another. My honourable friend sitting over there behind the Honourable the Finance Minister will probably be able to enlighten me—I mean the Resident Secretary of the Unionist Party, Mr. Hasnie. May I ask him in all seriousness, apart from calling each other names, is it the policy of this Government or of the Unionist Party to incite ordinary individuals to get up-

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

and write posters about my friends over here, and to pay such individuals out of public funds? (*An honourable member* : No.) My honourable friend Mr. Hasnie says "No." May I ask him whether it is a fact that there is a man by the name of Bharati who has written a series of posters? Does my honourable friend know this particular individual Bharati? I am asking him in all seriousness. Does he know the man who has been writing these posters?

Sayed Afzaal Ali Hasnie : There are so many Bharatis in Lahore. I do not know which Bharati you mean.

Diwan Chaman Lall : One who has been writing these posters. (*An honourable member* : No.) I am very sorry, Mr. Speaker, that a responsible individual who calls himself the Resident Secretary of the Unionist Party should so abuse his position as to give this evasive reply. He says, there are so many Bharatis.

Mr. Speaker : I request the honourable member not to be personal.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I entirely bow to your ruling. I do not desire to be personal but unfortunately this happens to be a personal matter in reference to my honourable friend on my left (Dr. Gokul Chand Narang), and myself. What I was saying is this that Government money is being utilized for the purpose of not open but hidden propaganda. Nobody objects to open propaganda against anybody, but to incite men of straw to get up and issue posters of this nature is the lowest and the meanest of things to do. (*Loud applause*). I have a letter, in my hand. It is written on official note-paper, emanating from the office of the Parliamentary Secretary to this very individual of the name of Bharati. The letter says : "I am asking Mr. Afzaal Ali to fix up some time with you on the 2nd afternoon when I shall try to come to the Unionist headquarters where we can discuss the whole matter. Ahmad Yar." And my honourable friend says, there are so many of these gentlemen but that he does not know anybody of this name. It is a letter sent at the expense of Government, at the expense of the poverty-stricken masses of the Punjab, on official note-paper, emanating from an official source, to an individual who is a black-mailer and these are the responsible members of Government who associate with such men.

Sayed Afzaal Ali Hasnie : Will the Honourable member please place this letter of mine on the table of the House?

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is not his letter, but does my honourable friend deny its existence?

Mr. Speaker : According to parliamentary practice I cannot compel¹ the honourable member to place a private document on the table.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely surprised at my honourable friend. I hold the letter in my hand.

Premier : Place it on the table.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am not compelled to place the letter on the table. I am prepared to show it to Mr. Speaker. There is the signature of Mr. Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana. Does Mr. Daulatana deny his signature to this letter? I will pass this letter to your Personal Assistant, Mr. Speaker, so that you may be able to see and return it to me.

(Hands it. Mr. Speaker examines it and then returns it to Diwan Chaman Lall.)

Premier : I would like this letter to be read.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I should have thought, Mr. Speaker, that instead of denying this letter, instead of stating that there were many Bharatis he would have owned up.

(At this stage Sayed Afzaal Ali Hasnie stood up to speak.)

I will not give way to my honourable friend.

Sayed Afzaal Ali Hasnie : On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has referred to a certain letter which he says was written by the Resident Secretary of the Unionist Party—

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is written by Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana. It is by name and then by office. But is that a point of order that my friend has raised?

Premier : I rise to a point of order. It is very simple. My honourable friend quoted from a letter purporting to have been written from the Unionist headquarters either by the Resident Secretary or the Chief Secretary. He has quoted only a part of that letter. I would, therefore, suggest that he might either place the letter on the table or read it out in full.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My two friends have raised two hares and each seems to be pursuing his own hare. The first is my honourable friend over there, the Resident Secretary, who has raised a big hare. May be that my language is defective, or may be the acoustics of the Chamber are defective or may be the hearing of the honourable member is defective. But I am sure that if the Reporter is asked to read out what I said, it will be found that what I have said is absolutely correct and what my honourable friend alleges is absolutely wrong. What I said was this. There was a letter emanating from the office of the Parliamentary Secretary. This letter was written on official note-paper. My honourable friends will forgive me when I say that they are so absolutely prejudiced, that they are so jaundiced that they cannot see truth even when it is pointed out to them. Since what I say has been challenged I shall read out the letter once again.

Mr. Speaker : I may read to the House the parliamentary practice on the point.

Another rule, or principle of debate, may be here added. A Minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a despatch or other state paper not before the House, unless he be prepared to lay it upon the table. This restraint is similar to the rule of evidence in courts of law, which prevents Counsel from citing documents which have not been produced in evidence. The principle is so reasonable that it has not been contested; and when the objection has been made in time, it has been generally acquiesced in. It has also been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the

[Mr. Speaker.]

table of the House, if it can be done without injury to the public interests. The same rule, however, cannot be held to apply to private letters or Memoranda. Members not connected with the Government have also cited documents in their possession, both public and private, which were not before the House: but though the House is equally unable to form a correct judgment from partial extracts, inconvenient latitude has sometimes been permitted which it is doubtful whether any rule but that of good taste could have restrained.

So, in fairness to the House the honourable member may lay the letter on the table. But if he insists upon not doing so, I cannot compel him to do so.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Mr. Speaker, it is very kind of you to have read out to the House the parliamentary practice in the matter. I was saying that the two honourable members were pursuing two different hares. My honourable friend over here said that I stated that it was he who wrote the letter. I am afraid that he did not understand the purport of my remarks. I read out a letter showing definitely that it was not he that wrote the letter, but that he was being asked to meet a particular individual. The letter, as you have seen already, Mr. Speaker, is signed by the Chief Secretary of the Unionist Party. I am very glad to find him now restored to health and present in the House now. May I ask the Honourable Premier who started the other hare, whether he denies the correctness of this letter? I shall read it out for his benefit. Unfortunately he was not here when I read it out before.

3, Durand Road, Lahore,

29th January, 1939.

Dear Mr. Bharathi,

Many thanks for your D. O. letter No. P. C. of the 27th. I am asking Mr. Afzal Ali Hasni....

I suppose my honourable friend does not deny his identity.

Mr. Speaker : Please read the letter without any comments.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It reads—

....to fix up some time with you on the 2nd afternoon when I shall try to come to the Unionist headquarters when we can discuss the whole matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmad Yar.

The envelope bears the stamp 'On His Majesty's Service'. Mr. Speaker I want you to be kind enough to pay due attention to this particular aspect also. I do not know since when the Unionist headquarters had got into touch and alignment with the communist socialist group in the Punjab. It is addressed 'Comrade Bharathi, Esquire, President, Socialist Comrade Federation, Lahore'. (Laughter.) The poster issued by this man is signed as a Communist. The stamp on this envelope is service stamp. May I ask the Honourable Premier who is now present in the House to take charge of the situation?

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please proceed with his speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I suppose he does not encourage such letters. It does not become him or any political party to encourage such letters.

So much for the spiritual health of the province. Now I was asking my honourable friend as to what they have done in regard to the public health of this province. In regard to the matter of public health, in 1981 the death rate was 26 per thousand ; in 1982 it was 26·8 per thousand ; in 1983 it was 27 ; in 1984 it was 26 ; in 1985 it was 28·2 ; and the last administration report stated that it was 27·7 per thousand. If we take 26 per thousand as the death rate in that particular year we find that except for the Central Provinces and Berar, Ajmere and Delhi—small provinces—and the United Provinces where the death rate was almost the same, the death rate in the Punjab was higher than that in other provinces. Is this a fact to be proud of, may I ask my honourable friends ? I know that the Honourable Minister for Development has certainly got this in his mind and so the Premier also, that we must become a martial race because we have to supply recruits to the British Government in case of necessity. May I ask my honourable friends, taking even that limited view—not the view that you want to increase the efficiency of your own fellow citizen in the province or to avoid the misery that is caused to him by the perpetual menace of under-nourishment and of disease—but taking that narrow view only of providing recruits for the British Government, may I ask what my honourable friends have done to better the health of this province ? My honourable friend, the Finance Minister, shakes his head. Yes ; but will my honourable friend look to other countries, civilized countries, which have measures of this nature, Health Insurance Acts, for the purpose of providing free medical advice, sanatoria, medicines and medical and surgical treatment for their citizens, the poverty-stricken people who are unable to provide for themselves ? Has my honourable friend considered a compulsory or even a voluntary scheme for this purpose ? Japan, which was quoted only the other day by my honourable friend, Begum Shah Nawaz, who has, I am very glad to find, started taking a keen interest in economics and matters relating to the economics of this province and other countries—she referred to the provision of large funds by the Government raised at low rates of interest for the development of Japan. May I ask what is preventing my honourable friend, who was enamoured of the idea of raising money for a special development fund, what has prevented him from taking this particular scheme in hand ? In Japan there are two schemes, one voluntary which is not very successful and the other compulsory which is eminently successful where millions of people are being given by the State out of this fund created by the State, free treatment not only for themselves but their families and their children and vocational training where if a worker gets injured or is misplaced and has to seek another vocation, training for employment in that particular vocation so that his earning capacity is increased, so that his health does not deteriorate. What has my honourable friend done in regard to this matter ? I am taking my honourable friends step by step and asking them to let this House know and through this House this province and through this province the entire nation know, as to what the inheritors of the Government of this province from their predecessors, the bureaucrats, have done to bring peace and solace to the people of this province. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that even in regard to this matter they have not been able to achieve anything.

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

Let me once again refer to another important matter. Some misconception has arisen in this House as a result of the statement made by my honourable friend, the Minister for Development, that in the Congress provinces the Ministers with the allowances that they get, get something like Rs. 2,000 a month. That was the statement which my honourable friend, the Minister for Development, made on the floor of this House and I see that my honourable friend, the Premier, is shaking his head in assent of this proposition. I hold a document in my hand and I am going to deal with this particular matter to prove that not only have my honourable friends done nothing to bring peace and solace and bring prosperity to the people whose interests they are supposed to look after, but that my honourable friends are in possession of probably the highest salaries given to anybody in any province not excepting Bengal and Bengal is a separate matter because they have two chambers. (*Interruption.*) My honourable friend the Premier, says, "what do we deserve"? If this is the record of my honourable friends, I think they deserve the fate that is in store for them. (*Cheers.*) They will disappear without leaving a name behind. (*Cheers.*) This will be the fate in store for them. I know my honourable friend himself—I want my honourable friend, the Premier, to pay some attention to what I am going to say—I know my honourable friend has been in receipt of a very much larger salary than he is receiving at the present moment. I know there is no other minister on those benches who is in receipt of a lower salary to-day than he deserved before during the many years of his own avocation. (*Interruption.*) I am not going to single out any particular minister except to commend in this particular matter and I want to commend my honourable friend. But may I ask my honourable friend, although he himself, at probably the behest of those who rule our destiny, has taken upon his shoulders this financial sacrifice—it undoubtedly has been a financial sacrifice for him—may I ask if the other Congress Ministers who are carrying on their duties on Rs. 500 a month do not deserve what my honourable friend is getting and if they can do it on Rs. 500, why cannot my honourable friend also, if he calls himself a true servant of the people, do and conduct his business on the same basis as the Congress Ministers are doing and conducting their business. Do I take it that my honourable friend, Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, cannot well afford to do that? There are honourable friends who can well afford to forego their salaries. Therefore there is more justification for them and less justification for Congress Ministers who are poor men unable to live at that high standard at which my honourable friends are living. Now I ask my honourable friends to compare the figures. Let them compare the figures in Bihar. Let me take one province. The Ministers' pay is Rs. 24,000, allowances and rent Rs. 7,200 and the total is Rs. 31,200—of all the ministers put together, less than the pay and allowances of one Honourable Minister over there who is scratching his chin (*laughter*) and I want my honourable friends to remember that here we have got one chamber and in Bihar there are two chambers. Even then with two chambers in Bihar the total amount of the budget in allowances and salaries is Rs. 31,200. Where is that apocryphal two thousand rupees a month of which my honourable friend made mention on the floor of this House? Where did he get his figures from? Probably my honourable friend has

made some sort of mistake in regard to this matter, in spite of the fact that I see constantly sitting in the official gallery the Director of Public Misinformation (*laughter*); in spite of that he has not got the correct figures. Now take the case of the United Provinces. In the United Provinces the number of ministers is six and the total ministers pay is Rs. 36,000 and allowances Rs. 10,800 the total being Rs. 46,800 for all the ministers put together. Take Orissa. It is a very small figure of Rs. 18,000. Take the Central Provinces where the figure is Rs. 42,000 in ministers' salary and Rs. 12,000 in rent, total Rs. 54,000. Now take Bombay, one of the premier provinces of India, the land, unfortunately of millionaires and in Bombay the ministers are in receipt of Rs. 42,000 as pay. In Bengal, Mr. Speaker, also a Muslim League government, in Bengal the ministers are 12 and I want this House to remember the figure 12 not 6 as we have in the Punjab, there are 12 ministers and they get in pay Rs. 3,66,000 and our ministers get in pay and allowances and rent the sum of Rs. 2,37,600.

Premier : May I through you request my honourable friend now that he has spoken for three hours and there are only two hours left, may I request him, to wind up and give us an opportunity of replying to the points raised ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I will give plenty of time to my honourable friend if he would listen to me. I will not unduly hold this House. I have several things to say with the permission of the Speaker and I am saying them. My honourable friend will have plenty of time.

Premier : Where is that plenty of time ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : In reference to this matter what are parliamentary secretaries of the Punjab drawing ? The parliamentary secretaries in the Punjab, there are 16 of them, draw between them Rs. 76,500 as compared with the sum total of Rs. 46,800 drawn by the United Provinces ministers and it is nearly double at any rate 80 per cent more than the pay and allowances of ministers in United Provinces. In this indigent province where the average income of the agriculturists is no more than two annas a day, in this province, we pay our parliamentary secretaries who sometimes go off to some Indian States on their own business, who sometimes go off electioneering, we pay them Rs. 76,000 in order to help this Government to remain in power and not to do the duties which are theirs in the strict sense. Now, Mr. Speaker, the total figure of the ministers' salary in Bengal and the Punjab together is Rs. 6,03,000 and in the nine other provinces run by the Congress the total emoluments amount to Rs. 4,66,200. Rs. 6,00,000 and odd in the case of two provinces and Rs. 4,66,000 for running the rest of India where there are not only single chambers but double chambers. (*Cheers.*) Now, Mr. Speaker, I was wanting to raise one little matter in reference to this particular problem, the question of pay and allowances of not only these gentlemen but also of one personal assistant to the Honourable Premier ; Rs. 3,800 is his pay and Rs. 4,800 is his special pay and allowances. He gets in all Rs. 8,600. One and a half times what a minister gets in the Congress provinces. One personal assistant of the Honourable Minister is getting that much and my honourable friend says that we are the true servants of this province, we are serving this province and we deserve all this that we are getting and we are serving it faithfully and well. I do submit that if they were only to take a leaf

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

out of the book of the Congress, if they were to do what the Congress is wanting to do, namely, serve properly, they would find that there too there are ministers who were earning large sums of money, very, very large sums of money, they gave those large sums of money up and for the service of their country agreed to serve on Rs. 500 a month. I ask my honourable friends in all humility, in all earnestness, whether they will not now revise their ideas regarding these high salaries regarding which my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram said in his speech, which I quoted on the last occasion, that he would keep on urging on future occasions that these high salaries should be reduced. But that future occasion unfortunately for this province has not yet come, although he has taken charge of the destiny of this province, and I do hope that he will now reconsider his own position and reconsider the position of the province and do the right thing and advocate the reduction of salaries of the honourable ministers and the parliamentary secretaries.

Now my honourable friend the Education Minister is not here. I wanted to ask him. He said that his claim to achievement as an Education Minister rested on this that he had brought in compulsion, this Government or rather the previous Government had brought in compulsion in 2,886 rural areas and 261 urban areas. To say things like this and mention mere facts like this is to get away with the argument. But where does the argument lead us to? May I ask my honourable friends if they do not read their own reports? The Report of the Department itself in regard to these compulsory areas is most damaging and the report says that "the operation of the Act has not been effective either in the matter of enrolment, attendance or literacy." Now may I ask, is that a fact to be proud of? My honourable friend the Education Minister very proudly stated this on the floor of this House. He said we have done this and we have done that, yet the department itself condemns this very thing in regard to which he is being proud at the present moment. It says that this Act of creating compulsory areas has not achieved its purpose and cannot achieve its purpose. I would be out of order, if I referred to the contemplated legislation. I do not intend to refer to it, but I do ask, is it not their primary duty once again to do everything in their power within the period of their office to bring literacy to the people of this province?

And by doing that thing—that of spending Rs. 22,800 on providing literacy for the adults—they think they will be achieving the object that they have in view. The object should be a five year plan for the purpose of eradicating illiteracy from this province, whether it is amongst children or whether it is amongst the grown-ups. For that purpose again my honourable friend the Finance Minister's ideas regarding the development loan would have been of use to my honourable friends. They can quite easily raise the money. There is no difficulty in raising the money and I will assure my honourable friend as to how they can raise this money. They can raise this money. My honourable friends said that we have got a surplus budget. How is the surplus budget arrived at? My honourable friends know that they get about 35 lakhs from extraordinary receipts. They get road fund money from the Central Road Fund. They get money for rural reconstruction from the Central Government. They get nearly fifty lakhs in this

particular manner from outside agencies (apart from the 35 lakhs extraordinary receipts) which are the moneys available for them and they get over and above a windfall which they never expected, in the shape of 64 lakhs out of the revenue earned by the Sutlej Valley Project. 7.26 per cent was the profit paid by that project although it was expected to pay in the year 1946. It has already paid at the rate of 7.26 per cent—a tremendous thing. Will my honourable friends, who can borrow money at 3 per cent and give a return as far as these projects for irrigation are concerned, of over 10 per cent—9.97 per cent, I believe, is the net figure for all the irrigation projects—consider themselves to be the biggest banias or not in the province? (*Hear, hear.*) They borrow at 3 per cent and earn 9.97 per cent, i.e., 300 per cent and does it not lie with them to utilize this financial position for the purpose of raising vast loans and for the purpose of reducing water rates and the land revenue and bringing urgent relief to those who deserve this relief? Enough, Mr. President. My friend the Premier is getting restive although I have many things to say. My honourable friends will recall the two little matters that I wish to mention. One is in regard to the fruit industry of the Punjab. A promise was, I believe, made by my honourable friend, the Premier, that he would allot a site for a market in Lahore and I do hope that my honourable friend will consider this particular matter when he deals with this portion of the budget, but may I ask him whether it is not true that in the United Provinces—again a Congress-ridden Government unfortunately—the expenditure on this industry is Rs. 8,500 and whereas we are spending Rs. 2,500? There are various needs of the fruit growers. The most important is the survey of the bud position of the orchards so that the best trees may be utilized for this growing industry in the Punjab. I am suggesting something constructive which my honourable friends, without entering into controversy, can achieve if they so desire to achieve. Make a survey of the bud position in order that the best trees may be marked out and be utilized for the purpose of budding the growing orchards in the Punjab and with it I hope my honourable friends will realize again the urgent need, for this growing industry, of the supply of water. There should be an adequate supply of water and there should be no assessment twice a year but only once a year. I have seen the work of the fruit specialist at Lyallpur and I have nothing but praise for him. It is necessary that a separate department should be created for him.

I do not know if my honourable friends will permit me, but before I sit down, I would like to refer to one little matter regarding the beneficent departments. In regard to beneficent departments, my honourable friends probably realize that the expenditure has gone up but they must remember that the expenditure in regard to beneficent departments was pretty high even at the time of their predecessors. For instance, in the year 1931-32 when the total revenue was 281, the deficit at that time was 68 lakhs. In 1930-31 the deficit was 99 lakhs. In 1929-30, the deficit was 71 lakhs and although the deficits in those years were 68, 99 and 71, yet in 1929-30, 8.28 lakhs was the figure that was spent on the beneficent departments, although the deficit was 71 lakhs and to-day what is your position? My honourable friends' position has been a solvent position. The extra money that they have got out of the Sutlej Valley Project and out of Extraordinary Receipts, etc., has gone towards the famine relief which unfortunately this province

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

has suffered from and they have our every sympathy and every support in whatever they choose to do for the famine-stricken areas of this province. But let me remind them that they were warned by me when they raised the Famine Fund to the tune of ten lakhs against all canons of safe finance. I hope they will do a little more than they have done and they will not confine themselves to providing wages of two annas a day for adults without any limitation of the hours of work. People who work for two annas ordinarily starve. They should provide an adequate living wage for all those who are put on relief work. In the beneficent departments in the year 1929-30, as I have stated, the expenditure was 3.23 lakhs. What is the position to-day? (*Interruption.*) After all many claims have been made by my honourable friends. I want that they should justify each one of those claims and unless I can tell them exactly where those claims are weak, where those claims are unfounded, my business is not finished.

There is an expenditure of 3.27 lakhs in 1938-39—a bumper year, a year which yielded them a bumper harvest in finance—and yet they choose to compare the increased expenditure of four lakhs only between 1929-30 and 1938-39—they want to compare that and say, “we have achieved a great thing in spending money on the beneficent departments”—and yet the bureaucratic Government which had actually to face a deficit budget at that time was spending practically the same amount. Now I ask my honourable friends to remember that they are true servants of this province, that they must bring to this province not communal disharmony but communal harmony, not a jarring of the various classes and the sects but the united nation working for the prosperity and peace of the Punjab assisting in the higher evolution of our destiny throughout India. May be that it is possible if the devil were to ask, “Will you come and follow me, it will be a prosperous path,” there are some individuals who might follow but if, on the other hand, the call were a higher call to do service to the province, my honourable friends should listen to that call even if the first call is a prosperous one, even if the first call happens to be one which is suited to their own old ideas of how a popular Government should run. I have not dealt with all those things that arose out of the repression that is going on in the province. I have no time to deal with them. There is more repression to-day than there ever has been even in the bureaucratic history of this province excepting in the times of revolutionary outbreaks in the Punjab or the non-co-operation period, and the expenditure on police the highest except during these two periods. Bunyan said, “The devil taking him up unto a high garden showed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and the devil said unto him, ‘All this power will I give thee and the glory of it, for that is delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will, I will give it. If thou, therefore, will worship me it shall be thine.’” I do hope that my honourable friends will not take that as a text of the Unionist Government in the Punjab but that they will rise higher to the higher levels of patriotism and become the true servants of the people of this province. (*Loud Cheers.*)

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Diwan Chaman Lall has spoken for about three hours and the Unionist benches heard his speech very attentively and silently. I hope the same treatment will be accorded to the speeches from the Unionist side. I, therefore, appeal to all members of the Opposition to listen to the ministerial speeches as silently as they have listened to Diwan Sahib's speech.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chandhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*): Sir, the honourable member representing the central labour constituency, has spoken for about three hours on the subject of his cut motion. Besides, the Honourable Premier has expressed his desire to rise at 5-20 P. M. to make a speech in reply. It means that only 45 minutes are left at my disposal. This time is obviously very short for making a detailed and comprehensive speech in reply. Therefore, I shall try to be brief and will make an attempt to meet five or six main objections raised by my honourable friend over there.

His first objection was that this Government had not chalked out any well-considered programme for the economic reconstruction and general betterment of the province. The second point raised by him in his diatribe against the Government was that this Government was guilty of having done absolutely nothing for the amelioration of the zamindars. The third point on which he concentrated for obvious reason, was that the Government had signally failed to make any reduction in the crushing burden of taxation under the weight of which the zamindars were groaning. The fourth point was that in spite of the fact that Government had expressed great sympathy for the depressed classes, they had done nothing worth the name for their uplift. His fifth point was his usual pet subject, namely, the salaries drawn by the ministers of the Punjab Government as compared with those drawn by the ministers in the Congress governed provinces. The last and the sixth point which probably pinches him most was "why do the ministers and their parliamentary secretaries scour the province from end to end, from Rawalpindi to Gurgaon and from Kangra to Dera Ghazi Khan"? Sir, I have enumerated the six main objections raised by my honourable friend opposite and will deal with them one by one.

As regards the charge of having no well-planned programme for the general betterment of the masses of the province, before ourselves, I should like to make one preliminary observation. The honourable member said plaintively that this ministry was not justified in taking credit for many of the beneficent activities as they were a legacy from the previous Government. I should like to point out to the honourable members that since the year 1921 right up to the year 1937, there was no time when the Unionist Party did not wield sufficient influence with the previous Government in moulding its policy with regard to the administration of the province. I would not be vainglorious if I submit that the Unionist Party had a hand in everything good that was initiated by the previous Government. We are, in many cases, building upon the foundations which we may claim to have laid ourselves.

Now I turn my attention to the programme of general betterment of the province, which we have tried to carry out. So far as public health, medical relief and progress of education in the Punjab are concerned, they have been amply dealt with by my colleague the Honourable Mian Abdul Haya. He

[Minister for Development.]

could not get time to-day to throw more light on the subjects mentioned above. As regards the departments under the charge of my honourable colleague Major Khizar Hayat Khan, I may submit that in the matter of roads our province leads the whole of India. As a matter of fact our province stands unique in this respect. Besides, we have devised an eight year programme for the construction and improvement of roads. This programme would involve an expenditure of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. In the sphere of local Self-Government we intend shortly to introduce a comprehensive Panchayat Bill. As soon as this bill becomes law, and panchayat officers begin their work, sound foundations will be laid for genuine local self-government throughout the province. After this I may be permitted to make a mention of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. The remarkable success which the Unionist Government has achieved in working this scheme efficiently, can be gauged from one bare fact. Previously it had been estimated that this scheme would result in a loss of 26 to 27 lakhs of rupees a year for an indefinite period, perhaps, for ever. But we have managed the affairs in such a manner that this scheme is expected to yield a small profit next year. In view of these facts can any person, with a grain of sincerity and respect for truth in him, say that we have no achievements to show ?

Again, there is the Haveli Project. When estimates were prepared it was thought that an expenditure of 5 crores and 89 lakhs of rupees would be involved in its construction and the project would take more than four years to complete. But honourable members would be glad to know that we have succeeded in completing this project in less than half the scheduled time and have effected a direct saving of 186 lakhs of rupees. Besides, we shall no longer have to pay interest on capital during the period of construction. This too is great saving. Apart from this the project begins to earn an income more than two years earlier. Thus the total saving effected is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores. The project will begin to function on the 2nd April, 1939. It will result in the irrigation of lakhs of acres of arid lands which yielded no crops of any kind previously. The lands thus irrigated will yield millions of maunds of wheat and cotton to the great benefit and prosperity of the zamindar in particular and the province in general.

— In regard to the question of providing irrigation facilities for the arid tracts of the South-Eastern Punjab, I may point out that we have had three alternative schemes under consideration. There is, in the first place, a scheme for tube-well irrigation and experiments about its feasibility have been in progress. Then there is the much talked of Bhakra Dam project about which the Government have been negotiating and are still carrying on negotiations with the Bilaspur State. The third plan is to construct a dam on the Beas somewhere in British territory. For this purpose three sites are under examination. Survey has been undertaken in order to select the best of the three sites for constructing the contemplated dam. All this clearly shows that we are determined to provide irrigation for this area.

Besides, I would like to enlighten the House as to what the Government have done to redress the grievances of the tenants on Government lands.

which were publicly ventilated last year. The trouble was that big leaseholders or other capitalists used to take Government land for temporary cultivation and in turn pass it on to poor tenants on very harsh terms. The Government have made these 'pattedars' to grant certain facilities which they were not prepared to give to the poor tenants previously. In this connexion, the Government had to make a sacrifice of about 18 lakhs of rupees. The Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister for Revenue have already declared the future policy of the Government. Henceforward land will be given to small peasants by dividing the area to be leased out into small portions. (*Cheers*). The previous system of leasing out large tracts of lands to single individuals will be stopped now. I may here make a passing reference to the fact that previously 88 per cent of the land used to be leased out to non-agriculturists. But under the new system enforced this year 80 per cent of the crown land has gone to agriculturists and the remaining portion has been given to non-agriculturists. This is a welcome result of the new policy.

I will now come to the question of the industrial development of the province to which repeated references have been made in the House, and to which repeated references, I think, were quite justified. There is no doubt in my mind, that no substantial prosperity can be secured for the province without industrial development. We ought to be able to convert our raw material into finished products wanted for use in the province. The Government have, therefore, doubled or trebled budget provision to encourage private capitalists in the industrial field. Over and above that, Government have provided for practical training in industrial schools along with technical education. In fact we have provided facilities for vocational education with practical training along sounder lines than in any other province. The Congress Ministers of other provinces were pleased to observe during their visit to our well known industrial exhibition in December 1937 that our technical and industrial education was the best in the country and they wished there were similar arrangements in their own provinces. Lest my honourable friends opposite should take this expression of opinion as mere formal courtesy, I may point out that when I recently went to Bombay to attend the Industrial Conference, the Honourable Ministers of Congress provinces were again pleased to repeat the high opinion they had previously expressed in 1937 about our industrial education.

Besides we have attached a new commercial section to one of our industrial institutes and if the experiment proves successful, as it is hoped it certainly would, such sections will be attached to all the 32 technical schools in the Punjab. A sum of Rs. 40,000 was provided for being spent on this section in the Hosiery Institute at Ludhiana and it is estimated that it would earn a profit of at least Rs. 10,000 in the first five months of its life.

In addition to this we have arranged for special travelling demonstration parties to encourage cottage industries in rural areas, not only among men but also among women. Again, we are taking steps to revive some of the old crafts which once flourished and are now extinct in the province, like the craft of pottery and silk industry. A provision of Rs. 60,000 has been made for reviving pottery. This provision will be enlarged if the scheme

[Minister for Development.]

proves successful. Silk industry which had been given up by the Government as hopeless three years ago has been taken in hand again and is showing definite signs of success.

Another useful step taken by the Government to alleviate the sufferings of the poor weavers may be mentioned here. Previously the poor weavers did not know whence to buy yarn and to whom to sell their cloth. Naturally they used to fall into the clutches of money-lenders who would lend them raw materials on usurious rates of interest and then buy the cloth produced by them at the cheapest rates. No such thing will be possible in the future. The poor weaver need no longer put his thumb impression on the *bahi* of banias or borrow on pronotes. He will get his yarn from the Co-operative stores or from the Industrial Department and sell his cloth there on reasonable terms. At present this experiment is being tried in four districts and demands are pouring in for the extension of the scheme, to other districts. The work done by the Co-operative department was much appreciated at their Simla shop during the last season as those who happened to visit it can testify.

Another fact which merits special note is that the Punjab is the first province in India to establish an Industrial Research fund. In this respect we have set an example to the rest of the country. I may liken the work of industrial research in the industrial field to soul in one's body. Just as the human body has no value without the soul, industries cannot flourish without industrial research. By instituting an Industrial Research fund we have provided the soul to the body of Industry.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Then again this Government can rightfully claim the high credit of establishing a Provincial Stores Purchase Department. Previously such a department existed nowhere in India except in the United Provinces. Efforts had been made thrice before to create this department but these efforts had failed each time for one reason or another. However, this Government have succeeded in creating this department where their predecessors had failed. This is not a mean achievement. The various Government departments make purchases to the extent of 85 lakhs of rupees every year. If the major portion of this amount is spent on the purchase of goods manufactured in our own province, we can encourage many industries and add to the prosperity of the province. I think this department will be very helpful in the promotion of our industries.

There is still another matter which deserves our careful consideration. The Punjab Government intend to encourage private enterprise by all means at their disposal. If, however, capitalists fail to come forward, the Government by itself or in partnership with other industrialists embark on a programme of industrial development. But so far the House has not had an opportunity to express its views on the subject. The Government have not yet come to a final decision about it. Not once but twice or thrice, a notice of resolution has been given by Unionist members with the object of enabling the House to express its views on the subject, but the resolution has not survived the ballot. However, if the resolution succeeds at the ballot this

time and the House expresses a favourable view, we shall see that either the Government by itself or in co-operation with capitalists does all that lies in its power to start industrial concerns.

I should also like to say a few words about agriculture. We have achieved a remarkable success in providing the zamindars with improved seeds. The Department of Agriculture distributed 277,00,000 maunds of improved seed of wheat among zamindars last year. The zamindars have freely availed themselves of the facilities for the supply of improved seeds. Besides, 92,000 maunds of improved seed of cotton were also distributed among them last year. There are now 3,500 Farmers Associations in the province, the members of which are working on modern lines in the Punjab. Farmer's Farm weeks are held throughout the province where the zamindars gather together, exchange ideas and profit by the experience of one another. Fruit exhibitions are also held each year at Simla, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan. At the Agriculture College, Lyallpur, students are taught not only the theory but the practice of fruit preservation. They are taught the art of preparing sauces and jams and cordials. As a result of this practical training, factories have been started at Amritsar, Lahore and two or three other places. The improved cotton L. S. S. fetches a premium of 4 to 8 annas per maund. (*An honourable member* : It is fetching the ordinary price.) My friends, if they do not get an extra price for one week in the season would say that they do not get a premium even if they have been getting it during the rest of the whole season. It was sold at par only during the last two weeks of the season. Similarly wheat of the two new varieties 591 and 518 fetches a premium. Lastly a new strain of rice seed has been developed which yields two crops in a year. The farm at Kala Shah-Kaku has achieved very encouraging results in this attempt. Henceforward we shall be able to get two crops of rice in a year.

Then, again, the Government have, in order to put a stop to the present malpractices in *mandis*, passed a Marketing Bill so vehemently opposed by the honourable members of the Opposition who claim to be the real well-wishers of the zamindars. It is painfully surprising that this Bill was opposed by a party who owe allegiance to a political body which claims to be particularly solicitous of the interests of peasants and whose followers are bringing in similar Bills in other provinces. These gentlemen then stated that their opposition was merely due to the non-acceptance of the principle of election by Government in the formation of market committees. But that was only a lame excuse. In real truth they stand for capitalism or are under the influence of capitalists. (*Hear, hear.*) A Marketing Bill has been or is shortly to be introduced in the Bombay Assembly. A Bombay Minister told me that they had refrained from introducing the principle of election at least for the first two years.

I must now make a hurried reference to other departments under me.

5 P. M.

As regards Co-operation, let me say that Mr. Wace has been appointed on special duty thoroughly to examine the whole system and suggest improvements for better working and greater efficiency of the Department. He is a very experienced and capable officer and may be relied upon to submit a really useful report. I have already spoken of the Marketing Bill. Mr. Wace has been instructed to pay

[Minister for Development.]

special attention to the problem of marketing in respect of both raw material and finished goods. Coming to consolidation of holdings, I can say without fear of contradiction that the Punjab has set an example which may well be followed by the whole of India. A million acres of land have already been consolidated and it is expected that in the future more than one lakh acres will be consolidated every year. There is a great demand for consolidation in the Jhelum, Ludhiana and Ambala districts. In the latter two districts the people have already deposited Rs. 70,000 in the Bank to cover the expenses of the staff. This shows that the demand is really very keen.

In the matter of veterinary relief, no province can claim even to come anywhere near the Punjab. The Congress Government in the United Provinces has declared that it will try to establish one veterinary hospital in every tahsil while here in the Punjab we have on an average $2\frac{1}{2}$ hospitals for every tahsil. In addition to these, there are 79 dispensaries in charge of retired Veterinary Assistants or compounders. Then there are 1,200 centres of first aid which are regularly visited by veterinary assistants once every week. I may also mention here that a training class for veterinary compounders and stockmen was started last year at the Cattle Farm of Hissar. When trained these men are sure to prove of a great help to the zamindars. As regards promotion of cattle breeding, I may state that there are four well-known breeds of cattle in the Punjab, namely, Hariana, Dhanni, Montgomery and Dajal. We are helping the improvement of all these breeds. The Government has in certain cases doubled the grant for the encouragement of these breeds. (*Hear, hear.*) We have not forgotten even goats and sheep. Among other things done in this connection an officer has been deputed to South Africa to study the question on the spot and to report on the possibility and the methods of introducing the Angora breed of goats in this province.

Let all the honourable members, whether they belong to the Opposition or the Ministerial party bear these facts in mind. I am trying to put before the House as much relevant material as possible in the limited time at my disposal so that the Ministerialists may be able to resist the captivating charms of the siren of the Opposition.

Then take another matter. Lands granted for horse breeding were exempt from temporary alienation in execution of decrees, but it was ruled by the High Court that under the law even these lands could be alienated when a receiver was appointed. Now we have removed all ambiguity by means of an amending Act and in future even a receiver will not be competent to order any temporary alienation of such lands. Now may I ask whether it is or is not for the good of the zamindars?

Again I draw your attention to a provision of the Debtors' Protection Act. You know, Sir, that there had been for some time complaints that Civil Courts used their powers of temporary alienation in a manner prejudicial to the interest of zamindars. Those powers were taken away from civil courts and vested in the deputy commissioners by the Debtors' Protection Act. Not only that. Even the deputy commissioners are required first to make a sufficient provision for the dependents of the judgement-debtors and allow the alienation of only that part of his land which may be left

over after making that provision. But here again as a result of the subtle arguments of lawyers, courts came to hold that a receiver could alienate the land of a judgment-debtor without reference to the deputy commissioner. The present Government at once intervened with an amending Bill to place receivers under the same restrictions as bind civil courts.

A notification has also been recently issued to the effect that the whole fodder crop and $\frac{1}{2}$ of all other crops of every agriculturist will be exempt from attachment. This means that 1,000 maunds of wheat of a zamindar producing 3,000 maunds will be exempt. But in the case of small landholders who do not produce more than 20 or 30 maunds, we have provided effective protection by providing that a minimum of 20 maunds of grain in every harvest shall be free from attachment in all cases. That means 40 maunds in a year.

Now let us take the Registration of Money-lenders Act. It will do immense good to poor debtors by crippling money-lenders in the matter of their wily and dishonest tricks. But I am sorry to say that even my zamindar brethren sitting on those benches deviated from the path of their clear duty and joined hands with the Congress capitalists of our province. Let me make it absolutely clear that this measure was not aimed at honest money-lenders but against those dishonest and unscrupulous people who thrived on the life blood of poor peasants and workers including depressed classes.

Can any one say with a clear conscience that all the measures which I have enumerated are not for the good of zamindars and other poor people? Let my honourable friends opposite pause to reflect how regrettable their attitude was towards these measures. On the other hand so far as we are concerned, we did not spare even the agriculturist money-lenders and they have been subjected to the same restrictions as non-agriculturists both in the matter of money-lending and alienation of land in lieu of debts.

Now I come to benami transactions. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that in the Kasur tahsil alone the value of such transactions is as much as 18 lakhs of rupees and the figure for the Gurdaspur district is Rs. 44 lakhs. This shows that the value of benami mortgages in the province cannot be less than 15 or 16 crores of rupees. All these lands have been mortgaged to sandhaks through the good offices of foolish Jats, Rajputs, Gujars, Arains, Pathans, etc., who offered their names to be entered in the records of the patwaris as mortgagees.

Besides, the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act has also been placed on the Statute book. In this connection I may point out that my learned friends on the opposite side have been declaring from the house tops that the said law has been intended to benefit big zamindars only. May I ask my friends whom they count as a big zamindar? If we were to include even a zamindar who pays Rs. 500 or more as land revenue annually in the category of big zamindars, the total number of such zamindars would not exceed 2,500 in the whole of the Punjab. Let us see how many zamindars stand to gain by virtue of this Act. According to authentic figures, 366,760 zamindars will have their mortgages redeemed. And, even if we exclude 2,500 so-called big zamindars, no less than 364,260 smaller zamindars will

[Minister for Development.]

be found to benefit from it. Some—very few—of the so-called big zamindars will be benefited from this measure incidentally but the chief and primary benefits will go to more than 8½ lakhs of small landholders. Besides, under this law even non-agriculturists will have their mortgaged lands redeemed on the same terms as agriculturists. Now let us see how much land will be affected by this measure. About 835,000 acres of land will be redeemed by virtue of this Act. The total mortgage money comes to about Rs. 4,18,00,000. In other words it means that 835,000 acres of land of the possession of which mortgagors had been deprived for the last three or four generations and which under the ordinary law, they could never have redeemed, will be restored to 864,280 small landholders—practically without the payment of a pie. In view of these facts he will be a bold man who can say that the Government has done nothing, or enacted no measure to benefit the poor.

Now let me tell you whether the Government has taken any steps to lighten the burden of zamindars. Most of the gentlemen who press for reduction in land revenue to the extent of 8 annas in a rupee and clamour for a 50 per cent reduction in abiana, belong to a class of people who on the arrival of Simon Commission represented to the authorities that they should devise a system of franchise which may prevent the agricultural classes of the Punjab from obtaining a statutory majority in the Punjab Legislative Assembly. In support of their view they further represented that if these classes succeeded in obtaining a majority of seats they would deplete the resources of the province by effecting enormous reductions in land revenue and abiana.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : On a point of order. The honourable member is imputing motives. Moreover he is not stating the correct things. He is wrong. The allegations that he is making are wrong. Nobody on this side made those assertions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : No motives have been imputed to any member of this House. There is no point of order involved.

Minister for Development : I am not imputing motives to anybody. I am simply stating a fact and drawing attention to an amazing political phenomenon that those who at the time of the Simon Commission were frightened at the prospects of land revenue and abiana being reduced by a zamindar majority are the keenest advocates of such reduction. Let the zamindar community pause to reflect the causes of this *volte face*.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : He says that we on this side said that land revenue and abiana should be reduced by 50 per cent. (*Cries of order, order.*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I have already said that there is no point of order involved. If the honourable member wants to correct the honourable member who is speaking, he may do so at the end of his speech.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : My point of order is this. He said that those people who are asking for a reduction of 50 per cent. in land revenue and abiana are the very people who said before the Simon Commission... (*Cries of order, order.*)

Premier : May I respectfully request my honourable friend not to interrupt? I am going to speak now and I have already requested the Chair to see that I am not interrupted. I have appealed to the Chair and I appeal to the House. But if interruptions are to go on, I will not be responsible for the consequences.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Sardar Sampuran Singh : May I raise a point of order? *(An honourable member : He wants to waste the time of the House.)* The Honourable Minister for Development has said that those people who now say that 50 per cent reduction should be made in land revenue and abiana put it before the Simon Commission that those very rural classes should not be given a majority. This is imputing motives.

Mr. Speaker : I expect the members of the Opposition to show the same treatment to the gentlemen occupying the Government benches as the occupants of those benches have shown to them.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : That is not the point. *(Cries of order, order.)* He is imputing motives to us. He is making a wrong statement.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please resume his seat?

Minister for Development : Sir, I was submitting that there are people who go about the province saying that it is the duty of the Government to reduce land revenue and water rates. How many of them belong to the classes whose accredited representatives at the time of the Simon Commission made frantic efforts in all quarters for devising a formula which would exclude the possibility of the Punjab peasants forming a majority in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, the plea being that if that were not done the Punjab peasants would deplete the coffers of Government by effecting large reductions in land revenue and abiana? May I be allowed to submit, Sir, that if it is found practicable the Government have every intention to lighten the burden of the taxation now borne by zamindars? In fact, if at any time the Government find that they have a surplus at their disposal, they would utilize it to the best advantage and the welfare of the poor zamindars in consultation with their representatives. Day in and day out criticism is levelled against the Government that they are not spending enough on the construction of new roads, starting of new schools, opening of new hospitals and so on and so forth. There is not a single member of this Honourable House who is not in favour of these additional facilities being provided for the people. But the climax is reached when with all this they also press for reduction in land revenue, abiana and chahi rates. Is it fair? Is it even possible?

I may however tell my honourable friends on the opposite benches that we have already appointed a committee to suggest economies in expenditure and to tap new sources of revenue without adding to the burden of the poor. The committee has been instructed to suggest ways and means of shifting some burden over to the shoulders of the richer classes. I may also tell them that when we definitely know how much money has been made available as a result of retrenchment and proceeds of fresh taxation, the first thing that we will do will be to inform the House that we have so much surplus money at our disposal. Then we would consult the leaders of all

[Minister for Development.]

the parties and other experienced members of the House as to the manner in which the available money can be spent to the best advantage of the people concerned. If it is not possible to consult them in a formal manner we will do so informally and find out the best possible use to which this additional amount can be put. But it is not possible to reduce water rates just at present.

When I showed four fingers to indicate that four crores of rupees will be needed to do full justice to the various requirements of zamindars, Diwan Chaman Lall wanted to know what kind of a *madari* I was. May I satisfy his curiosity by stating that I am not a *madari* of capitalism, but a *madari* of the forces working for the uplift of the exploited millions?

Now I come to the question of salaries of ministers about which so much fuss has been made by the Congress party inside as well as outside the House. They say Congress ministers are drawing only 500 rupees a month. Let me tell my honourable friends that we fully appreciate the sacrifice made by Congress ministers. But let not this sacrifice be exaggerated beyond all recognition for deluding the unwary. It is not a fact that Congress ministers are costing their province only Rs. 500 a month. If we in the Punjab draw more than they do we also return more to the public exchequer. I pay Rs. 5,000 a year as income-tax. The Honourable Premier pays more than Rs. 6,000. So is the case with other ministers. Super-tax is in addition to this. On the other hand ministers in the Congress provinces pay only Rs. 304 a year as income-tax. Then they have many other facilities. They have rent free houses or get an allowance for rent which in some cases is nearly Rs. 500. Water tax as well as the pay of their malis, peons, bhishtis and other menials is paid from public funds. Again, they have their motor allowances and even the price of their motor cars was paid from the public exchequer. As I have already said while we should readily appreciate their sacrifice, let there be no unnecessary exaggeration about its exact extent for political propaganda.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : The Honourable Minister has said that the ministers in the Congress provinces are drawing Rs. 500 a month and here in the Punjab the salary of a minister is Rs. 3,000 per mensem.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please resume his seat? I cannot allow a speech within a speech.

(Interruption by Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.)

If the honourable member speaks again, I shall be obliged to direct him to leave the Chamber. (Interruptions.) No more interruptions please.

Minister for Development : In the end I may point out to the honourable members that it will not help the province to any appreciable extent if only the six ministers reduce their salaries. If all officers of permanent services, all capitalists, all businessmen, all medical practitioners and lawyers set a limit of Rs. 500 a month to their income, then of course the poor population of the province will derive an immense benefit. Let my honourable friends opposite go to the highly paid officers of permanent services, 80 per cent. of whom are their kith and kin, and induce them to

accept a 10 per cent. reduction in their salaries and I promise that we will then be prepared to reduce our salaries by 12½ per cent. If they agree to a reduction of 20 per cent. in their salaries, we shall agree to a reduction of 25 per cent. in ours. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now as regards our tours, why are the honourable members opposite resentful of these tours? Is it because we expose the hollowness of their claims as champions of the poor? Is it because we expose the real nature of their mentality at public meetings during these tours? I can understand their nervousness. As a result of these tours, the rural population now no longer takes the harangues of my honourable friends opposite at their face value. Let them rest assured that we regard it as an important part of our duty to save the unsophisticated people of rural areas from the poison of their misrepresentations and that we will continue to perform this duty of exposing the honourable members opposite to the best of our ability and as long as it is necessary. (*Cheers.*)

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I ask one question of the Honourable Minister who has just resumed his seat?

Premier : After I have finished.

Mr. Speaker : What does the question relate to?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The Honourable Minister alleged in his speech that the Congress ministers were receiving several times more by way of allowances than what they get as pay. I want to ask whether he questions the correctness of the figures that were quoted by Diwan Chaman Lall? If so, is he in a position to state his authority?

Mr. Speaker : I disallow any question at this stage.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : I crave your indulgence and also the indulgence of the House, for I am afraid I have to concentrate my reply in about 45 minutes.

Mr. Speaker : There is more than an hour yet.

Premier : I will try to meet the various points within this time. In fact there are very few points which I have to meet, but I will try to do so within the time at my disposal. My honourable friends opposite try to interrupt as soon as I get up.

Mr. Speaker : I hope they will remain as silent as the other side of the House was.

Premier : I have a few personal things to say but I will not be more personal than my honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, had been when he addressing this side said 'I have not forgotten your presence, I know that you are here.' And pointing out to my honourable friend the Finance Minister he said 'Don't you believe. I have either forgotten you, I am coming to you in a minute.' I would not be more personal than that.

Sarfar Sampuran Singh : On a point of order. If one side has been personal and not quite in order, that does not justify any honourable member being out of order.

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

(*Interruption by Sardar Sampuran Singh.*) I request the honourable member to resume his seat. (*Interruption.*) I appeal to him not to behave like this.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : If you will allow me, I will explain myself.

Mr. Speaker : I think I understand the honourable member.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : How can you understand when you have not heard me ?

Mr. Speaker : Please do not waste the time of the House.

Premier : Now, Sir, if rhetoric could take the place of arguments and facts, I would have been the first in this House to congratulate my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall who bored us for nearly three hours by making personal accusations and accusations on a scale and on a level which I think do no credit to him or to the party to which he belongs. However, I am not going to stoop to that level myself. I can assure you that I will try to be as impersonal as possible, but at the same time there are one or two points where perhaps my speech will have a little sting though I will try to make that sting as harmless and as painless as possible. I will try to avoid the sting but honourable members opposite sometimes find sting where none exists, when I speak. You know the old saying :—

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They always think that I am referring to one of them. As I said, I shall try to be as impersonal as possible. Diwan Chaman Lall probably thought that he will be able to hoodwink everyone in this House. Very likely he was certain of confusing my honourable friends opposite but he should have remembered that after all elquence can savour of several sins of omission and commission, but what elquence cannot do is that it cannot suppress truth and fact. Let me very briefly run through the few points which he raised. The very first thing which he said was that the Punjab Government—although it boasted to be the friend of the poor, friend of the depressed classes, friend of the backward classes—had done nothing for our friends the members of scheduled castes. He then went on to quote certain figures. He said that Bombay was spending Rs. 50,000 a year. The Punjab has provided Rs. 60,000 in the budget for education alone. He forgot to mention that. He then went on to quote Madras and said, “Here is the Madras Government now. What are the Congress governments doing? Let me tell you that what the Punjab Government is doing is not one millionth part of what the Congress governments are doing”. Let me explain to the House what the Congress governments are doing and what new heaven and earth they have created for the depressed classes and others as compared with what we are doing in the Punjab. In the Punjab we have done all that we possibly could within this short period and I can assure my brethren of the scheduled castes that we have permanently kept their requirements, their needs and their backwardness in view in framing our budget and we will continue to do so as long as we remain in

office. (*Hear, hear*). My honourable friend quoted figures from Madras and said that Madras was spending 11 lakhs on scheduled castes. I will come to that point later. It will perhaps interest the House to know the percentage of the members of scheduled castes in various provinces. Let me first quote the province of Madras. There the percentage of scheduled castes to the total population is 16; Bombay 8 where they have provided Rs. 50,000 over which my friend was happy as compared with Rs. 60,000 only in the Education Department which my colleague the Education Minister has given to the scheduled castes in the shape of scholarships. The percentage in Bengal is 20, in the United Provinces 25, Bihar and Orissa 10, Central Provinces 20, Assam 20 and Punjab 5. Our brethren of the scheduled castes constitute only 5 per cent. of the total population in this province, while in other provinces they range from 10 to 25 per cent. With regard to those 11 lakhs in Madras, he very conveniently failed to inform the House that those 11 lakhs constituted a capital amount which the Government thought they might have to spend by way of provision of sites for houses. I am quoting from the very pamphlet from which he quoted only an extract without reference to the context in the latter part of that very report. What do we find there? We find that a sum of Rs. 11.24 lakhs will be spent in 1933-39. It is proposed to be spent and, if I may say so, the major portion of that demand is to be spent on the scheme which has been formulated for acquiring land for the provision of sites for houses for the scheduled castes. According to the scheme the Government are to bear half the cost of acquisition subject to a maximum of Rs. 150 per acre in the case of dry land and Rs. 350 in the case of wet land. Of the balance the applicant was required to deposit 50 per cent. to be paid by him in instalments. That is to say, it is a scheme to provide land at concession rates to scheduled castes. They are to pay half the price of that land and the Government are to contribute the other half subject to the limitation that Rs. 150 were to be paid, as I have said, for dry land and Rs. 350 for wet land. That portion of the scheme constitutes the major portion of the grant of 11.27 lakhs. But that is merely a scheme which is to be put into effect if the people of scheduled castes are not rich enough. If my brethren of the scheduled castes are rich people and they can afford to pay Rs. 150 an acre and Rs. 350 an acre from their own pockets, then the Government would not bear the other half. What have we done in the Punjab? My honourable friends opposite and perhaps several of my colleagues on these benches will be surprised to learn that we have already given to the depressed classes in our colonies 20,000 acres of land. (*Hear, hear*). (*Sardar Sampuram Singh*: Before you came into power.) We have been giving that throughout. (*Interruption*). (*Rai Bahadur Mr. Mutal Lal Puri*: How much has this Government given?) My honourable friends are getting restive. They are being given for the last fifteen years. (*An honourable member*: Oh!) My honourable friends say, 'Oh'.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: It would be only fair that the Honourable Premier should state how much land was given since his assumption of power.

Lala Dushbandhu Gupta: Your predecessors also promulgated martial law in the province. Do you take responsibility for that also?

Premier : I think my honourable friend would be well advised to leave this House in peace or let me sit down because I am sure they cannot bear to hear me. This is not the first case.

Mr. Speaker : I have already appealed and I appeal again to the honourable members of the Opposition not to interrupt or pass remarks. It is only fair that the Opposition should listen to the Premier as calmly and quietly as the Ministerial benches heard the speakers of the Opposition.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : We never interfered even once during Diwan Chaman Lal's speech. (*Lala Harnam Das interrupted*).

Premier : I do not know why my friend of the scheduled castes over there is so restive. I am saying something which is in his interest and which he ought to know and communicate to his brethren if he is honest.

Mr. Speaker : That word, I am afraid is not Parliamentary.

Premier : If he is honest like every one of us,—it is his duty to promulgate truth and tell his brethren that Government has provided 60 lakhs for the scheduled castes.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : I was anxious to know when this land was given.

Premier : Let me, for his satisfaction, if he can derive any satisfaction from that fact, point out to him that in this province the Land Revenue department, since the last fifteen years, has been in charge of a Unionist Minister or Member. (*Hear, hear*). He forgets that and it was only when the Unionist Member or Minister came into office that this policy was settled.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : Wrong. He is making a wrong statement.

Mr. Speaker : May be so, and the honourable member may correct him in proper way and at proper time. I cannot allow him to interrupt in the way he is doing.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh :

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Mr. Speaker : May I request the honourable member to withdraw the expression—

عالیجاہا اتنا جہوت نہ بولنے دیں

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : In deference to your orders I withdraw that expression.

Premier : As I was saying, Government has already given away 20,000 acres which at the lowest computation would be calculated to be worth 60 lakhs to the scheduled castes. In 11 schemes we have provided for the scheduled castes. That is the difference between the Punjab Government and the Madras Government. Let me inform my honourable friend that we have issued instructions to the Colonization Officer that if suitable scheduled caste people want to tender for land they should be given preference provided they fulfil the conditions. (*Hear, hear*). We have also given an undertaking to our brethren on these benches that when grants of land are made in the Haveli Project their 'bradri' will be kept prominently

in view and will be the first to get it (*Hear, hear*). That is so far as the comparison between this province and the Congress provinces goes. Let me also quote a few figures with regard to the Congress provinces. I do not want to institute comparisons and I would still have refrained from instituting invidious comparisons but I have been forced to do so by the speakers on the other side and I must though reluctantly give some facts and figures which would show what our neighbouring province has done for the relief of the people and what we have done. My honourable friends are aware that there were big floods in the United Provinces. I will quote from an official publication of the United Provinces, of the harrowing tales of houses being washed away and cattle being washed away: my honourable friends know that there was great havoc and distress on account of these floods. It says:—

سیلاب نے بہا، نئی واقعات کا یہ مختصر خلاصہ ہے۔ ریورتوں سے پتہ چلا ہے کہ مجموعی حیثیت سے سیلاب نے 6676 مربع میل زمین $35\frac{1}{2}$ لاکھ انسانوں کو نقصان پہنچایا۔ کو اعظام گز، کے سینکڑوں خاندانوں اور 5000 پیشہروں کے علاوہ $1\frac{1}{2}$ لاکھ انسانوں کی جانیں بچائی گئیں۔ لیکن یہ بھی افسوس کے ساتھ کہتا ہوں ہے کہ 110 اعلیٰ جالیں اور 783 پیشہ ہلاک ہو گئے۔ تقریباً دو دو لاکھ مکانات بالکل برباد ہو گئے اور ایک لاکھ مکانات کو معمولی مدد پہنچے۔

اگلے وسیع حلقہ کی تباہی نے حکومت کو بڑا تردد پہنچایا۔ آرٹیل وزیر اعظم اور آرٹیل وزیر رسل و رسائل نے سرکاری اور غیر سرکاری لوگوں کے ساتھ تمام نقصان زدہ علاقہ کا دورہ کیا اور سیلاب کی امدادی تعزیرات میں مدد دینے کے لئے ایک خاص انسر کا تقرر کیا۔ اس کے علاوہ مصیبت زدہ لوگوں کی دستگیری کے لئے اور بہت سی تدبیریں بھی فوراً کی گئیں۔ قحط امدادی سرمایہ سے 99530 روپے کٹارے کے لئے دئے گئے جس سے 74000 آدمی فائدہ اٹھا رہے ہیں اور 19000 روپے قحط امدادی تعزیرات کے لئے دئے گئے جن میں 9000 آدمی کام پر لگائے گئے۔ دستورکٹ بیڑوں نے بھی قحط امدادی تعزیرات کے لئے انتظام کئے ہیں۔ انجمن مال سے کہا گیا کہ وہ $2\frac{1}{2}$ لاکھ روپے بیع وغیرہ کے لئے تقابلی کی صورت میں تقسیم کرے۔ چھوٹ اور مکانات کو دوبارہ بنوانے کے مسئلہ پر حکومت خاص طور پر غور کر رہی ہے۔

I merely want to point out to my honourable friends that no less than 35½ lakhs of people were concerned whose houses were washed away, several people were killed and there was enormous mortality amongst the cattle; and what was the relief given? I have here worked out the comparative figures which will interest my honourable friends opposite. For the relief of distress caused by this natural calamity, the United Provinces Government spent a total of Rs. 2,68,520, this mighty sum, which comes to 5 pie-

per head in order to enable the people to maintain themselves and their cattle for at least six months, and to rebuild their houses. What about this poor province which is said to have done not even a millionth of what the Congress provinces have done? Six lakhs of people were affected by famine in the whole of the Ambala Division, no houses collapsed and there was no human mortality, and still Rs. 1½ crores were spent for their relief which works out to Rs. 25 per head. (*Hear, hear*). Five pice per head on one side and Rs. 25 per head in this poor province, less than one millionth of what the Congress provinces have done! These figures are eloquent and require no further elaboration from me.

Next, my honourable friend went on to quote the speeches of my honourable colleague, the Minister for Development and the Finance Minister, which they delivered 4 or 5 years ago and on the basis of those speeches he tried to pillory not only my honourable friends but also the whole Government and said, "these are the speeches which you made, what has happened to these speeches"? The speech which my honourable friend the Minister for Development made was this that the zamindars were in great distress and trouble: sometimes they had to sell their daughters to pay land revenue. That was the condition of the province when the present Government took over charge. What did my honourable friend the Finance Minister say? He said we must have planned development for the province. He said if necessary we should go and borrow money in the market, and he suggested a humble sum of one crore for that purpose. These are the two extracts which my honourable friend quoted. He asked, "do you deny that these are the things which you said 4 or 5 years ago? This is what you said 5 years ago: now what about it?" This reminds me of the story of 'Rip Wan Winkle'. The 'Rip Wan Winkle' of that story slept for 20 years while our great political 'Rip Wan Winkle' has started sleeping since the 1st April, 1937. My honourable friend has forgotten that during these years my honourable colleagues have not only redeemed their pledges but have gone a hundred times beyond those pledges. What did my honourable friend the Development Minister say? He said that the zamindars were in distress and wanted relief, and to relieve their misery what have we done? We have given on an average a remission of 60 lakhs in abiana alone. With regard to land revenue my honourable friends over there must have read the *communiqué* issued the other day; but their memory is very short and therefore to refresh their memory I would say that apart from remissions to Hissar and other places we have given a remission of 85 lakhs in Multan division alone. Apart from that we have given enormous remissions in land revenue elsewhere also, but that is not the point. Land Revenue only constitutes a sum of 4½ crores and what have we done during these 18 months since we have been in office? My honourable friend must remember that as compared with 4½ crores land revenue, at a very conservative computation the interest which the zamindar pays for his debt is no less than 25 crores of rupees. Does he want us to give away the State money for the relief of the zamindar by reducing one-quarter of land revenue? If it is reduced by 4 annas in the rupee, what would the poor zamindar gain? He cannot raise his standard of living, he cannot get better clothes for his children, he cannot

feed his children better by this paltry sum of four annas. What have we done? We have reduced the burden, a bigger burden of debt of 25 crores. I think if there is any burden at all it would probably be the millionth part according to my honourable friend. That is the position. We have tried to wipe out the bigger burden. We have partly succeeded. There is an indirect burden as well and we will strive every nerve to relieve the bigger burden and then, if the State can afford, also give them direct relief in land revenue. (*Hear, hear*). That is the position.

My honourable friend went on to say, "What have you done to reduce expenditure?" The Congress Governments have taken steps in this direction". I may inform my honourable friend that they have tried to levy an employment tax which has been questioned before it has been introduced. Anyway that is the proposal that they have brought before the Assembly in the shape of the Finance Bill. What have we done here? We have reduced the salaries of all new entrants. But we have not touched the smaller people and we have not touched the poor class of people. We have left them alone because equity and justice demanded that we should leave the poor class. We have reduced the salaries of higher paid officials from 15 to 40 per cent., and the biggest decrease is in the salaries of Ministers who are getting now Rs. 3,000 instead of Rs. 5,000. I am very reluctantly forcing that position to quote facts and figures in regard to the Congress provinces. My honourable friends, like *nadan dost*, always try to goad us into that position. He quoted certain figures. But let me give you the figures from an official publication of the United Provinces. Honourable members must have seen that some time ago in reply to a question in the Council of the United Provinces the figures of travelling allowances were published. I do not remember the figures, but I think on an average the travelling allowance came to about Rs. 16,000 a year per Minister.

Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri: What about the travelling allowances of Ministers here? Only yesterday, the Government refused to disclose the amount of travelling allowance drawn by Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries?

Premier: The honourable member may be sure that no such thing is concealed here. Here are some of the figures and I give you the figures of one Honourable Minister in a Congress province. He gets Rs. 500 as salary, and Rs. 481 a month as house rent, price of car supplied is Rs. 4,125—it is included in the monthly list and apparently the Ministers, if they like, can change their cars every month and nobody can stop them and especially if they are patriotic Ministers they would probably encourage the commerce in their provinces and each of them would probably buy a car every month from every firm—then price of patrol, Rs. 150, pay of mali and domestic servant, Rs. 58 a month, railway travelling expenses, apparently railway charges Rs. 1,912; contingencies.—I do not know what they are—and any other expense as well as maintenance of garden Rs. 25-14-0 a month. I have already said that the travelling allowance bill, which was quoted in an answer to a question in the Council came to an average of Rs. 16,000 a year per Minister.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Urdu): What was the monthly income of Mr. Katju before he took office and what was your own?

Premier: My honourable friend put a very pertinent question. There are some Congress Ministers who have made financial sacrifice while there are others who have gained, but filthy lucre is not everything. They are serving their country and we are also serving our country. I cannot afford to make the sacrifice which some of them have made. Dr. Katju was earning Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 a month. I have got no millionaire friend who can support me. I am a poor zamindar.

Sardar Hari Singh: Maharaja of Patiala can support you.

Premier: I am almost certain that if I am ever in distress and trouble on account of my service to my motherland, I hope my friend, the Maharaja of Patiala would certainly condescend to support me. (*Hear, hear*). You may be sure that if I want to earn a living to-day and leave this House, I will be able to earn an honourable living whether in this province or outside.

I am very sorry that I will have to come to this point again. These comparisons are odious. I again refer to the question asked in the Council of Bihar by the Opposition. The question was this—I would leave it to my honourable friends to draw their own conclusions—In connection with the Ministers now in office in the Bihar Government, it was asked What income-tax they paid during the five years prior to their accepting office. There was not a single Minister who paid any income-tax. (*An honourable member:* Yes.) My honourable friend says 'Yes'. It is perfectly true and it is 'Yes.' That means that their earning capacity was less than Rs. 2,000 a year and now they are getting Rs. 6,000 a year each.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Sir, on a point of order. It is discourteous to the Ministers of another province to expose their financial position.

Mr. Speaker: I entirely agree with the honourable member, I have ruled more than once that honourable members should not speak about other provinces. But several members of the Opposition invariably bring in Ministers of other provinces and admire them for their economy, etc. I request the Premier not to bring in the Ministers of other provinces.

Premier: I entirely agree with Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang that those Ministers should not have been brought in. I most reluctantly had to refer to them, and had to answer the criticisms of the Opposition, because my friends of the press would publish their criticism and unless they are replied to, the public might get wrong information. I would not dwell on that point any further.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: A private member may make a mistake, but the Premier ought to set a better example.

6 P.M.

Premier: May I catch not only your eye but your ear also, Mr. Speaker? I was saying that my honourable friend after trying to pillory this Ministry for the very high salaries we are getting, went on to say that the Finance Minister had not lived up to the speech which he made four years ago and had not borrowed a penny to create a development fund. He said that

other provinces have borrowed, and he wanted the Punjab also to borrow. I shall tell him what we have spent during these two years. We have spent 4½ or 5 crores on the Haveli project. We will spend a large amount on the Thal Project. We have spent about 2 crores on Hissar relief, and we have spent several lakhs on beneficent departments and we have also created a permanent development fund of 55 lakhs which we hope to augment when we have surplus money. We have thus spent on an aggregate between 8 to 10 crores and by borrowing how much?—Only one crore from the outside market and finding the rest of the money from our own resources and from extraordinary receipts, which my honourable friend tried to criticise by saying: "What happens to your extraordinary receipts? They should have been invested in profitable investment". He did not even attempt in the least or even look into the budget or else he did not understand it. Otherwise he would not have shown his ignorance or he would have asked some one on this side to explain to him the intricacies of the budget. Neither he nor the Leader of the Opposition, I regret to say, are present in the Chamber and I am sorry that after three hours' harangue in this House and those very questionable arguments which he put forward, Diwan Chaman Lal is now absent from the House. He tried to pillory my friend the Finance Minister for not borrowing. We did borrow a crore of rupees because it was necessary to do so, but the rest of our expenditure was from extraordinary receipt. What better investment can you have than spending that money on the Haveli Project and the Thal Project and the Bhakra Dam scheme? We are going to meet it from our extraordinary receipts because that curtails our borrowing programme and also indicates the soundness of the financial position of the province which is second to none in this country.

I do not know whether out of ignorance or out of sheer—I was going to call it—bravado—my friend challenged the Finance Minister by saying: ~~hasn't that development fund~~ and that development fund has not increased. If he had eyes to see or if he had the capacity to understand the budget, he would have seen that the development fund is going to be spent on the rural areas as we promised, and that development fund is going to be increased up to a crore of rupees, so as to give those facilities and amenities to the villagers of which they did not get their proper share during the last regime. That we are trying to do and we will continue to do.

His next point was—I am using his words in his usual eloquent way—he said: "Government had formed a sort of concordat between the Auditor-General, the Accountant-General and the Finance Department" who are the custodians of our finances and whose word is final in these matters. He added: "they have every time tried to suppress the true state of our financial affairs". What is that concordat? That concordat is this, that my friend the Finance Minister naturally according to the canons of financial propriety has to refer certain financial matters to the Accountant-General. If he cannot give his opinion, then he refers the matter to the Auditor-General who is the highest authority on matters financial and whose ruling is binding on the Accountant-General. If there is any difference of opinion between the Accountant-General and the Punjab Government, naturally we try to get the benefit of the advice of the Auditor-General who has experience and who controls the finances not

only of this province but the finances of the whole of India. That is the concordat which the honourable member complained we had formed, with a view to suppress the real state of affairs in the province, as if the Auditor-General and the Accountant-General and the Punjab Government were in league and had formed a conspiracy to more or less hide or cover their omissions or commissions which according to him might be criminal omissions and commissions! That is what my honourable friend said. I believe he used that word 'concordat' because it was a high sounding and bombastic word and from that he tried to develop a theme, that because there is no finance committee now, therefore the finances of this province are not properly controlled or looked after. He went on very glibly again, as he has done on several occasions previously, to say that there was such a committee as a Finance Committee in other countries. No doubt there is a finance committee in the centre. We also had a finance committee in this very province under the old regime prior to provincial autonomy and that was meant more or less to check an irresponsible government from spending public money on matters which might not be in the public interest. That is why we had a finance committee. The honourable member went on to say: "There is no finance committee and this Government has not thought it fit to constitute a finance committee and that shows that there is some *gol mal* in the financial affairs of this province and that is why this Government wants to hide things". My honourable friend ought to be aware of the fact that there is no such finance committee under any responsible government. This Government is responsible to the electorate, we are their representatives here and we will be prepared to give an account of our stewardship to them whenever they demand it or whenever the province wants it. Our shoulders are broad enough to carry out that responsibility without my honourable friends' assistance.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : What about the Public Accounts Committee? How often has that Committee met?

Premier : The jurisdiction of the Public Accounts Committee begins with the year 1937-38. The accounts of 1937-38 were presented to the Public Accounts Committee and their report has been published and circulated to members of this House recently.

As regards the finance committee, as I was saying, there is no such committee in any responsible Government, for the Government and the Ministerial Party take that responsibility on themselves, and as I have said, we are prepared to take that responsibility on ourselves as our shoulders are broad enough for it without the assistance of my friends opposite. I may quote here a few words from my confrere in Madras, the Premier there. What did he say about this finance committee? He said—

With regard to the formation of committees, as I said, the institution of committee system was necessary when the whole Government was an official committee, so to say. But now, in our democratic form of Government, it is wholly a non-official committee, so to say. So there is no necessity for the Government to be in touch with the people through the aid of a committee as they are now every day in touch with the people. So we will endeavour to carry on Government without forming committees; and if still people find some grievance, there is the floor of this House where it can be ventilated.

I am glad to say that what I said about eighteen months ago has been repeated by the Premier of Madras. (*An honourable member*: What about a finance committee?) Committees include the finance committee also. (*An honourable member*: What about standing committees?) There are no standing committees in the Houses of Parliament either.

There are several other points that I wish to refer to, but the time at my disposal is very limited. There is, however, one point to which my honourable friend referred and to which I must reply. I do not know why he referred to it. He pointedly referred to it and said that Government was not looking after the masses properly, that its stewardship was lax and cited as an instance the donation which I had announced to one of the educational institutions here. He said, "What has the Government done except to give money right and left to educational institutions?" The only donation that I gave was an amount of Rs. 25,000 to the Islamia College at Lahore on the occasion of its golden jubilee. I do not know why my honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal, should have raised that point. If that criticism had come from some of the honourable members behind him I would not have been surprised, but coming as it did from him it has certainly come to me as a very disagreeable surprise, if I may say so with due deference to him and to the other members of that party. It is most unfortunate. His real point was that we were hiding all these things. He seldom has time to do serious reading. If he has done any serious reading of the budget, he would have seen in the schedule of expenditure this item prominently mentioned. That money can be spent only if this House gives its consent to its being spent. This provision in the budget is subject to the approval of the House. I am sure my action will be endorsed by this House. (*Hear, hear*). Comparisons may be odious, but I cannot help bringing in one small comparison. My honourable friend has probably forgotten that I have given a donation of only Rs. 25,000 on a very unique occasion, that is the fifty years' jubilee of this institution, while the United Provinces Government has given a lakh of rupees to the Benares Hindu University. Why should anybody grudge it? But here our friends who claim to belong to a non-communal organisation grudge this paltry sum of Rs. 25,000 to an institution which happens to bear the name of Islamia College.

My honourable friend also read an extract from a speech of my honourable colleague delivered in 1938 and asked what the Government had done to give remissions of abiana. As usual he has not had the time to study the figures or the old debates and so without giving any thought said that Government had done nothing in this direction. Evidently he was not aware that as a result of that speech of my colleague, Government remitted permanently 37 lakhs of abiana. Thus my colleague gained his point. (*Cheers*).

There is one other point on which my honourable friend laid a great deal of stress and developed it *ad nauseum*. He triumphantly asked, "What have you done to control prices? What have you done to stabilise the prices of staple products in this province?" I am not sure whether my honourable friend was speaking with his tongue in his cheek or whether he was really exhibiting his ignorance with regard to economic matters. He probably hurriedly took up a book in the library and saw therein what the Wheat Commission had done for the stabilisation of prices and came

to the conclusion that he could now challenge my colleague the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister is one of those economists whose reputation is not limited to this province only, nor to this country alone. He is an economist of international reputation. (*Hear, hear*). The honourable member opposite after hurriedly studying some book or newspaper article came to this House and asked, "Why don't you fix prices?" He forgot that we had not the power to do so. If we had the power, does he think that we, who did so much for the zamindars, would not have given this sort of relief also? We would have done this long ago. But unfortunately the power is not there. Even the Congress provinces which have created new heaven and new earth have not done anything to stabilise prices. (*An honourable member*: What about exchange ratio?) In spite of our limitations and in spite of our helplessness in this matter, because tariff policy is a central subject and we have no control over it, what have we done? We wanted the present Government of India to put an import duty on wheat. We eventually succeeded. (*Hear, hear*). What happened as a result? Prices went up by eight annas. What did we do next? We went on pressing upon the Government of India to levy a duty on imported cotton. We have succeeded in getting that duty also imposed. Who opposed that duty? My honourable friend who was so eloquent in his speech, if he had seen the papers would have found that that fraternity with whom he and his colleagues fraternise strongly opposed this duty. We tried to do our best. My friend will do well to see the report of the discussion on the Finance Bill to-morrow. (*An honourable member*: Who raised the price of sugarcane in the United Provinces?)

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member should not interrupt when the Honourable Premier is speaking. He should listen as patiently as he was listened to.

Premier: Now, Sir, my honourable friend must know, apart from every other thing, that the Punjab is the only province which produces wheat in surplus. Assuming for the moment that we have the fullest power to put a tariff duty, what is my honourable friend going to do with regard to that surplus wheat? What is he going to do with it? He looks absolutely blank now; that is as it should be. He said that in America also they tried to fix the prices by subsidies and my friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang does not say anything.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: You are so out of temper to-day that we cannot hear you and cannot understand what you are saying. You are too much excited.

Premier: My honourable friend is talking to his friends.

Diwan Chaman Lal: We are trying to understand your arguments.

Premier: My honourable friend referred to America and said that they controlled prices in America. But no. They were not able to control prices in America. What they did was to subsidise the various commodities and my honourable friend now laughs. Why can you not subsidise them here?, he asks. He says, see what has happened in England, what has happened in America? In America they gave a subsidy and what has

happened? They have got surplus stock now which is hanging like the sword of Damocles on the whole world.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Have you a surplus in India?

Premier : Yes. There is no question of stabilising prices.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Ask your economic expert of a friend behind you.

Premier : There is a surplus and I tell you that the Punjab is the province which has a surplus of both cotton and wheat.

Diwan Chaman Lall : India is not. It is a self-sufficient unit.

Premier : I need not dilate on that point any more. My time is nearly up. My honourable friend may have his own economics and when people read it they will know what he means.

There is one other point which I should like to refer to. My honourable friend waved a letter triumphantly and said, 'here is a letter from a parliamentary secretary to somebody called Comrade Bharati' and he said that this Comrade Bharati was a blackmailer. If my honourable friend said it outside the House—

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not remember using that expression that he was a blackmailer, but I am quite prepared to repeat it at any time and at any place my honourable friend chooses.

Premier : I am glad to know that he did not say it. But what does that letter show? He triumphantly waved it and said, 'here is a letter which was written by the Chief Secretary of the Unionist Party. It was written on an official paper and sent on His Majesty's Service'. Of course if Comrade Bharati asks the Chief Secretary or the Parliamentary Secretary, Political, for an interview or Comrade Chaman Lall asks for it, my friend should in courtesy write back to him and say whether he could see or could not see him.

I had several other points to say, but my time is up. My friend referred to several other matters. Instead of worrying about those matters I wish he had also referred to that unfortunate atmosphere in the province and to those people who are trying to create that atmosphere which is not conducive to the progress of this province. I wish he had also referred to those political adventurers, if I may say so, who are trying to create bitterness and quarrels among the different sections of the people. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :* Physician heal thyself"). After all we do not want that kind of violence. The honourable member does not know that if that spirit of violence which those people are preaching continues, not I and my colleagues but he and his other friends of the non-agricultural associations who are trying to embarrass the Government who will be no more on the face of this earth. That is what we want to avoid.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It is absolutely false to say that they have been preaching violence. Those remarks apply more aptly to his honourable colleague, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram.

Premier : If instead of making it a political point or a debating point here, those gentlemen opposite were to join hands together, as I appealed to them the other day, in trying to bring about that harmonious atmosphere

in this House of which there was a sign in the beginning (*Interruption*)—my honourable friends will go on interrupting, but for God's sake let them not do so, I have only two or three minutes left—if instead of trying to create a more bitter atmosphere, if instead of interfering in others' business they set their own house in order—you are aware that we are having very difficult times and we may very soon be up against several difficulties from the point of view of our country, our motherland—they join hands together to bring about a harmonious atmosphere, it will be good for all of us and for our country. I ask with all the earnestness at my command, what are we doing to meet those difficulties? What are we doing to remove the atmosphere of bitterness, the atmosphere of communal hostility and communal bitterness and several other things? I appeal to my honourable friends that apart from the conditions in this country, as their own very respected leaders have said on several occasions, we must also keep an eye on the international horizon and see what is happening there. There is another crisis impending and if unfortunately these clouds get larger and larger, what will be the result? Democracies are in danger of being wiped off or being annihilated and very likely my honourable friend would have learnt that one of the democracies (*Interruptions*)—he calls it democracy, I did not till now but at any rate—Russia is also falling in line with other democracies to save democracy. But what are we doing here? There are people here who think that in this embarrassment lies our opportunity. I can assure them that they will be living in fool's paradise if they think that they can save this or that democracy by that attitude. If democracies are in danger in other countries it will be our duty to save them. Therefore, we must not think of any such embarrassment or think of scoring a victory at this juncture. What we should do is to close our ranks to wipe off all these communal animosities and bickerings and international strife and act like one nation. Those people who for the sake of any particular class want to ruin the whole country, should be told that if they do not resist from their present activities or those communal mischief mongers who do not resist from making these bitter attacks or creating communal animosity, we will have nothing to do with them (*Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt*: Ask your Jinnah) and that we will work together hand in hand for the sake of our motherland. (*Applause*).

Mr. Speaker: A question has been sent to me for being answered by the Premier as to how much land has been given to the members of the depressed classes by Government during the last two years. The honourable Premier may, if he wishes, answer the question.

Premier: If he gives notice of the question in the ordinary way, I can answer it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1

The Assembly divided: Ayes, 36, Noes, 101.

AYES 36.

Abdul Rab, Mian.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.

Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.

Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.

Chaman Lall, Diwan.

Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala.

Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
 Duni Chand, Lala.
 Duni Chand, Mrs.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
 Hari Lal, Munshi.
 Hari Singh, Sardar.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
 Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
 Kartar Singh, Sardar.
 Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
 Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
 Chaudhri.

Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hussain Sardar.
 Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
 Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur Mr.
 Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
 Partab Singh, Sardar.
 Prem Singh, Mahant.
 Rur Singh, Sardar.
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
 Sita Ram, Lala.
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
 Sudarshan, Seth.

NOES 101.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
 Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
 Afzaali Ali Hasnie, Sayed.
 Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
 Balwant Singh, Sardar.
 Barkat Ali, Malik.
 Bhagwant Singh, Rai.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Dina Nath, Captain.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
 Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieut. Bhai.
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
 Fazal Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.

Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Few, Mr. E.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
 Haibat Khan Daba, Khan.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
 Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jafar Ali Khan, M.
 Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Nawabzada Major.
 Kishan Das, Seth.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.

Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.	Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.	Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
Muhammd Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabazada.	Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.	Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.
Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.	Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.	Nur Ahmed Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.	Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar.	Pohap Singh, Rao.
Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.	Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani.	Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Makhdumzada Haji Sayad.	Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.	Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.	Roberts, Sir William.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.	Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.	Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.	Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.	Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
Muzaffar Ali Khan Qazilbash, Sardar.	Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.	Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.	Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
	Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
	Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
	Tara Singh, Sardar.
	Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
	Ujjal Singh, Sarfar Bahadur Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,03,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1940, in respect of General Administration.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a.m., on Tuesday, 21st March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 21st March 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 10 a. m. of the clock, Mr. Speaker in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUALIFICATIONS IN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING OF MR. SIBOU, ELECTRIC ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY.

*4112. **Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan**: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the technical qualifications in electric-engineering of Mr. Sibou, Electric Engineer, Electricity;
- (b) the dates on which he was made a Sub-Divisional Officer and Executive Engineer, respectively;
- (c) the reasons for his appointment as Executive Engineer, in case he possesses no technical qualifications in Electric Engineering?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana: (a) Mr. Sibou does not possess the required qualifications but he was appointed by the last Government. However, his other qualifications are—

- (1) Roorkee, Technical Class.
- (2) Associate Member, Institute of Engineers, India.
- (3) Graduate, Institution of Electrical Engineers, London (now being recognized by Government for Punjab service of Engineers (Electricity Branch)).
- (4) Associate Institute of Electrical Engineers, America.

(b) Joined the Hydro-Electric Project in February, 1920, and left in June, 1921. Rejoined the Department in July, 1922. Held posts equivalent to that of a Sub-Divisional Officer. In April 1934, was offered a permanent post of Local Manager, Grade I, in the Punjab Service of Engineers, although his technical qualifications did not fulfil the requirements of the Punjab Service of Engineers, Electricity Branch Rules. The rules were specially relaxed by Government in view of his long experience. Actually Mr. Sibou continued to work on a different post. He accepted the permanent post of Local Manager, Grade I, on 8th February, 1936, and was promoted to officiate as Executive Engineer on 14th February, 1936, again in view of his long practical experience.

(c) Mr. Sibou's continued employment as Executive Engineer is under review.

INQUIRY INTO THE ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT, SMALL TOWN
COMMITTEE, JHAJJAR.

***4126. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether any inquiry has been made on the representation recently sent to him by some of the members of the Small Town (Municipal ?) Committee, Jhajjar, requesting that an inquiry be instituted in the matter of election of the Vice-President of the said Small Town (Municipal ?) Committee ; if so, what has been the result of that inquiry and what action has been taken or is intended to be taken on the result of that inquiry ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Government have recently ordered under rule 92 of the municipal election rules.

DISMISSAL AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS OF SMALL TOWN
COMMITTEE, JHAJJAR.

***4127. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the names of officials of Small Town Committee, Jhajjar, dismissed during the regime of the present president and also the names of persons employed in place of those dismissed during the same period ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Jhajjar is a municipality. One official only has been dismissed since the present chairman assumed office, namely, Mazhar Husain, an octroi muharrir. The man appointed in his place was Kishan Chand. I should inform the honourable member that Mazhar Husain appealed against his dismissal to the Deputy Commissioner who has remanded the case to the committee for further consideration.

MUHAFIZ EMPLOYED BY SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE, JHAJJAR.

***4128. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of guards (muhafiz) at present employed on each octroi post of Small Town Committee, Jhajjar, with the nature of their duties ;

(b) the number of hours they are required to be on duty each day ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) There are 5 such guards. They are posted at entrances to the town at which there are no octroi posts, and their duty is to direct persons proposing to import goods to one of the octroi barriers.

(b) The men are at present on duty for 20½ hours daily but are allowed to absent themselves morning and evening to have their meals. I am informed that the committee are considering the question of having two guards in future at each of the places mentioned.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS, SADHORA.

***4134. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently the Secretary and certain members of the Municipal Committee, Sadhora, district Ambala, were charged by one Said Muhammad with having embezzled the municipal funds ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on an inquiry being ordered through the tahsildar of Naraingarh, the persons complained against refused to make any statements or show any papers to him ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that on a representation by the said Said Muhammad to the effect that the alleged culprits were utilizing the time thus gained in fabricating false evidence, Mr. Tandon, a first class magistrate of Ambala, was ordered to hold an inquiry on the spot and again the persons complained against refused to show any documents on which the charge of embezzlement was based or any other relevant documents ;
- (d) the action, if any, the Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter ;
- (e) the result of the above-mentioned inquiry ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes.

(b) I understand that the answer is in the affirmative. In particular the president of the committee declined to produce papers before the tahsildar taking his stand on section 231 of the Municipal Act, which states that only an official not below the rank of Extra Assistant Commissioner can be authorized to inspect papers.

(c) Subsequently, as stated by the honourable member, an Extra Assistant Commissioner was deputed to hold an inquiry. He was shown all papers.

(d) and (e) I understand that the Extra Assistant Commissioner has not yet submitted his report in this case. The honourable member may however take it that the Deputy Commissioner on receiving the report will take whatever action is necessary.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the method adopted by the persons to embezzle municipal funds was to fabricate octroi refund certificates and then withdraw from the municipal funds the sum equivalent to the amount entered in these certificates ?

Minister : How can I enlighten the honourable member as to the method adopted by them when the *factum* of embezzlement has not been established ? The matter is under enquiry by the Extra Assistant Commissioner and whether any embezzlement has taken place or not has yet to be proved.

Lala Duni Chand : Should I understand that the Honourable Minister is not in a position to know the nature of allegations and charges that are the subject matter of the question ? Has he no information regarding the nature of the charges ?

Minister : Allegations are under enquiry. Allegations are allegations, beyond that they are nothing.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Honourable Minister know the nature of these allegations ?

Minister : I think it would not be desirable to mention the allegations, unless they have been substantiated. Allegations are sometimes as wild as anything.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Honourable Minister know that the allegations consisted of forging octroi refund certificates ? Does he know this much or not ?

Minister : If that would satisfy the honourable member's curiosity, I would say, yes, embezzlement is one of the charges.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Honourable Minister know that the consignees to whom the goods are said to have been re-exported were fictitious persons ?

Minister : May be, the allegations are there and an enquiry is being held. They may prove to be correct or not.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Honourable Minister any idea of the gravity of the charges, because it is only in that case that the Honourable Minister can help the public or help me ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed. That is a question of opinion.

DECLARATION OF SWEEPERS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES AS WHOLE-TIME AND PERMANENT SERVANTS.

***4137. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on 31st March, 1936, the Punjab Government sent a circular to all the deputy commissioners of the Punjab asking them for their opinion whether the municipal sweepers be declared whole-time and permanent servants of the municipal committees and whether they be allowed all the advantages of provident funds and facilities of leave, etc., as enjoyed by all the employees of the municipal board in the Punjab ; if so, what is the opinion received by the Government so far and what action is intended to be taken on the opinion so received ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : In the circular mentioned by the honourable member Deputy Commissioners were requested to inform local bodies that in the opinion of Government, sweepers should be permanent and whole-time employees receiving the same privileges as regards leave and provident fund as other employees on the same rates of pay. As regards the action taken by local bodies, reports are not yet complete. Forty municipal committees have however reported that they are giving effect to the proposal while others state that they are giving effect to it in part.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE HIGHHANDEDNESS OF THE PRESIDENT
OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, REWARI.

*4142. **Lala Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Congress members of Municipal Committee, Rewari, Gurgaon district, have repeatedly complained to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon against the highhanded and illegal manner in which the President of the said committee conducts himself in regard to the Municipal affairs ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that he refuses these Congress members access to the Municipal records for the discharge of their duties as such ;
- (c) the action taken or intended to be taken on the complaints made by these Congress members of the said committee ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana: (a) The Deputy Commissioner reports that he received certain representations of the kind mentioned.

(b) The inspection of the records of the municipal committee of Rewari is governed by the committee's business by-laws under which the president is authorized to refuse permission for inspection if the reasons given are insufficient. The Deputy Commissioner states that he does not know of any case in which the president has refused the members in question access to municipal records for the discharge of their duties.

(c) The complaints brought were investigated by the Deputy Commissioner who saw no reason for intervention on his part. No further action is contemplated.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN IN LAHORE.

*4156. **Mrs. Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a "Clean up campaign" is at present being conducted and carried on under the guidance and supervision of a number of highly respectable citizens of Lahore inside the town of Lahore and, if so, what help and encouragement the Government is prepared to extend in this connection ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there prevails in Lahore a feeling of resentment against the arrangement of removal of filth by open carts ;
- (c) whether the Government has ever considered the question how far this arrangement affects the health and sanitation of the town ;
- (d) whether the question of the replacement of the above arrangement by a better and more sanitary arrangement has ever been considered by the Government ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Government have seen references to this matter in the press. They have not been asked for help or encouragement but any request received would be considered. The honourable member is not perhaps aware that Government already contribute one half of the municipal health officer's salary, and that they are giving a grant of Rs. 12 lakhs for the new drainage scheme. The Administrator of Lahore informs me that the streets are in fact swept twice a day, and that the reason why they are untidy is that the people persist in throwing out litter.

(b), (c) and (d) Government understand that there is general dissatisfaction with the system of open carts. I am however informed that the provision of closed carts would entail considerable extra expenditure. I am glad to be able to say that when the new sewers round the city have been completed it will be possible for sewage to be dumped into them under a system which will not involve the use of open carts.

Mrs. Duni Chand : Will the Government consider the desirability of increasing the number and pay of scavengers and water-carriers and replacing open carts by covered ones?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the number of carts and conservancy vans is inadequate and that, therefore, every cart has to take many turns every day for removing litter?

Minister : I am afraid the honourable lady member did not follow the reply. What I said is that when the new system is introduced the whole arrangement would be improved.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : But may I know how long the new system is to take yet, and for how long the citizens of Lahore are to put up with the nuisance of the litter remaining in the streets till about 1 P.M. every day?

Minister : But the trouble is that people persistently throw litter in the streets. However, as I have stated, the arrangements are going to improve under the new system.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : I live in the city and the Honourable Minister can see for himself that the litter does remain in the streets till 1 P.M.

Mrs. Duni Chand : Is it a fact that a cart remains standing for full 24 hours in Machhi Hatta where there are many shops of confectionery and whether representations have been made for the removal of the cart?

Minister : That is what I have stated. The trouble of open carts, wherever it is, will be done away with, when there will be a complete sewage system serving the citizens of Lahore.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it possible for the Government to take some temporary measure to cover these carts until the new scheme takes effect?

Minister : The open cart system has been in vogue for many decades and a short time more would not matter. We are, as I have said, trying to put a stop to the present system by introducing sewage. When that

comes about this trouble will die its own death. *(At this stage both Lala Deshbandhu Gupta and Lala Duni Chand stood up and began to put their questions.)*

Mr. Speaker : Order please. Only the honourable member, who has been allowed by the chair, can ask a question. It is not right that a member may stand up and begin asking questions without being called or permitted by the chair.

Lala Duni Chand : I shall be grateful to the chair if these orders are insisted upon scrupulously.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will the Honourable Minister point out the difficulty in the way of introducing some temporary measures to cover those carts? After all the Government have been in office for two years and they have allowed the same old practice of decades to continue.

Minister : I am afraid that is incorrect. Soon after we took over office, the scheme of sewage was prepared. The present system of open carts would be stopped as early as possible. If anything can be done in the meantime, I will draw the attention of the Administrator to that.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : What does the Honourable Minister mean by 'as early as possible'? Does he mean that he will take action when the life of this Assembly is over?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : I also wanted to know how long the Government are going to take to rid the city of these carts?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Lala Duni Chand : If the answer of the Honourable Minister is that this is an old legacy, may I know whether it is the intention of the Government to perpetuate the continuance of this legacy and, if so, how far?

Minister : Far from it. We are aiming at a revolutionary change in that connection. *(Hear, hear.)*

AREA OF LAND AT LUDHIANA CALLED 'RAKH'.

*4208. **Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) to whom does the large area of land at Ludhiana called 'Rakh' used for recreation and as public gardens actually belong, whether to the Punjab Government or to the District Board, Ludhiana, or to the Municipal Committee, Ludhiana;
- (b) whether any portions of this land are leased, lent or granted to recreation clubs; if so, which authority grants such leases or permits;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a permanent pucca structure involving a cost of several thousands of rupees has been raised recently on a part of this land near the cricket ground, if so, who raised this structure, by whose authority and by whose permission;
- (d) when the structure was begun and when permission to build it was given?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) The Punjab Government.

(b) Yes. The Rakh area is under the management of the District Board, Ludhiana, which considers the proposals for leases or permits and, if necessary, submits them to Government for sanction.

(c) Yes. The structure has been raised by the Sutlej Club, Ludhiana. Permission of the District Board was sought and the Board recommended the application to Government for sanction. The club started construction of the pavilion in anticipation of Government sanction.

(d) The structure was started in July, 1938. It was completed before the orders of Government refusing the requisite permission were communicated.

Sardar Lal Singh : Was any action taken to ask for an explanation and is it a fact that this club has been raised on public land exclusively by the officials for official use ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have no information on the subject, but if my honourable friend desires I will certainly make inquiries.

Sardar Lal Singh : Is it a fact that this club was built by the officials exclusively for themselves and this has been used for such like purposes as dances, which are subversive of public morals ? Dances by prostitutes have been held in that club.

Parliamentary Secretary : There are different purposes for which a club is utilized. If my honourable friend wants me to know exactly for what purpose it is being utilized, then I will make inquiries.

Sardar Lal Singh : As the honourable Parliamentary Secretary has said that the officials—one of the high officials—started building this pavilion in anticipation of sanction, was any explanation called from these officials as to why the structure was started without permission of the District Board beforehand ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is very regrettable that the construction should have been started without receiving Government's sanction and the Government are making inquiries and after good consideration they will take suitable action in the matter.

Sardar Lal Singh : The land belongs to the District Board. I want to know whether it is or it is not an offence under the Indian Penal Code to encroach on other people's land and start a structure there.

Parliamentary Secretary : The land does not belong to the District Board. It belongs to the Government but the District Board was authorized by the Government to give any portion of that land on lease. The District Board gave permission to these people to construct that pavilion and then referred the case to the Government for sanction. The Government refused sanction, but before that refusal was received, the building had been constructed. I have already said that it is unfortunate that the building should have been started without receiving sanction of the Government but the Government are making inquiries and after full consideration they will take suitable action in the matter.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that the Government has approved the conditions of the lease ? What were the conditions of the lease ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Conditions of the lease ? I think this question relates to sale of that land.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that this pucca structure will be removed by the lessees at the time they give up the lease ? Has that question been brought to the notice of the Government that the permanent structure will be removed when the lease is given up ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am afraid I cannot answer this question.

Sardar Lal Singh : May I ask whether the Government approves of an exclusive official club being built on public land by officials ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I would not like to give a definite answer to this question because this does not arise out of the original question.

Sardar Lal Singh : I want to know whether the democratic principles of this Government allow that officials should exclusively build a club for themselves while a club is already there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : What the Government are concerned with at present is that the building has been constructed without the Government having given sanction and apart from other considerations the Government will consider as to what action they should take when this building has been constructed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that subscriptions were raised by the litigants for the construction of this building ?

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GUJRANWALA.

***4209. Chaudhri Muhammad Ashraf :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the dates of the meetings of the Municipal Committee, Gujranwala, during the months of October and November, 1938 ;
- (b) the business transacted at each such meeting ; if no business was transacted in these meetings the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a requisition was made on 5th November, 1938, by seven members of the Municipal Committee, Gujranwala, under section 25 of Punjab Municipal Act for convening a meeting of the Committee on 9th November, 1938 ;
- (d) whether any meeting was called for that date ; if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) whether the matter was referred to the Deputy Commissioner by one of the seven members ; if so, the action taken by the Deputy Commissioner in the matter ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) and (b) There were six meetings of the municipal committee during the months mentioned. I lay on the table a statement showing the dates on which these meetings were held and the number of items of business transacted.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The president reports that the 6th and 7th November were holidays and that the requisition did not reach him until the 8th which did not allow time for a meeting to be called on the 9th.

(e) Yes. The Deputy Commissioner asked the president to give the matter his attention.

STATEMENT.

<i>Dates of meetings.</i>	<i>Number of items transacted at meetings.</i>
(1) 8th October, 1938	9 items.
(2) 28th October, 1938	3 items.
(3) 5th November, 1938	Adjourned for want of quorum.
(4) 24th November, 1938	} 2 items.
(5) 25th November, 1938	
(6) 29th November, 1938	1 item.

ROBKARS FROM MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GUJRANWALA.

***4210. Chaudhri Muhammad Ashraf :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether *robkars* were submitted by Seth Dharam Chand and M. Abdul Hamid, members of the Gujranwala Municipal Committee, dated 19th October, 1938, and 30th October, 1938, respectively, regarding the withdrawal of the powers conferred upon the President and Vice-President under sections 228 and 229 of the Municipal Act ; if so, whether they will be laid on the table of the House ;

(b) whether these *robkars* have been included in the agenda of the aforesaid Municipal Committee so far ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Deputy Commissioner was approached in the matter ; if so, the action taken by him in the matter ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes. The *robkars* mentioned are, however, couched in terms to which exception could well be taken and I am not prepared to lay copies on the table.

(b) No. It is understood that the president is not prepared to lay the *robkars* before a meeting unless they are re-drafted in normal official form, personal aspersions being omitted.

(c) Yes. The Deputy Commissioner sees no reason to differ from the views taken by the president in this case, and Government agree with him.

ADJOURNMENT OF A MEETING OF THE GUJRANWALA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***4211. Chaudhri Muhammad Ashraf:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a meeting of the Gujranwala Municipal Committee was fixed for 5th November, 1938, at 8-30 A.M.;
- (b) whether that meeting was adjourned without transacting any business; if so, why;
- (c) whether any note was submitted to the Government bearing the signatures of ten members of the aforesaid Committee who protested against the adjournment;
- (d) whether he would be pleased to lay this note on the table of the House;
- (e) whether the attendance register was signed by twelve members that day;
- (f) whether the above-mentioned note has been brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala; if so, the action taken by him in the matter?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana: (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes, for want of a quorum.
- (c) No such note appears to have been received.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Yes, but the president states that there was not a quorum when the meeting was adjourned.
- (f) Does not arise.

RESOLUTION OF TARN TARAN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE re HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY.

***4213. Sardar Partab Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the wordings of the resolution passed by the Municipal Committee of Tarn Taran city regarding the observance of holiday on the 'Independence Day' on 26th January, 1939, and the contents of the letter sent by the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar district to the Municipal Committee of Tarn Taran ordering them not to carry out the resolution?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana: An English translation of the resolution together with a copy of the Deputy Commissioner's order suspending the execution of the resolution is placed on the table.

[Minister for Public Works.]

English translation of a resolution No. 4 passed by the Municipal Committee of Tarn Taran at a special meeting held on 24th January, 1939, (deferred from 23rd January, 1939).

No. 4.—Proposal of the President seconded by Maulvi Abdul Rahman and Lala Anant Ram that the Municipal office and school be closed on 26th January, 1939, to celebrate the Independence Day with the order of the President for laying it before the committee at to-day's meeting.

Sanctioned.

Order of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, dated 25th January, 1939.

It has been reported to me (though I have not yet received a copy of the resolution) that the Municipal Committee of Tarn Taran yesterday afternoon the 24th January, 1939, decided by resolution that the Municipal office and the Municipal Board School should remain closed on the 26th of January, 1939, in order to observe "Independence Day." In my opinion, this decision, if carried out, is likely to cause annoyance to members of the public having business to transact with the Municipal office and also that class of persons who are not in favour of the observance of 'Independence Day' or do not wish the education of their children to be interrupted in this fashion. In exercise, therefore, of the powers conferred upon me by section 232 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, I suspend the execution of such resolution or order of the Committee and prohibit the doing of any act in pursuance of such resolution or order.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AMRITSAR'S LETTER TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMRITSAR.

*4216. **Sardar Partab Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the letter sent by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, to the Municipal Committee of Amritsar city regarding the resolution passed by the said committee to close municipal schools and offices on the 'Independence Day,' the 26th January, 1939, and the reasons that led the Deputy Commissioner in question to arrive at the decision as contained in his letter?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana: A copy of the order in question is laid on the table. The reasons for the decision are stated in the order.

Deputy Commissioner's order, dated 24th January, 1939.

The Municipal Committee, Amritsar, in its resolution No. 947 passed on the 16th January 1939, has by a majority resolved that the 26th of January, 1939, should be observed as "Independence Day" and that all Municipal offices and schools should be closed on that date. In my opinion, the execution of this resolution is likely to cause annoyance to members of the public who have business to transact with Municipal offices and also to that class of persons who are not in favour of observing "Independence Day" or do not wish the education of their children interrupted in this manner. In exercise, therefore, of the powers conferred upon me by section 232 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, I hereby suspend the execution of the aforesaid resolution and prohibit the doing of any act in pursuance of that resolution.

TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES BY LAHORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

*4220. **Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das**: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of town-planning schemes submitted by the Lahore Improvement Trust to the Punjab Government so far;
- (b) the total number of town-planning schemes sanctioned by the Government so far;

- (c) the total number of such schemes which have been actually carried out so far by the Improvement Trust after having been sanctioned ;
- (d) whether the cost of such schemes is to be met wholly from Municipal funds or whether the Government will pay a part of the cost ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) 92.

(b) 19.

(c) The schemes in question relate to privately owned land. The effect of Government sanction to them is that it is then open to private persons to erect buildings in accordance with the scheme after the submission of buildings plans to the municipality in the normal way.

(d) The cost of examining the schemes submitted by private owners is borne by the funds of the Improvement Trust.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know what is the period within which these plans were sanctioned ?

Minister : Will you please read the question ? You did not ask for this in the question.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I am putting a supplementary question arising out of the reply which the Honourable Minister has given ; perhaps he has forgotten it. The Honourable Minister was pleased to say that 92 town planning schemes have been sanctioned. Am I correct ?

Minister : Yes.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I want to know how many years it has taken to sanction these schemes—one, two or three years.

Minister : That does not arise out of this question. The honourable member asked only the number of schemes approved and now he wants to know how much time was spent in approving them. If he gives notice of this question I will be glad to supply the information.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Will the Honourable Minister kindly state if a board of which he too was a member prepared certain schemes according to the schedule and whether those schemes have been carried out or not ?

Minister : May I know how it arises out of this question ? What concern has it with these schemes ?

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : This is also a scheme like the ones that are being questioned about. What is the harm if I ask about this also ?

VILLAGES BROUGHT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF LAHORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

***4221. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total area and the number of villages in the neighbourhood of Lahore brought under the jurisdiction of the Lahore Improvement Trust as a result of the notification which came into force on 4th February, 1939 ;

[R. B. Lala Gopal Das.]

(b) whether any schemes have so far been prepared by the Trust for the development of this new area ;

(c) whether any compensation will be paid to the owners of the land, if land is acquired for public purposes as provided by section 192 (1) (c) of the Punjab Municipal Act outside the Lahore Municipal limits ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) The total area under the jurisdiction of the Lahore Improvement Trust—this includes the old municipal area and the cantonment—is about 107 square miles. The area includes the whole of 58 revenue estates together with part of 18 others.

(b) No.

(c) As matters stand the municipal act is in force only within the Lahore municipal limits, and Government are advised that land needed for public purposes outside those limits would have to be paid for.

LOANS TO LAHORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

*4222. **Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any loans have been promised by the Punjab Government to the Lahore Improvement Trust for carrying out its schemes ; if so, the amount of such loans ;

(b) whether any amount has actually been paid by the Government as a loan to the Trust and, if so, on what conditions ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes. A loan of Rs. 40 lakhs has been promised in three instalments : Rs. 20 lakhs during the current financial year, Rs. 18 lakhs in 1939-40, and Rs. 7 lakhs in 1940-41.

(b) Yes. The first instalment of Rs. 20 lakhs has been paid. The rate of interest is $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and the period of the loan is 30 years. Repayment of the loan as a whole will begin after the first 5 years, and will be completed in 50 half-yearly instalments.

LEVY OF HOUSE-TAX TO MEET THE EXPENSES OF LAHORE DRAINAGE SCHEME.

*4245. **Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether the Municipal Committee, Lahore, which was superseded, proposed to levy house-tax to meet the expenses of the Lahore Drainage Scheme ; if so, the percentage that such house-tax formed to the rental value of houses in the old inner city and new outer city of Lahore, respectively ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : The municipal committee before it was superseded resolved in general terms in favour of a house-tax to finance drainage but it proposed no specific rates.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : Is the rate being proposed without consulting public opinion ?

Minister : Public opinion was taken into consideration, and that is why the poor have not been made to pay the burden of the rich who should pay themselves.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : What about the poor man, the monthly rent of whose house is Rs. 5 only ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : It is a pity that questions relating to poor people are disallowed.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : For this purpose what definition has been given to the word ' poor ' ?

Minister : All houses with a rental value of Rs. 60 would be exempted and there will be a special concession for the walled portion of the city. The present indirect tax does not touch the rich owners of buildings. They would now pay some portion of the cost of the drainage scheme.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : That is not a scheme. The scheme that was mentioned yesterday was no scheme. I do not regard it as a scheme.

Minister : That is a question of opinion.

Lala Sita Ram : Were there any other conditions imposed along with the house-tax proposal ?

Minister : The honourable member was a member of that municipal committee and he knows better. House-tax was one of the proposals approved by that committee and approved unanimously.

Lala Sita Ram : When the committee proposed a house-tax, did they not also include in the resolution certain other conditions to be fulfilled ?

Minister : The question relates to a particular part of that resolution. If the honourable member wants the whole resolution, he can put another question and get the information.

Lala Sita Ram : My question is, when the proposal of a house-tax was submitted by the committee, did it not also propose certain other conditions to be fulfilled ?

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister says that he requires notice.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he has gone through the resolution ?

Minister : Yes, Sir, many times. It is a historic resolution for which the members of that committee must be congratulated.

Lala Sita Ram : May I know whether those conditions are being acted upon which form part of the resolution ?

Minister : Those conditions are being acted upon. The house tax was approved for the purpose of financing the drainage scheme which has been approved and the construction work has started.

LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***4246. Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government proposes to reconstitute the Lahore Municipal Committee; if so, when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : As I stated in reply to a previous question some time ago, Government intend to withdraw from the direct administration of Lahore as soon as a corporation can be set up. A Corporation Bill is at present being drafted.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : May I know when the Corporation Bill will be presented to this House?

Minister : I have said several times that we are trying to expedite its course. But I am unable to specify a date.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : Has it been drafted?

Minister : It is being drafted.

Lala Sita Ram : Who is preparing the drafting of this Bill? Is the Administrator himself drafting it? (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I know if even before introducing the Corporation Bill, some one has been fixed upon by Government to be appointed as Mayor?

Minister : There are many "budding" Mayors available. There might be some in this House.

ELECTIVE SYSTEM AND THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES OF PINDIGHEB AND ISAKHEL.

***4248. Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the special reasons for not introducing the elective system into the Municipal Committees of Pindigheb and Isakhel;
- (b) whether similar reasons existed in the case of Kalabagh Municipality;
- (c) in what respect the conditions prevailing in the Municipality of Kalabagh are different from those prevailing in the Municipalities of Pindigheb and Isakhel;
- (d) the special factors that were taken into consideration at the time of introducing elective system in the Municipality of Kalabagh?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : I would refer the honourable member to the answer I gave to this starred question No. 1451¹ of last year.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : It is just with reference to that question that this question has been put to the Honourable Minister and the question to which reference is being invited by the Honourable Minister does not contain any reply to the question which I have now put. If he does not want to reply he may say so.

Minister : That is a question of opinion. All I have got to say in reply to this question is that I would refer the honourable member to that reply. He may take it as a reply to this question or not. That is a question of opinion.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Will the Honourable Minister find it convenient to read that reply to the present question ?

Minister : I think it is not the normal procedure. It is published in the proceedings of the House and the honourable member has an access to it.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know, if since the reply to this question was given any further factor has come to the knowledge of the Honourable Minister which justifies the introduction of elective system in the other place ?

Minister : I have already stated that my answer is what I said last year in reply to the honourable member's question No. 1451.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : It is in reference to that question that I ask whether the Honourable Minister is in a position to say as to how this experiment has proved at Kalabagh ?

Minister : It is very difficult to say anything fresh on the subject. The position is the same. If there had been any change I would not have referred the honourable member to the answer to the last question.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : The answer to that question was that after the experiment at Kalabagh, it would be considered whether the elective system should be introduced in the other two places. Therefore, my question is whether the Honourable Minister has had any time to look into the working of the Municipality of Kalabagh ?

Minister : I am glad to find that the honourable member now remembers the reply I gave. That is the position, and experiment is being watched.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : So far as the reply to that question goes, I remember it and it is on that basis that I say that the present question is not being replied to. Therefore I repeat my question with the greatest respect for the exalted Honourable Minister and ask if he would condescend to consider the question whether or not the elective system should be introduced at Pindigheb and Isakhel ?

Minister : My reply is clear. I am afraid I cannot say anything more ?

¹Volume II, page 857.

**REVISION IN THE SCHEDULES OF MINIMUM AREAS FOR HOUSES
IN LAHORE CIVIL STATION.**

***4249. Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 3972¹, will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) what, if any, progress has been made since the date of the answer to starred question No. 3972, in the matter of revising schedules of minimum areas for houses in the Lahore Civil Station ;
- (b) how many local officials have so far been consulted on the subject and the views of how many of them have so far been received ;
- (c) who were the members of the Advisory Committee referred to in clause (b) of starred question No. 3972, and on which date was the Committee constituted ;
- (d) the official designation of the local officers who still remain to be consulted in the matter ;
- (e) whether the present Government Town Planner has been consulted in the matter : if so, whether his report has been received ;
- (f) whether he has fixed any date by which the reports of all the officials concerned should be put up to him for final orders ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : I regret the reply to this question is not yet ready.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know the circumstances, if any, which have prevented the Honourable Minister from addressing an enquiry to the subordinates for supplying this very necessary and very urgent information ?

Minister : I did enquire and the reply is being awaited.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Do I take it that there is no time fixed by the Honourable Minister within which a reply is to be given to him ?

Minister : No time limits are fixed in administrative matters. Cases of this sort are not governed by any law of limitation. The honourable member may take it that there is no unreasonable delay and the matter will be taken up.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Is the honourable Minister aware that the papers are still lying on the table of the Administrator ?

Minister : I must confess that I do not know exactly where papers are lying and on which table, but the matter is being expedited.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : In view of the fact that the papers are lying on the big table of the Administrator, will the Honourable Minister make it convenient to move in the matter ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a hypothetical question and is, therefore, disallowed.

ROAD FROM HOSHIARPUR TO DAULATPUR CHAK.

***4253. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state when the road from Hoshiarpur to Daulatpur Chak was last repaired and whether he had received any complaints about the very bad condition of that road ; if so, what the Government proposes to do in the matter ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : There are three routes from Hoshiarpur to Daulatpur, as detailed below :—

1. Hoshiarpur to Daulatpur,
Direct via Mahangarwal.
2. Hoshiarpur to Daulatpur,
via Haryana and Dholbaha.
3. Hoshiarpur to Daulatpur—via Gagret.

No. 1 is an abandoned road and is neither used for traffic nor repaired at present.

No. 2. Beyond Haryana it passes through chos and khads containing long sandy stretches and boulder stones and is not, therefore, worth maintaining.

No. 3. Beyond Gagret it is in good condition and is frequently used by traffic. It was repaired recently and the District Engineer, Hoshiarpur, saw it on the 10th February, 1939. Up to Gagret it is a Public Works Department metalled road in good condition.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : May I know when the first road referred to by the Honourable Minister was repaired last ?

Minister : It has been taken as abandoned. There is no traffic on it.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY OF JULLUNDUR DISTRICT BOARD.

***4283. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Jullundur, recently made an appointment of its secretary ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the person appointed is a Diploma-holder of the Punjab Local Self-Government Institute ;
- (c) whether there are instructions by the Government to the local bodies requiring them to give preference to such Diploma-holders ; if so, whether these instructions were kept in view by the District Board, Jullundur, in recently making the appointment of its secretary ; if not, the reasons for the same ;
- (d) the academic qualifications of the person appointed as the secretary by the said District Board ;
- (e) the total number and names of the applicants for the post of the secretary with their qualifications ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes. The appointment is of course subject to the approval of Government under section 27 of the District Boards Act. The case has not yet been referred to Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question of appointments to the service of a local body is primarily one for the decision of the local body itself. In 1936 it was however suggested to local bodies that they should, as far as possible, give preference to persons holding the diploma of the Local Self-Government Institute.

(d) B.A., LL.B.

(e) The total number of applicants was 47. I do not think any useful purpose would be served by my laying on the table a list of their names and qualifications.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is the Honourable Minister quite sure that he is a graduate in law ?

Minister : According to my information, but I can further inquire. I have read the letters B.A., LL.B.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether the man is an agriculturist or non-agriculturist ?

Minister : I cannot give that information off-hand. If the honourable member gives notice I shall be able to answer it.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is there any instruction to guide the district boards in matters of appointment or is it the rule of the majority ?

Minister : District boards are bodies constituted by law and they have the power of appointing their own servants subject to the approval of the Government in certain cases.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : What is that law ?

Minister : The honourable member is a lawyer and he can consult the District Boards Act.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is it not the rule of the majority that prevails in the district boards ?

Minister : Rule of the majority prevails in all representative forms of Government.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is the Honourable Minister aware whether almost all the important posts in the District Board of Jullundur are at present occupied by non-Muslims ?

Minister : That is a matter primarily for the district board. I would not like to reply to that because it is a communal question. I must decline to do so under our convention in this House.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister whether the appointment made by the District Board has been confirmed by him or not ?

Minister : If the honourable member had followed my reply he would have saved the time of the House. I said it is subject to the approval of Government and the case has not yet been referred to Government.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS BY JULLUNDUR DISTRICT BOARD.

*4284. **Mian Abdul Rab** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) how many miles of new roads have been constructed by the District Board, Jullundur, during the year 1938 ;
- (b) the amount of grant-in-aid paid by the Government to the said District Board for the construction of new roads during the last year, and if no such grant has been given, the reasons thereof?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) None.

(b) No grant-in-aid for the construction of new roads was given to the Board during the year 1937-38, as no such road was constructed.

REMOVAL OF CHAUDHRI ABDUL KARIM FROM PRESIDENCY OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, ZIRA.

*4285. **Mian Abdul Rab** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Abdul Karim, President of Municipal Committee, Zira, has recently been removed from the office of the president ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the causes that led to his removal ;
- (c) what were the charges against him ;
- (d) whether any inquiry was held into the charges against him and if so, by whom ;
- (e) whether he is prepared to lay a copy of the result of the inquiry and also a copy of the charge sheet on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes, in February last.

- (b) Abuse of his powers.
- (c) He was charged with having incorrectly recorded the proceedings of a meeting in the minute book.
- (d) An inquiry was held by the *ilqa* magistrate.
- (e) It is not the practice of Government to disclose the reports of its subordinate officers, and I am accordingly unable to lay on the table a copy of the *ilqa* magistrate's findings. As regards the charges brought against Chaudhri Abdul Karim, I have stated them above.

REJECTION OF NOMINATION PAPERS FOR DISTRICT BOARD, HOSHIARPUR.

*4289. **Sardar Hari Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and particulars of nomination papers rejected by the Election Officer, District Board, Hoshiarpur, on 4th February last ;

- (b) grounds for rejection in each case ;
- (c) whether proof had been adduced by the objectors in support of rejection ; if so, the nature of proof in each case ;
- (d) the decision or revision of orders of the Election Officer in each case by the Deputy Commissioner of the said district?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Six.

(b) and (c) Under the rules, the candidates whose nomination papers were rejected by the Extra Assistant Commissioner had an appeal to the Deputy Commissioner. In the circumstances I do not feel that any useful purpose would be served by my discussing the question of proof in each case and the grounds on which the Extra Assistant Commissioner's decisions proceeded.

(d) All the six candidates appealed. The Deputy Commissioner accepted four of the appeals, and dismissed one while the sixth was subsequently withdrawn.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether it is against the public interest or against the interest of the official concerned to state the grounds of rejection in each case?

Minister : I do not think the honourable member expects me to give verbatim report of the proceedings in each case. Appeals were preferred to the Deputy Commissioner and accepted in four cases.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he will give any grounds for rejection?

Minister : It would serve no useful purpose. I am against that practice because it will waste the time of the House.

Sardar Hari Singh : Useless from whose point of view? Your point of view or ours?

Minister : No useful purpose would be served according to my lights.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether in the case of Sardar Balwant Singh and Sardar Mula Singh nomination papers were rejected by the officer on the ground that they had suffered imprisonment for one year and according to the election officer one year was synonymous with exceeding one year?

Minister : This is giving information.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I know whether this information is correct?

Minister : I take it for what it is worth.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether in rejecting the nomination papers, the election officer had seen that sufficient proof had been advanced by the objectors that they had suffered imprisonment for one year?

Minister : There might be a difference of opinion, but when the Extra Assistant Commissioner acted in a particular way, he must have been satisfied.

Sardar Hari Singh : Did not the Deputy Commissioner think that the grounds of rejection of the nomination papers by the election officer were queer?

Minister : I have already said that no useful purpose would be served by discussing the question. There were six persons. Appeals of four were accepted, one voluntarily withdrew his appeal and one man's appeal was rejected. Even that man can file an election petition. What is the use of discussing the matter here?

Sardar Hari Singh : Is the Honourable Minister prepared to go into the grounds for rejection in the case of these men whose appeals have been rejected?

Mr. Speaker : That is a request for action.

Sardar Hari Singh : I want to know whether he has gone into the grounds for rejection in each case. I want to know whether he has seen the files.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow the question.

Sardar Hari Singh : I want to know whether the answer has been correctly prepared by him.

Minister : I am perfectly satisfied that the reply is correct. If that is not the reply the honourable member wants, I cannot help it.

Sardar Hari Singh : What does Government think of the intelligence of the election officer?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

ELECTION OF THE ROHTAK DISTRICT BOARD.

*4297. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 3350¹ part (e), will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is still possible to hold the next general elections of District Board, Rohtak, by September, 1939 ;

(b) the approximate time of gazetting the newly proposed electoral circles?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Government still hope that it may be possible to hold the next elections for the district board of Rohtak in September. The recommendations of the local officers as regards circles were received in December ; Government have, however, asked for certain further information which is being collected.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when these elections were due?

Minister : I have replied to a number of questions on this subject and the honourable member ought to remember the replies.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Government make any efforts to hold the elections when they were due?

Minister : Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What were those efforts?

Minister : I have already indicated that.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What was the result of those efforts?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government recognize the desirability of holding the elections of local bodies when they were due ?

Minister : Yes, more perhaps than the honourable member realizes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was the Honourable Minister informed by me some six months before the due time that the district board authorities were purposely causing delay in the holding of elections to enjoy longer lease of membership?

Minister : Certain difficulties cannot be got over because the honourable member addresses a letter to me.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are the district board authorities interested in causing this delay?

Minister : That may be your opinion. The formation of wards lie with the deputy commissioner. The district board is only consulted.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has it not now been proved beyond any doubt, that my apprehensions were true?

Minister : That might be the honourable member's inference.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it a fact that district board and the municipal elections are sometimes postponed to suit the requirements of the Unionist members?

Mr. Speaker : That question is disallowed. No insinuations please.

Minister : I repudiate that charge.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : If that is a fact, we have every right to point it out.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow that.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : On a point of order. Should we take it that insinuations against the Government as a whole are disallowed ?

Mr. Speaker : If possible ; but Government can be criticized.

Minister : He has made a charge and I have repudiated that charge.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : What were the considerations that led the Government to postpone the elections in the Rohtak district board ?

Minister : That question has been answered many times on the floor of the House. The delay has occurred due to the formation of wards in order to give proper representation to all interests concerned.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know how long the formation of new electoral constituencies has been and will continue to be under consideration?

Minister : The formation of wards is an intricate matter and it does take some time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My question is, how much time has been spent on forming new constituencies ?

Minister : It has taken some time and a further reply is being awaited from the local officers.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Honourable Minister aware that 2½ years have already been wasted?

Minister : I cannot say off-hand what is the period involved.

ELECTION OF FAZILKA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***4306. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the last election of the Municipal Committee, Fazilka, district Ferozepore, took place and whether it is a fact that the next election is overdue ; if so, the reasons why it has not taken place so far ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representation has recently been submitted to him by the residents of Fazilka that no further extension be granted in the term of the present Municipal Committee, Fazilka, and that if elections cannot be held immediately some other alternative whether of nomination or of appointing an executive officer be resorted to, if so, the action taken or intended to be taken on the representation?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) The last general elections in Fazilka were held towards the end of 1984. General elections should have been held again in December, 1987 ; shortly before the date fixed it was, however, found that the wards as revised a short time before included certain areas which, though it had been intended that they should be included within municipal limits, had actually not been so included. In the circumstances Government ordered the elections to be postponed until the areas in question could be included within the municipal limits.

(b) Yes. In the circumstances explained above Government decided however to take no action.

Pir Akbar Ali : Did the Government grant the extension to the Fazilka Municipal Committee before December, 1987?

Minister : I am not able to give the date off-hand.

Pir Akbar Ali : Did he extend the life of the committee at all?

Minister : It has been extended.

Pir Akbar Ali : Was it extended after the expiry of the term of the committee?

Minister : I do not understand the honourable member's point.

Pir Akbar Ali : I want to know whether the life of the present committee was extended after its term of office was over.

Minister : That question does not arise, because until new elections are held and a new committee comes into being, the old committee continues to function.

Pir Akbar Ali : My contention is that the period of life of a committee can be extended only before its life is due to expire and not after its life has expired.

Minister : How does the honourable member take it that the life of the committee had expired?

Pir Akbar Ali : After December, 1937, the committee expired, according to the answer of the Honourable Minister. If the period of the committee was extended after December, 1937, then it means that it was extended after the committee had ceased to exist.

Minister : But under the law the old committee ceases to exist only when the new committee comes into being.

IRREGULARITIES COMMITTED BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GUJRAT.

***4307. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a poster headed "*Shehr Gujrat main andher gardi*" and circulated over the signatures of a very large number of responsible citizens of Gujrat town belonging to all the communities in which allegations of a number of irregularities committed by the Municipal Committee, Gujrat, have been made; if so, the action that he has taken or intends to take in regard to the complaint ventilated in this poster?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : The poster points out the disparity as between the rates of octroi obtaining in the Gujrat municipality and in the Notified Area, Railway Bazar. The matter is receiving the attention of Government.

OFFENCES COMMITTED BY LORRY DRIVERS.

***4317. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of offences committed by the lorry drivers and taken cognizance of by the courts in (i) the Amritsar district and (ii) in other districts of the province in 1938;

(b) the total amount realized from them through fines?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : A statement is laid on the table. The figures in this are of all cases under section 16 of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914. Figures are not readily available in regard to cases involving the drivers of lorries, as distinct from other types of vehicles.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : What is the amount realized?

Minister : I have not got the figures before me. If the honourable member gives notice, I may be able to collect them for him.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Is it a fact that the number of offences committed in 1938 far exceeds that in 1937?

Minister : The honourable member seems to know better.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : How does the Government try to lessen the number of offences?

Minister : Unless I accept the inference drawn by the honourable member, how can I reply?

Statement.

MOTOR TRAFFIC CASES TRIED BY COURTS IN THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT DURING 1938.		MOTOR TRAFFIC CASES TRIED BY COURTS IN THE REMAINING DISTRICTS DURING 1938.	
Number of cases tried.	Amount of fines imposed in those cases.	Number of cases tried.	Amount of fines imposed in those cases.
	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
1,818	16,387 12 0	26,833	2,08,820 13 6

SUSPENSION OF PROFESSIONAL TAX ON HARIJANS IN
ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***4319. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- whether the Commissioner, Ambala division, has recently received a representation from me to the effect that owing to famine conditions in Rohtak district professional tax on the Harijans and other poor classes in the district be suspended for the current year ; if so, the action taken thereon ;
- whether representations to the same effect were also simultaneously made to the Chairman, District Board, Rohtak, and the Deputy Commissioner by a deputation consisting of the representatives of the Harijans in the month of December last ; if so, the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes. It was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, for disposal.

(b) Yes. The representations were considered by a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the board, who, while not recommending any general remissions or suspensions agreed that any individual case which seems to be deserving should receive sympathetic consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government considering the question of remitting or postponing the collection of professional tax from the Harijans of the famine-stricken areas ?

Minister : That does not arise. The taxes are levied and all those who earn a particular income are liable to be taxed even though they are Harijans. But I am glad to know if there are Harijans earning that particular income or more.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government recently received a representation from the Harijans and from me to the effect that owing to famine conditions in Rohtak the professional tax on the Harijans and other poor classes in the district be suspended or remitted for the current year?

Minister : That question does not arise. Only those people are taxed who have a certain income within the year. If due to famine conditions any member of this class does not get that income he will not be taxed. If he does get that income then it is a satisfactory state of affairs and he would be taxed. But all hard cases will be looked into. The honourable member has drawn certain inferences which are not correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In the last part of the question, I have asked as to what action was taken on the representations. May I know what action has been taken?

Minister : This is primarily a district board tax. The board has stated that it will look into all hard cases and meet their requirements. I do not see what other action is necessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government in agreement with what the district board has said?

Minister : That is a very sympathetic reply and I am glad that the district board of Rohtak took that view in regard to these cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that ordinarily the tax is remitted in special cases? Now when the area is affected by famine, will it not be justified in remitting or suspending the tax.

Minister : That is how the honourable member wants to explain away the action taken by the district board in the interest of these classes.

Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Is the Honourable Minister aware that when representations are made to the deputy commissioner in respect to this tax he does not care to listen to them? Under the circumstances will the Honourable Minister please take some steps to help the poor Harijans of the famine-stricken area?

Minister : I have already stated that the district board has promised to look into all hard cases. If there are people who have got the capacity to pay they must pay the tax.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Has any case come to the notice of the Honourable Minister where the tax has been realized from Harijans through recourse to courts of law?

Minister : Recourse to courts of law is taken only in those cases where the tax had been levied and even on appeal found to be payable by the party concerned. Those are cases where there should not be any difficulty in realizing it.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is the policy of Government not to supervise the actions of district boards even when a wrong is brought to its notice by a responsible member of this legislature?

Minister : There are very elaborate rules framed by my predecessor and they are being carefully followed.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know the conditions under which it will be the duty of the Honourable Minister to intervene with the ways of the district board?

Minister : That is only a hypothetical question. Unless a case arises how can I anticipate the decision of Government?

Lala Duni Chand : Are there any rules by which Government can take action regarding the actions of district boards?

Minister : There are rules framed by my predecessor. If the honourable member reads those rules all his fears will be set at rest.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to move—

11 A.M.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,88,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,88,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

Decrease of Crimes.

Lala Harnam Das (Lyallpur and Jhang, General Reserved Seat, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 9,93,200 on account of Total Central Jails (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

By moving this cut motion I want to submit that nothing substantial is being done in reforming the mentality and evil habits of prisoners and that is why they damage the edifice of society after their release. This is the only reason why crimes are on the increase under the present circumstances.

Mr. Speaker : Inside or outside the jails?

Lala Harnam Das : Both inside and outside the jails. Certain cases have come to our notice where prisoners have committed burglary even after their release from jail. It is regrettable that Government has not taken pains to eradicate this evil habit of stealing in them. The main reason for the recommittal of burglary is this that the real demand or necessity

[Lala Harnam Das.]

of criminals is not fulfilled. Jail officials instead of reforming them make them stubborn. Let me submit that we should find out the main cause of their committing crimes and then after finding it we should try our best to reform them. The main cause, as far as my opinion goes, is unemployment. They want bread. But the Government have not paid serious attention to this most vital matter. Instead of giving them education in hand-craft work so that they may earn something after their release, they are given mills to grind flour. I may point out that they are required to grind daily 7 or 8 seers of wheat into flour. If it were to be ground by the help of a machine the charges would be 2 pice while in jails 2 annas are spent on a poor prisoner.

Mr. Speaker : If the honourable member wished to reform all prisoners who are sent to jails, he should have selected for discussion a general item, which relates to all jails. But he has selected an item which relates only to central jails. Does he mean that he wants to reform only those prisoners who undergo sentences in central jails and not those who undergo sentences in other jails? His motion appears to be out of order.

GRIEVANCES OF UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 1,78,000 on account of Total Lock-ups (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this cut motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the grievances of the under-trial prisoners in judicial lock-ups.

My first objection is that judicial lock-ups are generally very dirty and more prisoners are kept in them than the accommodation permits. For instance if a room is meant to accommodate 10 or 20 prisoners, the authorities concerned keep 20 to 40 persons in it. It is quite inhuman to pack up men in a very small room. Just consider the hot summer of Multan, Montgomery, Khanewal, and other places where the scorching heat of the sun makes it impossible for men to stay in a congested room. I want to point out the case of the Mailsi lock-up which is situated in the Multan district which is always overcrowded. The condition of the prisoners is no better in the winter. Sufficient blankets are not provided and whatever blankets are provided are frequently infested with lice and dirty as they are it is suicidal to use these blankets in winter. May I tell you who are the persons generally sent there? The poor lambardars or agriculturists who fail to pay up the land revenue in time are sent to these lock-ups. It is high time that the Unionist Government does something to improve their condition. Another difficulty experienced by the under-trials in the judicial lock-ups is that they are given very defective food. The *chapatis* provided are prepared with such flour as contains sand and earth in it.

Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to read out to you a letter here which a relative of mine wrote to me last year when he was unfortunately sent to a judicial lock-up at Khanewal, district Multan. He is a retired military

commissioned officer and his account of the actual conditions of judicial lock-up can well be relied upon. It runs as follows :—

جوڈیشر حوالات۔ خانپوال

اس حوالت کا انفراج مسٹر کنڈن لال ایک نہایت شیطانی سپرنٹ شخص ہے۔ حوالاتیوں کو بہت تنگ کرتا ہے۔ صفائی کی حالت یہ ہے کہ کدیلوں پر جوڈیشر چوڑائیوں کی طرح پھرتی ہیں کٹی بالکل ننگی۔ فٹائیل وغیرہ نام کو بھی نہیں۔ بھنگی لاپرواہی سے صاف کر جاتا ہے۔ سارا دن بدبو تنگ کر چھڑتی ہے۔ کبھی ڈاکٹر وغیرہ ملاحظہ کرتا سنا ہی نہیں۔ روٹی والوں کے ساتھ اپنا ساز باز کر چھڑتا ہے۔ اور باقی حوالاتیوں کی روٹی بہت خراب ہوتی ہے۔ اصل بات یہ ہے کہ وہ ایک اعلیٰ مقامی انسپر کا رشتہ دار ہے۔ کھلم کھلا رشوت لیتا ہے۔ میرے اور باقی آدمیوں کے لئے عزیز احیت سنگھ نے شکر منظور کروائی۔ شکر کا ڈاکٹر سے ملاحظہ کروایا۔ سب ڈویژن سے اجازت حاصل کی اور مبلغ پانچ روپیہ مسٹر کنڈن لال کی بھی نظر کی۔ اس طرح ایک روپیہ کی شکر پر دس روپیہ خرچ آیا۔ مسٹر کنڈن لال نے ایک دن شکر پٹنے کے بعد پتھر پتھر کو دی۔ دوسرے روز سودار دلپ سنگھ صاحب رئیس۔ ونچاری جٹ 105/157 جو کہ سمرالہ ضلع لدھیانہ میں سب رجسٹرار ہیں میری ملاقات کے لئے آئے۔ انہوں نے مجسٹریٹ صاحب سے اجازت حاصل کی۔ مسٹر کنڈن لال نے کٹی کہتے انکو انتظار میں رکھا۔ ملاقات کے وقت انکو چھ دھکے بھی مارے اور وہی شکر غصہ کے ساتھ انکے سامنے پھینک دی۔ ایک مسلمان رئیس حوالت ہو گیا۔ اس سے رشوت لیکر رات کے وقت اپنے کمرے میں سلیا کرتا تھا۔ دراصل بات یہ ہے کہ وہ اپنے رشتہ دار انسپر کی موجودگی کا فائدہ اٹھاتا ہے۔

جناب تحصیلدار صاحب خانپوال کی عدالت کا کمرہ بالکل فزڈیک ہے۔ انہوں نے صفائی کی یہ حالت دیکھ کر اسکو سمجھایا مگر اس نطفہ شیطانی نے مطلق پرواہ نہ کی۔ کیونکہ جوڈیشل حوالات سب ڈویژنل انسپر کے ماتحت ہے۔ مسٹر کنڈن لال نہایت بد زبان اور بے رحم شخص ہے۔ وہ حوالاتیوں کو انسان خیال ہی نہیں کرتا۔ میں یہ باتیں ثابت کرنے کے لئے طیار ہوں۔

[S. Ajit Singh.]

This is a true pen picture of a judicial lock-up and as the man concerned is, as I have already mentioned, a retired military commissioned officer, we may well believe this account to be trustworthy. In view of these hard facts I would urge upon the Honourable Minister for Finance to see that such grievances are removed altogether. Unless I am assured of this, I am afraid, I will have to press this cut motion.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 1,78,000 on account of total lock-ups (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, I must confess to a certain amount of surprise at this particular motion. Never a question has been asked yet during the past two years about treatment or maltreatment of such prisoners nor any grievance whatsoever of such accused persons in judicial lock-ups brought to our notice. I have never received any the least complaint about these accused in judicial lock-ups. Now it has been said to-day that they receive bad blankets. I was not aware of this fact but if honourable members would bring to my notice any real case in which the blankets or other coverings supplied to these under-trial prisoners are defective, I am quite sure that the matter can be easily set right. Further as regards these prisoners in judicial lock-ups, I should think they are allowed to have their own clothes and their own blankets, their own beddings, etc. The same remarks apply also, if I may say so, to the question of food. I was not aware that any bad food was supplied to them. I cannot say that I have visited any judicial lock-ups, but I have visited a large number of jails and it is well-known to all honourable members here that every effort has been made to improve the dietary of our prisoners. Here again I think these under-trial prisoners are allowed their own food. If any actual complaint does as a matter of fact exist, it is perfectly open to my honourable friend to bring the matter to my particular notice and I am quite sure it can be easily set right. I think in view of these circumstances that is not a motion with which the honourable member should proceed to remove the grievances.

Sardar Ajit Singh : In view of the assurance given by the Honourable Minister I do not want to press it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Release of Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 26,54,000 on account of Total Jails (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

(*Punjabi*) : **Mr. Speaker**, the total amount specified here is meant for the boarding and lodging of the prisoners. The Honourable the Finance Minister makes recommendations for the release of the prisoners and I have moved this cut in order to urge upon the Government the desirability of releasing Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar.

Minister for Finance : The release of a prisoner is not a jail matter ; it is not for the department of Jails and Convict Settlements. We are only concerned with the treatment of these prisoners when they are actually in jail. I am not concerned at all, at the moment, with the release of jail prisoners and particularly of these State Regulation prisoners.

Sardar Ajit Singh : May—be the statement of the Honourable Finance Minister regarding the actual position is correct. But even then the treatment meted out to Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar, M. L. A., a member of this Honourable House, is far from satisfactory.

Minister for Finance : Even that would not be true as regards Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar. He is confined in jail as what is known as a state prisoner and I can make no recommendation about his release. I am looking after Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar's comforts as well as the honourable member could possibly desire. He has a garden to himself, he has got a cook and he should be very happy there so far as these arrangements are concerned.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Besides, the confinement of Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar in jail amounts to a sheer injustice to his constituents. This is most objectionable. I therefore strongly press that this demand should be rejected.

Mr. Speaker : I do not think that the honourable member's amendment is in order. It was open to him, no doubt, to oppose the whole grant or even propose its reduction for the reason that he is not satisfied with such and such a thing done by the Government. In fact for opposing a demand it is open to the honourable members to give reasons but without assigning reason they might say that they are opposed to it. So as a reason for his opposing the item or reducing it, his amendment is in order, but for discussing the necessity of so and so's release it is not in order. That is a matter of General Administration and does not concern the Jail Department. Therefore, the honourable member's amendment is out of order.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I do not ask for his release through this motion as I have already said, but even the treatment that is being meted out to him is very bad. He should be treated as an honourable member and his food and other arrangements should be very good as he is an honourable member.

Mr. Speaker : If that was the honourable member's object he should have worded his amendment differently.

General policy of the Jail Administration.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth (Amritsar City, General, Urban) (Urdu) : I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move it to discuss the general policy of the Government underlying jail administration in the province.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been to jail three or four times and am therefore in a position to say something about the jail administration in the province.

Minister for Finance : I was not then in charge of the jail administration.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : No, you were not in charge of the jail administration then. Well, Sir, as I have said I had been to jail some four or five times and can say on my personal experience that the jail administration is rotten to the core so far as the corruption prevailing in jails and the maltreatment of prisoners are concerned. The other countries of the world have gone much ahead in the matter of jail reform. It is unfortunate that nothing tangible has been done in the Punjab in this respect. Even the so called people's Government has been in existence for the last two years but the jail administration stands to-day where it stood some two or three centuries ago. Just as the despots of old used to give the severest punishments to the criminals, that is, they used to have the hands, noses and other limbs of the body of the criminals cut off, our Government awards deterrent punishments to the offenders (*Premier*): Where is your nose ? Have you yours ? Yours is gone already. The jail authorities treat the prisoners very badly. They behave like butchers. No doubt the political prisoners get better treatment and that is the outcome of their sacrifices made in the cause of jail reforms. They agitated against the old jail rules and regulations and secured modifications in them. In 1921, I was an 'A' class prisoner but quitted it and joined the 'C' class. We started an agitation against the old hackneyed jail rules, which lasted for two years. According to rules we were compelled to take our meals while sitting in a row. When the bell rang we were bound to stand up and when for the second time the bell rang we were required to leave the dining place. Our agitation was intended to put an end to such practices. After about two years the Government had to yield to our demands. (*Interruption*). I was submitting that Indian jails when compared with those of Germany, France, America and Russia were found to be backward in every respect by 200 years so to say. In the jails of those countries prisoners are not so badly treated as they are treated here in Indian jails. In other countries, they treat them as a doctor treats his patients. Just as patients suffering from various diseases such as tuberculosis and acute venereal diseases come to a doctor and he treats them all with equal attention, similarly in the prisons of other countries prisoners are treated. In our jails what happens ? The jail authorities take pleasure in giving severe and long punishment to prisoners for nothing. I dare say that no improvement has yet been made in this respect by the present Government. I admit this fact that reformation in prisons is a very difficult task for the Government because the officers of the Jail department themselves indulge in various corruptions and therefore they do not want any reformation to be made against their own interest. I do submit that corruption is prevalent in almost every jail. I remember that incident when Lala Duni Chand presented himself before the Jail Commission in the capacity of a witness and he was asked if he were offered a post of a Judge of the High Court or that of a Jailor which of them he would have accepted. He replied, "If I want to have plenty of money I would prefer to accept the post of a Jailor. A Judge of the High Court gets 4 or 5 thousand rupees a month while a jailor of a central jail or a district jail earns 10 or 15 thousand rupees a month. How could I prefer to be a judge of the High Court ?" Really it is so, and I am giving you a truthful record of what happens in prisons. The jailors earn like anything. They take commissions by force out of the clothing and the food of the prisoners. Those people who have not gone to prison cannot know much about a prison.

As regards the improvements that have been made in the Jail department, I would like to submit that very little improvement has been made in the Jail department of our province. A few days ago I saw a note written by our Finance Minister in a newspaper to the effect that a prisoner could put on private clothes at the time of seeing a visitor or a relative and at the time of shifting from one jail to another. If anything else has been done by the Honourable Finance Minister in reforming the horrible system and appalling ways of prisons, I would like to withdraw my cut motion without saying a single word in its support. I appeal to the Honourable Finance Minister that the whole system of prison is rotten. It requires thorough overhauling. A man who has not been a prisoner himself cannot at all conceive what the ways and systems of a prison are and how they are observed. In this respect I would like to quote a surprising instance. When I went to jail for the first time, as a prisoner, I was shocked to see the headwears of the prisoners. They were too bad to look at. I do not think it would be sensible to express what I really thought at that time. But, anyhow, I am not able to conceal my observations. The first idea that struck my mind at the time of seeing those caps of the prisoners was that of a juggler's monkey. Naturally I was reminded of Darwin's theory. I thought that as long as they were in prison in that garb they were nothing but Darwin's animals and after their release they would be considered as human. The caps given to them to put on are really very repulsive. I think they can easily be changed for better ones with better shape.

There is another point which I would like to emphasise and that is this that no alteration at all has been made in the Indian Penal Code while the Penal Codes of Germany, France, America and Russia have been considerably changed. I do not know what our Government is waiting for. It is high time for the Punjab Government to gird up their loins in order to improve the system of the Jail department. All of it should be altered. There is no spirit of love in a prison but hate. They first break the will and rob you of hope and then rule by fear. The prisoners acquire bad habits during their jail life. The main cause is that the officers themselves indulge in evils. They are dishonest. The morals of the prisoners should be mended in prisons so that society after their release from the jail may not fear them as criminals. But their morals are not mended but spoiled altogether. Strictly speaking a prisoner develops bad habits in prisons because the jailors and warders themselves are of bad character. The habits of prisoners under them naturally become worse. In this respect I would request the Government to start a training school for the new appointed jailors and other officers as they have started a training school for the Police department. In that school the jail officers may properly be trained up how to treat a prisoner.

Sir, when anybody goes to jail naturally he thinks that he also stands in need of good things. He likes to have satisfactory diet, milk and curd and so on and so forth. No one can restrain one's desire, on the other hand, the suppression of desire leads sometimes to a greater outburst. I, therefore, suggest that steps should be taken to improve the quality of the diet of prisoners. It should be such as could be easily digested. I have a personal experience that the kitchens in which the prisoners' food is cooked are generally filthy and dingy and the food cooked there is generally

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth.]

of the worst type. In order to illustrate my point I would recount my own personal experience. At one time I was an 'A' class prisoner in a jail. Along with me there were thirty other companions of mine. The diet that was supplied to us daily was of such a quality that in our opinion the jail authorities must have been saving Rs. 10 per head. In this way the jail authorities were making at least Rs. 300 monthly from the ration that was supplied to us by the Government. I may here point out for the information of the honourable members that the saving thus effected did not go to fill the coffers of the provincial exchequer, but it found its way into the pockets of the corrupt jail authorities. After sometimes we left 'A' class and went over to 'C' class. There we were given dal and bread to eat. As I was about to eat I found that in my plate of dal alone there were not less than seven dead flies. Such are the meals that are supplied in jails. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Did you expect to find elephants in your plate of dal ?) (Laughter). I ask the Honourable Finance Minister in all seriousness whether the diet that is supplied in jails is worth eating ? In this connection I may also point out that the utensils in which dal or other vegetables are cooked are generally iron utensils. The result is that dal or other vegetables cooked in them become dark in colour. If anybody asks the jail authorities to change them, they refuse to comply with the request on the ground that the iron utensils are cheaper than others. Why should they spend large sums of money on buying other dearer utensils when the cheaper ones can serve their purpose ? I wonder why the Honourable Minister is not prepared to remedy this state of affairs and does not like to save the poor prisoners from the cruelties of the petty jail officers. In my opinion the jail administration requires complete overhauling.

Now I take up another thing. In the jails, oil is also supplied to the prisoners instead of ghee. If I am not mistaken the quantity of oil supplied to each prisoner never exceeds one-eighth of a tola. The rest of the oil goes to the head warder, jailor and other ordinary warders. May I put a question to the Honourable Finance Minister whether this state of affairs is not prevailing in jails and whether the prisoners are not getting only one-eighth tola of oil ? Sir, I may submit that in the Punjab people are not accustomed to use oil instead of ghee. Even the poor of the Punjab do not use oil but instead use ghee and butter. Some take their meals with *lassi*, and others simply take *chapatis* besmeared with ghee. I wonder why our Government have not effected any change in this respect up till now.

Now I would like to say a word about the punishments that are awarded in jails. The penalties that are inflicted on prisoners in the jails of the Punjab are strange indeed. It is regrettable that such severe punishments as fetters and solitary confinement are still in vogue in the Punjab jails while they have been done away with in the Congress governed provinces. With one stroke of the pen they have put an end to all such hard labours. On the other hand, our Government have practically paid no attention to these things. It is not a secret that the jail authorities in the Punjab exact the hardest of work from the prisoners. Even if a prisoner, who is allotted 18 seers of corn to grind, says that he cannot grind so much corn, he is forced to grind it. The jailor says, "come what may, he must grind his full

share even though he may not have the capacity to do so". The result generally is that when at the end of the day the jailor goes to take stock of the work of the prisoners, he finds that a particular prisoner has ground only 10 seers out of 18 seers of corn, produces him before the Superintendent of Jail and somehow or other persuades the officer concerned to get him punished. The poor prisoner has to take the punishment. In the course of his imprisonment he gets not once but many times such punishments. This kind of treatment at the hands of jail authorities makes him sullen and morose. This state of mind in its turn leads him to become desperate. And when he becomes desperate he generally commits some such offences, i.e., either he abuses the jailor or commits some other serious offence. It is a thousand pities that such state of affairs is allowed to prevail in our prisons. The jail authorities of this province instead of reforming the prisoners goad them on to do acts of desperation. If a prisoner does a thing which he ought not to have done, he is not to be blamed for it. It is the jail authorities who are responsible for it. I am of the opinion that the jail authorities should take only that kind of work from the prisoners which he has been doing outside the four walls of the jail, so that the prisoner in his calmer moments should think of how best he could reform himself.

I have already stated that when a prisoner enters the jail and when he goes out of it, literally no change takes place in him. He practically remains the same old criminal. He is not reformed, on the other hand he becomes still worse. The reason for this is that the corrupt jail authorities in order to line their own feathers, do all that lies in their power to turn the prisoners into hardened criminals. I am definitely of the opinion that so long as honest and good people like Mahatma Gandhi and his followers are not appointed as instructors, we cannot in any way hope for better results. (*Laughter*). Besides, so long as the jailors are not trained in a better manner, and are not taught that they are the servants of the public, they cannot be of any use, either to the Government or to the public.

Then, the vegetables that are provided to the prisoners are so bad and dirty that if one passes by them, one is likely to contract headache on account of their offensive smell. I have witnessed with my own eyes that good vegetables either go to the house of the Superintendent of the jail or the jailor or other ordinary warders. But the poor prisoners for whom the vegetables are sown have to content themselves with those bad and dirty vegetables. Corruption is prevalent in jails to a great extent. I request the Punjab Government to stop it as soon as possible.

The next point which I want to bring before the House is this, that the prisoners are not provided with big berths. The berths given to them are too small to sleep on. Their width is hardly one foot or so. Sometimes it so happens that a prisoner falls down while sleeping on them. It seems to be very inhuman to disturb a poor prisoner in his sleep like that when he has gone to sleep after a full day's hard work. I am afraid the list of the grievances of prisoners would be without end.

Another grievance is this, that when the jail officers want to punish any prisoner, they shut him up in a solitary cell, which is so narrow and dark that it does not admit a ray of light to pass through. The prisoners are made

[Dr. Sant Ram, Seth]

to stay there not for days but for weeks and weeks together. I have had also the experience of those cells. Those cells are used as latrines, urinals, kitchen and dining rooms and even a jailor does not like to visit that place. Prisoners are kept in that sort of cells for 24 hours. Is it not very hard to make them stay in those gloomy cells for such a long time? Naturally they are taken ill on that score. I may further submit, that no arrangement has been made for the recreation of the unfortunate prisoners in the Punjab Jails. I should say that our province should follow the footsteps of other countries like France and America where recreation is given to prisoners on a very large scale. Moreover, I have found that in our province prisoners are not provided with books. Up-to date libraries are found to be very scanty in the jails of this province. I remember in 1921-22, in Ambala district Jail, I asked for the list of the books and I found hardly 20 books in that list. Does it not mean that the jail departments wants the prisoners to give up their habit of reading books? In prison, I think, books are necessary. But what a pity that books are not given to the prisoners to read. Take for instance Russia, America and Germany. Prisoners are provided with up-to-date books. They are given monthly, weekly and daily newspapers. In certain cases prisoners get papers on paying subscription from their own pockets and in some cases papers are given to them by the jail officials. I remember when I was in jail I once asked the jail superintendent to give me permission to get "Tribune" but he refused and said, "No, you may get "Civil & Military Gazette" but not "Tribune."

Finance Minister : That is an old story.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I submit, Sir, that there are no adequate arrangements for latrines in jails? They are dirty and give bad smell. Prisoners do not get privacy at the time of answering calls of nature and this causes difficulty in cases of certain prisoners. I want to bring another point to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Finance and that is this that those prisoners who are of good character may kindly be allowed to go out for a walk. The restriction put on prisoners in case of writing letters to their relatives and friends may kindly be taken away and the period of 15 days on the expiry of which they are allowed to write letters be lessened. Another most important point is in regard to the delivery of the letters of the prisoners. The letters of prisoners are not delivered in time. They are late by weeks and weeks together. Humanity and courtesy demand that every letter of a prisoner should be delivered to him as soon as it reaches the jail. The present system that is the delivery of all the letters received in a week's time or so, at one time, may be stopped. (*Interruption*). I would be the first person to go to prison after breaking the Army Act.

Premier : Do you like to go to jail or army?

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : To jail, not to army.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : According to your statement we would not be able to go to jails because you would break our necks.

Premier : My honourable friend is making a mis-statement.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : I am sorry to observe that you forget in the Chamber what you say outside and do not mind going back upon your words and you are lacking in moral courage.

12 Noon.

Well, Sir, I wanted to say that in the jails of America, France, Russia, and England the married young prisoners are allowed to keep their wives with them in separate rooms allotted to them for the purpose. (*An honourable member :* So the family too should be imprisoned).

The Unionist Government claim to be the true helpers of the zamindars and they are never tired of saying that they live for them and will die for them. But may I very respectfully ask them whether they are prepared to give the same facilities to their brother zamindar prisoners as are given to them in Russia and France? In those countries the zamindar prisoners are allowed to proceed on leave for 10 or 20 days at the time of harvest, so that they may be able to cut their crops and convey the grain home. It is a thousand pities that our zamindar Government have never thought of giving this facility to their unfortunate brethren in jails. I hope the zamindar members will compel the Government to grant such facilities to them. We will, for our own part, urge upon the Government to amend the jail rules so as to make it possible for zamindar prisoners to take leave during the time of harvest. (*An honourable member :* Please do it in the Congress provinces first).

Mr. Deputy Speaker : No interruptions please.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Another improvement brought by the Congress Ministries is that they have abolished the system of flogging prisoners in jails. That was a very inhuman system. But I am sorry to observe that it is still in vogue in the Punjab jails. In this connection it would be advisable for the Government to start a training school for the jail superintendents, assistant superintendents and the jailors, just like the police training school of Phillaur. (*Lala Duni Chand:* Ministers too need such a training). Every prisoner below the age of 50 years should be given moral training in jails so that when he goes out of a prison house he may become a useful citizen and desist from his criminal activities. We should try to reform and improve the morals of the prisoners, because the greatest difficulty experienced by the convicts is that when they come out of a jail, they do not know how to earn their living, whence to get clothes, food, and other necessities of life. The Government should open in every town a Prisoners' Aid Society which should help the prisoners after their release to make a living. These societies should find employment for them. If this is done, the ex-convicts can be reclaimed by the public as good citizens. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akram Khan (Jhelum, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu :* Sir, the honourable member who has just preceded me would recollect that he and I had been together in one jail, he as a political prisoner and I as the Superintendent of Jail. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition also happened to be there, in 'A' class along with other

[K. B. Raja Muhammad Akram Khan]
 ordinary offenders. Now I am sure they will agree with me that the horrible picture of the mal-administration of the Punjab jails depicted by my honourable friend opposite is very much contrary to facts. I hope the honourable Leader of the Opposition would recollect that on the eve of Id I got food prepared for all the political and many ordinary prisoners at my own expenses and also dined with them. Do they complain against this treatment accorded to them by a Jail Superintendent?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Were you not transferred from that jail on this very account?

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : No. There were some 15 or 16 doctors, 15 or 16 hakims and 19 or 20 lawyers. Some leaders belonging to the Punjab, the United Provinces and also Peshawar, including Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the Frontier leader, were confined in that jail. No work was taken from them, nor were they willing to do any work. They were, however, asked to make envelopes and even that work was resented and described as injustice by them. Half a chhattak of rice was given to each prisoner but the political prisoner used to ask the jail authorities to keep with themselves the quantity of grams to be given to them during the week and supply them some rice instead of those grams. The 'A' and 'B' class prisoners had their own clothings and beddings. The 'C' class prisoners were provided with some oil. They were asked by the high class prisoners to wash their clothes and dust their shoes. That was what the high class prisoners did. They never took mercy on the 'C' class prisoners. I remained there for four or five months and was then transferred to Sialkot. This jail was exclusively meant for A and B class prisoners in those days. The honourable member Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt then came there. The jail authorities used to ask every prisoner who came in as to what was his caste and what profession he followed. If a prisoner was a mochi, he was given a mochi's work. If he was a weaver he was asked to do a weaver's job. If he was a cultivator, he was put on agriculture. In short every prisoner was given work of his own choice. Before giving work to a prisoner the jail doctor used to examine him medically with a view to ascertain whether he was fit for the work allotted to him. The Superintendent along with the doctor used to go round the jail every day and inspect every cell. If a prisoner pointed out to him that the former was not physically fit for the work allotted to him, the Superintendent, after consulting the doctor, used to put the prisoner on some other work. It has been alleged that rotten vegetables are provided for the prisoners and good vegetables are always reserved for the use of the Superintendent. In the morning the prisoners are provided with 4 different kinds of dal. They are given cooked vegetables in the evening. All kinds of vegetables are sown, cut, gathered and cooked by the prisoners themselves. It is also said that utensils provided for the use of the prisoners are usually very bad. This is also an incorrect statement. The utensils usually of copper were duly tinned. The kitchens are kept clean and tidy. They had wire-guaze doors. Flour provided for the use of the prisoners was of superior quality. Since 1930 it has been arranged to purchase grain from agricultural farms. Meals were never served to the prisoners unless and until the Superintendent inspected them in the morning and in the evening. He used to taste every cooked article.

before it was distributed among the prisoners. Loaves were also inspected in order to see whether they were properly cooked. Then another complaint has been made to the effect that there are no adequate arrangements for ventilation. When I was Superintendent I received a complaint that the prisoners felt cold on account of the liberal arrangements for ventilation. Then again, it has been alleged that the prisoners have to answer the calls of nature in the cells in which they are confined. Of course they have to do that at night and that too in a corner specified for the purpose. Otherwise the arrangements in the day time are satisfactory. The Superintendent goes round the jail every morning and pays special attention to sanitation. A very large quantity of phenyle is used. In fact there are no complaints about the inadequacy of arrangements of ventilation and sanitation. Then it has been said that the wear of the prisoners is very bad and when they are dressed in jail clothes they look like monkeys. A prisoner is provided with two sets of clothes made of *khaddar* so liked by my friends over there. He uses one set when he is at work and uses the other set when he is not engaged in work. Every week there is an off day for the prisoners when they take bath or wash their clothes. A kit parade is held on every Monday and one who is found to be very clean and tidy is granted one day's remission. In winter every prisoner is provided with blankets to the maximum of five according to necessity. He is also supplied with a warm coat though of inferior quality. He is also provided with a warm head wear. Of course *charpais* are not supplied. The prisoners sleep on raised ground platforms wide enough to accommodate them when asleep.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : The rosy picture of the jail life presented by the honourable member will tempt almost all the unemployed in the province to court imprisonment. (*Laughter*).

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : Then, Sir, the oil used in the jails for frying the vegetables is the purest and absolutely free from adulteration. Care is taken to purchase mustard from the barani ilaqas because the mustard purchased from the canal areas very often contains a mixture of toria, etc. I am free to admit that oil, and not ghee, is used for frying the vegetables given to the prisoners but there are many people who use oil even outside the jails. The Bengalis do not use ghee at all.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : How is that oil extracted?

Minister for Finance : That question ought to have been put to me.

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : There was no oil machine in Gujrat, and when my honourable friend was there he used to get pure ghee. We had tins of ghee for him and his friends.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : What about Sialkot?

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : I was relating the experience of my honourable friend himself.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Let the honourable member state his own experience.

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : It has also been stated by the honourable member opposite that the letters to the prisoners are not delivered to them promptly. My submission is that the jail staff has no personal enmity

[K. B. Raja Muhammad Akram Khan.]

with the prisoners. Even to the 'C' class prisoners their letters are delivered on the day they are received. If they are not sent to them at once they are delivered at the time when the jailor makes a round. As regards supplying of envelopes to prisoners I think it should be enough to point out that some political prisoners misused the privilege and the present state of affairs is the result of that misuse. As regards the prisoners having any difficulty in writing to their relatives, I may submit that the prisoner who is entitled to write a letter on a certain day informs the jailor or the Superintendent at the time of kit parade and a post card is supplied to him at that very time. What more do my friends want?

About the libraries I am free to admit that jail libraries do not possess the works of Iqbal or Shibli but I would submit that we should have only such books in the jail libraries as the prisoners may be able to read and understand. (*Hear, hear*). Then there are ample arrangements for religious instruction. In addition to this, prisoners can learn and they do learn Urdu, Hindi or Gurmukhi from the religious instructors.

Then comes the question of newspapers. When I was in the department we used to supply to prisoners the *Civil and Military Gazette* and the *Tribune* was not supplied. But let me tell you, Sir, that eminent political leaders used to obtain the *Tribune* somehow or other. I leave it to my friends to judge whether this smuggling was due to the staff being too lenient or to the vast resources of the political prisoners.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It is possible that the Superintendent brought the *Tribune* with him and gave it to the prisoners.

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : In that case my honourable friend should thank us instead of making it a grievance.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : What about women? May I request the honourable member to confine his remarks to jails. It seems he is talking about the Government House. (*Laughter*).

Raja Muhammad Akram Khan : Female prisoners are under the care of women and they too are properly looked after. Now, Sir, I think I have met all the points raised from the other side and there being nothing more to explain, I resume my seat.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar (North-Western Towns, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I shall confine my remarks to only three or four matters relating to the demand under consideration and leave the rest to be dealt with by other honourable members. But before I proceed with these remarks I would request the Government to realize what effect the present state of affairs is having on the public mind and whether that effect is desirable from the point of view of even the Government. I am not one of those who hold that a Government that has inherited a bad legacy from its predecessor can create a new earth and a new heaven in a day. I know it takes time to change a system which has continued for a considerably long time ; but I submit there may be a difference between Government and Government. It is the difference of outlook and method. Now may I ask whether there has been any change of outlook and method in connection with the prison system since the present Government entered office, and if no such change has taken place who is to blame for it?

It has been stated more than once on the floor of this House that the real worth of a Government lies in the fact how far the Government, in view of the general welfare and betterment of the people, has shown by its conduct that it is seriously anxious to carry the people to the pinnacles of prosperity and how far it is ever ready to help them by all means at its disposal. When one looks at Government with a critical eye to ascertain its real worth, one thing which he must naturally advert to is how far it has succeeded in creating a spirit of self-respect in the people. Now keeping this criterion in view, let us see how far this Government has acted upon these lofty principles so far as the jail administration in this province is concerned.

It is true that ordinarily people are sent to jail because they commit crimes. It is but right that they should reap the just reward of their sins. Rather it is obligatory that the wrong-doer should be adequately punished. Nobody disputes this fact. But I may submit that the people that are to be punished should be entrusted to the care of such a chastiser who should possess a living heart and that heart should have sympathy for the convicts. I do not think that there is any individual or there is any Government which would like to keep a portion of the population in such abject conditions where they cannot even think of bettering their condition. Now the thing worth considering is this. We have to see how far this Government has succeeded in according humane treatment to the prisoners and how far it is desirous of giving practical shape to this long standing need of the people. I do admit that a salutary reform has been effected by the Honourable Finance Minister of this Government. That is, previously in jails prisoners were employed to extract oil but now instead of the prisoners bullocks would work the *kolu* and extract the oil. It is really praiseworthy. I do not think that there is any individual who cannot but praise this achievement of this Government. In fairness every one should recognize it. But may I put a question to my honourable friend, the Finance Minister as to what has his Government done in order to better the condition of the prisoners of this province? A month ago an order was issued by the Honourable Finance Minister to the effect that the prisoners were permitted to get their hair cut and shaves done. But in this order my honourable friend has not made it clear whether the prisoners could have their hair cut and shaves done after a week, a fortnight or a month, or daily. Nor has he thrown any light as to how the prisoners would get their hair cut and shaves done? Will they be permitted to do the needful themselves? Will they be permitted to keep a razor with them or will the Government allow barbers to go to jails and do all these things for the prisoners? All these things ought to have been clarified.

Besides, may I know what the Government has done to improve the condition of those prisoners who work from 7-80 A.M. till 5 P.M.? During these hours the poor hardworked prisoners get only half an hour recess in order to take their meals. I have already stated on the floor of this House that I do not say that the offenders should not be awarded punishment for the offences they commit but this much I do urge that a human being whether free or in prison remains a human being. It is in the fitness of things that he should be treated like a human being. May I know whether a person who becomes a prisoner to-day does not require the same amount of refreshment

[L. Bhim Sen Sacher.]

and the same kind of games as he had been enjoying when free? In fact here in the prison he needs them most in order to set in order his mental condition and to think of bettering his future career. Besides, there is not a single officer in the Jail department to suggest that prisoners should be so treated in jails that when they go out they should prove themselves to be good members of the society. May I ask the Honourable Finance Minister what he has done in this respect? Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister has just come in and I like to tell him as I have already told the House that I do admit that the old system of Government cannot be changed in a day and a new heaven and a new earth cannot be created overnight. But the question is whether he honestly thinks that there has been some kind of change in the jail administration since his Government took office. If he is of the opinion that there should be whole time superintendents for every jail because in that case they can pay full attention to jail affairs and thus can perform their duties in a better manner, what has he done to give practical shape to his own opinion? And in spite of the fact that the Lumsden report has been before my honourable friends for the last 14 years, why have they not succeeded in appointing whole time superintendents in all the jails of the Punjab? May I know whether the Government has appointed whole time superintendents in all the jails of the province? Do you or do you not think that whole time superintendents can run the jail administration efficiently? If you think that in the interests of good jail administration the appointment of whole time superintendents is necessary, then why have you appointed only a few whole time superintendents? May I know why my honourable friend has neglected other jails of the province? I know that the Honourable Finance Minister will tell me that had I read the next few lines of the memorandum, I would have very easily found out the answer. That is, on account of lack of funds this over — due reform could not be carried out. In the same breath he will also say that the presence of whole time jail superintendents would be useful inasmuch as they would be able to give full attention to the jail affairs. But, funds, he will continue, do not permit the Government to carry out this much needed reform at this time. If the circumstances are as my honourable friend will state, may I put a question to him, where is the necessity of keeping superintendents on a salary of Rs. 2,000 a month when the same kind of work can be done by superintendents getting only Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 a month?

Now I draw your attention to a very important matter. I fail to understand why our Government which insists on calling itself a popular Government and whose praise the Honourable Finance Minister waxed so eloquent, should be so anxious to recruit superintendents of jails from amongst retired officers of the Indian Army. Is it not strange that a Government which so often says that it has not got funds enough to have whole time superintendents, should advertise for a retired Indian officer on Rs. 700 with an annual increment of Rs. 30 rising upto Rs. 1,000 per mensem? Why not give promotion to one of your own Assistant or Deputy Superintendents who may be drawing three, four or at the most five hundred rupees a month and who will be able to do the work as efficiently as, if not more efficiently than, a retired officer of the Indian Army? The Honourable Minister for Finance is a very well read gentleman and he must have read a good deal about jails.

in other countries. May I ask him whether any governor of a prison in England draws more than Rs. 700 a month? But why should our Government pay attention to such questions? Its only concern is to have an Englishman at all costs.

Then there is another question. If the Government has got no money why should it have I. M. S. people as superintendents on such high salaries?

Minister for Finance : But they are all of them Indians.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Does the Honourable Minister mean to say that we should not object to Indians drawing inordinately high salaries? Let me tell him that from the Congress point of view a robber is a robber, no matter whether he is an Indian or an Englishman. Why do you allow them to suck our blood? Why not do away with this cadre altogether?

As I have already stated, the Government has not employed whole time superintendents because it has not got money. Then why insist on having white elephants? May I point out that you have a grade of Rs. 200—10—350 for Deputy Superintendents and that for Assistant Superintendents the old grade was Rs. 400—10—500 while the new grade is Rs. 300—7½—450 or 350—7½—175? If these are the grades for Deputy Superintendents then you should remember that these Deputy Superintendents are Indians too and that they can work more efficiently than your I. M. S. people. Is it because they are white men and belong to a nation which wants to keep us under perpetual subjugation and does not scruple in doing the greatest harm to India for the least gain for its own country that you want them? When you say you cannot employ wholetime superintendents there must be some set policy for taking such a decision. But what is your practice? You pick up a senior P. C. S. man who is drawing Rs. 600 a month and would have reached Rs. 800 in many years and appoint him as a superintendent with Rs. 100 as special pay or allowance. How do you reconcile these two diametrically opposite things? May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the appointments of retired military officers of I. M. S. and of P. C. S. officer in this department are not made at the expense of efficiency in order to meet the exigencies of favouritism and nepotism?

You might remember, Sir, that after the Great War a large number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians was thrown out of employment and the Government asked its officers to give preference to them without asking commercial concerns whether they could provide these people with any jobs. Now may I enquire whether the Government is so anxious to employ Europeans and Anglo-Indians because it is the will of their masters? The Honourable Minister cannot say that Indians cannot perform these duties efficiently. After all P.C.S. officers whom you appoint as superintendents are Indian too. Again it has been stated that three assistant superintendents have been promoted as superintendents. Then why not pursue this policy still further and not insist on your search for Europeans?

When you find that Indians can fill these offices with credit and render creditable services, is it then absolutely necessary for you to recruit Englishmen and Anglo-Indians? It may appear to be an insignificant matter to you. But I may venture to observe that this shows the angle of vision of

[L. Bhim Sen Sachar.]

those who are at the helm of affairs in this province. The Honourable Minister in charge of this Department should declare his policy that he is prepared to go 'thus far and no further.' Why does he feel called upon to provide Anglo-Indians instead of suitable Indians? The only test that we can apply in order to see whether the present Government is leading the country to prosperity or ruination, is to note how far it is following the foot-prints of the previous alien Government, and how far it is prepared to depart from the bureaucratic methods. But I am sorry to remark that when we judge the Unionist Ministry according to this standard we find them hopelessly wanting.

Coming to the policy of appointing whole-time superintendents of jails, I may be permitted to say that they do not appoint persons according to their merit and efficiency. Again, they appoint whole-time superintendents even where the number of prisoners does not justify it. For instance at Kasur and Amritsar where the number of prisoners is 500, no such officer is appointed but at Jhelum where the prisoners number only 300, a whole-time superintendent is provided. You may fancy that it is mere talk. May be, you are after justice and you always bear in mind the best interests of the province. But may I respectfully ask the Honourable Minister whether he is entirely satisfied with orders of transfers and postings that are daily being passed? Is the learned Minister satisfied with the appointment of Civil Surgeons as part time medical officers in jail when they are too busy to attend to other patients and their assistants have to do the job for them? If in their places Sub-Assistant Surgeons are appointed they will get less pay because their pay is 100 to 150 rupees. They will be more careful in the performance of their duties. They will know that they will have to remain there and show their good work. At present, medical officers are sent to jail for a period of a year or two. Only those who are not in the good books of the officers, are sent there by way of punishment, because there they cannot find any practice. A small allowance is provided. I think that a permanent medical officer would do better. He will have to feel the responsibility. At present the medical officers who are posted in some jails temporarily, think that they have to complete one year some how or other. They do not bother much about improving the matters in the jails. But if Assistant Surgeons are appointed permanently in jails on a salary of Rs. 250 I think they will do good work. My suggestion in this behalf is that these men will be under the control of the Jail department, and as such will have to show better results. But a medical officer who is really under another department cannot be expected to do well in a department which has no effective control over him. Even if we suppose that he can do good work, we will have to see whether he knows that the Inspector-General of Prisons has an absolute authority to recommend his promotion or degradation. At present he depends upon the Medical Department for these things and works in the jails. It is not a very satisfactory arrangement. He knows that he belongs to a different cadre and will soon go back. If he is given to understand that he has to remain in the Jail department and can rise to the post of Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent, we may be sure, that he will fall in love with his work there and not cast a longing, lingering look behind. That is the fundamental principle of service.

An officer should know what promotions he can achieve and what heights he can climb to. If he sticks to one job, he becomes expert in that and may prove more suitable than a fresh man imported from other departments. At the arrival of such new man, the experienced man becomes broken hearted.

Mr. Speaker, our learned Minister should know that where strict discipline is essential for the jail administration, it is equally necessary that a sympathetic and kindly person should be there at the helm of affairs to see that each case is being dealt with on its merits. If you want to reform the criminal, give him punishment even physical punishment but for God's sake do not mete out to him inhuman treatment. You have to reform his body, soul and heart. Physical punishment alone will not do. When a prisoner comes to you he is degraded and demoralised and a worse type of humanity. Try to send him back a reformed person.

Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I oppose the cut motion now before the House on principle and leave the details to be dealt with by the Honourable Minister for Finance. It has really surprised me that the honourable mover, in fact, the Opposition, has expressed a view that goes against the wisdom embodied in the following words of Shaikh Saadi, a world-wide known moralist and a teacher of ethics whose writings even to-day form part of the syllabus of our schools:—

نکوئی بآبدان کردن چنان است
که بد کردن بجائے نیک مردان

My friends on that side have advocated the cause of the most cruel and undesirable scums of society, I mean, the criminals and in doing so they have asked the Government to provide them with every possible facility and comfort in jails. In fact they want the jails to be converted into paradise. In the words of the late Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal—

مقرر ہے جا سرفروشی خون حیات

Misplaced mercy and tolerance make the matters worse. The honourable mover while pressing for reform in the jail administration referred to foreign countries like England, America and Russia. But he has ignored that in these countries the average income *per capita* ranges from 5 to 11 rupees. If even three rupees are spent on a prisoner there, he must be enjoying less facilities than those he would enjoy if he had been free. Here the daily average income of an individual is six pice only and if a prisoner as my friends desire, is provided with the same facilities as are now obtaining in those countries, he must be in the most enviable position. This will surely defeat the real object of punishment. If the wishes of my friends in this respect are complied with, the crime shall assume proportions beyond control. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that it should take similar steps to put down crime as have been taken by Ibn Saud, the King of Hedjaz. An English statesman while writing on the criminal administration in Hedjaz, stated that a person carrying a bag of gold in the desert of

[K. S. Raja Futeh Khan.]

Arabia was much more secure than one walking in the streets of London. My friends say that jails are like hospitals where diseased persons are cured. But they should remember that doctors administer medicines to the patients and also operate them upon them when need be. An ulcer always requires to be operated upon. Mr. Speaker, I would submit that jails may not be converted into places of luxury, so that the people of ordinary means like myself are not tempted to go in. Ninety-nine per cent. of the population is in search of work. Do not tempt them to go to jails in case they do not find work outside. (*An honourable member* : Will you prefer to go to jail) ? Certainly along with my family if the *jail-khanas* are going to be converted into *sharifkhunas* as my friends over there desire to make them. If my friends while anticipating a civil disobedience movement in future are making these suggestions with a view to create deadlock then, it is their own outlook. With these words I oppose the cut motion on principle and once again appeal to the Government that murderers and dacoits who are the enemies of society deserve no mercy and as such should not be granted facilities as are not available to an honest and peaceful labourer with an average daily income of six pice.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I say something in support of the cut motion moved by my friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth, I would like to submit that I perfectly realise that even the most reasonable criticism by the Opposition does not produce any good effect upon the Government. The other day the Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that his arms were strong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should not be personal.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I have submitted that even the legitimate criticism by Opposition produces no effect upon this Government. The Honourable Premier remarked that his hands were strong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I am speaking on the cut motion. In regard to the remarks made by the Honourable Premier I want to say a word or two. Why do they not pay heed to our suggestions ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is persisting in irrelevancy.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I call your attention to the fact that the honourable member is making a statement in reference to his argument, namely, whatever he wanted to say in regard to this particular cut the Honourable Premier is not prepared to listen ? Why ? He gives the answer. The Honourable Premier has already said that his arms are very strong. It may be correct or may not be correct. But I do submit to you that it is not irrelevant. A certain latitude of this nature ought to be given to the honourable member to develop his argument. Otherwise discussion will become impossible.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, two years are over since provincial autonomy has been inaugurated but the Government as yet has had no

courage of bringing changes in the old administration in order to make it run along the present current of the circumstances. (*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.*) The speech made by my friend Raja Fateh Khan has amazed me much. I know him well. He belongs to my neighbouring place and he is a man of character. But I did not know that he, getting a seat behind the Minister or in a fit of enthusiasm for the support of the ministerial party, would leap out of the limit of morality so easily. He has made such remarks that the Honourable Minister himself would hesitate in believing them. Unfortunately the fault lies in the way of administering the province. The Government does whatever it likes, and gives no ear to what the Opposition says. I say it very honestly and sincerely that it is our heart's desire to see the Government doing something substantial for the good of the province. Keeping the character roll and the deeds and misdeeds of the Government in view, I ask it one question and that is, why does it not pay heed to our suggestions? I think the reason is obvious. In other countries democratic Governments are ruling. They are national and liberal Governments and they are free from the curse of keeping a head of theirs whose mandate they are bound to obey. They have no master and hence no master's voice. But here in our province the condition is otherwise. Although the honourable members of the legislature are elected members, yet a heavy yoke has been put round their neck by their Grand Master who wants to rule them according to his wishes. They cannot move a finger without his consent. It was said yesterday by the Honourable Minister of Development that in previous years it was the power of the Unionist Party that has had effect on the previous Government with the result that we are seeing those old schemes fruitful at this time. So far as this point is concerned, I would like to submit that if ever they get an opportunity of showing their talents and energy they become more careful and sensitive in seeing that the wish and the sweet will of their master may not be overturned.

It is quite obvious that the Honourable Finance Minister has not yet brought any change whatsoever in the department that has been put under his charge. I would like to make some suggestions in this respect about the reformation of that department and hope hereby that they would be carried out by the Honourable Finance Minister. My first submission is that in jails the system of purchasing commodities and raw materials is defective. If you pick up the Jail Manual you would find that particularly this point is made quite clear. The Jail Manual says that commodities should be purchased at the lowest rates. As my honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani has been a jail visitor for a long time, he would be knowing this fact that the flour which is provided in jails is very bad and uneatable. Similar is the case with wheat. *Gurh* is also very bad and intolerable. If you read those rates at which commodities were purchased in Montgomery, Lahore and Multan Jails, you would find that those rates were the highest rates of markets at that time. Perhaps you do not know how it happens. The jail contractors being one with the chaudhries of markets send the rates of commodities to tahsil and in this way the contractors charge high rates from the Jail Department. I may also add that the wheat thus purchased is found to be of lowest standard. This is how the third class commodity is sold at the highest rate whereas

[Ch. Kartar Singh.]

the necessity demands that the commodities should be of the highest standard and purchased at the lowest rate possible.

Now let me submit a word or so in regard to jail administration. There is an old complaint that the Superintendent of jail is also a medical officer of jail at the same time. Much hue and cry has been raised in this respect but the Government have not abolished this system as yet. May I give an instance in this connection as to what effect this system had on prisoners. Take Babbar Akali prisoners, for instance. I quite remember when Babbar Akali prisoners went on hunger strike and a prisoner Hazara Singh by name ran away from the prison and was punished. I am fully aware of the fact how he came back to jail and was given 90 canes, but only 30 canes were put down in his history sheet. I am sure, if the Superintendent of Jail was not also discharging the duties of Medical Officer at the same time it would not have happened like this. So long as the duties of the two officials are discharged by one person I am afraid the irregularities of jails would not come to an end. A person holding two designations would be all and all and would continue to behave like a despot or a dictator like Mussolini within the four walls of the jails. He can do whatever he likes. Nobody can stand in his way. So long as the Government does not stop this appalling system, these grievances will remain as they are. May I ask the Government whether it is its autocratic policy which forces it to treat the prisoners so badly? Those persons who have had an opportunity of seeing jails are aware of the fact that narrow cells, say 8 by 9 feet, are provided to prisoners. The Honourable Minister for Finance has remarked by way of defence that those cells are kept clean and are well ventilated. I was really wonderstruck when Raja Sahib supported these remarks of the Honourable Finance Minister. I think Raja Sahib is correct in saying so because he has to support the Unionist Party. I would request him to go to Multan jail and see with his own eyes that cells provided to the prisoners are so narrow and dark that they do not allow a ray of light or a patch of sunshine to pass through. Let me inform my honourable friend Raja Fateh Khan, that in Montgomery jail those cells which were provided to prisoners who were suffering from tuberculosis were later on provided to Babbar Akali prisoners. Do you know what was the result? Two of them contracted tuberculosis and I remember the Honourable Finance Minister admitted this fact on the floor of this House that those cells had been used by prisoners suffering from tuberculosis. Just imagine what cruelty our Government commit on certain unfortunate prisoners. They shut them up in cells of 8 by 9 feet not for months but for years and years together. Some are confined there for 9 years and some for 12 years. This is how the wretched prisoners are treated and punished with the greatest severity and brutality. The health of prisoners which is the most valuable blessing of the Almighty God is shattered not in weeks but in days. Prison system breaks down body and soul. The food supplied to prisoners is entirely inadequate. Most of it is revolting in character.

Let alone the political prisoners. Let us take the case of the ordinary prisoners only. In this connection let me point out that if anybody assaults me with a view to insult me, I am entitled under the law to defend myself. And if unfortunately in the course of defending myself I am forced even

to kill a person, like the ordinary offenders I cannot be termed as a habitual criminal. Sometimes thieves and dacoits while committing robberies and dacoities kill a large number of people but it does not mean that those thieves and dacoits should be shut up in cells infested with tuberculosis germs. This point of view was urged by my honourable friend Raja Fateh Khan. Allow me to point out that such things are beneath the dignity of man. It is the moral duty of my honourable friends over there to improve and humanize the present system of jails. This is the twentieth century and the governments are all going forward and it behoves my friends as well that they should try to keep pace with the passage of time. I wish to point out that a large number of prisoners in jails are zamindars. Some of them have been put into jails on the ground that they have not paid their land revenue and others have been thrown into them for committing thefts and robberies. The zamindars of Jullundur, Multan and Lyallpur districts generally fight over the turns of watering their fields. The result has been that some of the zamindars of those districts have been put into jails on account of these faction fights. May I know whether it is not the duty of my honourable friends over there to humanize the conditions prevailing in jails, so that when these people get out of the prison houses they should be better and much improved people and that in future they should pass their lives like good members of society? On the other hand, it should not be the case that as soon as they get out of the jails they should commit any offence and see themselves again in the prison.

Besides, I may point out that so long as my honourable friends over there do not stop recruiting retired military officers and paying them Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 by way of salaries, they cannot in any way effect any improvements in the administration of jails nor can there be any savings in the jail budget. If they give up this policy and appoint people on Rs. 500 a month as jail superintendents, then they will be in a position to make some savings in the jail budget. I may also submit that in every district there is a Civil Surgeon who supervises the medical work that is carried on in the whole of the district. If the Government, in addition to his ordinary duties, were to appoint him as the Jail Medical officer, that would be doubly useful. In the first place, my honourable friends will not have to appoint a fat-salaried I. M. S. officer as the superintendent of jail. Secondly, many inhuman punishments in jails would be put an end to, which previously the jail superintendents were in the habit of giving to the prisoners in order to wreck their vengeance upon them. If this suggestion is given effect to, it would lead to savings in the jail budget and it would be beneficial for the prisoners as well. Previously it generally happened that when the jail superintendent was displeased with any prisoner, in the first place that prisoner was severely beaten and, secondly, if he was given any facilities such as milk and good diet, they were withdrawn. If the Government accepts my suggestion, it would prove useful both for the Government and the prisoners.

Further during the month of March, *khaddar chadars* are taken back from the prisoners. A prisoner is not entitled to retain them for full, twelve months. The jail budget does not permit the providing of 3 yards of *khaddar chadar* to prisoners for full twelve months. I would request the Honourable Minister to pay some attention to this need of the prisoners and

[Ch. Kartar Singh.]

he should see that *khaddar ohadars* are provided to them for full twelve months. Besides, in jail, blankets are also provided to the prisoners. I make bold to say that it looks as if these blankets are the relics of the days of Adam. When a prisoner enters a jail he is provided with a blanket of the above mentioned type. When he is discharged that blanket is provided to some one else. In this way that very blanket changes hands many times. They are not even washed and usually they remain very dirty, so much so that even lice abound in them. Such are the blankets that are provided to the prisoners every year. One blanket is used for five to six or more years. Moreover the clothes that are provided to the prisoners in jails literally disfigure them. A half-kneed pajama and a short sleeved shirt are provided to a prisoner. Besides these he is given a cap which makes him look like a monkey. In this connection I may submit that the rules that have been set in the jail manual by the English people and the way in which the jail administration is carried on, go to show that in the heart of their hearts the English never liked that any prisoner should be reclaimed. And in fact they wanted that even the vestige of morality should not be left in them. Further they were kept under such a strict discipline that they never got even a single moment to think of their welfare and to improve their poor moral conditions. The result was that it was very difficult to reclaim these prisoners. When once a person became a prisoner he remained a criminal up to the end of his life. I would request the Honourable Minister to give his urgent attention to this side of the prison life as well.

Now I would like to say a few words as regards the food that is provided in jails. The food that is provided to the prisoners is perhaps the worst that I have ever seen. I have witnessed in the Multan jail that when the turnips were green, they were used for feeding the cattle, but when they became a bit hard they were cut into many slices and were spread on the roof of the godowns to dry up. When they dried up they were stored in the godowns and in the summer season they were provided in the form of vegetable dishes to the prisoners. I used to say to the prisoners that they should take these turnips and regard them as meat. I may submit that the conditions of these dried turnips was such that many insects were found in the cooked dishes. I would request the Honourable Minister that he should immediately stop the providing of such vegetables to the prisoners in jails. I would also suggest that instead of these dried vegetables, he should provide potatoes and *arbi* to them. Besides, the way in which the bread is prepared in the jails is very bad indeed. The persons who are entrusted with the making of bread in jails keep them kacha in order to maintain the weight of the bread up to the requisite standard. I may submit that this is done either at the instance of the jail superintendents or of the low paid jail employees. Those people who prepare the bread are generally prisoners and so they try to finish this work as soon as possible and thus provide unwholesome bread to the prisoners. I think that if bread made in ovens is provided to the prisoners, that can solve this difficulty.

There is yet another important point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister. Previously the prisoners were employed to extract oil and to work the indigenous flour mills (*kharas*).

He has stopped all these things. Now in this connection I would like to request him that he should put a stop to the flogging of prisoners in jails as well. It is an inhuman punishment. I myself have seen prisoners being flogged in jails. My honourable friend Master Kabul Singh has the experience of being flogged. I may submit that it is a barbarous punishment. When the prisoners are flogged blood runs in torrents out of their bruised bodies and the prisoners whose cells are near the place where the prisoners are flogged cannot bear the sight. Generally the prisoners are flogged with lashes that have been immersed in urine and other acids for many months. I would request the Honourable Minister that as he has stopped other inhuman punishments he should put an end to this kind of punishment as well. With one stroke of the pen he can prohibit it. Only instructions are required to be issued and the needful would be done by the authorities concerned. I would request him to think over this matter sympathetically. I make bold to say that if he is really permitted to hear the genuine grievances of the Opposition and give effect to them, he should put an end to this inhuman and barbarous punishment. I have been instructed by my leader to finish my speech. With these words I support the cut motion of my honourable friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I would make one request and that is that the House do now adjourn. I hope the Leader of the House will have no objection.

Premier : I have no objection whatever and I am sure this side of the House will support my honourable friend and we will be only too glad to accommodate him. I request that you may be pleased to accept his request.

Mr. Speaker : I have no objection to the motion being moved.

Premier : In such matters there should always be a commonsense interpretation. For instance, if the members were to break the quorum the meeting will have to be adjourned and nobody can stop the members from doing so. Therefore when the whole House wishes to adjourn there should be no question of a formal motion. If the whole House wishes to adjourn an informal motion should be sufficient.

Mr. Speaker : But a motion has to be moved.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : My motion is—

That the House do now adjourn.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd March, 1939.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 22nd March 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

UNIONS OF DISTRICT BOARD EMPLOYEES IN THE PROVINCE.

***4338. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of associations or unions of the district board employees including teachers and clerks in the province ;

(b) whether there is any bar under the rules or executive instructions to the formation of such bodies or associations ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Government have no information.

(b) No such bar has been imposed by Government.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether he is aware of the fact that certain district officials of their own accord impose a ban on the formation of such unions ?

Minister : No such bar has been imposed by the Government.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I know if the Government officials have done so on their own responsibility ?

Minister : I am not aware but if the honourable member points out any case, I will enquire into it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware that there are unions of teachers based on castes ?

Minister : Government have no information, but the honourable member may be aware of it.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES WITH JOINT AND SEPARATE ELECTORATES.

***4340. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of municipal committees, including small town committees in the Punjab wherein elections are held by (i) joint electorate, (ii) separate electorate ;

(b) the considerations that weigh with the Government to put into force any particular system of electorate in any such committee ;

[Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan.]

- (c) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant demand by a section of the Rawalpindi city population that separate electorate be introduced in the Rawalpindi municipality; if so, what action the Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter; if no action is contemplated, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan

Tiwana : (a) Municipal committees with joint and separate electorates number 68 and 51 respectively. There are 104 small town committees; all have joint electorates.

(b) I am afraid this is an important question of policy and cannot be properly dealt with in reply to an Assembly question.

(c) Some representations were made but Government is not aware of any constant demand.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether the Government has since assumption of office considered this question of converting separate electorates into joint electorates in the bodies where separate electorates still prevail?

Minister : It was considered by the Unity Conference and certain other gatherings.

Sardar Hari Singh : I want to know whether the Government has during the last two years considered this question.

Minister : This is a question of policy which I cannot discuss in the course of reply to a question.

Sardar Hari Singh : My question is whether the Government has considered this question. Is it a question of policy to answer this question?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has the Government any intention of introducing communal electorates in the district boards?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is it the policy of the Government to introduce separate electorates?

Minister : I am not aware of any such thing.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : What was the reply given to the representation?

Minister : The representation was sent to the local officers for report.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is the considered policy of the Government in this matter?

Minister : How can I reply to a question of policy?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I am asking the considered policy of the Government.

Minister : When any such considered policy is framed, the honourable member will come to know it.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Has any representation been received by the Honourable Minister from other parts of the province?

Minister : I know there is a considerable feeling on the point. There are people who are for separate electorates and there are people who are for joint electorates.

Sardar Hari Singh : Who are in a majority and what do you want ?

Minister : I have not taken any census.

Sardar Hari Singh : What do you want ?

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : Has not the report of the local officers been received so far ?

Minister : We do not refer questions of policy to local officers. There were certain grievances mentioned in this representation and it was regarding these matters that the representation was forwarded to the local officers.

Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan : Will the Government frame any policy without consulting the communities concerned ?

Minister : It is very difficult for a popular Government to frame any policy without the concurrence of the communities concerned (hear, hear).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How many representations have been received by the Government from Rawalpindi ?

Minister : There were some, I do not know the number.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : From which section of the population ?

Minister : From those who want separate electorates.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Which community wants separate electorate ?

Minister : I think the honourable member knows it very well.

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN IN LAHORE.

***4344. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of what is called "Clean Up Campaign," that is being carried on in Lahore city by a number of citizens of Lahore in order to improve the sanitary conditions of Lahore ;

(b) whether it is a fact that of late a feeling of great indignation and resentment has been roused in Lahore on account of the apathy and indifference of the department of the Administrator of Lahore to the vital question of sanitation and cleanliness of Lahore town ;

(c) what extra or special steps have now been taken by the Lahore Municipality in response to the cry of better sanitation ;

(d) whether the question of formation of sanitation corps has since been considered with a view to educate the public of Lahore in the matter of sanitation and if so, the number and organisation of such corps ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Government have seen references to this matter in the press.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(c) As the honourable lady knows work on the new drainage scheme has now been started.

(d) No.

Mrs. Duni Chand : Before I put my supplementary questions I would request the Honourable Minister to kindly answer my questions in Urdu. I want to know whether it is a fact that the Administrator has written a letter in which he has said that he wants two or three health officers for the town of Lahore ?

Minister : There is no reference to health officers in the question. How does this arise ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I have not heard the Honourable Minister.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Urdu knowing members should not reply in English, it creates confusion. Urdu questions should be answered in Urdu.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : We did not hear the reply to the question put by Mrs. Duni Chand.

Minister : I did not follow the question myself.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Did you say something in reply ?

Minister : I said probably it relates to something which is not in the question.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable lady member's question was whether Government is contemplating to appoint several health officers in Lahore.

Minister : Have you allowed that question ? There is no reference to health officers in the question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I draw my honourable friend's attention to part (d) of the question which reads—

What extra or special steps have now been taken ?

The appointment of extra health officer would be covered by that particular question.

Minister : I have said that there are various proposals under consideration and I am not aware of any particular proposal. If the honourable lady member gives notice, I will find out.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether it is a fact that about 200 water taps have been closed in the Municipal area with the result that water carriers cannot get enough water for washing streets and drains and therefore the sanitation of streets has deteriorated for want of water ?

Minister : Is it relevant and allowed ?

Mr. Speaker : It is relevant to the question of sanitation. The question is whether about 200 water pipes have been closed with the result that water-carriers cannot get water to clean drains.

Minister : I am not aware of that. If notice is given, I will find out.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mrs. Duni Chand : May I request the Honourable Minister to take personal interest in the matter of sanitation of the city and to see that the number of sweepers and water-carriers is increased for the purpose? Has he ever visited the city so as to acquaint himself with the conditions there at present?

Minister : I know that the conditions are not what they should be and that is why we are spending enormous sums upon the new scheme to improve matters. If honourable members have patience, they will see improvements in the sanitation of Lahore before long.

Mrs. Duni Chand : May I ask the Honourable Minister as to how long we have yet to wait for the completion of the new scheme especially when we have already waited for more than two years?

Mr. Speaker : That is disallowed.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask my honourable friend what effect the Clean up Campaign in Lahore had on his mind?

Minister : Am I to tell the psychological effect or some other effect on my mind?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Whether the effect is on his olfactory nerves or his mind. *(Laughter).*

Mrs. Duni Chand : Is it a fact that the Government said in 1938 that there was no need of two health officers? Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why now, in 1939, two health officers are required? Will their names and the name of the post for which they are supposed to be appointed, be kindly stated?

Minister : I have already replied to that. If notice is given we will consider it. As to proposals, they are considered from time to time and there is no finality in these matters.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

STRIKE IN RASUL ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

***4347. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a strike broke out recently in the Rasul Engineering College; if so, what were the reasons for the strike;

(b) the number of students expelled from the said college and also the number of students fined on account of that strike?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Yes. The entire school struck work on the 7th February. The strike was due to the fact that the students objected to the inclusion in

[Minister for Public Works.]

the school curriculum of a general fitness course and the allotting of marks for physical fitness.

(b) All the students have since apologized for their behaviour, the first and second year students have been readmitted with the exception of 8 ring-leaders who have been expelled. The 3rd year students who engineered the strike have not been permitted to return to the school but they have been given the option of sitting for their final examination in Lahore instead. All the first and second year students have been fined Rs. 10 each, except the 3 mentioned above that have been expelled.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Did the Government depute some of its officials to inquire into the causes of the strike ?

Minister : Yes, immediately the news was received, the Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads, was sent down to the place and he made inquiries.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Was evidence of the persons who were present there, recorded when this inquiry was made ?

Minister : He did make an inquiry but it was not a judicial inquiry in the sense that my honourable friend contemplates.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Did he go to the place and see the spot ?

Minister : I am unable to satisfy the curiosity of the honourable member. It was an inquiry of the usual type.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Were any papers laid before the Honourable Minister about the causes of the strike ?

Minister : The result is there. I saw the report of the inquiry.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I know whether any allegations of a certain kind of treatment by the Principal were made by the students ?

Minister : Not to my knowledge.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that some sort of language was used which was derogatory to their dignity.

Minister : I am not aware of that and I would ask the honourable member not to pursue the matter because the whole thing has been settled. We should not start the thing over again. It might have adverse effect.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether he considers it to be settled when vindictive action has been taken against some of the students and the whole class is not permitted to go back to the college ?

Minister : I would not call it vindictive at all. The whole class is permitted to reappear. Disciplinary action is, of course, essential in every institution.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Before taking disciplinary action did they satisfy themselves that there was no justification for the action taken by the students ?

Minister : Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that very abusive language was used ?

Minister : I am not aware of that.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Will he make inquiries into the specific allegations and take statements of the students concerned ?

Minister : The Chief Engineer went down to that place and made inquiries. How can I institute a fresh inquiry ? Besides this, it is a request for action.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does he consider it feasible, in view of the allegation that has been made, to review the situation and see that justice is done to students who have been thrown out of the college ?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that certain students have not been allowed to return to the college as yet ?

Minister : Three students were expelled and that I have stated already.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has an inquiry been made into the allegations of these students ?

Minister : I think the honourable members should help us in maintaining discipline.

SWEEPERS EMPLOYED BY MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES.

***4350. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what action, if any, has been taken by the local bodies concerned on letter No. 52-C-35/1061, dated 31st March, 1936, issued by the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments, to all Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab regarding the conditions of service of sweepers employed by the municipal committees; if no action has been taken on this letter, what steps does the Government intend to take to improve the lot of the sweepers in the service of the local bodies of the Punjab in respect of the tenure of their service, eligibility for other privileges such as leave and provident fund as are enjoyed by other employees of local bodies drawing the same pay;

(b) whether any reminder issued to the deputy commissioners or to the local bodies after January 1937 by which date the deputy commissioners were to submit their reports showing the action taken in this matter by the various local bodies in their districts ?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) Reports of the action taken by local bodies on the suggestion made by the Government in the letter referred to by the honourable member are not yet complete. Forty municipal committees have, however, reported that they are giving effect to the suggestions while others state that they are giving effect to it in part.

(b) Yes.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : When were the reminders issued ?

Minister : I will not be able to give details.

**ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FOR THE MUSLIMS AND AGRICULTURISTS IN THE
UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES.**

***3837. Sardar Muhammad Husain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Industrial Chemist and the Assistant Industrial Chemist in the University Laboratories are non-Muslims and non-agriculturists ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Assistant to the Industrial Chemist is a Physicist and not a Chemist ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the senior Research Assistant is a non-Muslim and non-agriculturist and that he is also not qualified in Chemistry ;
- (d) if the reply to (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will he please state what steps are being taken to give the Muslims in particular and agriculturists in general their due share in the services ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The question of the honourable member savours of communalism. If he puts an unstarred question, I shall be glad to supply the necessary information.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Education to part (b) of the question which does not savour of communalism ?

Minister : It is difficult to reply to one part of the question and not to the other.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I request him to repeat the answer ?

Minister : I have already said that it is very difficult to answer only a part of the question. The honourable members should please avoid raising communal issues if they want questions to be answered on the floor of this House.

Lala Doshbandhu Gupta : Is the Honourable Minister in order in saying that such parts of the questions which are not against the declared policy of the Government, are also not to be answered ? He says that it is difficult to answer that part of the question although there is nothing communal about it. Is part (b) not a separate question ?

Mr. Speaker : What has the Honourable Minister to say ?

Minister : He has put part (b) of the question in connection with part (a) and he tries to criticize it.

Mian Abdul Rab : Part (a) has got nothing to do with part (b). It is entirely a different and independent question.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : But the atmosphere is communal.

Minister : The implication is that officers who are not properly qualified are being appointed because they belong to a certain community, non-Muslims. This is the implication.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Cannot the Honourable Minister then reply to this ? What is communal about it ?

Mian Abdul Rab : You are appointing persons who are not fit for that job.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FOR THE MUSLIMS AMONG THE TEACHING STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY CHEMICAL LABORATORIES.

***3839. Sardar Muhammad Husain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Director, all the professors, lecturers and demonstrators in the University Chemical Laboratories with the exception of one lecturer are non-Muslims and non-agriculturists ; if so, what steps he proposes to take to remove this marked communal inequality in this department ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The question of the honourable member savours of communalism. If he puts an unstarred question I shall be glad to supply the necessary information.

APPOINTMENT OF A NON-PUNJABI DEMONSTRATOR IN THE PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY IN THE UNIVERSITY CHEMICAL LABORATORIES.

***3840. Sardar Muhammad Husain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) how many applications were received in response to the advertisement which appeared in the *Civil and Military Gazette* in October, 1937, for the post of Demonstrator in the Physical Chemistry in the Punjab University Chemical Laboratories ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a non-Punjabi more physicist has been appointed again in this post ;
- (c) whether any Punjabi with qualifications as advertised was not available ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Four.

(b) Yes.

(c) Dr. R. N. Mathur, D.Sc. (Punjab University), who was a student of the University Chemical Laboratories for more than 5 years, was appointed as Demonstrator in Physical Chemistry, in a temporary leave vacancy of five months, in place of Mr. A. N. Kapur, the permanent incumbent of the post. Since then Mr. Kapur has returned to his post and Dr. R. N. Mathur has got a lectureship in the Meerut College. There was no other D. Sc. amongst the applicants for this post and the qualifications of other candidates were much lower.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know if the same objection does not apply to this question as applied to the previous question ?

Minister : This is a question of Punjabis *versus* non-Punjabis.

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Whenever it suits them Honourable Ministers say they do not want to give a reply, but when it does not suit them to keep silent they give a reply.

Minister : Perhaps the honourable member is thinking of question No. 3839¹ : this is with regard to question No. 3840.

CIRCULAR PROHIBITING THE APPOINTMENT OF NON-AGRICULTURISTS AS ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

***3912. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there is any circular of the Government prohibiting appointment of non-agriculturists to the post of assistant district inspectors : if so, the reasons for the same and whether the Government intends to withdraw it ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : There is no such circular, but, subject to the prime need of efficiency, preference is generally given to agriculturists in the appointment of assistant district inspectors of schools.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any circular with respect to preference has been issued by Government ?

Minister : Officers who make these appointments know it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any circular has been issued to the effect that preference should be given to the agriculturists only ?

Minister : Appointments of assistant district inspectors are not made by district officers ; these appointments are made by the Director of Public Instruction and he knows his job.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The question is a very simple one. I want to know whether any circular has been issued or not, and, if so, whether Government is prepared to lay the circular on the table of the House ?

Minister : No circular has been issued.

SCHEME FOR OVERHAULING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

***3932. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state with reference to starred question No. 1264² whether he has received any representations from Muslims praying that the Wardha scheme may not be taken into consideration while preparing a scheme for overhauling Primary and Secondary system of Education ; if so, the action proposed to be taken on them ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : No such representation has been received.

REGISTER OF GRADUATES IN SCIENCE AND ART.

***3962. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government keeps a register of graduates in Science and Art possessing special qualifications to serve different departments of the Government ?

¹Page 575, ante.

Volume II, page 660.

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The Education Department does maintain a register of graduates in Science and Arts who are trained B. Ts. or S. A. Vs. but has no concern with their recruitment to other departments of Government.

DR. BALDEV SINGH, ASSISTANT SURGEON OF RUPAR.

***3969. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any complaints have recently been received by the Government against Dr. Baldev Singh, Assistant Surgeon of Rupar, district Ambala; and if so, by whom those complaints were made;
- (b) whether these complaints were inquired into by the authorities; and if so, the result of the inquiry?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes. The complaints were made by certain private practitioners of the Ambala district.

(b) Yes. They were found to be baseless.

HIGH SCHOOL IN BHARAULI ILAQA OF SIMLA DISTRICT.

***3982. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the Bharauli Ilaqa in district Simla, which is inhabited by agriculturists, there is no high school,
- (b) whether it is a fact that repeated representations have been made from time to time to the authorities by the inhabitants of the ilaqa for affording greater educational facilities to them; and if so, the action taken or intended to be taken on these representations?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The District Board, Simla, has no funds for the purpose. The Indian States round the Bharauli Ilaqa have shown no desire to help the scheme financially, nor does the number of students at present reading in the District Board Vernacular Middle School, Sabathu, with optional English classes, justify its being raised to the high standard in the near future.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the difficulties experienced by the students who have to go a very long way to attend the high school classes as there is no school in the neighbourhood? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove these difficulties?

Minister : Difficulties are obviously there, but I regret no action can be taken in view of the financial condition of the district board.

REPRIMANDING OF STUDENTS BY THE PRINCIPAL OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, LYALLPUR.

***4084. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the students of the Government College for Women, Lyallpur, were reprimanded by the Principal of the

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

college for having gone to have darshan of Shriyut Subhash Chandra Bose on his visit to Lyallpur on 29th November, 1938; if so, what were the reasons for the action taken by the Principal?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The reply is in the negative.

DEARTH OF DRINKING WATER IN TAHSIL GARHSHANKAR.

***4087. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that there is dearth of even drinking water in tahsil Garhshankar, district Hoshiarpur; and if so what the Government propose to do in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : There is a serious shortage of drinking water in the Beit ilaqa of tahsil Garhshankar. Government have however sanctioned a pipe supply at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs, the whole of which is being met from provincial revenues. A sum of Rs. one lakh was paid on this account during 1937-38 and the balance is being paid in four further annual instalments of a lakh each. There are four villages in this tahsil not included in the Beit ilaqa in which also serious shortage is reported; in these cases estimates have been called for, and it is hoped to finance the works from the Central Government's second grant for rural reconstruction.

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN P. E. S. OFFICERS.

***4113. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any vacancies occurred in the cadre of the P. E. S. during the last two years;
- (b) whether any recommendations were made by the Honourable Minister of Education for filling these vacancies;
- (c) what were the guiding tests for the recommendations;
- (d) whether the recommendations have resulted in supersession of certain men in the Education Department;
- (e) if the answer to the above parts be in the affirmative, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes.

(b) The promotions were ordered by Government after the Public Service Commission had been consulted.

(c) Promotions to the Punjab Educational Service are made strictly by selection on grounds of seniority, record, degree of responsibility of posts held, and high academic qualifications including foreign degrees.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise in view of the answer given to (c) above.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : With reference to part (b) of my question I want to know whether the Minister had made any recommendations. This has not been answered.

Minister : We do not make any recommendations for promotions ; selection is made by the department and names are submitted to the Public Services Commission.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My question is whether the Minister recommended the names of certain people ?

Minister : The Minister does not make any recommendations to the Public Services Commission.

Mian Abdul Rab : How many vacancies in all have been filled by the present Government ?

Minister : So far as I am aware four persons who were officiating in the P. E. S. were confirmed and 14 new were promoted.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that the Minister called the candidates for interview ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Did the appointing authority find an opportunity of making certain appointments which were not recommended to him by the Public Services Commission ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Minister for Education as to whether the four vacancies in which persons were officiating, were filled by the previous Government or by this Government ?

Minister : I have already said that four persons were already officiating ; I would not be able to state the exact date on which they started officiating.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether they started officiating before the present Government assumed office ?

Minister : I am not aware of that.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Minister interferes with the decision or influences it ?

Minister : Interfere with my own decision ? I never do that ; some other people try to do it.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS IN LAHORE AND AMRITSAR.

*4122. **Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number separately of schools under the District Boards, Lahore and Amritsar, and the number separately of schools among them in which education is imparted through the medium of Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The requisite information is given.

District.	Number of schools under District Board.	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN WHICH EDUCATION IS IMPARTED THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF		
		Hindi.	Gurmukhi.	Urdu.
Lahore ..	Boys schools .. 231	..	1	230
	Girls schools .. 25	3	15	7
Amritsar ..	Boys schools .. 235			235
	Girls schools	There are 50 girls schools of which 14 schools impart instruction in Hindi, Gurmukhi and Urdu, 33 in Hindi and Gurmukhi and 3 in Urdu.		

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know whether from the district where the Honourable Minister says there is no provision for teaching in Hindi, there has been no demand for teaching in Hindi? If not, what has been the reason for not making arrangements for teaching in Hindi as well?

Minister : I am not aware of any demand in that district.

REMOVAL OF ILLITERACY FROM RURAL AREAS IN PUNJAB.

***4133. Pandit Muni Lal Kalra :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- whether any scheme for removing illiteracy from the masses in rural areas has been initiated by the Government in the Punjab ;
- if so, when it was started and the nature of the progress it has made so far ;
- the amount provided for its completion and the means and methods adopted ;
- whether the activities of the literacy campaign are confined only to localities having schools or to other areas as well ;
- whether the Government is prepared to enlist the co-operation of any other public body interested in the problem ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to part (a) of the answer to question No. 3791¹ (starred) asked at the last session of the Assembly. The earlier part of the second half of the year was devoted to propaganda work through public meetings with a view to awakening public opinion and enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of literates. In about four months ending December, 1938, about 30,000 illiterate adults have been receiving education from the staff and students of both the Government and denominational colleges and schools and training institutions, inspecting officers, private bodies and other associations.

Special arrangements have also been made in the jails specially at Karnal, Ambala and Jullundur to educate illiterate convicts and others and astonishingly good results have been achieved.

(c) During the current financial year a sum of Rs. 2,000 has been spent on the purchase of 36,000 copies of adult primers and 40,000 copies of the continuation literature leaflets for free distribution among persons and associations offering co-operation in the adult literacy campaign, and a grant of Rs. 250 was paid to the Punjab Adult Education Committee, Lahore, to meet a part of the expenses incurred on the furtherance of the campaign. It is proposed to embark upon a five-year programme for the liquidation of illiteracy in the province, commencing from 1939-40 and a demand for Rs. 24,000 is being presented to the Assembly in the budget session. The campaign will be for the benefit of (a) illiterate adults, (b) illiterate boys of school going age in a non-compulsory area whose parents do not find it possible or worth their while to send them to school, and (c) boys between the ages of 12 and 18.

(d) The activities of the literacy campaign are not confined to localities having schools but the campaign has been launched in other areas as well.

(e) Yes.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to explain the machinery which he intends to employ to remove illiteracy by spending Rs. 70 per month in each district of the Punjab? I believe he knows this much that Rs. 2,000 divided over 29 districts would come to about Rs. 70.

Minister : This work has been started and is being conducted on voluntary basis. Organisations have been set up and students, professors, lecturers, school masters and private persons have offered themselves to do this work free of cost and this money will be spent on producing literature and doing propaganda.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : What is the number of voluntary workers whom the Honourable Minister has so far been able to mobilize for liquidating illiteracy?

Minister : I am not in a position to give the exact number. But the number of adults, that were under instruction in December last, was 30,000.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I want the number of teachers.

Minister : I am not in a position to state that.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know the aims of the five-year programme and what result the Honourable Minister expects to achieve after five years by following that programme?

Minister : I am not a prophet; I cannot predict what I will achieve, but I am trying to do my best to remove illiteracy as early as I can. (Hear, hear).

Sardar Hari Singh : May I know if the Government intends to go at this rate to eradicate the illiteracy from this province within its life time of 5,000 years?

Minister : That requires no answer.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know whether any arrangements have been made to eradicate illiteracy from amongst the convicts who are entrusted to the care of the Government and whose number remains about 25,000 on the average ?

Minister : I have already stated in reply to this question that in various jails the work has started and I specially mentioned Jullundur where I happened to pay a visit the other day and found that out of 200 and odd prisoners no less than 108 were under instruction by two teachers, who are Junior Anglo-Vernaculars who fortunately or unfortunately were undergoing imprisonment in that jail.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend whether the sum of Rs. 24,000 is the total sum for five years' plan or is only meant for this year ?

Minister : It is for one year.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the work under this scheme been started in every district ?

Minister : I think so.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then how many men in Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon districts are employed for this work ?

Minister : I have not got the figures in my head, but according to my estimate no less than 50,000 persons must be under instruction now.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is the Honourable Minister in a position to say what measures he has adopted so far as Ludhiana is concerned ?

Minister : I am surprised to find how ignorant my learned friend is about Ludhiana. Various organizations have been set up, good work is being done and a Government college is opened and there are several other spheres of activities.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is he in a position to give the names of those who volunteered their services in the cause of removing illiteracy from Ludhiana ?

Minister : I am aware that my honourable friend was not one of them. (*Laughter.*)

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is he not in a position to give the names of those persons ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend whether it is a fact that the sum that he is budgeting for this year works out at the rate of Re. 1 as expenditure for 10,000 illiterates in the Punjab ?

Minister : I admit that it is a drop in the ocean. As I have submitted, we are not going to spend any money on the pay of teachers, on buildings or anything of that sort or on equipment. This sum will be spent on propaganda and on producing literature, leaflets and books. We also propose to give a small amount by way of assistance or grant-in-aid to the organizations that are set up. I am also trying to co-ordinate the various activities of the province by setting up a central board in the Punjab.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : In what language is it sought to remove illiteracy from the Punjab ?

Minister : In certain cases where adults are keen to learn any other language, I have not stood in their way and produced literature in that language.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Is the language of the province being taught Urdu or Gurmukhi ?

Minister : Urdu. But in some cases I have supplied literature in Gurmukhi and Hindi also.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether any attention is paid to backward areas ?

Minister : So far as illiteracy is concerned, all areas are backward.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is special attention paid to the Kangra district ?

Minister : Certainly.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister with due deference to his position, whether he has himself volunteered to remove illiteracy ?

Minister : I am teaching my own servants. My wife is teaching her own servants.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that at various places the children have to walk a distance of over three miles to receive primary education ?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if I am correct in taking that a large majority of those whose figures have been supplied to the Honourable Minister are prisoners ?

Minister : No, Sir.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : If it is not correct, may I know, besides the two Junior Vernacular teachers being available in certain jails, what other arrangements the Honourable Minister has made to educate the prisoners in jails ?

Minister : I am supplying teachers. Some warders have been trained. Literate prisoners have volunteered themselves and with the courtesy of my honourable friend the Finance Minister, a great headway is being made in that direction.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Is the Honourable Minister prepared to quote the number of teachers he has been able to marshal in that manner ?

Minister : No, I am not able to quote the number.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I know whether the recent suggestion made by the Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University to the effect that Government should float a loan of six crores of rupees to eradicate illiteracy from the province has been brought to his notice ? If so, whether he has considered it and if so, with what result ?

Minister : I am not aware of any such suggestion.

Mian Abdul Rab : With reference to his answer to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Minister please state what other agency is being employed where no schools exist ?

Minister : My honourable friend has some misconception about adult education. We do not set up schools for adult education.

Mian Abdul Rab : Then what is the other agency to remove illiteracy ?

Minister : I have already answered that question. We have jails. Work has commenced there. We have police lines, we have railway stations where there are porters. We have lorrywalas, we have factories, we have *karkhanas*. I have issued an appeal to the owners and proprietors of the factories and gradually work is being started. Then there is the method adopted of 'Each one, teach one,' which was started by Dr. Laubach who was here the other day. I am very glad to say that he, after visiting all the major provinces in India, was in a position to say that work in the Punjab has been started in right earnest and on very sound basis.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : With reference to part (c) of the question, may I inquire whether Government has any objection to obtaining the co-operation of the District Congress Committees to remove illiteracy ?

Minister : I have been looking for such an offer but I was rather disappointed. I find there is a ray of hope here.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : As a matter of fact in the original question I pointedly asked whether the Government is prepared to enlist the co-operation of the District Congress Committee, but the words 'District Congress Committee' have been substituted by 'any other public body.'

Minister : I shall have not the slightest hesitation. I want to tap all sources.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO CLERKS IN THE OFFICES OF CENTRAL TRAINING
COLLEGE, LAHORE, AND INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI
DIVISION.

***4145. Rai Sahib Lala Sohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that two appointments were made, one of the second clerk in the office of the Central Training College, Lahore, the other in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, during August, 1938 ;
- (b) whether these appointments were made in the order of seniority or whether any supersession was involved in these appointments ;
- (c) whether it is or it is not a fact that at the time these two appointments were made an unnecessary exchange of transfers, sending the Lahore man to Rawalpindi and the Rawalpindi man to Lahore, was made resulting in the waste of public money on account of the Government having had to incur extra expenditure on travelling allowance ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes ; but these appointments were made in July and not August, 1938.

(b) These appointments were made by selection and, therefore, the question of seniority and supersession does not arise.

(c) The transfers were ordered in the interests of public service.

FEMALE EDUCATION IN LAHORE.

*4157. **Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- the number of Primary, Secondary and High Schools for girls maintained by the Lahore Municipality and the Government in the town of Lahore ;
- the percentage of the girls of school-going age that is receiving education in these schools, as compared with the total number of such girls in Lahore ;
- the amounts that the Municipal Committee and the Government, respectively, spend yearly in maintaining these schools ;
- the total amount of fees charged from the girls reading in these schools every year ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :

	Number of girls schools maintained by Government in Lahore.	Number of girls schools maintained by the Lahore Municipality.
(a) Primary	..	19
Vernacular Middle	..	4
A.-V. Middle	1	..
High	3	..

(b) 48.5 per cent.

(c) Government spent Rs. 1,22,082 and the Lahore Municipality Rs. 77,975 on the maintenance of these schools during 1987-88.

(d) The income from fee in Government schools during 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 27,150. No fees were charged in Municipal schools.

PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS IN LAHORE.

*4158. **Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- the number of aided Primary, Secondary and High Schools for girls within the limits of Lahore Municipality community-wise ;
- the amounts of grant-in-aid annually given by the Municipality and the Government respectively to these schools ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :

	Number of aided primary schools.	Grant paid by the Municipal Committee during 1936-39.
		Rs. A. P.
Sikhs	5	961 0 0
Hindus	2	1,661 0 0
Muslims	5	415 8 0
Christians	2	1,699 0 0

[Minister for Education.]

				Number of aided vernacular middle schools	Grant paid by the Municipal Committee during 1938-39.
					Rs.
Sikhs	..	..	..	1	3,349
Hindus	..	..	..	4	10,209
Muslims	..	..	..	1	4,816
Christians	..	..	..	2	7,122

				Number of A.-V. Secondary Schools.	Grant paid by Municipal Committee during 1938-39.	Grant paid by Government during 1938-39.
					Rs.	Rs.
Sikhs	..	..	..	1	4,782	2,736
Hindus	..	..	..	1	6,370	7,380
Muslims	..	..	..	1		
Christians	..	..	..

COLLEGES IN LAHORE.

*4159. **Mrs. Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- the number of colleges exclusively maintained by the Government and of the aided ones within the limits of the Municipality of Lahore;
- the amounts spent by Government either as maintenance charges or in the form of grants-in-aid on the two kinds of colleges, respectively, during the last three years?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye:

(a) (i) Maintained by Government ... 6 (including King Edward Medical College, Lahore, and deMontmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore.

(ii) Aided by Government ... 6

		1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(b) (i)	Expenditure on colleges maintained by Government.	7,14,626	6,84,333	7,40,430
(ii)	Maintenance grants paid to aided colleges by Government.	1,77,354	1,96,354	1,90,500

TEACHERS IN LAHORE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

***4161. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the names and number of teachers in the Lahore College for Women who have been there for more than five years with the total period of their service in this and in any other institution ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know the policy of the Government in the matter of transfer of teachers of the Lahore College for Women who have been here for five years or more ?

Minister : The mere fact that a certain teacher has been in an educational institution for a certain number of years is no ground for transfer.

Mian Abdul Rab : Has the Honourable Minister ever considered the desirability of allowing teachers in the mofusil colleges to come and serve in this premier institution of the province ?

Minister : If there are suitable persons and the Government approve of them they will have no hesitation in acceding to their request. However, it must not be made on personal grounds, but only on grounds educational.

STATEMENT.

Lahore College for Women, Lahore.

Serial No.	Name.	Date of joining Government service.	Date of joining this college.	Total number of years.
1	Dr. R. K. Christie ..	16-6-24	16-6-24	14
2	Miss S. Singha ..	22-9-30	22-9-30	8
3	Mrs. Henry Lall ..	16-10-30	16-10-30	8
4	Mrs. Maroque ..	7-1-25	7-1-25	14
5	Miss G. Johnson ..	8-1-30	8-1-30	9
6	Mrs. K. Abdullah ..	25-1-33	25-1-33	6
7	Pir Muhammad Hasan ..	14-11-32	14-11-32	6
8	Sh. Satya Vati ..	7-10-25	7-10-25	13

TEACHING STAFF IN CENTRAL MODEL HIGH SCHOOL, LAHORE.

***4162. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number and names of the teaching staff at present working in the Central Model High School, Lahore, with their educational qualification, total length of service in the Education Department and the period spent in the said school ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

[Minister for Education.]

Teaching Staff of Central Model School, Lahore.

Serial No.	Name and designation of teacher.	Qualifications.	Total length of service in Education Department.	Period spent in Central Model School.	REMARKS.
1	Mohan Lal Bhalla, R. S. L., Head Master.	B.A., P. E. S.	About 32 years	About 18½ years.	
2	Sircar, Mr. E. V., 2nd Master	B.A., B.T.	About 16½ years	About 16½ years.	
3	Lala Rattan Chand Jain, 1st Commercial Master.	M.A., B. Com.	About 12 years	About 9 years.	
4	Lala Ganda Ram, Senior English Master ..	B.A., B.T.	About 32 years	About 22 years.	
5	Lala Harcharan Das Mehta, English Master.	M.A., B.T., S. A.-V.	About 18 years	About 18 years.	
6	Chaudhri Muhammad Abdullah, English Master.	B.A. (Hons.), B.T.	About 15 years	About 14 years.	
7	Lala Behari Lal, Science Master	B.A. (Hons.), B.T.	About 12 years	About 11 years.	
8	Lala Siri Ram, English Master	M.A., B.T.	About 13 years	About 12 years.	
9	Pandit Prem Parkash, Science Master	B.Sc. (Hons.), B.T.	About 12 years	About 11 years.	
10	M. Muhammad Sharif, Drawing Master	Senior Drawing Master, Special Certificated in Drawing and Kindergarten for High Department.	About 31 years	About 18 years.	

11	Lala Gauri Shankar, English Master	B.A., S. A. V., J. A. V.	..	About 21½ years	..	About 15 years.
12	M. Muhammad Hussain	B.A., S. A. V.	..	About 14½ years	..	About 1½ years.
13	Lala Kishon Dyal, 2nd Commercial Master	B.A., B.T., S. A. V. (Cl. and Com.)	..	About 16 years	..	About 15 years.
14	M. Ghazanfar Ali, Senior English Master	B.A., S. A. V.	..	About 26½ years	..	About 15 years.
15	M. Abdul Ghani, M. T. I.	..	..	About 21½ years	..	About 14 years.
16	Lala Gokal Chand, English Master	B.A. (Hons.), B.T., S. A. V.	..	About 11½ years	..	About 11 years.
17	M. Ghulam Nasir Khan, English Master	B.A., S. A. V.	..	Ditto	..	Ditto.
18	M. Talamand, English Master	B.A., B.T.	..	Ditto	..	Ditto.
19	S. Nazar Muhammad, English Master	B.A., B.T., J. A. V.	..	Nearly 10 years	..	About 6 years.
20	M. Ghulam Nabi Butt, English Master	B.A., B.T.	..	About 4 years	..	About 4 years.
21	M. Khairat Ali, Junior English Master	F.A., J. A. V.	..	About 17 years	..	About 16 years.
22	Lala Des Raj, Vernacular Teacher	M.S.V., S.V. (T.)	..	About 25 years	..	About 25 years.
23	M. Fazl-ud-Din, A. T.	Mn. F., O. T. (T.) B.A.	..	About 12 years	..	About 4 years.
24	B. Attar Singh, Punjab T.	M. S. A. V. Ghani (T.) Special Certificate Gurukulhi.	..	About 22 years	..	About 6 years.
25	Pandit Din Dyal Jochi, H. T.	Shastri B.A. (Eng.) O. T. (T.)	..	About 9 years	..	About 6 years.
26	S. Sharif Hussain, Vernacular Teacher	Mn. F., M. A. (Per.), B.A. (Eng.) O. T. (T.)	..	About 16 years	..	About 3 years.
27	Lala Narinjan Nath, English Master	B.A., B.T.	..	About 10½ years	..	About 2½ years.
28	S. Muhammad Siddiq Shah, O. T.	Mn. F., B.A. (Eng.), M.A. (Persian III, M.O.L., S. V.)	..	About 9 years	..	About 4 years.

[Minister for Education.]

Teaching Staff of Central Model School, Lahore—concluded.

Serial No.	Name and designation of teacher.	Qualifications.	Total length of service in Education Department.	Period spent in Central Model School.	REMARKS.
29	M. Nazir Ahmad, Vernacular Teacher ..	Mn. F., B.A., (Eng.), M.A. (Ph.), M.O.L., S.V., M.A. (Eng.).	About 9 years ..	About 2 years.	
30	S. Wajid Ali Shah, Drawing Master ..	D. M. C. ..	About 16 years ..	About 1 year.	
31	B. Gurcharan Singh, English Master ..	B.A., B.T. ..	About 3 years ..	About 3 years.	
32	M. Khurshid Ahmad Lodhi, P. T. I. ..	F.A. (Eng.) Madras trained and Cert.	About 2 years ..	About 2 years.	
33	M. Din Muhammad, English Master ..	M.A., B.T. ..	About 2 months ..	About 2 months.	
34	Lala Shambhu Nath, Sanskrit Teacher ..	Shastri, E. E., O. T. ..	About 13 months ..	About 4 months.	
35	M. Qamr Elahi, M. T. I. ..	F. E. for I. S., C. E. of M. S. A. ..	About 14 months ..	About 3 months.	
36	M. Hadi Ali Beg, Vernacular Teacher ..	Mn. F., Matric. O. T. ..	About 2 months ..	About 2 months.	
37	Lala Naram Das Bali ..	B.A., D.P.E. (Madras) ..	About 2 months ..	About 2 months.	
38	M. Maqbul Beg, Vernacular Teacher ..	B.A., S.A.V. ..	About 1½ month ..	About 1½ month.	
39	B. Gurbakhsh Singh, Vernacular Teacher..	S. V. ..	1 year 4 months ..	1 year 4 months ..	Vice Jagat Singh.

STAFF TAKEN UP TO SIMLA BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

***4163. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of clerks who are allowed to accompany the Director of Public Instruction to Simla during the Simla exodus every year;

(b) the names of the clerks, along with the branches they represent, that have been taken up to Simla for the last ten years?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Eight Clerks.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the names of clerks and the branches they represented, who were taken to Simla with Director of Public Instruction's camp office during the years 1929—1938.

1929—31	..	..	1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge. 2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Establishment Branch. 3. P. Kesho Ram—Accounts Branch. 4. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch. 5. Shaikh Muhammad Husain—General Branch. 6. M. Muhammad Rafiq—General Branch. 7. Miss W. McDonnell—Miscellaneous Branch. 8. M. Saeed Hasan—Director of Public Instruction's Stenographer.
1932-33	..	..	1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge. 2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Establishment Branch. 3. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch. 4. M. Muhammad Rafiq—General Branch. 5. Miss W. McDonnell—Miscellaneous Branch. 6. Rajeshwar Singh—Establishment Branch. 7. M. Saeed Hasan—Stenographer to Director of Public Instruction. 8. M. Abdul Majid—Stenographer to Assistant Director of Public Instruction.
1934	..	..	1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge. 2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Establishment Branch. 3. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch. 4. Mrs. H. Farmer—Miscellaneous Branch. 5. S. Nazir Husain—Accounts Branch. 6. B. Kirpal Singh—Report Branch. 7. M. Saeed Hasan—Stenographer to Director of Public Instruction. 8. M. Abdul Majid—Stenographer to Assistant Director of Public Instruction.
1935	..	..	1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge. 2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Establishment Branch. 3. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch. 4. Mrs. H. Farmer—Miscellaneous Branch. 5. Lala Hari Chand—General Branch. 6. P. Basant Rai—Report Branch. 7. M. Saeed Hasan—Stenographer to Director of Public Instruction. 8. M. Abdul Majid—Stenographer to Assistant Director of Public Instruction.

[Minister for Education.]

1936

1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge.
2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Gazette Branch.
3. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch.
4. P. Ramji Das—Accounts Branch.
5. M. Muhammad Rafiq—Collegiate Branch.
6. Rajeshwar Singh—Gazette Branch.
7. M. Abdul Majid—Stenographer to Director of Public Instruction.
8. Lala Behari Lal—Stenographer to Assistant Director of Public Instruction.

1937

1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge.
2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Gazette Branch.
3. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch.
4. Miss K. Gabriel—Routine Branch.
5. M. Muhammad Rafiq—Collegiate Branch.
6. Rajeshwar Singh—Gazette Branch.
7. M. Abdul Majid—Stenographer to Director of Public Instruction.
8. B. Charanjit Singh—Stenographer to Assistant Director of Public Instruction.

1938

1. Mr. W. E. McMurray—In charge.
2. Mr. J. N. Ross—Gazette Branch.
3. M. Ghulam Jilani Khan—Establishment Branch.
4. P. Ramji Das—Accounts Branch.
5. M. Muhammad Rafiq—Collegiate Branch.
6. Rajeshwar Singh—Gazette Branch.
7. M. Abdul Majid—Stenographer to Director of Public Instruction.
8. Charanjit Singh—Stenographer to Assistant Director of Public Instruction.

LEPROS IN KULU SUB-DIVISION.

***4178. Rai Bhagwant Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government is aware that lepers are found in very large numbers in the Kulu sub-division of the Kangra district and are a danger to the health of the people of the locality ; if so, what steps has the Government so far taken to remove this danger in this sub-division ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Yes. Systematic leprosy surveys of 598 villages in Kulu Sub-division have been carried out since 1933 and, as a result, 7 treatment centres under the following agencies have been established in the area :—

Government	..	..	..	..	4
British Empire Leprosy Relief Association	..	..	..	..	2
Mission	..	..	..	..	1

The expenses of the two clinics at Garsa and Bhuntar in the Kulu Valley are defrayed by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, Punjab Branch. There were 40 cases of leprosy on the register of these two clinics and 35 of these attended regularly for treatment during the year, 1938.

Leprosy work in Kangra district is controlled by a Leprosy Board which held three meetings during the year under the presidentship of the Deputy Commissioner. The District Board, Kangra, has granted Rs. 1,550 to the District Leprosy Board during the past two years and of this sum Rs. 241 had been spent at the end of 1938.

The following figures show the amount of work done in Kangra district as a whole during 1938 :—

Medical work in the Palampur Leper Home.

Number of injections	2,455
Number of specimens examined	510
Number of operations	49
Number of dressings	4,220
Quantity of drugs used	4,478 c.c.

During the year 25 out-patients and 59 inmates were treated with the following results :—

Relatively cured	7
Much improved	40
Improved	18
Same	24
Gone worse	6
Absented	3
Died	6

Survey work in Nurpur Tahsil and Seraj Sub-Tahsil of Kangra district :—

Villagers surveyed	1,717
Villages in which cases of leprosy were found	147
Population surveyed	149,377
Lepers traced out	205 (149 males, 56 females).
Doctors trained	7
Nurses instructed	21
Centre organised	1
Lectures given	113
Clinics visited	23
Villages re-visited	179

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know which is the health clinic for the Nurpur tahsil ?

Minister : I must have notice of the question.

IMPROVEMENTS CONCERNING THE WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

***4186. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) what developments and improvements concerning the Women's Section of the Medical Department have been effected during the last three years ;
- (b) the number of sanctioned Government posts for lady sub-assistant surgeons in 1936, 1937 and 1938 ;
- (c) the number of such posts which remained vacant in these years ;
- (d) the leave reserve for such posts in 1938 ;
- (e) the number at present of lady sub-assistant surgeons in the service of local bodies ;
- (f) the names of towns in the Punjab having a population of 10,000 or more where no lady sub-assistant surgeons are at present posted under Medical Department or local bodies ;
- (g) the names of dispensaries where, though Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons are posted, there is no provision for indoor accommodation for women ;
- (h) the number of lady sub-assistant surgeons who resigned during 1936—38 for reasons of being posted at places far from places of ordinary residence of their husbands ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) (i) Three new women's hospitals were opened at Sargodha, Beri (district Rohtak) and Amritsar ; and 9 lady sub-assistant surgeons have been posted to the women's sections at :—

1. Shahabad (Karnal district).
2. Khewra (Jhelum district).
3. Pind Dadan Khan (Jhelum district).
4. Okara (Montgomery district).
5. Hansi (Hissar district).
6. Sirsa (Hissar district).
7. Shujabad (Multan district).
8. Leiah (Muzaffargarh district).
9. Sonapat (Rohtak district).

(ii) Government have sanctioned 200 scholarships at Rs. 10 per mensem each for a period of one year for the training of women as " Trained Dais " and 100 at Rs. 15 per mensem each for a period of two years for the training of women as " Nurse Dais."

(iii) The post of Lady Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals which was abolished in 1925 has been revived for a period of 3 years.

(b) 1936	..	..	..	..	30
1937	..	..	..	..	35
1938	..	..	..	..	42

(c) One, from 1st January, 1936 to 23rd September, 1936.

(d) 15 per cent. of the sanctioned strength. Against this reserve six Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons were employed during 1938.

(e) Thirty-four.

9. Jhajjar.

(f) 1. Khera.

10. Raikot.

2. Baithal.

11. Pakpattan.

3. Khushab.

12. Palwal.

4. Baghbanpura.

13. Pindigheb.

5. Jagadhri.

14. Tarn Taran.

6. Kamalia.

15. Jagraon.

7. Patti.

16. Rewari.

8. Jalalpur Jattan.

17. Chiniot.

(g) Mozang (Lahore), Kashmiri Bazar (Lahore), Wachhowali (Lahore) Kasur and Batala.

(h) None.

DEPARTMENTAL GRADE EXAMINATIONS FOR LADY SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

***4187. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) when the Departmental Grade Examinations for lady sub-assistant surgeons were first ordered to be introduced;

(b) whether this order has been applied retrospectively to lady sub-assistant surgeons appointed before the date of this order;

(c) the reasons for retrospective application of this order;

(d) whether it is proposed to abolish the departmental examinations and instead give the lady sub-assistant Surgeons post-licentiate training at hospitals like Lady Willingdon Hospital, as is done in case of P.C.M.S. people;

(e) what facilities as regards leave, pay, travelling allowance, fees, etc., are afforded to lady sub-assistant surgeons for post-licentiate studies (i) in India at places like Calcutta and Madras, and (ii) ex-India and (iii) for taking up the M.B., B.S. Punjab course;

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

- (f) the number of lady sub-assistant surgeons who have taken advantage of facilities mentioned in (e) above during the last five years.

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) In November, 1935.

(b) Yes, subject to the condition that those lady sub-assistant surgeons who at the date of the orders had passed the period of service at which they were required to take the 1st, 2nd or 3rd quadrennial professional examination as the case might be, were exempted from such examination.

(c) To maintain the efficiency of the service.

(d) Such a proposal is under consideration.

(e) Any lady-sub-assistant surgeon wishing to pursue higher studies in or out of India at her own expense is at liberty to apply for leave in the ordinary manner. Study leave is not admissible to either male or female sub-assistant surgeons but applications for special facilities in particular cases would be considered on their merits—the deciding factor would be the interests of the public service.

(f) One lady sub-assistant surgeon proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom for higher studies at her own expense.

USEFULNESS OF LADY SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS HOLDING INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF DISPENSARIES.

***4188. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that lady sub-assistant surgeons are more useful where they are holding charge independently of the male assistant surgeons than where they are posted to female sections of hospitals under charge of the male assistant surgeons ;
- (b) whether he is aware that generally there is no smooth working in hospitals where the lady sub-assistant surgeon has to depend on the assistant surgeons staff for dispensing of medicines ;
- (c) how many lady sub-assistant surgeons in the Punjab and Delhi are not provided with separate female dispensers at present ;
- (d) how many female sections of hospitals have been developed into complete hospitals for women during the last three years ;
- (e) whether lady sub-assistant surgeons have ever been consulted by means of a conference or otherwise for improving their hospitals and for remedying their grievances ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) This is a matter of opinion and depends on circumstances.

(b) Government know of no foundation for the suggestion that as a rule there is difficulty where a female sub-assistant surgeon has to depend on the staff of a male assistant surgeon for the dispensing of medicines. Only two complaints by lady sub-assistant surgeons appear to have been received in this connection.

(c) The number in the Punjab is 20. I have no information regarding Delhi.

(d) None. Three new women's hospitals were however opened during 1936-38 at Sargodha, at Beri in the Rohtak district, and at Amritsar (the Lady Emerson Chatar Bhuj Maternity Home).

(e) No. But the Lady Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals when inspecting female hospitals and the female sections of general hospitals discusses with the lady medical officers in charge the question of improvements and grievances, if any. Such matters are subsequently examined by the Lady Assistant in her inspection notes.

UNTRAINED INSPECTING STAFF.

***4192. Pandit Shri Ram Shama :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors, District and Assistant District Inspectors in the Punjab Education Department who have not received training in the Central Training College ;

(b) the reasons for keeping untrained ones, when trained persons are available ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) :—

Inspectors (including the Inspector of Vernacular Education)	..	..	..	..	5
Deputy Inspectors	..	..	..	..	2
District Inspector	..	..	..	..	1
Assistant District Inspector	..	..	..	..	1

(b) The untrained men were selected on account of their qualification, suitability and experience and in the interests of public service. I may mention here that training at the Central Training College or elsewhere is not an essential qualification for the posts of divisional and deputy inspectors.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I ask as to whether these untrained persons are employed with a view to maintain the communal representation in the Education Department ?

Minister : Certainly not, Sir. Trained men are available from every community.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then why are these divisional and deputy inspectors of schools untrained ?

Minister : Because no college training is considered necessary for these posts.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : And what about the assistant district inspectors ?

Minister : There is only one and he has been in service since 1915.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HINDU SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS.

720. Khawaja Ghulam Samad: With reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 462-A,¹ will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Hindu scholarship holders, caste-wise, in the districts of Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal ;
- (b) the reason why the Muslims have not got their due share in the scholarships paid by local bodies according to their population in the province ;
- (c) what action, if any, is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret that the answer to the question is not ready.

INTRODUCTION OF SEPARATE ELECTORATE IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, HODEL.

721. Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the reply to starred question No. 3453,² regarding introduction of separate electorate in Municipal Committee, Hodel :—

- (a) the orders passed by the Government on the recommendation of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Palwal, to grant separate electorate to the Municipal Committee, Hodel ;
- (b) whether the deficiency of Muslim representation on Municipal Committee, Hodel, has been made good by nomination ?

The Honourable Nawazbada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a) I would invite the honourable member's attention to the answers given to Malik Barkat Ali's starred questions Nos. 3452² and 3453² of last year.

(b) Nominations to municipal committees of the second class are made by Commissioners in accordance with the formula as to the mean of population and voting strength.

THEFT CASES IN MUBARIKPUR, DISTRICT AMBALA.

722. Lala Duni Chand : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some burglars broke into the house of one Munshi Ram, caste Sud, of Ghudiala village, police station Mubarikpur, district Ambala, on 20th December, 1938, entered it and at the point of bayonet robbed the owner of all the gold and silver ornaments and cash and ran away after causing serious injuries to him ;

¹Volume V, page 903.

²Volume VI, page 102.

- (b) whether it is also a fact that a report of this theft was made at the earliest opportunity to the police of Mubarakpur police station and very soon after that the said Munshi Bam identified a Rajput of Gidarpur village and a goldsmith of village Machhli Kalan as the culprit in the case, but that these culprits have not yet been arrested nor any part of the stolen property recovered;
- (c) whether he is aware that owing to the said occurrence and similar other occurrences a great sense of insecurity prevails in the illaqa in the jurisdiction of the police station Mubarakpur; if so, what action, if any, the Government proposes to take in the matter?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Yes, but the injuries inflicted were, with one exception, simple and all of them were caused by some blunt weapon. No bayonet was used.

(b) No. A report was made at the police station at 6 P.M., on the 21st December, 1938, the burglary having taken place on the preceding night. The Rajput referred to as well as the goldsmith of Machhli Kalan were interrogated by the police and their houses searched, but nothing incriminating was found.

(c) No other burglary has since taken place in the jurisdiction of this police station and it is not correct that a general sense of insecurity prevails.

IRON STEEL MILLS IN BADAMI BAGH, LAHORE.

723. Shrimati Raghubir Kaur : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the names and number of iron steel mills in Badami Bagh, Lahore, that have been registered as factories under section 2 (j) of the Indian Factories Act;
- (b) what are the working hours prevailing in various departments of these mills and how many of these mills have been granted exemption from sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 of Indian Factories Act and under what rule;
- (c) whether a representation was sent to the Chief Inspector of Factories by the Factory Workmen's Union (Registered), to the effect that the workers on blast furnaces in these mills were made to work for extremely long hours in utter contravention of factory regulation; if so, when was it received, what action the Chief Inspector of Factories had taken thereupon, whether any inquiry was made, and, if made, with what result; if not, why not, and how much time it will take for the Chief Inspector of Factories to make inquiries in the matter?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) There are 5 iron and steel mills registered under the Act at Badami Bagh, the names of which are given below :—

1. Mukand Steel Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.
2. Karori Mal Sita Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.

[Minister for Development.]

3. Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.
4. Habib Ullah Ghulam Mohammad Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.
5. Ahmad Bux and Brothers, Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.

(b) The hours of work of these mills are given below :—

Mukand Steel Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh :—

- (i) Rolling mill staff works from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. with 2 shifts—each shift employed for one hour at a stretch relieving each other alternatively after every hour.
- (ii) All other staff works from 7-30 A.M. to 12 noon and 1 P.M. to 5-30 P.M.

Karori Mal Sita Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh :—

- (i) Rolling mill staff works from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. in two shifts—each shift works for one hour at a stretch relieving each other alternatively after every hour.
- (ii) All other staff works from 8 A.M. to 12 NOON and 1 P.M. to 5-45 P.M.

Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh. —

- (i) Rolling mill staff works from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. with 2 shifts—each shift employed for one hour at a stretch relieving each other alternatively after every hour.
- (ii) All other staff works from 8 A.M. to 12 NOON and 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Habib Ullah Ghulam Mohammad Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh. —

8-30 A.M. to 12-30 A.M. and 1-30 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Ahmad Bux and Brothers Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.—

8 A.M. to 12 NOON and 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.

The following workmen employed in all these mills have been granted exemption from various sections of the Act as noted below :—

(1) Under rule 90 of the Punjab Factories Rules, the following persons, namely :—

- (a) Manager,
- (b) Assistant Manager,
- (c) Head Store Keeper, and
- (d) Foreman

are deemed to hold positions of supervision or management ; as such they are exempt from the provisions of all sections of Chapter IV of the Factories Act.

(2) Under rule 94 of the Punjab Factories Rules, the following workers, namely—

- (a) Engine drivers,
- (b) Boiler attendants, and
- (c) Oilmen

have been exempted from the provisions of sections 34, 35, 37 and 38 of the Factories Act.

- (3) Under rule 96 of the Punjab Factories Rules, the workers employed on the operation of blast furnaces in all iron and steel factories are exempt from the provisions of sections 34, 35, 36 and 38.

These exemptions automatically apply to all factories. No special exemption has been applied for or granted to the iron and steel factories noted above.

(c) A representation from the Foundry Workers' Union, complaining that workers on blast furnaces in the factories at Badami Bagh were being worked for long hours, was handed to the Chief Inspector of Factories on the 9th instant when a deputation of the Foundry Workers' Union discussed the matter with the Chief Inspector of Factories.

The following action was taken :—

- (1) It was explained to the deputation at the time of the interview that the working hours as outlined by the deputation itself were in accordance with factory regulations and that all blast furnace workers were employed in the same way as those in the factories at Badami Bagh.
- (2) The representation was sent to the Additional Factory Inspector, Lahore Circle, with a letter of instructions, copy of which is placed on the table.
- (3) The Chief Inspector of Factories visited this factory area between 5-45 and 6-30 P.M., on the day the complaint was received and found the factories working to the scheduled time.
- (4) The Additional Factory Inspector visited these factories on the 20th instant and found them working according to regulations.

Copy of a letter No. 681, dated the 13th March, 1939, from the Chief Inspector of Factories, Punjab, to the Additional Factory Inspector, Lahore.

MEMORANDUM from the Foundry Workers' Union, dated March 9, 1939, is forwarded to you for perusal and return. The factories referred to should be given your special attention and reports submitted on the points referred to in the memorandum.

During the course of discussion with the deputation, I pointed out that the hours of work quoted at A are in order. The deputation was under the impression that "employment" meant the hours of work an operative was in the factory—included both working and rest hour—this, of course, is not correct. "Employment" means working hours.

I have recently made two tours of inspection to the iron works referred to and found them closed at the right time on each occasion. Further workers from the Mukand Iron Works stated they were put off work an hour or more once or twice a week owing to business being slack. However, in view of the persistency of the Union, we should continue to keep a good lookout on these factories.

It has been pointed out to the deputation that furnace men working at the open hearth system of metal rolling, owing to the excessive heat, cannot work for more than one hour at a stretch, and the method of work adopted—one hour at work and one hour off—is the usual way and is in force in every factory of the same type and the exemption clauses referred to in the memorandum would hinder rather than help the worker.

The complaint that workers are not paid overtime wages in accordance with rules is due to the misunderstanding on the part of the deputation regarding hours of work. As reported by the Union, the workers are employed 7 hours a day in the rolling mills and our records show that in the other departments a 9 hour day is observed. There is, therefore, no overtime worked and no exemption permitting overtime has been sanctioned.

The accidents referred to are being looked into by you and will be dealt with when your report is received.

Complaints on payment of wages should have your attention : in particular that referred to in the K. Ahmad Bakhs and Sons Factory.

The procedure to be adopted in making claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act has been clearly explained to the deputation.

**INSPECTION OF IRON STEEL MILLS IN BADAMI BAGH BY THE CHIEF
INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.**

724. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) how many times during the last year the Chief Inspector of Factories or any member of his staff visited all the iron steel mills in Badami Bagh, Lahore, and on what dates and with what result ;
- (b) how many accidents took place in these mills in six months ending 1st March, 1939, and on what dates and in which mill and what compensation was, if any, paid to workers involved and how many of the workers involved in such accidents were temporarily disabled and how many of them were permanently disabled ;
- (c) whether the Foundry Workmen's Union sent a representation marked 3X to the Chief Inspector of Factories bringing to his notice some accidents that had taken place in Baghoomram-Tulsiram Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and after that in a letter marked 5X another accident in Karori Mal Sitaram Iron Rolling Mills was brought to the notice of Chief Inspector of Factories ; if so, what action has been taken upon these representations ; if not, how long it will take the authorities to take any action on them ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Information relating to the number of inspections made by the Chief Inspector of Factories and his staff of the iron and steel mills in Badami Bagh with dates of inspections and the action taken on them is given below :—

Mukand Steel Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh—

1. Inspected by Chief Inspector of Factories on 3rd January, 1938 and found in order.
2. Inspected by Chief Inspector of Factories on 15th February, 1938 and found in order.
3. Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 5th April, 1938, to investigate into the cause of an accident. No blame could be attached to management.
4. Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 14th October, 1938, and the following defects were discovered :—
 - (i) Register of workers not maintained in the prescribed form.
 - (ii) No notice of periods for work for adults was posted.
 - (iii) Abstracts of the Factories Act and Rules not exhibited in the factory.
 Prosecuted for all the three offences.
5. Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 4th December, 1938 to check closing of the factory on Sunday and found to be in order.

Karori Mal Sita Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh :—

1. Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 14th October, 1938 and the following defects were discovered :—

- (i) No notice of periods for work for adults was exhibited.
- (ii) Register of workers not maintained in the prescribed form.
- (iii) Abstracts of the Factories Act and Rules not exhibited in the Factory.

Prosecuted for all the three offences.

Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh :—

1. Inspected by Chief Inspector of Factories on 3rd January, 1938 and found in order.
2. Visited by Chief Inspector of Factories on 15th February, 1938 for investigation of an accident.
3. Visited by Additional Factory Inspector on 14th October, 1938 and found the factory closed due to electric failure.

Habib Ullah Ghulam Mohammad Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh :—

1. Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 26th October, 1938 and found that the factory management had not posted up notice of period for work for adults for which prosecution was lodged.
2. Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 2nd December, 1938 and found the factory working in order.

Ahmad Bux and Brothers Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh :—

Inspected by Additional Factory Inspector on 28th October, 1938 with a view to locate the factory under the Factories Act.

Part B.—A statement of accidents which occurred during the 6 months ending March 1, 1939, is given below :—

Name of factory.	Injured person's name.	Date of accident.	Classification of accident, whether fatal, serious or minor.
Makand Steel Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh.	Sohan Lal ..	5-9-38	Minor.
	Moti Ram ..	26-9-38	Do.
	Sham Lal ..	4-10-38	Serious.
	Kehar Singh ..	8-11-38	Minor.
	Jaswant Singh ..	17-11-38	Do.
	Panchan ..	16-12-38	Serious.
	Mehar Chand ..	23-12-38	Minor.
	Shearing Jan ..	18-1-39	Do.
	Shamas Ullah Khan ..	27-1-39	Do.
	Hamid Gul ..	10-2-39	Do.
Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram Rolling Mills, Badami bagh.	Sher Muhammad ..	18-2-39	Do.

[Minister for Development.]

In the case of minor accidents the workers were not permanently disabled and were able to return to duty within 10 days of the accident.

In the case of serious accidents, the worker was disabled for more than 10 days and sustained partial or permanent disablement for which he could claim compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Information as to whether any compensation in respect of the accidents was paid or not is not available.

Part C.—A representation from the Foundry Worker's Union reporting that accidents had occurred in the Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh, and a further representation from the same union were received by the Chief Inspector of Factories on 10th February, 1939 and 24th February, 1939 respectively.

The accidents reported were investigated with the following results :—

1. An accident to Mohammad Shafi occurred on February 16th, 1939, in Karori Mal Sita Ram Rolling Mills, Badami Bagh, resulting in the worker receiving superficial burns on his left foot. On investigation the factory manager stated that the burn was so slight that it could not be termed as reportable accident. The accident should have been reported and action is being taken against the factory manager for having failed to do so.
The worker did not consult a doctor with a view to getting a certificate which would enable him to make a claim for compensation. He was, however, paid Rs. 5 by the factory management in lieu of lost wages. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act the worker's claim would have been Re. 1-14-0.
2. Accident to Khail Mohammad in factory of Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram. The management deny that any accident occurred to this worker : they state that he had a boil on his finger which the Foundry Worker's Union styled an injury but which could not be termed an accident or due in any way to the worker's employment.
3. Accident to Behari Lal in factory of Raghoo Ram Tulsi Ram. This worker is reported to have been scalded with hot water, the injury was so slight that he did not inform the management and continued to work ; the accident was not a reportable one since the worker was not off duty for more than 48 hours. He was not entitled to make a claim for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

725. Lala Harnam Das : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in spite of the instruction issued by the Government the Scheduled Castes are not adequately represented in the police department so far ; if so, what further steps Government intends to take to increase their recruitment in the police department in future ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : A reference is invited to the reply recently given to question *4871,¹ put by the honourable member for Amritsar and Sialkot (General—Reserved Seat—Rural).

RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AS ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS AND HEAD CONSTABLES OF POLICE.

726. Lala Harnam Das : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of candidates recruited as assistant sub-inspectors and head constables in the police department in the province throughout the last year with the number of those belonging to the scheduled castes;
- (b) whether it is a fact that none of the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes had been taken as assistant sub-Inspector, or as head constable this year; if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Forty-three candidates were recruited as assistant sub-inspectors during 1938, of whom none belonged to the scheduled castes. No direct appointments are made in the rank of head constables.

(b) The candidates belonging to the scheduled castes were not up to the required standard.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS OF AMBALA DIVISION AMONGST DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE, INSPECTORS AND SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

727. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Muslim deputy superintendents of police in the Punjab at present and how many of them belong to the Ambala division;
- (b) the number of Muslim inspectors of police at present and how many of them belong to Ambala division;
- (c) the number of Muslim sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors of police at present and how many of them belong to Ambala division;
- (d) whether it is a fact that no Muslim Rajput of Hissar has ever been accepted as a candidate as inspector, sub-inspector or as assistant sub-inspector of police; if so, what steps Government propose to take in order to redress their grievance?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) 21 : 1.

(b) 48 : 1

(c) Sub-inspectors—457 : 36.

Assistant sub-inspectors—317 : 28.

¹Vide questions and answers of 27th March, 1939.

[Premier.]

(d) So far as is known, the facts are as suggested by the honourable member. I must remind him that appointments in these ranks are not made on a district basis. The best candidates are selected out of those possessing the required qualifications, and it is not possible to take into account the claims of particular tribes and castes.

PROSECUTING DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE.

723. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of prosecuting deputy superintendents of police, in the Punjab community-wise?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : Out of the total number of eight appointments of prosecuting deputy superintendents of police, five are held by Hindus, two by Sikhs and one by an Indian Christian.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Jails and Convict Settlements.

S r. m.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, the speech to which I listened yesterday of my honourable friend, Chaudhri Kartar Singh, reminded me of that famous statesman, the late Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal. You may remember that Mr. Pal in old days of the partition of Bengal had been to the jails and later in 1928 when he was interrupted once in the Central Assembly, he retorted that he went to jails when these were jails and not father-in-law's houses as they are now. Ten years have passed since that remark was made and I am sure that if the late Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal had been alive to-day, he would have given a more charming description of the state of affairs in jails to-day. Let me make it clear that we on this side of the House are not opposed to any genuine suggestions to humanise the condition in our jails and that constructive suggestions for the improvement in control or in efficiency or in the matter of humanising the conditions or the removal of the mediæval conditions in the jail are always welcome and I can assure my honourable friends opposite that we are as keen as they are in bringing out the necessary improvements and I am sure that some of the constructive suggestions in that line which have been made by some friends on both sides of the House will receive the consideration they deserve at the hands of the Honourable Minister in charge. But the suggestions which were made yesterday in certain cases were startling and those suggestions were not made with regard to any particular type of prisoners. I could understand, for instance, if it were stated that if my friend, Mr. Krishna Gopal Dutt insists on going to jail, he should be sweetly scented or clothed in fine silks. That was not the proposition. It was suggested that as a general application all prisoners of all classes in jails must be given amenities of this type, that their wives and children should see them and that they should be given a particular type of wheat and other foodstuffs, and that they should have such other amenities. Now, I appeal through you

to friends on both sides to realise as to what is the objective of a jail life. After all our purpose is not to set up an excursion party or a picnic ground in jails. If that was the purpose I am sure all these suggestions would be welcome. But I am sure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and others will agree that the purpose of the jail is to correct certain people who have offended against the laws of society and what is more, and I beg that this aspect of the question should not be lost sight of, it is to serve as a deterrent to people who are criminally minded and therefore I submit that in dealing with this question we have to apply our minds to both aspects of it. We should certainly improve the jail conditions so far as the removal of old practices is concerned, so far as the inhuman practices are concerned, but not to the extent that it may encourage the lawless classes outside to come in—as an invitation.

Now, a very pertinent question was asked by two of the speakers on the other side as to what the Government has done to humanise the conditions in jail since they took over office. That question obviously implied ignorance of the state of affairs that has been going on by way of improvements in this administration. I may for the information of those members who put that question just state a few instances, the more glaring instances, of improvements effected in jail life within the last 18 months or so. Take any class of prisoner. I would start with the younger class, the boys and girls of adolescent age, and I am sure that any fair critic of the jail administration of the province will concede that improvements have been made in Borstal institutions in giving a better type of education, in giving regular and healthful exercises and in providing the right type of first aid and other training which is likely to make better men and women of them later. Take again the case of adults or middle class people. A special officer has been appointed to look into the manufacturing and industrial side of the jail life, so that these people, when they get out, will be able to earn their own living. Not only that, but some of the older types of labour have been replaced by more human and more healthy labour such as brick laying, agriculture and that sort of occupations. Take again the case of the older people. You will find that the Honourable Minister in charge has regularly inspected the cases of old and infirm inmates of jails with a view to release those that could be released. Again you will find with regard to the infirm and sickly people, special arrangements have been made to give them better medical facilities and in the case of tuberculosis patients special tuberculosis sanitarium has been arranged. Not only that, my honourable friends will find that even in the case of female inmates special arrangements have been made for their education. Two paid teachers have been engaged and five of the inmates have been trained as pupil teachers. In addition they have been taught embroidery, linen and other work and in the last year their work in this direction was valued at no less than Rs. 6,000. Surely this is a record of which any fair minded critic of the jail administration of the Government must give them due credit. But, Sir, a main and an important charge was laid against the jail administration from the opposite side by my honourable friend Dr. Sahib from Amritsar. He mainly attacked the food supplied in the jails. I must confess that his oratory carried me also. He is a doctor and he will bear me out that there are facts of nature which speak stronger than any oratory and that human body

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

is a sensitive index of the conditions under which it lives and therefore if even one-tenth of the charge which he levelled against the food supplied in the jails is correct, obviously one would expect a serious deterioration in the health conditions of the inmates of the jails. But what is the state of affairs? We find that last year only 9·7 per cent. of the inmates of the jails were discharged after having lost their weight. On the other hand 45·5 per cent. gained weight while they were in the jails and the remainder 45 neither gained nor lost their weight. I am not one of those who advocate that with regard to food or other matters improvement cannot be made or should not be made. I would certainly suggest that wherever there is room for improvement it must be given effect to but surely it is up to responsible friends of the Opposition to give credit where credit is due and not prove that here in this House it is ignorance that breeds contempt and not familiarity.

There is one other aspect of the question that was particularly stressed here and that was with regard to flogging. I confess that physically and temperamentally I am opposed to corporal punishment in all cases, but here we find that last year in the Punjab there had been less cases of flogging—only 16—than had been the case for the last 20 years and out of these 16, practically all have been cases where on the other side actual violence had been resorted to. When we realise that the jails to-day include no less than 4,400 habitual offenders, I am sure that this record will not be considered brutal. But there is one other submission that I would like to make before I finish. It is this. Is it that the honourable members opposite advocate these amenities for all sorts of prisoners in the Punjab jails? I would appeal to them to bear in mind that our jails include prisoners of a type which will do no honour to any patriotic Punjabi or any patriotic Indian. I would in particular, without giving names, refer to instances where an innocent Hindu devoid of any communal sense went out to buy some medicine for his wife but was killed in a Muslim *ilaga* without any rhyme or reason. In the same way a Muslim, the sole bread winner of his family with a large number of children, went out and without any rhyme or reason his arms and legs were cut off. Surely my friends of the Opposition do not advocate that we in our jails should not have conditions for this class of people which should prove deterrent for those who still have any inclination of this nature! Take again the case of offences against women. I am sure all of us who have any respect for our wives and mothers and sisters would realise that people who without any rhyme or reason lay their hands on the modesty of our innocent and poor sisters and daughters should not be allowed to do so and that the conditions in the jails should be such that they may serve as a deterrent for all persons who lay their hands on them. Cases of this nature can be easily multiplied and I would submit with all the earnestness that I can command and make a personal appeal to the Honourable Minister in charge that in providing amenities let there not be any uniform policy, let there be a clear cut gradation and in regard to some of these offences I would appeal with all the emphasis I can command that there may be a black jail which may be deterrent to all people who have any inclinations of that nature so that it may not be said hereafter that in our zest for humanising we have permitted stupidity to take the better of humanity. (*Hear, hear*).

Master Kabul Singh (Jullundur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I am glad that my honourable friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, has conceded that the aim of the jail department should be reformation of prisoners and not revenge. Yesterday, my honourable friend Raja Fateh Muhammad Khan made certain remarks which were really surprising to me. It appears from his speech that he still believes in vindictive and revengeful punishments of the mediæval ages. He ought to know that those methods cannot commend themselves to any sensible man to-day, and nobody can have a good word for those who perpetrated singularly in human acts in the Amritsar Kisan *morcha*. But if revenge is going to be the rule, then many others will have to be despatched to their graves.

My honourable friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, told us that the present Government has introduced a good many reforms in the prisons and that, consequently, the expenditure on the prisoners has considerably increased. May I ask whether the income from the labour of the prisoners has increased too? Then he was pleased to remark that those who were guilty of crime against women or of murders during the communal riots did not deserve too nice a treatment. I am free to admit that there is much force in that argument. But who is responsible for such communal murders and communal riots? Not the murderers themselves but those in the Government who instigate them to do so. Again, speeches like the one made at Simla by the Bengal Premier, Mr. Fazl-ul-Haq, cannot but fan the flame of communalism and goad religious fanatics to commit murders.

Mr. Speaker: I request the honourable member not to bring in officers and Ministers of other provinces.

Master Kabul Singh: Very well, Sir. I would also submit that those who commit murders at the instigation of communal fanatics or interested persons deserve to be sent to hospitals rather than to jails. It is the duty of every civilized Government to reform these people so that when they go out of jails they may be able to live peacefully as good citizens. It was said yesterday that you cannot create a new earth and a new heaven in a day. I want to know what the actual achievements of the Government have been during the last two years.

Then I draw your attention to the discrimination between the Indian and European prisoners and the preferential treatment accorded to the latter. A European black-guard in our jails receives much better treatment than is meted out to our best soldiers in the battle of freedom. Even under the present Government the jail to a European is as good as the house of his father-in-law. This, I submit, is a direct challenge to our honour and self-respect. Even the Jails Enquiry Committee admitted that it was an invidious discrimination but nothing has so far been done to remove it.

Then, my honourable friend, Raja Muhammad Akram Khan, said something about the facilities provided in connection with interviews with the prisoners. He was the superintendent of a jail for some time but he was appointed there after the prisoners had already obtained a certain measure of reforms through their own efforts and sacrifices. Anyway I would draw his attention to the fact that the conditions for interviews set out in the

[Master Kabul Singh.]

Jail Manual are still as bad as they were. This Bible of jails has not changed with the world. There are no seating arrangements for the relatives of the prisoners who go to interview them. Then there is so much noise that you cannot hear anything. The Government has not even thought of the desirability of following in the footsteps of civilised countries in this respect.

Again it is laid down in the Jail Manual that only such labour should be taken from the prisoners as may be useful for the jail or as the superintendent may deem fit. This makes a Hitler of the superintendent giving him all powers to torture any prisoner who may not be in his good books. In the Multan Jail there was a water pump, which was worked by 32 men. I do not know whether that machine of torture is still there or whether it has been removed. Anyway, it is clear that the superintendent can make life unbearable for those who refuse to dance to his tune or incur his displeasure in any other way. Similarly, at the time of distribution of meals the prisoners are made to undergo such a shameful parade as no civilized society would tolerate.

If we read page 219 of the Jail Manual we will find that the Government of Sir Chhotu Ram is inimical to the Gandhi cap not only outside the jail but inside also. The retention of this page shows the mentality of the present Government. At page 237 we find the powers of a jail superintendent to inflict all sorts of punishments on the poor convicts. These powers are wider than those enjoyed by Hitler himself. He may punish a prisoner for petty offences saying that the prisoner was hatching a conspiracy or was trying to run away from the jail. These sections apply to matters relating to ordinary necessities like eating or easing one's self or talking to one another or going from one barrack to another. In short the Jail Manual aims at reducing the prisoners to lifeless bodies and if they dare make any movements they are severely dealt with. No signs of life are tolerated by the jail authorities. They appear to cherish the ambition of converting the jails into graveyards. It is only the dead who can give up all talk or movement. Again, they are not allowed to go to the latrines without previous permission. Even if the food provided is too bad to be eaten, the prisoners cannot throw it away without the sanction of the jail authorities. They are asked not to soil the latrines as if they are the sacred places of jails. We should not be expected to become English in our behaviour. We Indians do need water for cleaning our bodies after passing stools but in the jails it is not permitted because the latrines become dirty. I wish the Finance Minister had done something to improve the jail life as he has some experience of these jails. Sir Sikander has not had this benefit so far. He may be excused on that account. But the Honourable Minister for Finance is expected to bring about a great reform in the jails, or at least to have a thorough knowledge of jail life.

Now I come to the invidious distinctions made in the jails among the Indian and the British. A preferential treatment is accorded to the British in the matter of food, accommodation, clothes, etc. Sometimes they happen to have committed thefts, and sometimes they happen to have attempted to run away from the field for fear of the enemy. These military fugitives

are accorded better treatment merely because they are of white skin. They are given 2nd class railway fares. But the Indian prisoners are chained and severely dealt with. In view of this preferential treatment allowed in the jails, I think the jail administration in the Punjab is really a blot on the fair name of the Punjab. This differentiation is made in all matters concerning diet, clothes, accommodation, ventilation and other amenities of life. For instance, an English prisoner is given accommodation of 80 cubic feet and an Indian is allowed only 45 feet. I wonder why the English are provided with better accommodation than the poor Indians. Do they require more air than the Indians? Why do the jail authorities put as many as 12 prisoners in one *chhauddari*? What aggravates the position is that prisoners are chained with each other so that if one rises to go out for answering the call of nature, the others are put to great inconvenience on that account. If the present Government cannot remove this rule or law, it can claim to have done nothing at all. Then all its other achievements of which it may boast are reduced to nothing.

Now I come to difficulties about clothes in the jails. Even *pagri* was not previously allowed to the prisoners. We had to make a tremendous effort and sacrifice in order to obtain the use of it. Then there is the question of *kachhera* versus nicker: The authorities objected to our wearing *kachheras* although they are just like nickers which the authorities permitted everywhere. It is a thousand pities that whereas Sir Sundar Singh personally uses double '*pagri*,' he did not favour the poor prisoners using small *pagris* of two yards. We had to undergo a great deal of hardship to obtain the permission for using small *pagris*. We had to resort to hunger—strike for this purpose and we were inflicted with various punishments for making a demand for these ordinary things. We were tempted to tell the officer who prohibited the use of *kachheras* that it would be the height of indecency to stand naked before him, and it would be still more indecent for us to stand before our uncles and other elders. (*Interruption*). My honourable friend has begun to show restiveness and impatience even now while I have yet to narrate more horrible tales of woe and misery of the poor prisoners. I am yet to narrate the incidents concerning the *langotis*. But for the presence of the honourable lady members in this House, I would have related stories based on facts that could put every gentleman to shame. I am making a supreme effort to refrain from telling indecent things on the floor of the House but I would assure the Honourable Ministers and other honourable members that the jail authorities did several shameless and indecent things and the Government connived at them.

The honourable member from Jhelum, Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akram Khan, stated the other day on his personal experience that 'A' and 'B' class prisoners badly treated the 'C' class prisoners and never sympathised with them. My friend should know that whatever little has so far been done in the matter of jail reform is due to the sacrifices made by the political prisoners. Does he know who was responsible for starting the people's system in the jails, how Lumsden Committee was appointed and what led to the appointment of Barker Committee? In fact it was because of the political prisoners who raised such a row that the Govern-

[Master Kabul Singh.]

ment had to yield to some of their demands. In the face of these facts, can any one say with any show of reason that the political prisoners never felt any sympathy for the ordinary prisoners?

I was talking about European prisoners. They are provided with a good many facilities. They are given two good suits, one set of braces, one hat, two pairs of socks, two blankets of superior quality—not those rotten ones usually provided for Indian prisoners—one pair of shoes, cushions and handkerchiefs. Besides they are provided good food and good vegetables. But none of these facilities are provided to the Indian prisoners. They are very badly treated in the matter of food and dress. I appeal to the Government that Indians should not be treated as animals. My friend from Jhelum also stated that it was absolutely false that the superintendents themselves use most of the vegetables meant for prisoners and that it could not be expected that they would be so dishonest as to do that. Let me remind him of the case of Muhammad Munir Akbar, Superintendent, Mianwali Jail, who was caught red-handed while disposing of one hundred maunds of wheat which belonged to the prisoners. (*Premier*: When did that happen?) In 1929. I can say on my personal experience that jail vegetables are supplied not only to the jail superintendents, but also to magistrates and clerks working in courts. The cauli-flowers are taken away by the officers and the leaves are given to the prisoners. There is a non-official visitor of jails, his name I will not mention, who has accepted this office merely for the sake of getting good and fresh vegetables. I submit that according to jail rules vegetables should in the first instance be supplied to the prisoners and if still some vegetables are available they may be distributed among the jail officials. But quite contrary to rules vegetables are in the first instance supplied to the officials and if there still remain some vegetables they are provided for the use of the prisoners. No appreciable change has taken place in the jail administration even under the present Government. All these irregularities and corrupt practices were exposed in 1923-24 when an enquiry committee was appointed to go into the question of jail reform. Unless stringent measures are taken to stamp out corruption from the jail administration you cannot succeed in reforming the criminals. And how can you bring about the desired reform when your officials themselves are the chief cause of corruption? Even the most honest among the prisoners have to pay for getting a newspaper or despatching a letter to their relatives. Pay a warder Rs. 5 and he will be your man and will bring you a newspaper, post your letter or do anything for you. Ninety per cent. of the jail officials are corrupt. The Government should first take steps to reform their officials before they try to reform the prisoners.

Let me now turn to the question of sanitation. At present no satisfactory arrangements exist for sanitation in jails. Phenyle is used only once a week. Filthy water is used for washing the walls without taking the trouble of draining it out. It is due to these insanitary conditions that the prisoners fall victims to contagious diseases like cerebro-spinal fever. It is reported that 30 prisoners got this fever and 17 died of it. As many as 744 prisoners contracted lung diseases. This shows that either the accommodation

in jails is very small or there is no light or there is an inadequate supply of food. My friend Raja Sahib has told us that satisfactory arrangements for ventilation exist in jails. There may be a good many ventilators in rooms but we complained against the inadequacy of light provided to prisoners at night. The superintendent himself wrote to the authorities about it and the Deputy Inspector-General inspected the jail and found that the complaint was true. Both political and ordinary prisoners are dissatisfied with the lighting arrangements in jails. So far as the question of corruption in jail administration is concerned, the jails are hell still. There is a well-known phrase used by the jail officials, that is, *وچون مانف* which means that if you want to get facilities, pay them handsomely. Most shameful things are going on in jails. I would suggest that after every six months a prisoner should be set at liberty for at least 15 days to see his family.

Then preachers are not allowed to go to prisons to teach good conduct. But there are no such restrictions in the case of European clergymen. They are allowed to do their work without let or hindrance. Not only that, Christian prisoners are allowed even to attend service in churches.

Another complaint is that according to the Jail Manual the hair of Baloch prisoners is not cut so long as they are within the Dera Ghazi Khan district but the moment they are removed from that district their hair is shaved off. There have been a good many complaints about shaving also. As regards food I can give you scores of examples where the prisoners who were tired of the dirty vegetables managed to smuggle in some *gur* and got flogging as punishment for this heinous crime. Formerly each prisoner used to be paid Rs. 1-4-0 as wages for his labour. Out of this he was allowed to spend annas ten and the remainder was left with the jail authorities to accumulate in his account. But now this wholesome practice has been discontinued. I say without any fear of contradiction that by your present methods you are converting ordinary criminals into habitual ones. Even respectable political prisoners have to stoop to getting cigarettes and other petty things of the kind smuggled into the jail on account of your unnecessary restrictions.

As regards instructors and teachers you can gauge the utility of their services by the fact that in the Multan Jail where the number of prisoners ranges between 2,200 and 2,400 there is only one instructor. I submit that so long as the conditions in the jails are what they are at present, we cannot be expected to sing praises of the Minister and his department. You have 2½ men to cook food for 100 prisoners, while in Bengal that work is done by 16 persons. Moreover in Bengal they cook meals twice a day with the result that prisoners get freshly cooked vegetables at each meal and there is greater scope for variety in food. I request the Minister in charge to adopt the practice prevalent in Bengal jails in this respect.

Then, Sir, the ministers and their supporters are very fond of making appeals in the name of humanity, but in practice they do not scruple to use words such as "menials" for human beings. That word occurs more than once in the blue book on New Expenditure. This is a clear index of the Jewish mentality of the Government. Again reverting to the vast powers vested in the superintendents, I would submit that just as the Unionist

[Master Kabul Singh.]

Government makes unscrupulous use of the Criminal Law Amendment Act to get rid of their political opponents, the superintendents of jails use paragraphs 571-576 of the Jail Manual to condemn to solitary cell any prisoner who might have incurred their displeasure. What is more, they can perpetuate the misery of the poor prisoner by adding to their orders the words "till further orders." I submit that it is neither wise nor desirable to make the superintendent an absolute dictator in the jail.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

This is about the ordinary prisoners.

I now wish to draw your attention to a very serious grievance of the political prisoners. These prisoners do not mind physical starvation very much but they do object to being mentally starved by non-supply of books to them. Just as our Minister has not been able to understand what is meant by political prisoners, the superintendents of jails do not know what is meant by 'political books.' In support of this statement I will relate an interesting experience in the Jhelum prison. The superintendent there refused to supply a book by Khawaja Hassan Nizami simply because it was entitled "Ghadar-ke-Afsane." Now imagine a superintendent banning a book by Khawaja Hasan Nizami! In vain did we argue with him saying that the Khawaja was a much greater toady than the superintendent himself. He did not budge an inch from the position originally taken up by him. Similarly in the Mianwali Jail a compatriot of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram banned "The Life of Mustafa Kemal Pasha." The conditions with regard to correspondence are still worse. My friend Raja Mohd. Akram Khan complained that political prisoners made use of this privilege for placing in the envelopes letters meant for people in foreign countries. May I ask why he should object to that? Is it because he wants to avoid publicity being given to the sins of commission and omission on the part of the Government?

Then our province is conspicuous for not releasing a good many political prisoners like Messrs. Gurmukh Singh, Prithi Singh, Sachcha Singh, etc., and awarding C class to prisoners like Messrs. Hazara Singh, Girdhari Lal and Nasir Ali. I may also mention here that the C class prisoners are almost invariably treated like dumb driven cattle. Let the Government realize that we are living in the year 1939 and not in 1278 and that therefore, it is imperative that conditions in jails should be improved. In this connection I would like to point out that the lot of the prisoners cannot be improved unless the superintendent and the medical officer are two different persons.

Next, I want to submit that the remissions that are given to prisoners should be given according to their rights and the jail officials should not always expect flattery from prisoners. Whenever an ordinary clerk of jail department happens to pass by them, the poor prisoners are, by force, supposed to extend their hands in such a way as if they are going to pray before God. This system is appalling. If jail officials suspect them of carrying anything objectionable they may adopt some other better method than making their hands empty. They can search the prisoners if they suspect them of having in their possession stones, bricks or razors. Supposing

they want to hurt somebody they can do so by adopting several other methods. By saying this I mean that in jails prisoners are punished with hard labour. It is not the labour that is hard. It is the conditions of life that make it hard. The class of young and brave prisoners, I would say, in jail, is put to disgrace. There is no zeal of reform in prison but hate and this hatred of jail officials affects the young class adversely. This is one of the causes of terrorism in this province. Young prisoners are very badly put to burning disgrace by the jail officials. They treat them in a vindictive spirit. That is why prisoners want to take revenge on them inside or outside the jail walls. Let me advise the Government to avoid creating a strong feeling of revenge in the hearts of prisoners lest they should ask watchmen to stand on the tops of their houses in order to guard them. Take other provinces, for instance. The troubles that have arisen in Madras or the United Provinces.....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would request the honourable member not to institute comparisons with other provinces. If once they are instituted, answers are given from the other side and at times offensive language is used and heat is generated. To avoid this heat it would be better if comparisons between this province and other provinces are not instituted.

Master Kabul Singh : Very well, Sir. May I submit that non-official visitors were in existence before this Government came into power. Since the present Government has come into power in the garb of a Jat Government no person whatsoever is made a non-official visitor. My suggestion to the Government is that the number of non-official visitors should be increased and more chances of visits given to them and the Government may work on the suggestion made by them. But I am afraid the Government of our province want to keep people in the dark about their working. We thought that we being members of the Legislative Assembly would be allowed to visit jails and see what improvements could be made, in them. But to our surprise the present Government has shut all the doors for us in this respect. We are still to be found in their black list, no matter, if we may be members of this august House.

Now I beg to suggest to the Government certain points very respectfully and strongly and I hope that the Government would do their best to stop every defect found in this department. For instance, the grinding of flour which is prevalent in jails must be stopped. In my opinion punishment should be such as would correct a prisoner. Prisoners should be taught some handicraft in jails on a large scale. I want to bring another important point to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister and that is in regard to the penal diet. ~~This penal diet is just like what we say "Laiti" in Punjabi. It is unwholesome.~~ My next suggestion is that the Jail Manual that has been in force since time immemorial must be totally altered or thoroughly revised. The Jail Manual contains both good and bad points. But what a pity that our Government has always availed of its bad provisions !

So far as remissions are concerned, I would like to submit that in one year at least 15 days leave may be given to prisoners and library facilities may also be given to them. They may be at liberty to write letters to their friends and relatives without any restrictions and letters received in their

[Master Kabul Singh.]

names may not be delayed in jail office for weeks on end. I think that the prisoners' interviews should not be restricted to their relatives only, but should extend to their friends also. I do not think there is any harm in allowing them interviews with their friends as well. A political friend can understand the requirements of a political prisoner more accurately than a relation of his, because the political friend belongs to the same class and therefore, it would not be out of place to request the Government to grant them interviews with their political friends.

Next, my submission is in regard to the dirty and unclean clothing of prisoners. They must be changed for better ones. Prisoners should be provided with long shirts so that they may not look like clowns. Why should European prisoners alone be given superior kind of blankets? These blankets should be provided to those unfortunate prisoners also who belong to that class which pays land revenue to the Government. Naturally such prisoners have greater claim to these blankets. Now I draw your attention to another very important aspect of the matter and that is this that no arrangement has been made for the recreation of prisoners. I think it would be beneficial if the unfortunate prisoners who are deprived of sunshine and open air could enjoy the radio programme as the people outside the prison walls do. But I would request in this respect that songs in praise of Unionist Party may not be sung on the radio. May I further submit that the feeling of self-respect may be infused in them by providing them recreation. They must be provided with useful newspapers so that they may remain in touch with what is going on outside the prison walls. I believe that the prison is a part and parcel of our society and therefore this should not be overlooked at all. Let me warn the Government that the people of this province are already sick of their aggressive policy and if they persist in this attitude I am afraid, they may be thrown overboard by the people during the next election. It is, therefore, very necessary for the Government to see that genuine steps are really taken in this matter. I conclude my speech by saying that it is the Government which is responsible for the good or evil of society. If crime is on the increase, I am sure, it is because of the oppressive attitude of the Government and not of anything else.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural): I must admit that I have not had the honour, like some of my friends opposite, of having been a prisoner myself, but I have been sufficiently in touch in my non-official capacity with the jail administration. I have been for four years a member of the Jails Committee during the old regime and as a provincial visitor have toured the whole province, and I have also been for the last eight years a non-official visitor of the District Jail at Gujranwala. There is none in the whole calibre of non-official visitors who comes in the category mentioned by Master Kabul Singh and I can say with confidence that I cannot agree to the picture which has been depicted by my honourable friends of the Opposition. Honourable members of this House also know that Khan Bahadur Nawab Fazl Ali Khan who always adorns any chair which he occupies is also a non-official visitor in his district. My honourable friends should also know that there is such a thing as the Provincial Non-official Visitors Conference. Its meetings are held here at Lahore and the Inspector-General of Prisons—and sometime

the Honourable Minister in charge of Jails—attends those meetings, and proposals are always considered there to better the lot of under-trial prisoners or convicts. My friends should also know that there exists in this province a body which is known as the Prisoners' Aid Society. There is a branch of this Society in every district and it works under the guidance of the Provincial Prisoner's Aid Society. In many districts the deputy commissioners are the presidents, but in others non-officials run the whole show. Honourable members must also know that

4 P. M.

under these societies Government always appoints assistant officers. There are four such assistant officers in my district whose duties are to visit the jails either weekly, fortnightly or at any time that might suit them. They are given a sort of certificate entitling them to visit the jails. These officers have to interview the prisoners, discuss with them their needs and render them such assistance as they may require after their release from jails. I may inform the House that these people who have been released from jails have always been helped by the Prisoners Aid Societies financially. People who had learnt tailoring while in jail have been helped to the extent of Rs. 50 or more according to the resources of the society concerned in order to open a tailoring shop and earn an honest living. People who have learnt carpentry, smithy and such other things have also been given financial help to start business and to earn an honest living. What more help can be expected of these societies? My complaint is that the Honourable Minister has carried jail reforms and improvements to an extent which I think is too much. It is true I am all praise for my honourable friends over there who have suffered for their personal convictions, but they must bear in mind, as Mir Maqbool Mahmood pointed out, that there is a world of difference between political prisoners and prisoners who have committed offences involving moral turpitude. There are persons who are offenders by accident and there are others who are habitual offenders. Is it contended that people who are habitual offenders, who have committed offences against person and property, offenders who have committed violence, people who are guilty of offences involving moral turpitude, should get the same treatment as those who are convicted for holding certain political convictions of their own? Is it contended that such offenders should be lodged in Nedous' Hotel and Falletti's Hotel? In jails only such amenities can be given to prisoners which are consistent with the ordinary life of a criminal.

It has been said that people are made to grind corn. I concede that this was the case a decade ago, but it is not the case now. In no jail are the prisoners forced to grind corn except for some exceptional reasons, such as committal of some jail offence. Grinding of corn is given to prisoners only as a punishment for some jail offence and not as a labour.

Coming to the question of diet, much has been said on the floor of the House and therefore I do not want to take the time of the House in dilating on that subject, but I may point out that my honourable friends are wrong in thinking that the vegetables in jails are passed to the jail officials as *dalis*. They must know that it is not fair for any respectable official to accept *dalis*, but I may inform the honourable members that there is a system in certain jails where the surplus vegetables after

[K. B. Chaudhri Riasat Ali.]

meeting the requirements of the jails are sold to people who are prepared to pay for them on a monthly basis. I do not see how corruption comes in these transactions.

Then, my honourable friends opposite complained of the want of up-to-date libraries in jails for the use of prisoners. It is really very strange that when such an amenity is not available even outside the jails they should be asked for in jails. I can understand the demand for libraries for political prisoners who may be educated people. But how can you expect dacoits, murderers and daylight robbers to make use of these libraries? Besides, my friends on the other side must know that crimes nowadays have increased on account of the amenities provided for the criminals. Of course there are some teachers who give lessons to these *kaidis* in jails to combat illiteracy. There are religious teachers also who teach the criminals the benefits of reforming themselves. In the Gujranwala jail there are three such teachers who give lessons to various classes and communities. These criminals are always taught the benefits of leading honest lives. That is the sort of reform that is required in jails and nothing else. Perhaps my honourable friend will demand tomorrow, if unfortunately an honourable member of this House happens to go to jail for some offence, that this Assembly should be held in that jail for his convenience. Really such demands cannot be conceded.

Another point was referred to by my friends opposite and that was that prisoners on release were unable to earn an honest living. I have already referred to the Prisoners Aid Societies which render them help in this direction. I may impress upon the House that industrial education is given in the jails such as weaving blankets and carpet making, chalk making, basket making, etc. The prisoners who learn any of these things can become artisans on release from jail and even though they may not be first rate artisans, yet they can earn an honest living with whatever they have learnt in the jails if they care to.

My honourable friend, Mr. Sachar, yesterday dwelt on the question of superintendents. He was very fair in his remarks as he usually is. He said that the Honourable Minister has done a lot during the last eighteen months to improve the life of convicts in jails though not to the extent to which he would like. I may say for his information that there are five different classes of superintendents, those recruited from the P.C.S., those recruited from the I.M.S. or the P.C.M.S., part-time superintendents, that is, magistrates who are not whole time superintendents but supervise the sub-jails in addition to their ordinary duties as magistrates and for which they are paid an extra allowance, departmental superintendents, and the war block officers.

Now, so far as the importation of I.M.S. officers into the jail department is concerned, I am not an official and I do not possess any files. Whatever I have read is from the amended resolution of 18th October, 1937, by which no post is now reserved for an I.M.S. officer as far as the jail department is concerned. There are only thirteen posts which have been reserved for the I.M.S. officers and out of them four are for experts in the Medical College, two are leave reserve

and seven are for civil surgeons. So on that score we should not grumble any more that the present Government is in any way trying to import I.M.S. officers. It will take the opportunity whenever a post falls vacant to give it to somebody, other than an I.M.S. So far as the P.C.S. officers are concerned, my friends should know that there are only four in the service and two or three of them are going to retire soon. The Retrenchment Committee of 1931 said—I will read only one sentence—

We consider that the system of appointing officers of the provincial service as superintendents is more expensive than the old system and in the opinion of non-official members whose views in this matter are entitled to special weight has proved a failure. We recommend reversion to the old system.

Government is giving effect to this. I myself do share the view—without being personal or doubting the integrity or showing any disrespect to the intelligence of the P.C.S. officers—I myself sometimes grumble as to why it is that these P.C.S. officers are considered to be so omnipotent and omniscient and that they should be successfully lent to every department? If they have been taken on merits there is no harm, because they have sometimes experience of the department and some are in touch with facts and figures, but they should not be appointed to the exclusion of other people simply for the reason that they belong to this honourable service. Like their brethren of the I.C.S., they should not be supposed to know everything in each and every department. During the present regime the Honourable Minister for Finance—I cannot quote facts and figures again—has been giving the posts of superintendent of jail to those men who have been serving as deputy superintendents and assistant superintendents in the department, in preference to other people. Of course what Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar said was to a certain extent right with regard to the war block. There are only four superintendents who belong to that category and one of them, I understand, is not being confirmed and the other three, if otherwise fit for the service, should not be turned out only on the score that they happen to be Anglo-Indians or belong to a particular race. None should be made unfit for service on account of the reason that he belongs to a particular community or that he professes a particular creed.

Now, Sir, my honourable friend, Dr. Sant Ram Seth, has said that sub-assistant surgeons are appointed as doctors to jails and they are rather inefficient. He said that Rs. 40 is given by way of allowance to compensate them because they are not allowed to do their private practice. My honourable friend should know that all doctors who are in charge of rural dispensaries in rural areas are sub-assistant surgeons and they are doing very good work. Does he expect that a man who is in charge of a rural dispensary who is living in an out of the way place can command practice of more than Rs. 40? It is simply impossible. So an allowance of Rs. 40 is sufficient compensation for the doctors who work there and in my humble opinion they are quite efficient to look after the prisoners, when assistant surgeons cannot be available for this work.

Now, Sir, another complaint was made about the lot of the under-trial prisoners. So far as this is concerned, I would like to bring it to the notice of my friends that the fault really does not lie with the jail department

[K. B. Chaudhri Riasat Ali.]

itself. Why? From the year 1931, up to the year 1936 facts and figures have been collected and it is clear from a study of those facts and figures that the Government has been spending on an average no less than Rs. 2,44,000 on the diet alone of under-trial prisoners, who were discharged and not convicted. Now what is the rate of discharge? In 1931 it was 62 per cent. In 1934 it was 60 per cent., and in 1935 it was 61 and in 1936 it was 62 per cent. This means that there are 60 to 62 per cent. of people out of the total number sent to jail as under-trials who have been discharged and those convicted were only to the extent of less than 40 per cent. Government had to suffer an annual loss, as I should call it, of no less than Rs. 2,44,000 on an average to feed these people. Where does the real difficulty or the mistake lie? It was also referred to in that very report which I have quoted that in some cases magistrates are awarding sentences of short term imprisonment in preference to fine. This is a matter of policy and we have no control over their discretion. They are governed by rules and regulations and the laws prescribed by the legislatures. But where it is a matter of discretion, we are generally disappointed. I would like to state that sometimes arbitrary fines are imposed and people are not given time which is allowable to them under the law itself to pay the fine, with the result that many people are sent to jail for very short terms for petty offences in cases where the demands of law and justice should have been satisfied by a sentence of fine. Another trouble is that in spite of section 497 of the Criminal Procedure Code which has been sufficiently amended, magistrates are not inclined to allow bail to people in cases where they can allow it on merits. They go by the letter of the law and not by the spirit of the law if I can use that term. My suggestion in this case is that even in those cases which are non-bailable technically speaking, if the facts of the case show that on the merits of the case bail can be allowed without any harm being done to the peace of the province or to the other party, more leniency should be shown and bail should be allowed and in this way it will not be an undue burden on the revenues of the province to feed people who are ultimately going to be discharged or acquitted. The average period of detention of under-trials in jails during the years mentioned above has been 27 days and the cost of diet per diem per head has been 5½ annas. Look at this waste of money. The real fault lies not with the jail administration itself but with the queer ways of the people who are presiding officers of the criminal courts who are sometimes led by the nose by the district magistrates who have strange notions of criminal administration.

Another matter to which I would refer is the system of tenders, which was also referred to in the report of the committee of 1932 and it was stated that it was better to control centrally the tender system. This has been done in obedience to the recommendation of that committee. The system now is that big contractors are given chances to give their tenders for more than one jail for any given commodity. The result is that the petty contractors who are middlemen are not given a chance to behave in the objectionable way in which they would have done otherwise. The system of enlisting the services of big contractors who give supply to a number of jails is certainly an improvement of the system of supply of grain that is used for the consumption of the inmates of these jails. Hygienic

methods have been introduced in jails for cooking the diet of prisoners and for the carrying of their food from the kitchen to the barracks or wherever it is served. Carriers are wire-gauzed and this is indeed an improvement on the diet system. A very capable officer has been appointed by the present Government in the person of Khan Sahib Shaikh Alam Ali whose sole business is to go about these jails and introduce jail manufactures and to help the inmates of the jails to learn industry and other handicrafts so that they may be able to earn their livelihood in their after life. The criticism so far as it relates to the ordinary criminal is, therefore, uncharitable and unjustified.

Mian Abdul Aziz (~~Quater Lahore, Muhammedan, Urban~~) (Urdu): Sir, I would not detain the House for a long time because the speeches made by the honourable members on both sides have covered almost the whole ground and very few things are left that still require to be dealt with. I have not been to jail and am not therefore in a position to say much about jail life. However, I would like to invite your attention to four or five things. I would not refer to matters which have been discussed ~~there~~ ^{here} by my friends on this side, particularly by ~~Master Kadal Singh~~. Jail life is quite a different life and the public at large is not in a position to know what is going on in jails. Jails are a world apart. It can only be said of the jail officials that they are in a key position to say what is taking place in jails. It is possible that non-official visitors of jails may also to some extent be conversant with what is being done there. But they get very few opportunities to study the actual conditions obtaining in jails. So the first submission that I would like to make in this connection to the Unionist Government is that if the number of non-official visitors to jails is increased it would redound to the good of the jail population. This may not ensure the complete eradication of corruption in the jail administration, but it would certainly produce good effect upon the jail officials. I would therefore make a request to the Honourable Premier, the Honourable Minister for Finance not being in his seat, that if he deems it advisable every member of this House may be appointed a non-official visitor of jails situated within his or her constituency. No doubt there are a few members of the Assembly who are already non-official visitors of jails. But if every member of this House is appointed a non-official visitor of jails as suggested by me, it will certainly tend to improve the jail administration in the province.

The next submission that I want to make is that at present the jail population in the Punjab consists of 20 to 25 thousand souls and the food supplied to them by Government costs about four annas a day per head. In these days the minimum earning of a person is no less than 8 or 10 annas a day. If the out-turn of an individual prisoner is valued at Re. 1 per day and annas 4 are spent on him, you can very well calculate how much you would make in a year. You should organise the jail labour. At present it appears that most of the prisoners are engaged in cooking food or else in the work of sanitation. I for one cannot understand why steps should not be taken to make the jails a paying concern. The male and female prisoners can very well be employed on some industries. The female prisoners not being fit for hard labour can be put on embroidery and needle-work with advantage. I understand that this is being done in one or two jails but I want this to be done in almost all jails and permanently.

[Mian Abdul Aziz.]

Next, I wish to draw your attention to one or two other things relating to this matter. My honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood was pleased to remark that there were some prisoners who had murdered innocent persons during communal riots or who were guilty of crime against women. He asked in all solemnity how any one could expect the Government to be sympathetic and friendly to such people. I wish to tell him that no one wants him or the Government to be friendly to such felons. All that we want is that the treatment of the prisoners should be human. The prisoners have a right to expect treatment fit for human beings. Let us judge others by ourselves. If you send me to jail I would like you, nay I have a right to expect you to accord to me a humane treatment. Is it not enough punishment for prisoners that their movements are confined within the four walls of the jail and that they are not free to eat what they want and to go and see their relatives? Is it not a very great punishment that they lose all respect in society on account of having been imprisoned? What more do you want?

Then, Sir, my honourable friend, Master Kabul Singh, who has a personal experience of prison life has told us such harrowing tales of the atrocities committed by the staff of the jails as make it imperative for the Government to take immediate steps to rid our jails of these malpractices. The trouble in such cases is that there is nobody to whom these prisoners may be able to appeal with any hope of justice. The jail authorities are the complainants, the witnesses and the judge all combined together. A warder makes a report to the jailor and the jailor in his turn forwards it to the superintendent. Now when the superintendent institutes an enquiry these very officers and their underlings present themselves as witnesses. But who can have the courage to become a defence witness in such a case? I do not want you to hold judicial enquiries but let these enquiries be independent ones. Similarly I am not against dealing with them in accordance with the law but your treatment should not be inhuman and demoralising. In this connection some accusations have been made against the jail authorities which if true are not only amazing but positively disgraceful. My honourable friend, Master Kabul Singh, is prepared to take the fullest responsibility for the statement that a certain prisoner was given eighty cuts of cane while the entry in his history sheet was that he was given only thirty cuts. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister in charge to go into these matters and to eradicate such evils as far as possible.

Minister for Finance : Certainly.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Thank you. Now that the Honourable Minister has come back I would take this opportunity to request him not to put us off with mere professions of sympathy but to actually direct his attention to the suggestions made and the grievances stated by the various speakers.

In the end I would again draw his attention to the necessity for starting some useful and paying industries for men as well as women in the jails. If it be not possible to start such industries in all the jails at once then let us make a beginning with three or four selected jails. I would also urge upon the Honourable Minister the need for better control of the income and

expenditure of jails so that these jails may become self-supporting if not paying with the establishment of suitable industries in them.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani (Muzaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have listened with great interest to the speeches made by my honourable friends opposite. I was under the impression that they would bring forward certain constructive and practical proposals. But after hearing their speeches I feel it my duty to offer my hearty congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Finance under whose administrative control the Jail Department is making steady advance towards perfection, so much so that the honourable friends opposite though they tried to level scathing criticism against the administration of the department, yet could not suggest anything better than what is being done at present for the good of the prisoners. By an analytical survey of these speeches we can safely divide them into three categories. The first category comprises of the personal experience which certain honourable members got during the term of their confinement. The second category includes the past history of the Jail Department prior to 1937. And the third one consists of a few suggestions which my honourable friends opposite sought to make. Sir, my submission is that so far as these suggestions are concerned, they are mostly such as have already been acted upon by the department, and the rest are under consideration of the Government. I feel pleasure in saying for the information of the honourable friends opposite that radio sets have been installed in the principal jails of the province. The practice of inflicting inhuman labour upon the prisoners has been discontinued. They are no longer employed on oil-machines and *kharas*. Special attention is being paid to the education of the illiterate prisoners. Night schools have been started in certain jails and arrangements have been made for adult education. And it is gratifying to note that the Education Department is whole-heartedly co-operating with the Jail Department in the matter. There is another suggestion made by an honourable member opposite and that is in regard to the leave of a prisoner. It has also been said that the Government should rebuild self-respect in them. Let me submit for the information of the honourable member that the Government have already taken measures in this respect. Certain schemes are still under consideration to find out particular methods by which this feeling of self-respect can be instilled and properly developed in them. I congratulate the Opposition on their success in finding out and suggesting those schemes which we ourselves intend to adopt later on. They have taken credit for making those suggestions just like a "Leemoon Nachor." Perhaps my honourable friends opposite do not understand this phrase. Let me make it clear. There was a man in Lucknow who was unable to work and so he adopted a very easy profession for making the two ends meet. He used to put a lemon in his pocket before he started from his house. Whenever and wherever he saw a few persons sitting round dishes and eating their meal he would say "May I crush lemon in your dish. You like it, I think." The men who were dining looked towards him sympathetically and he at once would crush his lemon in their dishes and begin to eat along with them uninvited. Now, I believe the honourable members sitting opposite would have understood what I meant by saying that they had taken their share by crushing their lemons in our schemes.

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani.]

Now I want to submit that there are three kinds of men who unfortunately happen to come to jails :

- (1) Those ordinary criminals who have come to jail on account of keeping bad company or due to bad training or due to their lack of sensibility and wisdom or having done something in the heat of sentiment or in a fit of anger and breaking the law on that score.
- (2) Those habitual criminals who have been in prison for years together or those who are criminals by nature and take pleasure in destruction of human society.
- (3) Those criminals who are known, in the language of my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches, as political criminals. This kind of criminal is very strange. They run with the hare and hunt with the hound. Their aim, I think, may be aptly expressed by an Urdu verse which runs thus—

عیش کا بے ذوق دنیواری کی شہرت کا ہی شوق

They want to lead people and as soon as they are tired of their activities and leadership they prefer to go to prison to take rest there for a while. (*Interruptions*). My sympathies are with those who go to prison on casual leave.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : Because outside the jail they have got to struggle for existence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : So far as going to jail is concerned that is not relevant.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : Sir, I am mentioning the various kinds of prisoners whom we have got to deal with in jails and I am saying that we cannot treat them all equally.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should confine his speech to that aspect of the question.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : If you listen to me patiently I will come to that point. I am submitting that they want rest after mental and physical activities and so they go to jails. If our jails are nothing but places of tyranny, nobody would like to come there. I believe, nobody should maintain this idea that the Government would create heaven and hell for the masses. They say that we have not created heaven but have made hell instead of heaven. This is absolutely wrong and incorrect. Man is free by birth and therefore freedom is his natural right. A man who is behind prison bars would not be pleased at all, however much you may attempt to make him happy and satisfied. He would not be satisfied at all.

My next point is that there are various kinds of prisoners and they should be differently treated. We should not apply the same rule to every class. So far as prisoners of class I are concerned, the Government will see whether those defects which sent them to jail are removed or not. The

Government will take pleasure in mending their character. Let me assure the honourable members sitting opposite that we are not at all dealing with prisoners in a vindictive spirit. I may submit in all sincerity that we do not want to detain any unfortunate prisoner in jail for years together because of his committal of a single fault. In the case of habitual criminals, it is the duty of the Government to protect society from the destructive tendencies of such criminals in whose cases we observe strict discipline ourselves and make them do so. We do not give them many amenities as we do in the case of other criminals and this we do intentionally because we do not want to make their lives easy so that there may not be found any charm or attraction for them to return to that place again. We, therefore, in this particular case have got to treat them quite differently. The Opposition may take it for granted that first of all our Government would feel the necessity of changing their rotten mentality and in taking the necessary steps for the purpose, no vindictive spirit would be shown. This would be done out of pure sympathy. Prisoners can only be trained with this sort of sympathy. Now let us see how far our Government has succeeded in this respect and whether the Government is working on these lines which I have just referred to. The very first thing that the Government thought of was the necessity of providing healthy literature to uneducated prisoners. Despite hundred and one difficulties, the Government have begun this up-hill task and by spending money extravagantly, I am sure, they will achieve their ideal.

The second point which I like to submit in this connection is that from time to time certain religious leaders are invited to jails to deliver lectures on social or religious topics and it is a fact that this method of improving the moral character of the prisoners has proved considerably beneficial. It has absolutely changed the general tone of the monotonous life that is usually led in jails.

It is the considered policy of the Government to turn the criminals and convicts into honest and law-abiding citizens. And in pursuance of this policy they are no longer employed on *kohlus* or *kharas* now. Great pains are taken to give them sufficient training in handicrafts. The object in view of the Government is that whenever these prisoners are set at liberty they should not find any difficulty in earning their livelihood. Moreover, radio sets have been installed in certain jails so that the prisoners may keep in touch with the general conditions prevailing in the world at large. Here I would like to submit that the House should not lose sight of the fact that the heavy burden of the huge sum of money that is being spent on the jail department has to be borne by the poor *kisan* whose pitiable condition has always been a matter of great concern to both sides of the House. So it is our bounden duty to see that a prisoner who lives upon the hard-earned income of a *kisan* is not better provided than the latter. Justice demands that the standard of living of a prisoner should in no case be higher than that of a *kisan*. My honourable friends opposite have by their suggestions guided the world economic experts as to how the standard of living can be raised. If their suggestions were accepted the standard of living of a person would be raised the moment he enters a jail. In rural areas the services of a sub-assistant surgeon are considered to be sufficient for treating an ailing population, but it is always urged that the inmates of the jails should

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani.]

not be treated by officers lower in rank than a civil surgeon. I hope that my honourable friend Doctor Sahib would bear me out that roughly speaking the annual income *per capita* is 40 or 50 rupees in India. But in the Punjab jails the Government has to bear annually Rs. 35-2-0 per head as food expenses. The Government annually spends Rs. 10-6-0 per head for medical aid, Rs. 6-12-0 for clothing and Rs. 2-6-0 for sanitation. These are the expenses which have nothing to do with the housing of the prisoners and establishment and administration of the department. These expenses are incurred only on the person of every prisoner. The disparity between the annual income of an average person and the total annual expenditure incurred on a prisoner is worth noting. In view of this difference, would it be just and proper to increase the financial burden borne by the tax-payer of the Punjab by spending more on the department? We, who have been entrusted with the public exchequer by our voters, should see to it that not a single penny is wasted in any way.

Furthermore, Sir, it is absolutely necessary to make a general survey of the work done by the various provinces so that we could be able to ascertain the extent of the work done by the Punjab in this respect. There is no doubt about the fact that human wants are innumerable and all of them cannot be satisfied, but anyhow we should try to find out whether the extent of work done can be claimed to be satisfactory or not. As I have already stated, the annual food expenses *per capita* are Rs. 35-2-0 in the Punjab jails. So far as our information goes, they are Rs. 29-2-0 in the United Provinces jails, Rs. 30-18-0 in the Central Provinces, Rs. 33-15-0 in Assam, Rs. 20-4-0 in Bombay and Rs. 39 in Madras jails. I am free to admit that the Punjab lags behind Madras in this respect, but it is a matter of satisfaction that at the same time it scores over all other provinces.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : You always quote the Madras Premier.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : Sir, I am a great admirer of the Premier of Madras.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should go on with his speech.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : I bow to your ruling, Sir. So far as the general health of the prisoners is concerned, it is more than satisfactory. Many a time I had thought of courting imprisonment for getting the certificate of leadership but could not find any suitable opportunity. But now after consulting the facts and figures I have totally given up the idea. They say that in 45 per cent. cases the weight of the prisoners has been increased. (*Laughter*). And it is only in 7 per cent. cases that reduction in weight has been experienced. Even now I am prepared to court imprisonment provided I am given assurance that my weight would be reduced. (*Laughter*). Now let us come to the death rate in the jails. It is estimated that death rate in the Punjab jails is 8.66 per thousand which means that it is $\frac{1}{4}$ as compared with the death rate of free persons. I think it is sufficient proof of the improved conditions prevailing in our jails.

An honourable friend of mine remarked in the course of his speech that persons employed in the Jail department are receiving inordinately fat salaries. To tell the truth I could not find any sense in their contradictory remarks. On the one hand, they say that in every jail there should be at least one civil surgeon and the sub-assistant surgeon should not be put in charge of the jail, at the same time they object to the payment of substantial salaries. If the jail employees are getting any allowances it is because the Government considers them able and deserving. It is a question of ability rather than favouritism.

Sir, I was very much surprised to see Master Kabul Singh, who is rightly or wrongly known as a socialist worker, objecting to the preferential treatment meted out to the Indian and European prisoners. We are told that these socialists believe in human equality. Well and good. But it would have been much better if he had objected to the institution of A, B and C classes in the jails. It was incumbent upon him to first raise objection to the invidious discrimination that is being made between Indians and Indians. I do admit that there should be no preferential treatment in jails. But at

5 P.M.

the same time I may inform my honourable friends opposite that it is not our aim to turn jails into torture houses. We would rather try to make them reformatories, where the criminals are trained to behave well. They should not be imprisoned vindictively but in order to save society from their harmful proclivities. That is why we want to restrict them in prison houses. In doing so we keep in view the principle that people are provided the same standard of living inside the jail as they have been accustomed to outside it. That, I think, is a very fair proposition. If restriction is resorted to for the sake of reforming people and for saving society from the criminals, then certainly we will have to guard against being vindictive. That is why the treatment meted out to the European prisoners is different from that which is accorded to Indians. We do not want to be vindictive. If my honourable friends opposite differ from this view, I cannot bring myself round to agree with them.

Coming to the remarks made by my honourable friend Master Kabul Singh with regard to the *kachhera* and nicker, I am tempted to liken his comparison of the two forms of shorts, to the famous poem of Maulana Hali which he wrote after his well-known "Mussaddis," about the blessings of unity and the evils of disunity among a nation. The poem was written under the caption *وہ ایک اور ایسی کچھڑ*. After this poem, the next notable piece of literature perhaps would be the speech of my honourable friend which may similarly be named *کچھڑ اور نکر کا ایک ایسا*. I think it will rank with high Urdu poetry and men of letters will highly appreciate it.

Another interesting reference made to the political prisoners was that they had done a lot to improve the conditions of the Punjab jails. That is true to a certain extent. There were undoubtedly some honest and noble souls among these political prisoners who really sought to reform the jail life. We are highly grateful to them, but we should not forget at the same time that the presence of political prisoners in jails is not an unmixed evil. They also set a very bad example by getting as many as four servants

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani.]

to wait upon them in jails like the cooks, the pankha-coolies and other servants to press their feet. By so doing the political prisoners do not teach equality but inequality of men. Moreover these political prisoners prove a burden to their fellow prisoners. I may also assure the House that once I happened to visit a jail along with the Standing Committee and I was glad to find the best quality of attar of Lucknow with a prisoner. That is how some of our political prisoners behaved in jails. (*An honourable member* : Under what section of the Indian Penal Code did my honourable friend go to jail ?) I went there not under the Indian Penal Code, but under the commandment of love to see my honourable friend there.

Another charge laid on the jail authorities, was that there was corruption in jails. I do admit that wealthy persons when imprisoned for political offences, used to bribe the jail officials to provide them with certain facilities, but now we have abolished much of the corruption that was rampant before. I may inform my honourable friends that it has been decided by the Unionist Ministry to send the warders and other members of the staff for training in a training school before giving them charge of their work in a jail. In that school, they will be taught not to be unduly harsh and oppressive but to act like guides and friends of the prisoners whom they will try to reform. The old traditions of cruelty to prisoners will be abolished altogether. I am afraid the Honourable Finance Minister has to review the whole administration of jail before you just now, and I would not, therefore take any more time of the House. The points which I have not touched in my speech will be fully dealt with by him. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mrs. Duni Chand (Lahore City, Women, General) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to support the cut motion of my honourable friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth. In regard to the beautiful picture of the Punjab prisons which the treasury benches have depicted, I may be permitted to observe that whereas I do admit that some reforms have been really introduced by the Unionist Government, I do not think that no scope for further improvements is left now. On the other hand, I think that jails are even to-day as detestable as they were before. They constitute a living hell in the bosom of the Mother Earth. I strongly feel that if they cannot be turned into a paradise, they should at least be transformed into a training school where the poor prisoners can be trained to improve their morals and learn self-respect. That is not very difficult. It is well-known that "necessity is the mother of invention," and if the public and the Government feel this necessity, the Punjab jails can really be improved. I am confident that this much-needed reform is bound to come after all, because people strongly feel the necessity of it. Those things which are really needed by the people have a peculiar habit of springing up of their own accord in this world. When the English came into this country, they needed the Rai Bahadurs, the Khan Bahadurs and the Sirs and their services were appreciated. That is why a number of patriots too had to become toadies. Now if the country wins freedom, as I strongly hope it will, the people will realise that they should throw off their bundles of official honorary titles and become true patriots. Similarly, when the jail officials realise that their further promotions in the service depends upon their showing a better treatment to the prisoners and

on their training convicts in the various crafts, they will really begin to behave better with the prisoners and treat them as human beings.

My honourable friends occupying the treasury benches have laid great stress on the point that they do not imprison the convicts in a vindictive spirit. May I remind them what happened in the jail at Attock where the political workers and the patriots of the country were subjected to inhuman treatment? Have they also forgotten the cruel way in which the angelic person of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was chained on the feet? Does the Government take pride in these matters? I understand that the political workers and prisoners generally come of respectable families and possess high moral character. Had such patriots been born in other countries, people would have worshipped them like gods. I am confident and I cherish the fervent hope that when India becomes free, people will lay garlands on their altars out of appreciation of their services. But it is a thousand pities that in India of to-day, they are not treated like human beings at all. Can this be a matter of pride or honour to any Government?

Another point that I want to make is that the jail authorities should not try to crush the spirit of freedom that surges in the bosoms of the patriots. I am prepared to go a step further and say that among prisoners convicted of offences involving moral turpitude there may be many who might have committed those offences because of their being forced by unemployment or starvation to commit them. If you give them proper training and education and thereby increase their soul power, very likely they would become good citizens. I do not believe in deterrent punishment. Very often it proves ineffective and makes one worse than before. I believe that punishment is not a good means of reforming the wrong-doer. My honourable friend, Mian Abdul Aziz, has made a suggestion to the effect that jails should be made a paying concern so much so that even if we have to spend daily 4 annas *per capita*, we may be able to save as much as 12 annas per day. If this suggestion is accepted I am afraid the number of prisoners will be increased. I for one cannot agree to this suggestion. Personally I would prefer the number of prisoners to be reduced to the minimum. In my opinion your whole attention should be focussed on the question of reform. As an instance on the point I would refer you to the case of Chaudhri Prithvi Singh, the well-known revolutionary. Personally I do not approve of his previous conduct, but I must say that his courage of conviction and his qualities of head and heart are admirable. To-day he has become an angel because of the teachings of Mahatama Gandhi. The jail officials including the superintendent speak highly of him. I request the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister for Finance to go over to Rawalpindi to see how he is passing his days in jail. He has yet to run his full term of imprisonment and he is to be released in the 75th year of his age. Mahatama Gandhi is now making efforts to obtain his release. Now I would like to tell you what sort of treatment is being meted out to prisoners in general. They are being abused and disgraced for small things. According to jail rules one prisoner cannot go to another prisoner and talk to him even if the distance between their *khaddies* is only two feet. These things are unnatural. I am at a loss to understand why such restrictions

[Mrs. Duni Chand.]

have been imposed on the prisoners. I think they should be permitted to meet and talk with one another. The jail warders commit atrocities on the prisoners and think that they are thereby pleasing their superiors. No doubt the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal takes keen interest in his work and possesses an amicable disposition. But even in his time the jails are as bad as before. You cannot escape a misfortune by closing your eyes to it. So far as the malpractices, violence and atrocities are concerned the jails are a hell still. It is high time that we take steps to stamp out these evils from the jail administration. You should give such training to the prisoners that if any of them goes out of jail after a period of two years he may not feel the necessity of coming back for want of food or work. If you want to reform prisoners it is absolutely indispensable that the jail officers should be thoroughly honest and straightforward. They should possess a high character. An honourable member has just stated that a superintendent of jails stole away a cart load of wheat. You can very well imagine how such superintendents can reform the prisoners. Mahatama Gandhi is an ideal person and possesses a very high character. Chaudhri Prithvi Singh was transformed by the spiritual influence of the Mahatama and is now living like a *sadhu* in jail. The jail officials should possess a high character and should serve as a model to the prisoners. Nobody wantonly commits an offence and wants to go to jail. Being forced by circumstances one commits an offence and for that he has to go to jail. About political prisoners I would submit that they shall have to go to jail for the sake of the country. Unless the country is free they will continue to go to jail. In these days jails have become the abode of not only the ordinary prisoners, but also of patriots. I request the Honourable Minister to issue instructions to the jail officials that henceforward no prisoner should be abused or disgraced and no inhuman treatment should be meted out to him. No doubt a prisoner has to do some labour but he must have some time to get moral training in order to reform himself so that when he goes out of jail he should appear a reformed person. Experience tells us that beating never proves helpful in reforming a child. He becomes all the more obstinate by beating. Beating is bad. This policy of violence and atrocity is extremely sad. It is bound to be derided in our age of enlightenment. The Government must make use of scientific principles and thus change its cruel treatment into a mild and motherly behaviour. In some of the free countries of to-day capital punishment has been abolished, whereas in our unfortunate land many a promising youth is sent to the gallows merely because he displayed earnestness to serve his country. I cannot help remarking, with sadness in my heart, that our country is far behind others in this respect. How beneficent would it be if the Government turned its attention to the moral regeneration of the prisoner rather than punish and harass him! Thus he may emerge out of the jail a wiser man and a better citizen capable of furthering the welfare of the country. A better proof as to the ill-luck of our country cannot be found anywhere beyond this anecdote which relates how a man is condemned to death for stealing a loaf of bread. It is said that a certain famished man stole a bread from the shop of a baker who caught the man stealing and began to belabour him. The thief was a rather sturdy man and the baker a fragile figure. Their quarrel resulted in the baker's death and the thief was condemned to

the gallows. In short our country is so unfortunate that men can be hanged for stealing a loaf of bread. Imposing harsh restrictions on the prisoners is tantamount to adding to the miseries of the country. It is essential that even the criminals should be treated mildly. The time is not far when our country will be liberated, when men would not be sent to jail for ordinary crimes. I have also to suggest that imprisonment should not be availed of as a source of income. And if at all this business-like attitude be considered inevitable, the treatment meted out to the prisoners during their confinement should be mild and human, so that at the expiry of their jail days they should hate and shun all crime. We should try to create such conditions that there should not be a single criminal in the whole land. We must strive to modify the moral lineaments of the world. That day would be a happy day for human race when men would consider each other as brethren. Much amelioration can be brought about only if those who are to-day at the helm of affairs realise their responsibilities. This fact I wish to drive home to the members of the treasury benches that he who avoids a good deed in spite of his capacity to do it, not only commits a sin but also is guilty of adding to the misery of this land. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion under discussion.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal): Sir, in the course of the discussion that we have had on this cut motion, we have had a large number of what I consider worth while suggestions, and I welcome this cut motion because it affords me an opportunity of removing some misconceptions and of referring to our effort during the past few months to secure some amelioration in the life of the jails and also some improvement in the administration of jails. I do not propose to take my share in this debate on any cut and thrust basis. I wish to score no points at all. I would now refer seriatim to the many points that were raised by the honourable members particularly on the opposite side.

A great deal of emphasis was laid on the fact that the dietary in our jails is not as satisfactory as it ought to be. I am prepared to admit that no large changes have been introduced in the dietary as it exists in the Punjab jails. At the same time I venture to claim that much of the criticism that was directed against the diet of our prisoners was not correct. It is not true to say that the wheat that is used in the bread of our prisoners is bad wheat. I have visited myself a large number of jails and I have been to several without any notice that I was going there, and invariably I visit the kitchens, and though the food that is provided for our prisoners is not the food which we the members of the Assembly are normally accustomed to, it is good healthy food. A great deal of emphasis was laid on the vegetables that are provided. If I may say so, that is exactly what particularly attracts my own attention when I go into the jail kitchens. There are large tubs full of vegetables that look darkish and which again are not such as we are accustomed to in our houses, but when properly tested it would not be correct to say that the prisoner is given unhealthy, non-nutritious and improperly cooked vegetables in his jail diet. It would not be correct to say otherwise—the House may accept my word, I have satisfied myself on the matter. I am not here to say that the vegetables are all that we should like them to be. Far from it. But it is good healthy food. I have been to the stores and have inspected the bags of wheat

[Minister for Finance.]

there, and other articles too. I shall only add this that recently there was a conference of Inspectors-General of Prisons in Delhi and according to their report—I am claiming no particular credit for ourselves—

‘For reasons which it is difficult to estimate no change or improvements could be made in any other province whereas we have made some changes for the better.’

I am making no large claim—

The result is that deficiency diseases are very rare in the Punjab jails.

A question was addressed to me some time ago whether in the dietary enough provision is made for securing an adequate supply of vitamins. The answer is this. There have been no deficiency diseases; or rather that deficiency diseases in the jails of our province do not exist in any manner that need cause us the least alarm. The other factors that have been already referred to by some of the members who have spoken from this part of the House should also not be forgotten in this particular regard. Now, if the diet of our prisoners were bad, if it did not afford enough nutrition, if it were lacking in those elements of food which can provide against deficiency diseases, the facts would not be what they are. I shall state them in just two sentences. It has been already said that in reality over 45 per cent. of the prisoners on release had gained in weight and only 9 per cent. had lost weight. That would not have been true if there was anything wrong with the dietary. Seventy-seven per cent. of the prisoners released are in good health as against only 1 per cent. in bad health and, Sir, it is a matter of some gratification—it should be to all of us—that the death rate was barely one-third of what the death rate in the province as a whole is, and on this basis I might say that ‘he who wished to have a long life might well enter here’ because the chances of death are certainly reduced substantially in the Punjab jails. (Laughter). Another thing and that is a matter which has been widely noticed. It has been said that one has only got to be old and pretend to be rather infirm to have a good chance of release from the jail by the Minister concerned. It is a fact, and it is a fact that has come about only during the last 15 or 16 months, that old and infirm prisoners with good record, if there is the remotest danger to their lives by being in jails, are released, and if I may say so, nearly every one of these old and infirm prisoners whom we release secures a personal visit from your Minister in charge of the Jails (*Hear, hear*). That at any rate is some proof of our seeing that every person who deserves release on this ground has been actually released. But I think it is admitted by the House that this is some proof of the solicitude of the Ministry in seeing that no person whose life is in the least measure insecure in the jails, who might be wiped off from this life because of an attack of influenza or any other disease that comes along, is kept in jail for even, if I may say so, a day, and in many cases these prisoners are actually released even though they are unable to furnish security. That is not a small matter. Now, another line of attack was this that we should inculcate the habit of self-respect, in fact character should be built up in these jails. In this connection, may I say this that the population of jails does not consist of people who are particularly adapted for the purpose of education or development of character. They are unfortunately individuals cast off by society. Many of them are accustomed to dangerous ways of life and they are there as a result of unsocial

acts, and further they are usually at an age where it is difficult to apply the curatives of proper education or training to them. A man who comes along at the age of 35 or 40, guilty of homicide and other offences, is not exactly cut out for the purpose of education. But in this connection various theories are adumbrated from time to time. There is the theory of reform. I am not in a position to decide as between these competitive theories, what is the proper ideal and in what measure jail administration should have them in view. As regards prisoners, philosophers have decided nothing as yet, and it is a matter of continual struggle and controversy amongst those who give their thought to this matter. Yet I will retail to you some of the steps that we have tried to introduce in the jails in order to secure that so far as possible the prisoners do develop the faculty of self-respect. In this connection, it is universally admitted that education is a process that leads to development of character and cultivation of self-respect. I do not wish to enlarge on that to any extent. The amount of literacy in the province is not very high, it has been about 9 per cent. for some years; we get very bad material in the jails and yet we have made an effort, a genuine effort, that a fair measure of literacy so far as possible within our means should be secured in our jails.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair).

Emphasis was laid by one of the speakers on the need for physical training as a factor in securing development of character and self-respect. May I intimate to the House that earnest endeavours have been made to introduce proper physical training in our jails and if any of the honourable members had visited, for instance, the Borstal Jail about a month ago he would have seen what a fine display of physical training and exercise could be secured in our jails. Further, in this connection may I also say that a system of exercise to which my honourable friend the mover of the cut referred and on which he lays so much emphasis, has also been particularly encouraged in jails. Next, a theory was developed by him at rather an exaggerated length that as soon as a man enters a jail he is transformed in a manner in which he begins to resemble a particular animal that figures in a particular biological theory associated with the name of Darwin. I do not know what the reference may be, but I say this to the House that now instructions have been issued, firstly, that when a person goes out to interview a relation of his or he goes from one place to another, he should go in his normal dress. He should not look like a prisoner. That, I take it, would be an element in the strengthening of the prisoner's self-respect. Not only that. The honourable member referred to the personal appearance of the prisoners. What happens now? It is no longer necessary as it was till the other day that a person, the moment he enters the portals of the jail, must have his head closely cropped. He can now keep himself as he was outside the jail in his normal appearance and form. Secondly, a person who was accustomed to have his beard trimmed or have his beard shaved can also continue his previous practice. Now we no longer insist that a person should look differently from what he used to do. He can continue as he was before so far as his contact with the outside world is concerned. I take it that that is an important step. I do not say that all that could be done in the jail has been done. I am entirely at one with the lady member in what she pointed out in this connection. I am constantly studying

[Minister for Finance.]

what can be done in the jails, but I must say that the honourable members would agree with me that in regard to prisoners at least we have done all that we could to see that their self-respect is not damaged to any extent. Now I shall not enlarge on this topic any further; but in the matter of interviews also, apart from this little instruction that I have referred to just now, the matter of interviews is also being looked into carefully. I do not say we have completely succeeded but we have seen to it that utmost facilities are placed in the way of prisoners in building up self-respect. Amusements are also a matter of some consideration and the provision of radios is a matter of no small importance because it brings a certain amount of cheeriness in the life of the prisoners who are otherwise shut out from the world from morning to evening. But now at night when he retires to the barracks he can listen to the world outside. He is particularly interested in the *dehati* programme. He enjoys it thoroughly. But recently I took a further step when it came to my notice that these people are having no other than the *dehati* programme. I ordered that all the Punjabi and Urdu programme which they can possibly listen to with any interest should be provided. That is an element which should bring a little cheerfulness, a little fun, a little pleasure into the life of these prisoners who are shut up in our jails. May I say further that the honourable member who moved the cut referred to some two hundred years ago or 20 years ago and said that they could not get newspapers. May I say that one of the first steps that I took was that every prisoner may read the particular newspaper which the honourable member said he could not read before, that is, the *Tribune*. Every prisoner can have it for reading now. Sixty-two copies of the *Tribune* are provided in the various jails and if the need arises and if the honourable members think that there ought to be a large supply of this, that can be easily done. Not only that paper, we also provide the *Hindi Milap* which cannot be said to be a paper which particularly supports the policy of the Government. We provide a Gurmukhi paper and we provide an Urdu paper and we also provide a paper which is produced by the Prisoners' Aid Society, and all these in sufficient numbers. There is no longer any question merely of *Fauji Akhbar* or *Civil and Military Gazette* or the *Statesman*. And in this connection I may say that the political prisoners have these papers delivered to them early in the morning as they might wish. Men like Sardars Gurmukh Singh, Prithvi Singh and Teja Singh Swatantar get copies of the *Tribune* and other papers as early as you and I do. That, I take it, would immediately be helpful to these prisoners in keeping in touch with their own political thought and with the Indian approach to the various questions which interest them. I am free to admit that no enlargement in library facilities has taken place yet, though the political prisoners get all the books that are not proscribed, whenever they make a demand for them from libraries of which they are members. It shall be my endeavour to see that library facilities are also increased. With the recent introduction and emphasising of education in our jails, library facilities are going to be increased anyhow but I am going to make it my personal endeavour—because libraries command a certain amount of my personal interest—that the library facilities in jails are now increased. All these things must add to the self-respect of these persons. We must add to the self-respect of even the prisoner.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : May I, with your permission, before he sits down, ask one question of the Honourable Minister for Finance? I know that a good deal of improvement has been made in the jail administration but I just want to know one thing—whether one evil which existed many years ago has been removed. I remember that ordinary prisoners were marched off early on, what is called, latrine parade. They were given five minutes to be free and then all that was provided for their cleanliness was a heap of dust or dry earth and no provision for water. The Honourable Minister's (and some other people's) ways might be different but he will remember that Indians cannot do without water. Has any provision been made to provide them with water? Has any prisoner of C class been allowed to keep a *lota* for various requirements? I think this debate will bear some good fruit if one thing at least could be done, that every C class prisoner is provided with a *lota* and he is allowed to use water with it. It is really horrible to think the way these prisoners are treated in jails in this respect. A friend of mine, when we observed all this, used to call it a 'cattle-lising process'. If this good comes out of the whole debate, the Honourable Minister will have done something.

Minister : All I have to say is this that I have studied the Jail Manual with particular interest and this had not come to my notice.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : You read paragraph 1018.

Minister : I have read the paragraph. I shall enquire into this matter.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Will you take action?

Minister : I must enquire before I take action. Probably the evil is not as the honourable member has depicted.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : If you are satisfied that what I have said is correct, will you take action? If you provide thirty or forty thousand *lotas*, the Government would not go bankrupt.

Minister : Thirty or forty thousand *lotas* won't break us. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: I hope not). A simple question was intended. The honourable member would now like to create an occasion to have a fling at the Punjab Government. (Interruption). The next item—and a small one—that I was going to mention is this. In the building of self-respect idea we have also provided now that every prisoner will not go about washing his clothes; we have established *dhobi-hanas*, so that everybody should have cleaner clothes than before and he should not be driven to the step of washing his own clothes because many respectable prisoners are C class prisoners and they should not be driven to do the *dhobi's* work. Something was said about the accommodation of prisoners and particularly political prisoners. I think the House will bear with me in this matter that during the last fifteen or sixteen months that I have been in charge of this department, the number of our political prisoners has been considerably reduced. The whole of the Babar Akali group has been actually released. I am not concerned with the punishment. That is a matter for the courts who have to act according to their various criminal codes, but I insisted that no one, except in extraordinarily grave

[Minister for Finance.] circumstances, should be in our jail for more than fourteen years including remission. The policy was definitely framed and established and in pursuit of that policy and otherwise in pursuit of the general policy of release on compassionate grounds, all the Babar Akali prisoners were released and a large number of other political prisoners have also been released. As I said in answer to a question two or three days ago, only a dozen or so political prisoners are now in our jails.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not want to interrupt my honourable friend, but what does he mean by a 'political prisoner'? Is 124 (A) prisoner a political prisoner?

Minister : I did not like to use any strong word, but I trust I understand the word.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Use the strongest that you have got.

Minister : I may be permitted to proceed. I did not interrupt any one. I was pointing out a very proper thing. Complaint was made about accommodation of these prisoners who were described as political prisoners and I am prepared to accept for this object the definition which they had in view.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Are 124 (A) prisoners political prisoners or not?

Mr. Speaker : This question has been asked several times before but no reply has been given.

Diwan Chaman Lall : That is why I am asking.

Mr. Speaker : I disallow the question.

Minister : I must refuse to be interrupted. We have, in Lahore, about 11 or 12 of these prisoners called political prisoners and let me, for the information of the House say how they are accommodated. Each one of them has, what might be described as a freshly built small room of red bricks. To that is attached a small verandah and a small garden. That is the accommodation each prisoner has and he has electric light.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : For C class political prisoners?

Minister : B class prisoners. There are very few in C class. I cannot possibly proceed if continuously interrupted.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You do not know yourself. How can you proceed?

Minister : I hope I know a fair amount.

Mr. Speaker : Both sides know much more! (Laughter).

Minister : May I say that in this part of Lahore Central Jail there were C class prisoners, if that would give satisfaction to the Leader of the Opposition. But not only this, they have a very big courtyard between themselves. Eleven or twelve prisoners have a very large courtyard—say four times the size of this room in which they can move about freely. May I refer to another prisoner who is not accommodated there but whose name is constantly mentioned in this House and that is Gurmukh Singh?

I have established the best of relations with him personally. He has become quite pleasant and chatty to me now although at one time he suggested that he might actually insult me if I went to the jail, and that actually prevented my going. He occupies a good little room with big compound, a fine bit of garden and somebody helps him in preparing his meals. You could not say that that is a bad accommodation for any of the prisoners. Though Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar is no direct concern of mine, except that he is locked in one of the jails, he has ample accommodation in the same way.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Why do you not release him ?

Minister : That is not the question that can arise on this motion at all.

Diwan Chaman Lal : It is a most disgraceful thing that a member of the House should be detained in jail without trial and charge.

Minister : This gentleman can also read newspapers and books. As a matter of fact, Sardar Teja Singh has got a little library of his own and has got a large number of books. He has got his complaints and he has my sympathy. I went and talked to him for an hour once. Similarly Sardar Gurmukh Singh has a little library of his own and he indents for some books proscribed by the Government of India which we are not in a position to supply. As a matter of fact I myself spent, if I may say so, a couple of hours of instruction and amusement on some of those proscribed books, though I cannot say that I understood all that the books contained. In one of those books was a very abstruse treatment of certain Hegelian doctrines of socialism as interpreted by certain Hegelian authors. So far as those books are concerned I read those books with no great success. So far as our political prisoners and the treatment is concerned, they are being given treatment about which there can be no manner of complaint. Before I sit down I wish to place before the House the testimony of one of those prisoners himself conveyed to India's great and noble soul to whom nobody could possibly dare to speak untruth.

Further references were made to the desirability of improving our jail staff—I come to the administration. May I inform honourable members that we have done two or three things ? One of them is this that we have recruited some of the warders staff direct, displacing prisoner-warders to some extent. We have now a large number of warders who are full-time Government servants. To these warders we give necessary special training. Similarly, recently orders have been issued, as we are trying to see that not only warders, but assistant superintendents and deputy superintendents and others who come in contact with the prisoners in jail, should go also through regular training. The honourable member from Amritsar who moved the cut motion was particularly anxious that there ought to be training for the staff. It will be a matter for satisfaction to him to know that we have anticipated him and have carried out his particular wishes in this particular respect. We expect that as a consequence of this training which our jail staff receives, as the police receive their training at Phillaur, I do not say that all the evils from the jails will disappear—that will be too much to expect—we do expect and hope that a good many of the evils will either disappear or be very considerably reduced in the jails, a direct result

[Minister for Finance.]

of this particular effort on the part of the Punjab Government in securing better administration in jails.

Sir, emphasis was also laid—though not very clearly formulated as members expressed with much difference—on the type of hard labour for prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. It has already been intimated by more than one member and it is well known that some of the worst form of labour no longer exists. We abolished one form of labour almost on the very day when we took over charge of the jails: it no longer exists. Grinding exists but this grinding is not labour of that inhuman character referred to by some of the honourable members. We have got rid of several forms of labour to which objection has been made and perhaps we may get rid of every kind of labour that can be described harsh or improper, before long. I have made up my mind to that effect. I have given instructions that a certain type of labour, which seems to me open to objection, for instance paper grinding, should also disappear (*Hear, hear*). Not only this particular labour will disappear but other forms of inhuman labour will also disappear from jails. We could not possibly be expected to abolish all forms of labour: that would be an absurd proposition because that is repugnant to the whole theory of punishment. What we have done is that there should be proper labour for each particular prisoner who is given “*mushakat*” or labour. That there should be labour, will be generally admitted to be an incontestable proposition. In jails a certain number of articles are produced for use in jails, and a certain number of articles are also produced for use in Government offices but we have to produce these articles with a certain amount of hesitation because it is not proper to enter into competition with industries outside. We have introduced a certain number of industries of which I need not go into details here but at some suitable time I shall go into them more fully. Then, Sir, another objection was taken to our jail administration in the way of the purchase of our supplies, of wheat, etc. May I say that nothing is engaging the more anxious attention of Government than to see that everything bought in jails is bought on economic terms? In this connection we have had a committee. I have examined the matter myself and the matter was examined by members of the Retrenchment Committee, and we are satisfied that the objections are not valid regarding our purchase of jail supplies. The tenders are examined carefully, and so are the articles tested carefully before orders are executed. Here again I cannot say that everything that could possibly be done has been done, but it is receiving our most serious and careful attention. That is all that one could possibly do in the short space of time at our disposal.

Reference has been made to flogging. Flogging pains me intensely, and I dislike it whole-heartedly. I think it

6 P.M.

has been reduced to the smallest possible proportion during the past few months. It is resorted to, if at all, to cases of prisoners actually in jails, who commit serious offences against jail discipline. An honourable member referred, I think he was Master Kabul Singh, to a Bill that has been introduced by Sir Samuel Hoare in the British Parliament. He referred no doubt to the Civil Justice Bill—where they said that flogging should be abolished in so far as courts are concerned. But Sir Samuel Hoare and those of his way of thought think that flogging should be retained

as a jail punishment for serious offences committed within the jail. If I can see my way to it, and I am studying the matter, I would be prepared to go further because I am one of those who do not believe that flogging acts as a deterrent even in cases of prisoners who are actually responsible for committing offences in the jail. That is my own opinion and I think the House will agree that it is a move in the right direction.

Now, the honourable lady member, who spoke on this subject, also spoke of capital punishment and she said that in all the countries capital punishment is not given. The award of punishment is not my job. I am only an agency to carry out the punishment ordered by a court. But the matter is far from settled whether capital punishment is necessary or not. In the Punjab, as you are aware, opinion is strong that if capital punishment were to be done away with, the amount of murderous crimes would increase beyond all proportion. (*An honourable member*: Quite right.) But as I said—and I am only a humble student of criminology—I am not in a position to say whether capital punishment is good or bad. But may I say this, if that will bring any satisfaction to the honourable lady member who spoke from the other side, that whenever I can commute and can recommend commutation, I feel that I have done a good deed for the day? One does not want to introduce any barbarity or any method of punishment which might be found unnecessary in order to carry out the vindictiveness of society's determination. Crime is a dangerous act and should receive due discouragement. But apart from that the Government has not banned vindictive people from trying to hit any one. It is the duty more of the people than of the Government to see that crime is discouraged, and society should give no manner of encouragement to it. That is the position.

Now, Sir, an honourable member referred to the system according to which the jail superintendents are recruited. I am not in a position to go into it at great length. It is very difficult to make an abrupt change. It was said that change in a particular direction was absolutely essential. That is a very difficult proposition to establish, but I would say this that at present we are still under the necessity of carrying, under the orders of the Secretary of State, at least 5 I. M. S. officers in our jails. My honourable friend, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali, has pointed out that according to the recent resolution of the Government of India, to which effect is not yet given, ultimately there will be no I. M. S. officers in our jails. To-day there are certain officers who are protected by statute. How can they be thrown out at a moment's notice? No one is a believer in the I.M.S. or any other kind of officers being appointed as jail superintendents. But when all is said and done we have one Inspector-General, we have one Deputy Inspector-General, we have one officer in Lahore and one officer in an other place. The total number is five while the number of jails is very large. We know that the members of the P.C.S. are also not necessarily fitted to occupy the position of jail superintendents. I am prepared to take appropriate steps, but for the moment I am not in a position to appoint unsuitable officers who cannot be expected to discharge the duties of this onerous office satisfactorily. I think very loose, unhappy expression was used by the honourable member, who referred to the I. M. S. officers as dacoits; he

[Minister for Finance.]

said that it would be a burden on the finances of the province if they occupy the position of superintendents. That I can not endorse, and I take strong exception to an expression of that kind.

I have got a few more words to say. One has to give the most earnest attention to the administration of our jails. It is not possible for me and I do not go out very often, but whenever I do go out of Lahore, I take the opportunity of visiting these jails and, if possible, pay surprise visits, and always take the opportunity to see any one who can be remotely described as a political prisoner, because I want to establish friendly relations with them, though many of them are in jails because they have resorted to gross and heinous offences. I have established, as probably honourable members know, relations of a friendly character and whenever I get time, I try to establish close contacts with them in order to discover what their particular grievances may be. It has been our particular endeavour to see that none of the grievances continue to exist.

Reference was also made to a society—and I must not forget it that it has been of utmost help to us—the Prisoners' Aid Society. This society has been studying the question of how to give every possible relief to prisoners. They have provided them with radios, they have furnished small rooms outside for the convenience of those who come for interviews and they have placed at our disposal other facilities. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my tribute to the good work that this society has done. (*Hear, hear*).

Reference was also made to corruption. I have two words to say. Every single instance of corruption that has come to this Government's notice in the Jail Department has led to real punishment. No one has escaped. Any one who was found guilty by the previous Government could not escape and was punished by us. The tales of corruption, to which the honourable member from Amritsar referred, were tales 200 years or 20 years old. If he brings to my notice any case of corruption, I promise that the case will be looked into with the utmost strictness. But I am able to say to this House here and now that none of those fabulous tales exist in the Punjab jails to-day. I am not saying that it is an absolutely pure administration. That is not given to the son of man to achieve. But short of that it would be difficult for any one to say that now any corruption exists of the type which these old tales picture.

One word more before I sit down. The lady member appealed to me in connection with the prisoner Prithvi Singh who, as we all know, surrendered himself to Mahatma Gandhi, and who surely is now a changed man. I have not had the privilege of seeing that gentleman myself because I have not been able to go to Rawalpindi, but as soon as he came to our jails he described our jails in this language :—

On the day of departure the horrors of prison life of 1914 in the Punjab were quite fresh in my memory, but on getting inside the prison walls of Rawalpindi, I had a pleasant surprise. I thought myself blessed to see such a marvellous change in the jail régime and the mental attitude of the jail officers. As yet I have not seen anything about the political administration of the Punjab but regarding prison life, I should say that the Punjab is not lagging behind, in some respects it may be leading and in others it may give a lead.

That is what a prisoner, for whom an appeal has been made, wrote to that great and noble soul to whom no one can utter a syllable of what is not in the strictest manner truth. This is how this prisoner addressed himself to Mahatama Gandhi :—

The jail officers have given me very healthy surroundings and there is ample scope for all round development. In the light of my own experience and education I am trying my best to overcome my shortcomings. Under such circumstances the necessary hints and suggestions from you will give me a good push.

That is the testimony of a greatly transformed prisoner Prithvi Singh—a testimony expressed to one to whom we all bow as one of our great souls. That is abundant testimony in favour of the Punjab jails and should answer our Opposition critics. (*Loud cheers*).

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I understand that the time at my disposal is very short but I would try my best to finish my speech within that time.

I would *first* like to submit a word in regard to what has been said by the Honourable Finance Minister about political prisoners and the letter addressed to Mahatma Gandhi which he has just quoted on the floor of the House. I think everybody is aware of the fact that A and B class prisoners are comparatively treated gentlemanly. It is the C class prisoner who is very badly treated by jail officials. But let me ask the Minister in charge why this classification does not exist in the case of European prisoners. They are given two classes A and B and there is no C class in their case. A European A class prisoner is given more amenities than an Indian prisoner of A class. By saying this I mean that European prisoner's B class is equal to Indian prisoner's A class. Am I not justified in saying this that European prisoners should also be classified in classes A, B and C like Indian prisoners? I am afraid the Honourable Finance Minister has somewhat shrunk in giving us the correct number and names of those political prisoners who have been put in C class. I have got the list of the jail office in which the names of those political prisoners are given who have been put in C class. I read out to you :—

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|------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sardar Hazara Singh | .. | Gurdaspur conspiracy case. |
| 2. Hans Raj | .. | Sochetgarh conspiracy case. |
| 3. Girdhari Lal | .. | Under Arms Act. |
| 4. Kishen Lal Azad | .. | Sonepat conspiracy case. |

All of them have been given C class. I may add that when these political prisoners came from the Andamans, Government held out a promise to the effect that they would be kept in B class and treated like gentlemen. Did the Government treat them according to the promise?

Then the Honourable Finance Minister read out a letter of Prithvi Singh, a prisoner, to Mahatma Gandhi. Regarding that matter may I inform the Honourable Minister that the Bombay Government gave him A class while the Punjab Government has given him "B" class? I am sure our Finance Minister will be surprised to know how nicely B class prisoners are treated in Bombay. Our B class has no comparison with their B class and how strange it is that the Honourable Finance Minister is still proud of his A and B class! (*Interruption*). Prithvi Singh is in B class in the Punjab while the Bombay Government treated him as A class prisoner. He would have been

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

given C class in the Punjab if he had been totally left to the sweet will of our sympathetic Government. Now, the question arises, why is he treated as a B class prisoner? It so happened that certain prisoners wanted to go to other provinces which they belonged to. The representations made by those prisoners regarding their transfer were accepted and they were allowed to proceed to their own provinces. But the Governments of other provinces where the prisoners wanted to go sent their sanction to the Punjab Government on the condition that they would allow those particular prisoners to enter their provinces if they would be sent there as B class prisoners. This was the condition which bent our Government. The Punjab Government, therefore, could not help treating those particular prisoners as B class prisoners.

I am glad that the Honourable Minister has struck a different note and has not confined his remarks to mere tall talk like the other speakers from his side. They have made it clear that their idea of imprisonment is not cure but revenge. One of them was pleased to remark that the inhuman treatment meted out to the prisoners was just like an operation on a patient. Let me tell him, Sir, that an operation is for curing the patient, but the inhuman treatment in jails does not cure the prisoners. They are not purged of crime by the life they are made to lead in our jails. Far from it. They are made worse criminals and much more dangerous for society.

Now a word about the health of the prisoners. It is said that the weight of 45 per cent. of prisoners has increased in jails and that there is a very small percentage of those unfortunate prisoners whose weight has decreased and whose fate my honourable friend Khan Bahadur Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani wanted to share for getting rid of some of his own superfluous weight. The rest of the prisoners, it was said, have neither lost nor gained any weight. But let us see what is revealed by facts and figures about the health of prisoners. The report for the year 1937 says that there had been 41 cases of cerebro-spinal fever. Now, it is well known that this is a contagious disease and I am sure that if the jail authorities had been so wise as to make a little departure from their stereotyped methods of doing things the contagion could have been very easily nipped in the bud. Then there were 644 cases of respiratory diseases in 1936 and the number rose to 744 in 1937. Similarly night blindness is a very common disease in our jails. If anybody had taken the trouble to find out the cause of this alarming increase in respiratory diseases and night blindness, it would not have taken him long to find out that these diseases are caused by deficiency of vitamin A in the diet of the patient. Here is a book entitled 'Health and Nutrition in India.' In this book too it is stated that deficiency of vitamin A is the cause of night blindness and respiratory diseases. This shows that there is a great deficiency if not complete absence of vitamin A in the food that is given to the prisoners in our jails. The Inspector-General of Prisons is a medical man himself and it is strange that he has not been able to find out the cause and to adopt measures to check the alarming increase in these diseases. The prisoners are a trust with him and it is his duty to take care of their health. He could very easily add such vegetables to the dietary of the prisoners.

Now, let us see what vegetables contain vitamin A and whether it is possible to supply them to prisoners. Under the rules, the prisoners are to be given vegetables such as are produced in the jails. Well, out of these vegetables, tomato and carrot contain more of vitamin A than any other. But may I ask whether these vegetables are ever supplied to prisoners? The reason for not including such vegetables in the dietary of the prisoners is not far to seek. It is also laid down in the jail rules that only the surplus is to be supplied to the jail officials. Now, what does the word surplus mean for the jail authorities? It means that if cauliflowers are produced in jails, they should go to the officers as an item of surplus and the leaves are to be treated as sufficient supply to the prisoners. In fact vegetables like cabbages are reserved for the deputy superintendents and other jail officers. All of them are provided with vegetables free of cost. The amount of Rs. 8 mentioned by my friend opposite may be price charged if vegetables were supplied in excess of the quantity allowed under the Jail Manual. Only the worst stuff is given to the convicts. This dirty diet gives rise to various health troubles. Prisoners fall victims to different diseases. The diet which is essential for the upkeep of the body, becomes detrimental to their health.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang asked a question the other day as to how much time was allotted to a prisoner to answer the call of nature. The reply was that the question was under examination. That is how the Unionist Ministers are functioning. They have not looked to these inconveniences of C class prisoners. The C class prisoners are denied a human treatment in jails. Six of them are given one seat to ease themselves within half an hour. This means that one man is given only five minutes for the purpose. If a convict takes more time than 5 minutes or goes repeatedly to a latrine, he is reported to the doctor. When a prisoner comes out of the latrine, he is provided with utensils of food immediately. Very little time is provided for washing one's hands. How he can take his bath, is a problem. When all have taken a bath, they are permitted to put on clothes and then take food. I am speaking from my personal experience of jail life but I am afraid my experience has become old and needs to be renewed now. The conditions described by me now were then actually prevailing in the Punjab jails.

Now, let me come to the preferential treatment accorded to the European and Anglo-Indian prisoners in our jails. I wonder why this is allowed under the law. When a man commits a crime, he is a criminal whether he is an Indian or an Anglo-Indian. Why differentiate between criminals of one race and those of another race? They are human beings and as such equal in that respect. The same treatment should be meted out to them. But the prisoners with white skin are treated like semi-gods in jails. They are provided with brushes and polishes to polish their boots. Many are supplied with hair brushes and tooth pastes or powders. They are given a plate, a spoon, a knife. But an Indian is given one cup and a pail. They have to use it for whatever purpose they require it.

It has also been said that Sunday is an off day for prisoners. On that day they do nothing but take bath or wash their clothes in order to prepare themselves for the kit parade. But my friends do not know that prisoners eat their food while holding it in their hands for the sake of earning remission on the ground of cleanliness. No doubt the non-official visitors visit the jails,

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

but the jail officials who accompany them do not permit them to see prisoners convicted of sedition. Again, the work of the Prisoner's Aid Society has been very much praised by the Honourable Finance Minister. But we should not lose sight of the fact that this society is composed of title-holders. They cannot say anything against the jail administration. I can say on my personal knowledge that a member of this society was appointed a deputy superintendent of a jail. It is, so to say, a stepping stone for its members to obtain appointments. Besides, the Inspector-General presides over its meetings. It is therefore obvious that it is a semi-official body. I was talking about jail latrines. The seats are so arranged that they remain open to view. This is most objectionable. Formerly members of this House who were members of jail committees were non-official visitors but now there are such members of this House who are on the black list and cannot even interview prisoners. Again we have been referred to Government reports. They are one-sided and do not include sufficient material. The time at my disposal is very short and I therefore ask the Honourable Minister for Finance to go through the Jail Manual and take steps to amend it where it may be necessary to do so in order to do away with the invidious distinction in respect of all classes of prisoners permitted by rules now in vogue.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Raja Chazan far Ali Khan : On a point of order. May I know if the demand can be put to vote after half past six?

Mr. Speaker : Voting may take place after half past six but not the discussion.

The Assembly divided. Ayes 35, Noes 90.

Ayes 35.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harjab Singh, Sardar.
Harnam Das, Lala.
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.

Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishan Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lal Singh, Sardar.
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Mula Singh, Sardar.
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Satya Pal, Dr.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
Sudarshan, Seth.

Noes 90.

- Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
 Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
 Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.
 Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
 Balwant Singh, Sardar.
 Bhagwant Singh, Rai.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Dina Nath, Captain.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
 Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieutenant Bhai.
 Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Few, Mr. E.
 Ghazanafar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
 Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jafar Ali Khan, M.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Joginder Singh Man, Sardar.
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Nawabzada Major.
 Kishen Das, Seth.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
 Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar.
 Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qazilbash, Sardar.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Pritam Singh Sidhu, Sardar.
 Ram-Sarup, Chaudhri.

Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Roberts, Sir William.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib
 Chaudhri.
 Shahdat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honour-
 able Major Sir.

Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
 Sumar Singh, Chaudhri.
 Sundar Singh Majithia, The Hon-
 ourable Dr. Sir.
 Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sar-
 dar.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,88,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m., on Thursday, 23rd March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 23rd March, 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ADMINISTRATION OF GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

***4206. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a circular memo in November last was issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, to the effect that the powers delegated to the District Inspectresses of Schools for administration of girls' primary schools be revoked and be exercised by the District Inspectors of Schools in consultation with the Chairman of the local bodies;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that the District Board, Rawalpindi, unanimously decided recently that the powers for the administration of girls' primary schools are to be exercised by the District Inspector of Schools;
- (c) the District Inspectress of Schools, Rawalpindi, has not so far stopped exercising her powers in regard to the administration of girls' primary schools in the Rawalpindi district; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The matter seems unfortunately to have been overlooked at Rawalpindi. It is now being arranged that the Inspectress shall submit ~~cases relating to girls' schools to the~~ District Inspector of Schools.

NORMAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

***4207. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is not a single normal school for primary passed girls in the Rawalpindi district ; if so, the action Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the residents of Rawalpindi district in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Yes. The policy of Government is to train middle passed girls wherever possible and it is only in certain backward areas where middle passed girls are not available that primary passed girls are trained. There is already a training class for middle passed girls in Rawalpindi.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know whether it is a fact that there are two normal schools at Jhelum ?

Minister : There are two schools close to one another but I am unable to state whether they are in the same district or not.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know whether Jhelum is a compulsory education area ?

Minister : Yes.

REPRESENTATION FROM HINDUSTAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION, AMRITSAR.

***4234. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether he has received a representation from the Hindustan Scout Association (Punjab Branch), Amritsar, regarding grant of Government aid ; if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : An application from the Punjab Branch of the Hindustan Scout Association, Amritsar, for grant-in-aid was received. Government regrets it is unable to give any grant to the Association.

SCHOOLS IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***4244. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to place a list of boys and girls reading in middle and high schools of all types, according to each class as on 31st December, 1988, in Rupar and Kharar tahsils, district Ambala ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of boys and girls reading in middle and high schools of all types classwise as stood on 31st December, 1938, in Rupar and Kharar tahsils (district Ambala).

Class.						Boys.	Girls.
I ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,052	52
II	..	..	..	..	..	505	3
III	..	..	..	..	..	481	3
IV	..	..	..	..	..	423	2
V	..	..	..	..	..	615	1
Senior Special I Year	..	..	..	..	..	112	..
Senior Special II Year	..	..	..	..	..	25	..
VI	..	..	..	..	..	456	..
VII	..	..	..	..	..	520	1
VIII	..	..	..	..	..	413	..
IX	..	..	..	..	..	228	..
X	..	..	..	..	..	165	..
Total						4,995	57

***4247. Cancelled.**

**EMBEZZLEMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT,
JULLUNDUR.**

***4305. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in accordance with Government consolidated circular No. 5, paragraph 6 (a), five responsible citizens of Jullundur, all of them being municipal commissioners and one of them being a leading vakil of the place, recently submitted representations to the local Government as well as to the Department of Public Health and other officers concerned complaining of serious embezzlements in the Public Health Equipment Department, Jullundur city; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay these representations on the table of the House and also state the action that has so far been taken on these representations;

(b) whether it is a fact that one Ghulam Nabi, a temporary employee of the Public Health Equipment Department, Jullundur city,

[Malik Barkat Ali.]

has recently been discharged from his temporary appointment; if so, the reason therefor :

- (c) whether it is intended to send the said representation to the Anti-corruption Officer recently appointed by the Punjab Government for investigation and necessary action ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes. The representation was however a lengthy one and I do not propose to lay it on the table. A special audit was ordered on receipt of it.

(b) Yes. Instructions are however now being given for the man to be re-employed in some suitable vacancy at an early date.

(c) The report of the special audit has now been received and is being considered. When it has been fully examined, Government will consider what will be the best way in which to proceed.

STRIKES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

***4311. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of strikes that took place in the Government and aided schools and colleges in the Punjab during the year 1938 with the reasons for those strikes ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The time and labour involved in collecting the information is incommensurate with the result sought to be achieved.

EXPULSION OF TWO STUDENTS FROM INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE, ROHTAK.

***4318. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that two students have recently been expelled from the Intermediate College, Rohtak ; if so, their names, parentage, caste and the offence for which they have been so punished ;
- (b) whether it is further a fact that after this incident, the Principal of the college requisitioned the services of police guard at his residence ;
- (c) whether the department has inquired into the root cause of this trouble ; if so, whether the cause has been ascertained ; and if so, what is it ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) No. Sajan Singh, son of Chaudhri Bhola Singh, caste Jat, was rusticated for one year on account of gross indiscipline and Jagrup Singh, son of Chaudhri Nawal Singh, caste Jat, was given his discharge certificate and his name removed from the rolls of the college with effect from the 18th January, 1939, for the same offence.

(b) A police constable was posted for some time near the Principal's residence.

(c) Yes. Gross indiscipline of students as stated in part (a) above.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is the real cause of this indiscipline among the boys of the college ?

Minister : There was no question of indiscipline in the college. There was a complaint made against two students who had attacked another with *lathis*, the said students have been suitably punished.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister that caste prejudices exist in the college which are responsible for this state of indiscipline ?

Mr. Speaker : The question is disallowed.

AIDED SCHOOLS.

***4326. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of aided schools in the rural area of the Montgomery district in the years 1937 and 1938 ;
- (b) whether it is proposed to open any such new schools in the villages of the above-named district during the financial year 1939-40 ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Such schools are not opened by Government—

1937 ..	..	..	..	6
1938 ..	..	..	..	6

(b) No.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN THE SERVICE OF MULTAN DISTRICT BOARD.

***4331. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many sub-assistant surgeons are there in the service of Multan District Board, communitywise ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : As this question savours of communalism, I am afraid I am unable to answer it on the floor of the House. If, however, the honourable member would care to put down an unstarred question, the information will be collected.

DYSENTERY, MALARIA AND INFLUENZA IN HISSAR DISTRICT

***4345. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that dysentery, malaria, influenza and pneumonia are at present raging in an epidemic form in the district of Hissar; if so, what measures the Government have taken or propose taking to save the lives of poor zamindars in the said district ;
- (b) the number of deaths tahsilwise so far on account of these diseases ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) No.

(b) A statement for the four months, October 1938 to January 1939, is laid on the table.

[Minister for Education.]

Number of deaths from Malaria, Influenza, Dysentery and Pneumonia, tahsilwise during the months of October, November and December 1938 and January 1939.

Name of Tahsil.	Malaria.	Influenza	Dysentery	Pneumonia.
Hissaar	12	118
Hansi	2	74
Bhiwani	10	103
Fatehabad	2	48
Sirsa	9	64
Total	35	405

GOVERNMENT AND AIDED HIGH SCHOOLS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

***4361. Rana Nasrulla Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the total number of Government and aided high schools in Hoshiarpur district at present with the names of places in the district where these are located ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The honourable member is advised to consult the "List of High Schools in the Punjab," a copy of which was supplied to him by the Education Department in January this year.

SCHEME FOR PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

***4369. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- whether the Punjab Government has under consideration a scheme for the physical and cultural development of the people of the province ;
- if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the details of the said scheme ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Schemes for Urban and Rural Recreation drafted by Mr. G. D. Sondhi, M.A., I.E.S., Honorary Secretary, Punjab Olympic Association, Lahore, have been received and are being considered.

- Details have not yet been worked out.

Lala Duni Chand : Does cultural development include elimination of communal feelings from the province ?

Mr. Speaker : The question is disallowed as it asks interpretation of words.

Lala Duni Chand : My question is whether cultural development includes the question of elimination of communal feelings also. There is no question of interpretation. It is exactly within the scope of the question.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask him to state the prominent features of the scheme which has been propounded by Mr. Sondhi ?

Minister : I must confess that I have not been able to look into the scheme very carefully owing to pressure of work, but the scheme is being examined by the officers concerned and I shall have an early opportunity of discussing this matter with them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government know whether there is any such scheme in any other province ?

Minister : If it had been so, my friends would have known it and pointed out that a particular province was leading in that direction.

REPRESENTATION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE BADDOWAL.

***4375. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he received any letter, dated 21st. January, 1939, and reminders from the residents of village Baddowal, district Ludhiana, requesting him to make suitable arrangements for adult education in the village ;
- (b) whether he has sent any reply to the letter ; if so, the contents thereof ;
- (c) the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes, but no reminders were received.

(b) No. The letter was forwarded in original to the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur division, for disposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What action has been taken on it ?

Minister : Only the other day I stated in detail the programme with regard to adult education. The work is being conducted on voluntary basis. A representation in this case was received and it was sent to the Inspector of Schools for necessary action. He will certainly look into it.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has the Honourable Minister sent it to the Inspector for report or for disposal ?

Minister : I have already said that it has been sent to the Inspector for disposal. It was not so important that I should have asked for a report.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : How will then the Honourable Minister be in a position to appreciate the difficulties of that village if he is not going to dispose it of himself ?

Minister : I have absolutely no doubt that in future if these difficulties continue the honourable member from the district concerned will bring them to my notice.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Have any verbal representations been made that there is an absolute necessity for adult education there ?

Minister : I know as a matter of fact that there is necessity for adult education throughout the province.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : What about that particular district ? Is it a fact that people of the rural areas have brought it to the notice of the Honourable Minister that adult education has been ignored ?

Minister : No body has said so, but in pursuance of my appeal issued some time back I find that there is great enthusiasm among the people.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has the fact been impressed on the district inspectors ?

Minister : Certainly.

TEACHING STAFF IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

***4385. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the Government College, Lahore, 3rd division M.As. have been employed in the past in the teaching staff in the said college ; if so, what are their names ;
- (b) whether any regulation has now been made to the effect that no 3rd class M.A. of the Punjab University would ever be employed in future in the said college ; if so, the reason for making such a regulation ;
- (c) whether in view of the regulation mentioned in (b) above, it is intended to transfer members of the teaching staff of the Government College, Lahore, who are third class M.As. to some other college in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes, in a few cases.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know the reason why, in the presence of so many M. As. of 1st and 2nd class, 3rd class M. As. have been employed to teach in a premier institution like the Government College, Lahore ?

Minister : Obviously for the reason that the books cannot teach the use of books. A man who has passed in a third division may be more fitted to the job than another man who may have passed a little higher.

Lala Duni Chand : Do I understand that in the opinion of the Honourable Minister those who pass in the 3rd division are superior to those who pass in the 1st and 2nd divisions ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a question of opinion.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if that 3rd class M.A. had also the benefit of some previous experience which a 1st or 2nd class candidate did not have ?

Minister : Honourable members are discussing it generally. Every individual case is considered on its merits.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : It is in reference to this very question that I have put this question—whether these persons, who were appointed in the Government College, were superior to some other 1st class or 2nd class M. As. on the ground that they had some previous experience of teaching ?

Minister : I would require notice for that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend in what particular manner, in regard to merit, was a 3rd class M.A. better than a 1st class one ? What was the particular point of merit ?

Minister : His personal capacity to teach.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend who was the person who took the test of this particular individual regarding his capacity to teach ?

Minister : No such tests are taken. Merits are decided on personal knowledge of the officers concerned who may be the Principal or the Director of Public Instruction.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What particular reason was there for selecting this particular gentleman ? Was this the consideration that he had the capacity to teach ?

Minister : The case does not refer to any particular gentleman. I do not know what the honourable member means when he says, " this particular gentleman."

Diwan Chaman Lall : Any one of these gentlemen. May I ask as to how the department came to the conclusion that these particular individuals had the capacity to teach better than those who took first class ?

Minister : Because of work done by them in the past.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : May I know if nepotism has anything to do with the selection ?

Minister : Not in the Punjab, Sir. (*An honourable member : Oh !*) (*Laughter*).

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask as to where these particular persons have been teaching ? What was their teaching experience ?

Minister : I am afraid I have not got all the details before me. If the honourable member would put his question on paper, I shall be very glad to enquire.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend then on what does he base his knowledge that it was because of the teaching experience of these persons that they were so selected ?

Minister : This is what I have verified from my officers.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know how many 3rd class M. As. have been employed ? Does he know the number ?

Minister : Employed in what institution ? I cannot give the figures offhand.

Lala Duni Chand : Are they so many ?

Minister : I have said " in a few cases " in my reply.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is the third class policy of the Government that is responsible for the appointment of third class M. As. ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Minister : It is a third class question. (*Laughter.*)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I request the Honourable Minister to repeat his reply to part (b) of the original question ?

Minister : The answer given is in the negative.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Do you mean to say that no regulation has been made ?

Minister : No regulation has been made.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I enquire whether the Honourable Minister would satisfy himself whether such 3rd class M.As., without any teaching experience, can be deputed without detriment to the institution ?

Minister : As I have already said on the floor of this House, it is impossible for me to state here that I would over-rule every 3rd class M. A. There may be a bright man who unfortunately did not succeed in obtaining the requisite number of marks and there may be a man who may have secured very high position but may not otherwise be a fit person to teach better. Every case is to be considered on its merits.

Munshi Hari Lal : May I know, with reference to the last portion of part (a) of the question, what are their names ?

Minister : It is not the practice of the Government to disclose names in such cases.

Munshi Hari Lal : If it is not in public interests to disclose their names, may I know what is their number ?

Minister : I regret I do not know the exact number.

Munshi Hari Lal : Has not the honourable member got their names with him? Can he not say how many ?

Minister : I regret that the paper concerned is not with me at the moment.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are these 3rd class M. As. appointed in order to maintain communal proportions in the Education Department ?

Minister : No. These appointments were made several years ago.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it the intention of the Government to pursue the policy of preferring 3rd class M. As. in the presence of better class people in future also ?

Minister : We have no such policy.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the names of these particular persons—these 3rd class M. As. who have been taken in Government service—do not appear in the Civil List ?

Minister : The honourable member can consult it.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I want to know from the Honourable Minister himself as he said that it is not in public interest to disclose their names.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister that 1st class M. As. are going from door to door abegging ?

Minister : I have already stated that these appointments have not been made by the Government recently. These were made several years ago.

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

MUSLIM LADY AS TEACHER IN LAHORE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

***4386. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Lahore College for Women there is at present no Muslim lady teacher in the English department and if so, whether and when a Muslim lady in that department is to be appointed ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The question of the honourable member savours of communalism. If he will ask an unstarred question he will get a satisfactory reply.

BORING OPERATIONS IN VILLAGE DHOK MANGTAL.

***4387. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the N.-W. Railway carried on boring operations in village Dhok Mangtal in the Rawalpindi tahsil ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that on account of such works the water level in the nearest wells in the village dropped and resulted in a scarcity of water ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in the summer the villages have to face that danger every year ;
- (d) whether the Government has recently received any representations from the said villagers requesting them to arrange for their water supply ; if so, what action the Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) I am informed that the railway administration have recently sunk a tube-well near Dhok Mangtal.

(b) No reliable data are available. The villagers complain that the water level in a well, situated about 75 yards from the railway tube-well, falls by about a foot when the railway tube-well is worked for long periods.

[Minister for Education.]

(c) The water level in all wells in this neighbourhood falls as a rule in the summer.

(d) No representations have been received. Now that the honourable member has drawn attention to this matter, I shall however cause investigation to be made.

RULES FRAMED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF MONEY-LENDERS ACT.

***3712. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) if any rules have been framed under the Registration of Money-lenders Act ;

(b) by what time the Government intends to enforce the Registration of Money-lenders Act ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) The framing of the rules is in hand.

(b) The intention is to bring the Act into force as soon as the rules are ready.

SARDAR TEJA SINGH SWATANTAR.

***3723. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether his Government had considered the question of the release of Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar, M.L.A., since the question was mooted in this House last time ; if so, with what result ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : Yes. As has been explained on previous occasions, the cases of all State prisoners are reviewed at frequent intervals. It is not proposed to release this prisoner at present.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the Government has any idea of the period in the course of which this gentleman can wash off the things for which he is being detained in jail ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not possible to have any idea. We always review cases after frequent intervals. Whenever Government considers it desirable to release him it will be done.

Lala Duni Chand : Will Government consider the fact that he has been elected unopposed as a member of this honourable House ? Will this fact weigh with Government in any way ?

Parliamentary Secretary : We have conceded this fact several times.

INVESTIGATION OF CASES BY THE CITY INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
LUDHIANA UNDER HIS JURISDICTION.

***3858. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, deputed the City Inspector, Ludhiana, to investigate

cases under his jurisdiction in the months of June to October, 1938, contrary to the rules and directions of the Deputy Inspector-General, Eastern Range ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : I am afraid that I do not understand the question. No orders have been issued by the Deputy Inspector-General prohibiting the City Inspector from investigating cases within his jurisdiction.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will Parliamentary Secretary consult the original question which is " whether it is a fact that the present Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, deputed the City Inspector, Ludhiana, to investigate cases under his jurisdiction "

Parliamentary Secretary : The City Inspector was used temporarily as a District Inspector with the permission of the Deputy Inspector-General, Eastern Range.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is it a fact that on a similar occasion the Deputy Inspector-General refused to employ the City Inspector as a District Inspector ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware of that.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Does the Parliamentary Secretary remember that he himself in answer to my question replied on the floor of the House that the Deputy Inspector-General, Eastern Range, rejected this order ?

Parliamentary Secretary : In this case I have stated that the Deputy Inspector-General gave permission.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Was he consulted beforehand ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, his written permission was obtained.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Government realised by this time the seriousness of the alarming corruption as it prevails in the Ludhiana district, as it appears from the fact that so many questions are being asked ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Does it arise out of this question ?

Mr. Speaker : No.

Lala Duni Chand : The question relates to the transfer of certain officers due to corruption.

DISMISSED POLICE OFFICIALS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***3924. Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of police officials in Ludhiana district with their names who were dismissed since the posting of the present Superintendent of Police to the said district ;
- (b) the number of appeals against the dismissal and suspension orders with their result ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): A statement is laid on the table. It is not usual to give names in such cases.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad: What is the reply to part (b) of my question?

Parliamentary Secretary: The whole information is contained in the statement.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to state how many dismissals were made on account of corruption?

Parliamentary Secretary: I do not remember the dismissals made for corruption but if the honourable member wants to know the causes for which dismissals were made I will supply him the information if he gives notice.

Lala Duni Chand: May I repeat my question if the Punjab Government has realised by this time the gravity of the situation arising from the fact that there have been so many cases of dismissals due to corruption in the Ludhiana district?

Premier: The Punjab Government fully realises the gravity of the situation. The Punjab Government is also satisfied that the measure of punishments given now is more satisfactory as compared with what it was before the present Government assumed office.

Lala Duni Chand: In view of the very sympathetic attitude of the Honourable Premier in the matter of rooting out corruption in Ludhiana district, may I know if he has made full use of the information given to him by about half a dozen honourable members coming from that district?

Premier: I do not think there are half a dozen members from that district.

Lala Duni Chand: There are seven.

Premier: Ludhiana has not got so many.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Three on your side and four on this side.

Premier: They may belong to Ludhiana but their constituencies are not there.

Lala Duni Chand: May I know if the Minister for Education will give information to the Premier from time to time as to the state of corruption in that district.

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Is the Parliamentary Secretary now in a position to say how many cases there are of dismissals on account of corruption?

Parliamentary Secretary: This was not asked in the original question. If the honourable member wants that information he should give notice.

Police Officers of the Ludhiana district dismissed since the 21st September, 1937.

Serial No.	Rank.	Date of dismissal.	Whether any appeal was filed.	Result of appeal.
1	One Foot Constable	19th December, 1937.	No	..
2	One Foot Constable	19th December, 1937.	Yes	Rejected.
3	One Foot Constable	20th December, 1937.	No	..
4	One Foot Constable	11th March, 1938.	Yes	Rejected.
5	One Head Constable	1st July, 1938	Yes	Rejected.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY-WISE RECRUITMENT
TO SERVICES.

***3925. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased—

- (a) to lay on the table the instructions regarding recruitment to Government service with regard to the proportionate representation of each community ; and
- (b) to state what steps the Government propose to take to give effect to these instructions in order to give due shares to the under represented communities ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) and (b) A copy of the instructions issued in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, is laid on the table. Similar instructions have been or will shortly be issued in almost all other departments, and will in time remove communal disparity where it exists.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Premier be pleased to state the definition of the word 'recruitment' in the notification ?

Premier : Recruitment means appointments made to posts in a particular department.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I know the meaning but I want to know whether the notification is only applicable to new entrants or to promotions. Does the word recruitment mean sheer recruitment of new entrants in service or recruitment of the junior staff to higher grades with a view to carry out the instructions given in the notification ?

Premier : That does not apply to promotions if that is what the honourable member wants to know.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the notification have a retrospective effect to posts temporarily filled before the issue of the notification, i.e., posts not permanently filled by that time ?

Premier : I think what my honourable friend means is whether it applies to temporary appointments.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I want to know whether the notification is applicable in respect of posts filled in temporarily and not permanently before the issue of the notification ?

Premier : Certainly.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order. The Honourable Minister refused to answer my question No. 4331 under the plea that it was based on communal considerations. Now I want to know as to why a similar question No. 3925 has been answered ?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Then let it be on a point of protest, Sir (*Laughter*).

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is the Honourable Premier—(*Interruption*) yes, because Ambala people are greater sufferers than others—aware that at present there has been a bar for the recruitment of candidates to the judicial department for the last two or three years and communities other than Muslim have an overwhelming majority of candidates ?

Premier : What does he mean by judicial department ?

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : It is the Court subordinate thereto.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is it a fact that junior subordinates or process-servers are appointed to fill higher temporary vacancies ?

Premier : I should like my honourable friend to put a regular question or bring such instance to my notice.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : If a post falls vacant in any department may I know whether that post shall be given to the candidates who are already on the list of the offices or to outsiders in order to make up the deficiency of the under-represented class ?

Premier : I do not understand what the honourable member is referring to, but there is a list of candidates and that list can always be revised, altered or supplemented.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : My question is, supposing there are two vacancies in a certain department and there is no candidate of the under-represented community on the list, then how is the representation to the under-represented community given ?

Premier : Then they will have to go out.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it true that the share of the Muslims of the Ambala division is made use of by the Muslims residing in the Rawalpindi division ?

Premier : It is a communal question and I would not answer it.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Has the Government issued any instructions to the departments to make up the deficiency in the list of candidates of the under-represented communities in order to carry out the notification issued by the Government ?

Premier : The Government has issued instructions that this policy should be adhered to.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is the Honourable Premier aware that in all the departments of Government there is hardly a sufficient number of Muslim candidates ?

Premier : It is a communal question and I decline to answer it.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Government consider the percentage of population of a particular community in any district or division in making appointments ?

Premier : My honourable friend perhaps means that population should be taken into consideration. At the moment the instructions issued merely relate to the province as a whole, but the question is under consideration with a view to make the distribution more equitable and just division-wise, if possible.

Lala Duni Chand : Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that in the Ambala division the percentage of a particular community is 70 per cent.

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Lala Duni Chand : If the first question can arise then this would also arise.

Mr. Speaker : Had the honourable member followed the Honourable Premier he would not have asked this question.

Copy of a circular letter No. 4405-S.-Est.-S., dated the 10th August, 1938, from F. A. Farquharson, Esquire, M.C., I.S.E., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to (1) All Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, (2) Director, Irrigation Research, Punjab and (3) Superintendent, Central Workshops Division.

Strength of Establishments community-wise.

In supersession of this office No. 9633-Est.-S., dated 17th November, 1934, and any other orders issued on the subject previously, I am directed by the Governor of the Punjab to convey the following revised instructions with regard to the proportions community-wise to be worked to in the making of new appointments and discharges in the Irrigation Branch for all classes of Establishment in Superior Service and for the Guard Establishment which are appointed by Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers.

- (a) The proportions community-wise must be 50 per cent Muslims, 30 per cent Hindus (including 2½ per cent. Scheduled Castes and 2½ per cent others),

20 per cent. Sikhs, and these proportions must be adhered to in all future recruitment irrespective of the existing communal percentages in the different classes of Establishment.

- (b) In future, appointments are to be made in blocks of ten in the following order of appointments by communities :—

Three Muslims, 1 Sikh, 2 Hindus, 1 Muslim, 1 Sikh, 1 Muslim and 1 Hindu : the 2½ per cent "others" and 2½ per cent "Scheduled Castes" have been included in the Hindu appointments and every 5th Hindu appointment must be made alternately from the "Scheduled Castes" and "Others" communities. In cases under the present block system where a block of 6 appointments is incomplete, it may be necessary to vary the sequence for the first block of 10 appointments, which is to include the balance of the existing incomplete block of 6 appointments, in order to put right any inequalities but after that the new block system of ten appointments must be made in accordance with the orders given above. When an appointment is made it is immaterial whether the person dies, is discharged or resigns service, and the order of making subsequent appointments is to remain unaffected.

- (c) For communal purposes, permanent and temporary establishment must be treated entirely separately. When a man returns from leave the individual appointed on account of the vacancy must be discharged irrespective of his community. On closing seasonal telegraph offices the men employed for them will have no claim, solely on communal grounds, to be kept on in place of the temporary men employed in regular posts. Superintending Engineers must use their own discretion in such cases and comply with the spirit of the rules which have been framed for the purpose of setting right inequalities in the existing communal ratios as soon as possible.

When, however, it is a case of reduction of regular temporary posts or closing down temporary posts that have been sanctioned for a considerable time, discharge must be made from the community whose members are in excess of the sanctioned community ratio.

- (d) Munshis and patwaris must be on a basis of 60 per cent agriculturists, and in all other cadres—as far as possible a basis of 60 per cent agriculturists must be worked to.

- (e) In all cases discharge must be subject to the condition that those retained are qualified and that their services have not been unsatisfactory.

2. The half-yearly report will be submitted on the revised form herewith attached, but appointments to, or discharges from posts whose sanction is for a period of six months or less will not be reported on this form. (Seasonal telegraph offices and short leave vacancies in a cadre with no leave reserve and short special posts are to be excluded from this form.)

The statement Stereo I. B. 89 Special as now amended will include the following establishment :—

- (1) Munshis, permanent and temporary, separate.
- (2) Clerks borne on the Circle cadres, permanent and temporary separate.
- (3) Patwaris.
- (4) Signallers, permanent and temporary separate.
- (5) Overseers temporary.
- (6) Tracers temporary.
- (7) Guard Establishment (daffadars and barkandazes in one list).

Arrangements are being made to have this revised form Stereo I.B. 89 Special, printed, and pending its receipt from the press, a manuscript statement is to be prepared and submitted in future in accordance with the revised statement attached.

Statement showing analysis, community-wise, etc., of establishments appointed by Superintending Engineers.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Establishment.	STATE ON FIRST DAY OF JANUARY							APPOINTMENT DURING THE HALF YEAR.							STATE ON LAST DAY OF JUNE						
	JULY														DECEMBER						
	M.	H.	S.	O.	S. C.	Total.	Grand Total.	M.	H.	S.	O.	S. C.	Total.	Grand Total.	M.	H.	S.	O.	S. C.	Total.	Grand Total.
Assistant Clerks } Permanent	A.	N.A.	A.	N.A.	A.	N.A.		A.	N.A.	A.	N.A.	A.	N.A.		A.	N.A.	A.	N.A.	A.	N.A.	
Assistant Clerks } Temporary																					
Munsifs } Permanent																					
Munsifs } Temporary																					
Patwaris																					
Signallers } Permanent																					
Signallers } Temporary																					
Overseers																					
Tracers																					
Guard Establishment																					

Abbreviations

M. = Muhammadans.
H. = Hindus.

S. = Sikhs.
O. = Others.

S. C. = Scheduled Castes.

A. = Agriculturists.

N.A. = Non-Agriculturists.

NOTE.—This statement is to be submitted by officers-in-charge of Divisions not later than the seventh day, and by officers-in-charge of Circles (as consolidated for the whole Circle) not later than the fifteenth day of July and January.

Station

No.

Date

Signature

Date

Submitted to

Office of

ANSWERING OF UNSTARRED QUESTIONS ON COMMUNAL MATTERS.

***3926. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he has issued instructions to the Ministers that information asked for by members by unstarred questions even if it has communal savour should be supplied to them as mentioned by him repeatedly in his speeches ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : Ministers are now instructed to supply information asked for by unstarred questions even if it has a communal savour.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I ask the Honourable Premier to state as to whether he refuses to answer such questions with a view to avoid the divulging of Muslim League secrets ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of order. May I draw the attention of the Honourable Premier to the previous attitude that he has always refused to answer such questions ?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Does the Government of India Act empower any Premier to refuse to answer any question ?

I.C.S. & P.C.S. OFFICERS AS DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES.

***3961. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of the members of the I. C. S. who have been appointed, so far, to work as District and Sessions Judges within seven and ten years, respectively, of the dates of their recruitment ;
- (b) the number of the members of the P. C. S. (Judicial Branch) who have been appointed so far to work as District and Sessions Judges within ten, fifteen and twenty years, respectively, of the dates of their recruitment ;
- (c) the conditions to be complied with and the consideration to be given, if any, to the first appointment as District and Sessions Judges (a) of the members of I.C.S., and (b) of the members of the Provincial Judicial Branch ;
- (d) if there is any standing instruction issued either by the High Court or the Provincial Government in regard to the above-mentioned appointments ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan :

(a) Within 7 years	..	..	..	..	14
„ 10 years	..	..	..	..	7
(b) Within 10 years	..	..	..	..	None.
„ 15 years	..	..	..	..	One.
„ 20 years	..	..	..	..	7

(c) and (d) No officer is appointed a district and sessions judge until Government is satisfied that he is fit for the post. Indian Civil Service

officers have to do two courses of judicial training, mainly in civil work, in addition to a period of magisterial work before they are so appointed.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it within the knowledge of the Honourable Premier that some members of the Indian Civil Service have been appointed as district and sessions judges within 3 or 4 years of their having been second class magistrates ?

Premier : They must have completed their judicial training or at least satisfied the High Court that they were fit to exercise those powers.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is within the knowledge of the Honourable Premier that several bar associations in the Punjab have sent representations to the effect that two junior members of the Indian Civil Service have been appointed as district and sessions judges and that they are playing havoc with litigants.

Premier : I have not received any such representation.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Honourable Premier had any opportunity to have a talk on this subject with the honourable inspecting judges of the High Court who go to districts from time to time ?

Premier : If the Honourable Judges of the High Court had any such genuine complaint and if they had thought that complaint to be worth considering, they would have certainly referred the matter to the Government.

Lala Duni Chand : Have the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Judges of the High Court ever put their heads together to consider the question as to how far the appointment as judicial members of the I. C. S. affects the litigant public ?

Premier : All appointments to the judicial posts are made on the recommendation of the High Court.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the Honourable Premier will take the trouble of asking for opinion from the Inspecting Judges on this matter ?

Premier : I have already stated that if the honourable Inspecting Judges had any complaint on that score they would have referred the matter to the Government.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know the reasons why there is so much contrast between the appointment of the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service and the appointment of the members of the Indian Civil Service as district and sessions judges ?

Premier : What does my honourable friend mean by contrast ?

Lala Duni Chand : May I know the reason why there is so much disparity between the number of members of the Subordinate Judicial Service and the number of members of the Indian Civil Service appointed as district and sessions judges ?

Premier : There is no question of disparity. Proportions are fixed.

Lala Duni Chand : Has not the Premier heard the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary that some members of Subordinate Judicial Service of even 15, or 20 or 25 years' standing have not been given any chance of officiating for a time as district and sessions judges ?

Premier : My honourable friend is not correct.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know the data on which he bases his answer that I am not in the right ?

Premier : The answer just given to his question.

Lala Duni Chand : Will he be pleased to state how many members of the Subordinate Judicial Service of the standing of 10, 15 or 20 years have been appointed as district and sessions judges ?

Premier : My friend is not aware that it is not usual to supersede junior officers, and since the proportion is fixed, therefore senior officers are appointed first. If there are still any posts, then and then only are junior officers appointed.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Honourable Premier realize the fact that the appointment of very junior members of the Indian Civil Service as district and sessions judge leads to wrong and injustice ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a matter of opinion.

Munshi Hari Lal : Reply to the last portion of part (a) of the question in respect of recruitment has not been given. Will he please give the dates of their recruitment ?

Premier : Between seven and ten years.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is it a fact that the appointment of new and inexperienced officers to important jobs is one of the main causes of communal disorders ?

Lala Duni Chand : I do not contribute to that view. The judicial officer has nothing to do with the question of communal disturbances.

INSPECTION OF POLICE STATIONS BY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, LUDHIANA, AND THEIR
TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE.

***4018. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the travelling allowance drawn by the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, and his Deputy Superintendent during the months of November and December, 1938 ;
- (b) the police stations inspected by each of them during the period mentioned in (a) ;
- (c) if the crime in these police stations is on the increase the reason therefor ; and if the crime is on the decrease in these police stations the reasons therefor ;
- (d) the remarks as to the reputation of the officers in charge of these police stations as well as of their staff made by the two above-mentioned supervising officers ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh):

	November.			December.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
(a) Travelling allowance drawn by the Superintendent of Police.	291	7	0	270	13	0
Travelling allowance drawn by the Deputy Superintendent of Police.	91	4	0	50	0	0
(b) Inspected by the Superintendent of Police.	Jagraon.	Sam- rala.		Sadr ana Shehna, Dehlon.	Ludhi- ana	
Inspected by the Deputy Superin- tendent of Police.	Sidhwan Beit			City Ludhiana, Dakha.		

(c) There have been no such fluctuations as to call for comment.

(d) These departmental inspection reports are not published documents and I regret that I cannot undertake to disclose their contents.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: Do the supervising officers take into consideration the question whether an officer-in-charge of a particular police station has a good reputation for honesty or bad reputation, and do they make entries in their inspection report to that effect?

Premier: I think when there is any complaint against a particular officer, it is the duty of the supervising officers to inquire about it and inform the higher authorities.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: My question asks whether an entry is made in the inspection report.

Parliamentary Secretary: I have stated in my reply that I cannot undertake to disclose its contents.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan: I do not ask for the contents. The question is whether an entry is made to this effect.

Parliamentary Secretary: Yes.

Lala Duni Chand: Is it a fact that the greater the reputation a police officer has for corruption, the higher the appointment he gets? (*Laughter*).

Parliamentary Secretary: Not at all.

RECRUITMENT FOR LUDHIANA POLICE FORCES.

*4019. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any recruitment or enlistment of recruits took place in the Ludhiana police force during the months of October, November and December, 1938; if so, the names, home addresses, educational qualifications of each of the recruits enlisted during these three months?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): During the period mentioned 30 recruits were enlisted in the Ludhiana police. There seems no need to give names or addresses. The educational qualifications of the men selected were:—

Matriculation and above	..	..	..	6
Below matriculation	..	..	..	18
Illiterate	..	..	..	6

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Is reply to this question refused on account of the fact that most of the recruits belong to the Hoshiarpur district?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

REPRESENTATION FOR REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE BY PEOPLE OF
MAHILPUR.

***4061. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, in reply to a representation made verbally by the people of Mahilpur for remission in land revenue due to failure of *kharif* crop on 16th October, 1938, used expression to the following effect :—

“Go to Harjab Singh whom you have made your Bapu by votes, or go to the Ministers. Do not come to me for this purpose” ?

- (b) if answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, action taken in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :
(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Hari Singh : On what authority is it stated that the allegation made in the question is wrong ?

Parliamentary Secretary : We have made inquiries and this is the result ?

Sardar Hari Singh : Who conducted the inquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The usual official agency.

Sardar Hari Singh : Was it the Deputy Commissioner himself who is the accused in this case, who conducted the inquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There could be no better agency than the Deputy Commissioner himself in regard to this question because the instigation was against him.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I take it that the answer is based on the denial of the official concerned ?

Premier : Yes.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether trouble was taken to make inquiries from the people who were present on the spot when he made such speech ?

Premier : I do not think that the question deserves any further enquiry. I am prepared to accept the Deputy Commissioner's word.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Government instruct the Commissioner to enquire about the matter ?

Premier : There is no need to direct the Commissioner to do that.

andit Shri Ram Sharma : This complaint is against the Deputy Commissioner. The question is whether it is thought proper to institute an inquiry through a superior officer.

Premier : Government does not consider it proper to institute an inquiry. It is alleged that the Deputy Commissioner used these words, while the Deputy Commissioner has denied having done so. I take the Deputy Commissioner's statement to be correct.

Sardar Hari Singh : Does he disbelieve the word of the member who has put the question ?

Premier : It is a matter of opinion. It is a question of one man's word against another's.

Lala Duni Chand : Granting that the Honourable Premier does not think it proper to make any enquiry into this allegation, if some one else were to convince him that as a matter of fact this was said, will he accept that or not, and in that case will he take any action in the matter ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it correct that the most responsible authority, that is the Premier himself, has threatened in several speeches that land will not be leased out to those tenants who side with the Congress ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

DEATH OF KALA SINGH.

***4118. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any departmental inquiry has so far been instituted in connection with the death of Kala Singh of Lyallpur ; if so, the name of the officer appointed to make the inquiry with the result of the inquiry, if any ;

(b) whether the Government intends instituting a regular magisterial inquiry into the conduct of the officer held responsible by the magistrate in his report which he submitted some time ago after his inquiry into the matter of the suicide of Kala Singh mentioned above ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : An inquiry has been made by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range, who has submitted a report. In the meantime the attention of Government has been drawn to a paragraph in a certain newspaper containing definite allegations that Kala Singh died as the result of injuries inflicted on him by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. The latter has now been informed that the Punjab Government expect him to vindicate himself by taking proceedings in the civil court against the persons responsible for the publication of the allegations in the newspaper, the usual undertaking being given that if the result is to clear the officer's reputation Government will be prepared to bear the reasonable costs incurred by him in the prosecution. It is hoped by these means to ensure that the matter is thoroughly sifted.

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

So far as I have heard, the plaint has not yet been lodged in the court, but in view of the fact that judicial proceedings are impending the honourable member will excuse me from saying more at this stage regarding the facts of the case.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is prepared to lay the report of that officer on the table ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The report is confidential and I am therefore not prepared to lay it on the table.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know what were the recommendations of that officer ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that I cannot lay the report on the table. Therefore I cannot disclose the contents of that report.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether the Deputy Inspector-General and the enquiry officer agree in their recommendations ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not prepared to add anything further to what I have already said.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Is it a fact that both the officers, the enquiry officer and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, are agreed that the man died because of the action of the Deputy Superintendent of Police and that severe action should be taken against him by Government ?

Premier : I am afraid my honourable friend is trying to go into details of the case which is likely to become *sub-judice*.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a previous occasion when a question was put on the floor of the House the Government said that an inquiry was made into the allegations against this police officer and that inquiry found the police officer guilty. I want to know whether the inquiry officer who held the second inquiry also found him guilty.

Premier : My honourable friend is now trying to get information which the Parliamentary Secretary has already said that he was not prepared to divulge, because the case is sure to go before a judicial court. I do not, therefore, consider it fair either to the police officer or others concerned that the honourable members should pursue this matter further.

Diwan Chaman Lall : When this question was asked on the previous occasion, Government promised that a departmental inquiry would be held and action would be taken on the result of that inquiry.

Premier : Government did hold a further inquiry as the result of the original inquiry was not conclusive. The departmental inquiry was held to elucidate certain points.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If a further inquiry was held, why should not that report be placed on the table ?

Premier : Because it was only a departmental inquiry and not a public inquiry.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that the Honourable Premier promised a departmental inquiry even in the first instance ?

Premier : No.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What then did the Honourable Premier promise ?

Premier : I said that the question had been referred to legal advisers of Government and further action, if necessary, would be taken in the light of the legal advice.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Did the departmental inquiry find this gentleman guilty ?

Premier : My honourable friend is now trying to be too clever. As the matter is going before a judicial court I am not prepared to give any further information on the subject as it may prejudice the case one way or the other.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Is the case going to be against the newspaper because it published the news that the man died because of the injuries inflicted by the Deputy Superintendent of Police ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, that is the allegation.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : May I know whether a departmental inquiry was held as a result of the views expressed here or in the light of the decision arrived at by the magistrate who conducted the coroner's inquest ?

Premier : I have already said that an enquiry was made.

Diwan Chaman Lall : There seems to be some confusion here. A case is going to be lodged in a court because a newspaper made an allegation that Kala Singh lost his life because of the beating he received from Mr. Beatty. But the question raised on the floor of the House is a different one. The question is whether Kala Singh took his life because of the threats levelled against him by Mr. Beatty. An enquiry was held into this matter. The question is whether it is a fact that the departmental inquiry held into the case found that officer guilty and if so, why my honourable friend proposes to spend public money in defending a person who has been found guilty by his department.

Premier : My honourable friend is again trying to be too clever.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I should like the Honourable Premier to be straightforward in answering the question. There is no question of being too clever.

Premier : I particularly requested that no further questions be put on this subject as it is going before a court of law.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow any more supplementary questions.

TERRIFYING OF THE DEFENCE WITNESSES BY THE POLICE IN FATEHWAL CASE.

*4119. **Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he has recently received information to the fact that police officer in charge, Ajnala police station, with four constables is staying in these days at Fatehwal and terrifying defence witnesses in Fatehwal Murder Case, now pending in Sessions Court at Amritsar and also

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

their relatives ; if so, whether any inquiry has been made on the information so received and if so, the result of the inquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : First Part : Yes.

Second Part : —On enquiry, the allegations were found to be completely baseless. The Sub-Inspector of Police, Ajnala, visited Fatehwal only once in January, 1939, in connection with the investigation of a theft case and stayed in the village for two days only. No attempt was made by any police officer to dissuade the defence witnesses in the Fatehwal Case from giving evidence. It may interest the honourable member to know that the defence summoned as many as 240 witnesses in the case and every one of them was duly served with summons and produced in court by the police.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Is the information given by the Parliamentary Secretary based upon the report submitted by the officer who has been complained against or is it the result of an independent enquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary : My reply is clear. The Sub-Inspector of Police, Ajnala, visited Fatehwal only once in January, 1939. The police station officer cannot leave his headquarters without the permission of his superior officers.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Then it comes to this that the information is based on the report submitted by the same officer.

Parliamentary Secretary : The higher authorities have satisfied themselves that the report is correct.

POLICE DIARIES ABOUT MAGISTRATES.

***4150. Munshi Hari Lal** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there are any instructions or rules requiring the police officers to send diaries reporting the character, conduct and the work of the magistrates of their ilaqas ;
- (b) if so, whether the Government intends to discontinue that practice and to withdraw those instructions ; if not the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

FIRST AID INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE OFFICERS.

***4151. Munshi Hari Lal** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the First Aid instructions is a part of the training of the police officers, if not, whether the Government intend to introduce it ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Yes. First Aid classes are held at the Police Training School, Phillaur, and at the headquarters of several of the more important districts.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, as required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the

table the supplementary statements of expenditure (third and fourth instalments) for the year 1938-39, authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following supplementary statement of expenditure for the financial year 1938-39, which specifies:—

- (a) the supplementary grants (third instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March, 1939, and
(b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

Supplementary Statement.

Grant No.	Major head of account.	Supplementary grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly.	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2	8—Provincial Excise ..	46,400	..	46,400
3	9—Stamps ..	4,050	..	4,050
4	10—Forests ..	79,200	..	79,200
6	13—Other Taxes and Duties ..	16,200	..	16,200
7	17—Interest on Irrigation Works for which Capital Accounts are kept.	..	3,700	3,700
8	Irrigation Establishment Charges	1,03,200	..	1,03,200
9	68—Construction of Irrigation Works (Capital Expenditure).	30,52,300	..	30,52,300
	22—Interest on debt and obligations.	..	3,97,500	3,97,500
10	25—General Administration ..	3,40,670	..	3,40,670
11	27—Administration of Justice ..	2,45,570	..	2,45,570
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	..	8,500	8,500
13	29—Police ..	2,54,310	..	2,54,310
15	37—Education (European and Anglo-Indian).	..	1,730	1,730
16	37—Education (Excluding European and Anglo-Indian)	..	6,200	6,200
17	38—Medical ..	80,530	..	80,530
26	XI—Hydro-Electric Schemes—Working Expenses.	74,600	..	74,600
30	54—Famine ..	5,49,930	11,800	5,61,730
31	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	3,15,630	95,270	4,10,900
7	XVII—Irrigation, Navigation, etc., Working Expenses and 18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.	10	..	10
18	39—Public Health ..	10	..	10
29	79—Capital Outlay on Electric Schemes—I. Hydro-Electric Schemes (Other than establishment).	10	..	10
34	57—Miscellaneous ..	10	..	10

LAHORE :

H. D. CRAIK,

The 18th March, 1939.)

Governor of the Punjab.

As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act 1935, I hereby authenticate the following supplementary statement of expenditure for the financial year 1938-39, which specifies the supplementary grants (fourth instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March 1939.

Supplementary Statement.

Grant No.	Major head of account.	Supplementary grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly.
2	8—Provincial Excise	10,400
30	54—Famine	80,000
24	50—Civil Works	10

LAHORE :

The 18th March, 1939.

H. D. CRAIK,

Governor of the Punjab.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

MEDICAL.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,16,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Medical.

3 P.M.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,16,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Medical.

Recruitment to Medical Service.

Lala Dunī Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 1,01,500 on account of Medical Establishments—Total Superintendence (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 10.

My object in moving this motion is to discuss the desirability of preventing further deterioration of medical men in Government service due to inferior recruitment and other causes.

Sir, the budget session of the Assembly generally offers the most suitable opportunity for expressing the grievances which one has against the general administration of the Government. This time we have 18 days at our disposal for the purpose, and if we were to make use of these days in the best possible manner, I think, various important matters could be brought to the notice of the Government. On such occasions suggestions

can be made in the form of requests, demands or warnings. In this connection the honourable member from Mianwali made suggestions in the form of requests and the manner in which he put his case was highly commendable. Similarly I have sought to avail of this opportunity for expressing certain bitter, but true, facts. It is generally felt that ever since the present Government has come into power the administration of the Medical department has been undergoing deterioration of an alarming nature. I do admit that the maintenance of communal representation in the Government services is necessary to some extent but there are certain departments where the recruitment should in no case be based upon communal considerations. Such exceptions, however, should not be made in the case of the Harijans. In their case the maintenance of the proportionate representation is absolutely essential. I think it would be highly commendable on the part of the Government to fix a proportionate share in the Government services for the depressed classes. The Government is free to allot any number of posts to the Harijans in the Education, Police or other departments. I submit that it is imperative on the part of Government to fix a proportionate representation in services for the benefit of the Harijans, but this principle should not be followed in the case of other communities. If we were to go through the record of the Medical department for the last 5 or 6 years and study the cases of those persons who have been taken in the P. C. M. S. during this period, I am sure we would find that these appointments were not made on the ground of merit and qualifications. Very few of them were offered posts in the department who topped the lists of successful students. It is a matter for regret that sometimes even persons holding 20th or 30th position in the list have been given jobs. In most cases the appointments were made simply because the Government wanted to give proportionate representation to a certain community. Personally I am of the opinion that every community should have its due share of representation in the Government services. But this policy should not be pursued in the case of the Medical department; otherwise the efficiency of the Medical service would definitely be deteriorated. I know that certain young men were given the posts of assistant surgeon simply because they belonged to the Jat or Rajput community. I would request the Honourable Minister to discontinue this policy which has been proving harmful to the efficiency of the Medical department.

Another submission which I like to make is that admission to the Medical College or Medical School should not be made on communal considerations. It is neither wise nor desirable to fix any proportionate representation for every community in this respect. The other day the Honourable Minister of Education was asked to state whether it was a fact that there is a time honoured tradition of appointing only those medical graduates as house surgeons or house physicians who had topped the list of successful students. He wanted to evade the question but some how or other he had to admit that such a candidate had been appointed as a house surgeon in the Amritsar Medical School, who failed several times to qualify himself as a doctor. In view of this, I would request the Honourable Minister for Education to leave this policy of appointing third class persons as house surgeons in the Medical College, Lahore, and in the Medical School, Amritsar.

[L. Duni Chand.]

In the end I may submit that this department is very useful for the public. Thousands of people derive benefit from it. In this connection I may point out that whenever there is an expert doctor, whether he is a Hindu or a Sikh or a Muhammadan, people do not wait to inquire about his religion but rather go to him and get themselves treated. There is no dearth of such doctors in the province but of course I do not like to name them. People of all communities go to them and get themselves treated. I, therefore, suggest that the policy that has so far been pursued by the department should be discontinued and only able and efficient men recruited in this department. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 1,01,500 on account of Medical Establishments—Total Superintendence (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 10.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Mr. Speaker, you have been pleased to allow me to speak after a hitch and careful consideration for the reason best known to you. For the last so many days I have been trying to speak and thereby get an opportunity to express my opinion on the budget but unfortunately this was not possible because your eyes could not catch me. However, I am thankful to you that you have been pleased to allow me to speak to-day.

If I say anything about the Ambala division in this respect, my friends will object to it that I am again talking of my own division. Sir, I would like to point out that I belong to a division the inhabitants of which are in the grip of a severe famine and are really starving and dying of hunger and are admittedly poverty-distress stricken and have always been the victims of all sorts of calamities. Before the inauguration of the provincial autonomy there was a Legislative Council in our province. But in that Legislative Council there was no one to represent that division in the true sense and nobody was even nominated to represent those people. If at all any member was nominated his voice carried no weight. The result was that the rights of the people of the Ambala division were trampled under foot and their rights usurped by others. With the inauguration of provincial autonomy, Ambala division was also given a good representation in the provincial Legislative Assembly. It is a matter of pleasure that only those members have been returned from that division who are at heart the well wishers of the people of that *ilaga*. Those members regard it their primary duty to place before the Government the troubles and ills of their constituents and the people of their *ilaga*. Up till now they have done their duty and in future they will also try their level best to serve their constituents faithfully by putting their legitimate grievances and demands for remedy and redress. But Sir, I regret to say that we are not even allowed to lay our grievances before the Government and all sorts of obstacles are put in our way. I am of the opinion that the following verse aptly applies to us—

نہ ترحم کی اجازت ہے نہ نریاد کی ہے
 کھمت کے مر جاؤں یہ مرضی میرے صیاد کی ہے

Besides, although you have been pleased to allow me to speak to-day, I may submit that the subject now before the House is such that I have but little to say anything about it in particular. I am not in a position to detail

the grievances of the people of my division by speaking on the demand under discussion now before this august House. But I would like to point out that during the question hour when I was asking some supplementary questions as regards a certain notification, my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand from Ambala like me was heard to remark that my questions savoured of communalism. I am constrained to remark that before I rose to speak to-day the speech that he delivered was out and out a communal one.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is he speaking to the motion ?

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : It relates to the matter now before the House. My honourable friend said so many things in his speech and I am simply refuting them. I request my honourable friends to look to their own drawbacks and then try to pick holes in anybody else's garment. (*Hear, hear*). Sir, as I submitted before, the subject now before the House is such that I have very little to say regarding it. If you had allowed me to speak during the general discussion of the budget or on the General administration then I would have said a good deal and would have been able to make feasible and useful suggestions. However I will try to say something about this demand as well. Since the time that this Government have assumed office, they have been spending large sums of money on beneficent departments and they have left no stone unturned to provide relief to the poor public at large. The work that has been done by this Government under the Medical department is very satisfactory indeed. For instance they have opened many new hospitals in places where they were actually required and have also established moving dispensaries for the welfare of the people.

Mr. Speaker : That is not the matter under discussion.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : It relates to the subject under discussion. But if you object to it I will not discuss it any more. My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand has stated during the course of his speech that while making appointments it should be borne in mind that only able and efficient people should be appointed. He further stated that first and second class medical graduates should be preferred to third class diploma holders. He also remarked that he was opposed to appointments being made on communal basis. But in the same breath he also said that he would be glad if *Harijans* were given some posts under this department. In this connection I may submit that certain percentage of posts have been fixed for the Muhammadans, Hindus and Sikhs. The Muslims think that this is merely in black and white. I do not know how and when it will be carried out

دل دہلی کے کمالیہ بہر خیال آج ہے۔ Similar instructions are being issued since long but to no effect, that is, that Muhammadans should have 50 per cent, Sikhs 20 per cent and others 30 per cent. *Harijans* are included in others. Hindus claim that they are their kith and kin, though it is for political tactics. We will not object if all the posts reserved for Hindus go to the *Harijans*. But we do not like that they should be benefited at the expense of other communities. Besides, I may submit that when appointments are made it should be taken into consideration that wherever there is any Hindu or Sikh civil surgeons the assistant surgeon should necessarily be a Muhammadan.

[Kh. Ghulam Samad.]

Mr. Speaker : That is not the matter under discussion. I request the honourable member to speak to the motion.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I will just now prove that I am speaking to the motion. I will connect it to the motion.

Mr. Speaker : I hope the honourable member knows what the motion is.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I know. May I read it? It is as follows :—

That the item of Rs. 1,01,500 on account of Medical Establishments—Total Superintendence (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 10.

Remarks.—The desirability of preventing further deterioration of medical men in Government service due to inferior recruitment and other causes.

That is the motion.

Mr. Speaker : So the motion relates only to recruitment.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I am speaking about the recruitment.

Mr. Speaker : I do not think so.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : That is appointment at any rate. I was submitting that whenever and wherever any Sikh or Hindu is appointed as a civil surgeon the assistant surgeon should always be a Muslim and *vice versa*.

In the matter of recruitment I would suggest that at the time of every recruitment the Government should select as many candidates from each community as may be enough to enable it to post a Muslim officer to a hospital where the other officer is a non-Muslim and *vice versa*. It is absolutely necessary to make such arrangements because in certain cases people do not want to entrust their lives with the medical officers not belonging to their own community. There are some other considerations too. For instance seven people died at Panipat during the communal riots which took place in 1937 and their dead bodies were not delivered for *post-mortem* examination because their relatives and the members of their community did not rely on the officer in charge of the hospital to give an unbiased opinion. Moreover the wounded and seriously injured Muslims had no confidence on non-Muslim doctors for treatment. No arrangement could unfortunately be made till next day afternoon.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : On a point of order. May I draw your attention to the fact that the motion has been moved to criticise the Government in the matter of recruitment?

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : That is exactly what I am doing. Well, Sir, after two days the *post-mortem* examination was conducted by these very people in whom the relatives of the deceased persons had no faith and the report of the *post-mortem* was the same as they expected.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : May I ask whether the honourable member is relevant?

Mr. Speaker : Strictly speaking he is not speaking to the motion.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Recently a communal riot took place at Ratera, district Hissar, where there was a Famine Relief Work Camp.

Three Muslims were shot dead in that riot on whom the *post-mortem* examination was unfortunately conducted by a non-Muslim doctor, the co-religionist of the officer in charge of the camp who was thought to be responsible for this disturbance and the doctor reported what the Muslims apprehended. Had there been a Muslim doctor the report might have been otherwise.

Under the circumstances I cannot but request the Honourable Minister to keep in view, at the time of recruitment, the necessity of appointing a Muslim officer in a hospital where the existing officer is a non-Muslim and similarly posting a non-Muslim to a hospital where the second officer is a Muslim.

Minister for Education : (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) (Urdu) : Sir, I find that the honourable members sitting on the opposite benches are not showing any interest in the point raised by my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand. I, therefore, do not propose to make a lengthy speech in this connection.

In the beginning of his speech, Lala Duni Chand approved of the idea of according proportionate representations to various communities in all the Government services. But later on he remarked that vacancies in the Medical department should not be filled by communal representation. But I am sorry to say that he could not advance any argument in support of his remarks. Again, he admitted that the members of the scheduled castes should be given proportionate representation in all the Government departments including the Medical department. But how strange it is that my honourable friend opposite has made self-contradictory remarks in one and the same speech. It did not look nice on his part to say inconsistent things in the same breath. On the one hand my honourable friends opposite admit that the Harijans are the kith and kin of the Hindus and they represent a part of that community but at the same time they demand proportionate representation for them. Then with what face do they condemn the demands made by other communities for filling vacancies in the Government services by resorting to the principle of proportionate representation? I do not find any reason as to why a certain community is to-day afraid of this policy when it has up till now, in the name of competition and efficiency, ruled over the country under the British dominence. This policy was originally laid down by the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain with a view to see every community having its due and legitimate share in the services. The present Government has strictly pursued this policy and intends to go on pursuing it as long as it is in power. I fail to understand the reason as to why my honourable friend finds it necessary to object to this policy in the case of admission to the Medical College and Medical School when he himself is in its favour. I would like to submit here for the information of my friend opposite that in spite of this considered policy of the Government preference is only given to those who are found to be better qualified than others.

I do not propose to say anything with regard to the speech made by Khawaja Ghulam Samad. I may, however, remind him of an answer given by the Honourable Premier to a question to-day. He was pleased to remark that whenever the Government would come to know that any injustice is being done to a certain community in any of the 5 divisions of the Punjab

[Minister for Education.]

he would take immediate steps to get it redressed. It may not be possible for the Government to appoint any non-Muslim officer wherever a Muslim officer is already working and *vice versa*. If it is our duty to safeguard the legitimate rights of every community, we are at the same time free to expect and we do expect of every Government servant to discharge his duties honestly and impartially. The Government servant is a public servant and it is his bounden duty to serve the province without stooping to communal considerations. Here I may relate the procedure by which promotions are generally given to the Government servants. On such occasions the personal file of the officer concerned is submitted to us. Although in such files several particulars are given, namely, qualification of the officer, his term of office, special examination passed during the tenure of his office and the opinion of the head of the department about his work, yet we do not attach importance to these particulars only. The thing which we like to find out is whether the officer in question discharges his duties impartially or not. And if ever we come to know that a certain officer is in the habit of showing partiality to a certain community, his other qualifications do not carry weight with us. A partial officer cannot expect any favour at our hands. We always take drastic action against such officers. (*Hear, hear*).

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) : The remarks of the last speaker, the Honourable Minister in charge of the Medical and Education Departments, have prompted me to say a few words on this motion. I am glad that after all we hear from the lips of an important member of the Government himself that their professions of democracy are no more than mere lip professions and the allegiance paid—the loyalty professed—to democracy is nothing but lip loyalty. We have been told times out of number in this House that now it is democracy that prevails in this province and the accursed rule of the autocratic British foreigners has disappeared. From the remarks of the Honourable Minister to-day it appears that democracy has really not yet taken root in this province and that communalism, class considerations and caste considerations have their sway in this province. I may not be misunderstood to say that I am not in favour of justice to all communities and classes; but when proportions are laid down for a particular community and entries to colleges and entries into public services are made dependent upon one's caste and religion that he professes, then certainly the sacred springs of democracy are polluted and it cannot then be claimed that those in charge of the Government of the country owe any allegiance to democracy whatsoever. He has referred to admissions to colleges: he probably does not know that when this rule was introduced by one of his illustrious predecessors a great deal of protest was made. No one had till then heard of the educational institutions being closed to any section of the population on the ground of any particular individual belonging to any particular community or religion.

Minister for Education : They are not closed.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : They are closed.

Minister for Education : They are not closed.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Please do not interrupt me if you do not want to be interrupted. My honourable friend says that the doors of the educational institutions are not closed against certain people on the ground of their belonging to particular communities. I say they are closed when it is laid down that only 40 per cent of the admissions would be granted to members of one particular community and 40 per cent. to members of another community and 20 per cent admissions to another community irrespective of their qualifications as compared with one another. It means nothing else but closing the doors of educational institutions to better qualified people simply on account of their religion. Not only that, Sir. Probably you are aware, honourable members of this House may not all be aware of the fact, I speak subject to correction, that a change has been made in the rule now that if 40 per cent admissions from a certain community have been made say to the Medical College and if 40 per cent of the other community are not available, their seats are kept vacant and the members of the first community cannot be admitted even though there is room and there are vacancies because 40 per cent admissions are not sought by members of any particular community. Do you consider this democracy, do you consider this fair, do you consider this reasonable, do you consider this even diplomatic? It is wicked and nothing else. When you say 40 per cent admissions are open to a particular community and 40 per cent people are not forthcoming, what sense is there in not admitting members of another community when there are vacancies to be filled up? Does it not mean that if members of a particular community are not available members of the other communities should not be allowed to receive education in that particular line so that the number of qualified people or the members belonging to that community should not increase and should not exceed a particular number? I consider it most objectionable and one of the most abominable measures which any member of any Government could adopt. I am surprised that even after 16 years or 17 years of some sort of provincial autonomy, a member of the Government should get up and should have the courage, I do not want to use any disrespectful word, to support it and to claim and assert not once, not twice but several times during his short speech that the Government is strictly adhering to that policy. I am not sure if the Honourable Minister was aware of this particular aspect of the rule; otherwise I expect he would not have probably emphasised his adherence to the principle laid down by one of his predecessors. Then, again, you will agree with me that when he wants you to introduce this communal consideration even in the matter of education and services you cannot stop there. You cannot say "it is enough we have made this distinction that there will be so many Hindus, so many Muslims and so many Sikhs." You are driven further by your own followers. You are approached by members of one division and another division claiming their proportionate share in services and in admissions. Here just now an honourable member from one of the divisions of the Punjab was claiming his share for his division. Another honourable member may get up from the Rawalpindi division or a still more backward division say, Multan and say: "We have not got sufficient share in the public services or the Medical department and we must have our share." Then, Sir, within divisions members belonging to a particular district may come forward and say, "Well, there is no adequate representation given to our district in the

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

medical services." Not only this but the Arains may get up and say there are very few Arains among doctors. Khattris may get up and say there are very few Khattris among doctors. Aroras may get up and say there are very few Aroras in a particular service. Then Gujjars may get up and say "we have not got adequate representation in the services." Muslim Rajputs and Arains have been emphasizing this point in conferences and have been claiming what they consider to be adequate representation for their castes and communities. Once you accept that evil, it goes further and further. Awans would get up and say "we have not got any Awan doctor at all." I expected that with the advent of provincial autonomy and with the advent of this democracy, the Government would rise above these considerations and would consider merit alone to be the test for services; of course in a general way they can see that the services are not monopolized by any particular class of the people. For that they need not lay down those hard and fast rules that even better qualified people belonging to a particular community should be shut out either in the educational institutions or in a particular department of the public services simply because they happen to belong to a particular religion or a particular class. The other day I had the pleasure of meeting the members of the Egyptian delegation who came out to India to attend the last session of the Indian National Congress and I had the privilege of talking to some of them. We naturally questioned them with respect to the principles followed in their country with respect to the election of their legislative bodies and with respect to the selection of various people to Government services and so on.

I was so pleased to learn from them that there was absolutely no communal distinction there either for election to their legislatures or to their selection to Government services. One of those gentlemen gave me an instance which should serve as a guide to those who have the destinies of this country and of this province in their hands. He told me that one day there was a case in which an inquiry was made from Nahas Pasha whether a particular gentleman was a Christian or a Muslim, because his name was such as did not indicate the community to which he belonged. Mind you, Sir, the inquiry came from His Majesty himself, who had been approached by certain people and had been requested by them to make that inquiry and you will be glad to learn that Nahas Pasha had the courage to tell the King himself "I am not going to tell you whether this man is a Muslim or a Christian. It is enough for me to say that he is an Egyptian." This is an example from a Muslim country. Here we have a Muslim Minister, who naturally has sympathy with Muslim countries and would like to follow the noble example of Muslim rulers in Turkey and Egypt, who gets up and says, "We shall rigidly and strictly adhere to this policy." You may adhere to this policy, but then never talk of democracy. That is all I have to say.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din (Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend Dr. Sahib has remarked in his speech that the doors of education are sometimes closed against the people in this unfortunate province. In some cases it is absolutely true. It bodes ill for this province that our mentality has not as yet developed to an extent that it may sustain the spirit of nationalism. In

fact ours is a slave mentality still. I earnestly wish that the time should come soon when our province, this unfortunate province, may rise above these petty considerations and when not only in education but also in every sphere of life the question of Hindu and Muslim should cease to influence our activities. But all the same we cannot shut our eyes against hard facts. There are institutions where it is said, nay provided in rules governing them, that no non-Hindu can be admitted into them. There is the Diamond Jubilee Technical Institute.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It is a private institution and not a Government institution.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din : Just listen.

Minister for Education : If you want an institution of a public nature and connected with the Government I can quote the instance of Ganga Ram Widows Home in which no non-Hindu or non-Sikh can be taken and that institution is now being run by the Government at a cost of Rs. 28,000 a year.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Why do you subsidize ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He put this question and let me answer it. That institution was founded by a private individual on this very condition and the Government accepted a donation on that condition—otherwise he did not—(A voice : You did not protest.) It was not in my time. The point is this. When a private individual wants to set aside a certain sum of money for the education of a particular class of people, then that case cannot be compared with the case of the Government, which has public funds at its disposal and must cater to the needs of the public.

Khan Bahadur Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din (Urdu) : Sir, I was submitting that it was a bad augury for this unfortunate province that our individual mentality which ultimately forms the basis of national mentality has not yet been purged of its most obnoxious elements. This arduous task is now before this Government and I believe they will set upon it with courage and resolution. May I ask my Congressite friends if they have exerted in any way to bring about a wholesome change in individual mentality ? (Honourable members : Of course.) Mr. Speaker, I feel forced by these interruptions and the views expressed by my friends on this side, to quote a Persian couplet which very beautifully depicts the double mentality of a weak person. So far as the question of communalism is concerned the view point of the Congress is very sound. But I am sorry that the conduct of those friends of mine and their actions speak otherwise. The Persian couplet that so aptly applies to their case is as follows :—

دارم ردین و عشق به هر یک قدم دو سیر—
من مے روم به کعبه دل مے رود نہ دیر—

My friends, let us cease indulging in mere talks and do some practical work. Let us try to bring about a real change in our mentality. But at the same time we should not deprive any community of its legitimate rights. The Muslim loved knowledge for its sake and never minded going to China or Japan in order to attain it. When the Muslims were a living nation, every one of them was a student and a teacher. But there were others who

[K. B. Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din.]

ruled that knowledge and learning were meant for the chosen few, and with the exception of those few no one was allowed to acquire knowledge. It has been said that The Diamond Technical Institute is a private institution. It was a public institution open to all and sundry and was established in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (*voices of no, no*). That is a fact. There is another institution, I mean, Sir Ganga Ram Technical School, where similar restrictions exist. I am not complaining against any particular community but I am merely stating facts in order to urge upon my friends the desirability of making efforts to bring about a wholesome change in the mentality of our people. They will have to take serious steps to achieve this end. This time the Government has earmarked Rs. 23,000 in its budget as grant-in-aid to that institution. And I think the House is aware of the fact that Rs. one lakh was granted by the Government to its founder at the time when he intended to start such an institution. Anyhow it is a fact that the Muslims strongly feel that they are refused admission even to such aided institutions. I think, true sportsman spirit demands that our non-Muslim brethren should feel glad to see that the present Government is endeavouring to afford opportunity to our admittedly backward Muslim community for coming in line with other sister communities of the country. My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand has remarked that only Harijans should be given proportionate representation in public services. I am glad to say that we should give them their due share—rather they should be offered more than what they actually deserve. As long as the Harijans are backward, our country cannot make a steady advance towards progress. These Harijans are part and parcel of our population and our prosperity is interlinked with their prosperity. A human body cannot be called sound and healthy if any of its limbs is ailing. Similarly our body politic of Punjab cannot work with any amount of satisfaction if any of our communities is accorded step-motherly treatment by others. We should try to change the mentality of those people whose constant endeavour is to deprive others of their due share. Let me tell them that even the universe itself cannot last long if its various elements were disproportionately integrated. And so in order to keep the balance of power among various communities we should see to it that all of them get their legitimate share in the public services.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : The question which the honourable mover of the cut motion has raised is definitely a delicate one. We should try to abstain from embittering communal feelings in the province. I, therefore, appeal to him not to press his motion.

Lala Duni Chand : Sir, I have great respect for the honourable lady member and I assure her that nothing is farther from my purpose than to bring in any communal question by moving this motion.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Then withdraw it.

Lala Duni Chand : Very well, Sir, in deference to the wishes and susceptibilities of the honourable lady member, I withdraw my motion but at the same time I would like to request the Honourable Minister in charge to take special cognizance of the idea underlying the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Working of Medical Department.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta (South-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I hope the House will agree that the Medical Department is one of those beneficent departments for which it is necessary not only to provide as large a sum as possible but also to see that utmost economy is practised and genuine sympathy for the suffering humanity felt by those who control the expenditure.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

The budget estimates show that this year the expenditure under this head has been increased by two lakhs of rupees. But if you take into consideration the vast needs of the province and compare them with the arrangements made by the Government to meet them, you will find nothing to feel proud of or to congratulate the Government. If you look at the income of the Government you will find that the average burden of taxation on every person is Rs. 4-12-0 or Rs. 5 a year but the annual expenditure per head on medical relief is no more than 4½ annas, i.e., 1½ pice a month. This also includes the expenditure on Public Health. However, my chief complaint is not that the sum that has been provided in the budget in connection with this demand is a small one.

4 P.M.

It may be that this compares favourably with some provinces or is somewhat less than that has been provided by other provinces. My chief objection is that the manner in which this money is being spent is not satisfactory. There is room for much improvement. Two years have passed since the present Government assumed office, and up till now we have not been able to know whether this Government is a Muslim League Government, or a Zamindar Government or a mixture of both. But so far as we know, my honourable friends over there claim that their Government is the Government of the poor people. My honourable friend, Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani, is nodding his head approvingly; my honourable friend also has claimed that this Government is a Zamindar Government and mostly consists of *kisans*, although I know that when my honourable friends on the opposite side use the words "Zamindara Government," they conveniently include in the word "Zamindar" all the big landlords as well and then they speak with a mental reservation. Reverting to the subject proper, I may submit that the money on this department is not spent so economically and frugally as it ought to have been and the needs of the poor are disregarded. There are something like 34,000 villages in the Punjab. The number of towns whose population is more than 5,000 is only 256. The number of doctors serving in this department is 1,300 to 1,400. They are all Government servants. If we include in this number also those people who are not, strictly speaking, Government employees, the total comes to 2,505. If you study carefully the facts and figures, you will find that the number of medical

[Lala Teshbandhu Gupta.]

practitioners who are working in 84,000 villages is less than 2,000. On the other hand the total number of practitioners who are working in 256 towns is nearly 2,500. If we strike the average we find that there is one medical practitioner for 6,900 persons in the towns and one medical practitioner for 22,500 persons in the rural areas. This amazing disparity not only exists in the number of doctors only, but if you take into consideration the incidence of expenditure per head you will be all the more astonished. My honourable friends who represent the rural areas and who are in fact the pillars of this Government are not aware of the fact that there is a great disparity in the amounts of expenditure that are provided for buying of medicines for rural and urban areas. They are practically ignorant of the state of affairs and they do not know what amount the Government is spending for providing relief to the poor villagers as compared with the people living in urban areas. The facts and figures that I have collected show that in one year a sum of Rs. 13,775 was incurred for buying medicines for the hospitals of Lahore and Amritsar only. As compared with this, a sum of Rs. 13,550 was only spent for buying medicines for all the rural hospitals and dispensaries. Is it not strange indeed that the expenditure incurred for buying of medicines for two cities is much more than what is spent on the rest of the Punjab? I know that the Honourable Minister for Education will get up and try to claim credit for himself and for his Government for the work that has been done in the rural areas. I have laid these facts and figures before the honourable members and they can judge for themselves.

Besides, there is one big hospital in Lahore, known as the Mayo Hospital. I have seen and studied some figures of its expenses. When I read those figures I was taken aback. I will be glad if they prove to be wrong. If you study the report of the year 1936, you will find that the number of patients treated in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, was 87,036 and against it the expenses incurred were Rs. 63,599. The expenses were simply incurred on the buying of medicines. The fat salaries of the Mayo Hospital employees are not included in these expenses. Now the total number of patients treated in all the dispensaries comes to 5,23,834 and the expenses incurred were Rs. 9,173. If we strike the average, we find that the incidence of expenditure per patient comes to 12 annas. On the other hand, the incidence of expenditure per patient in rural areas and small towns is three pies or a little more than that. Is it not strange that as compared with rural areas, 48 times more is spent on patients in the cities and in that hospital which for 24 hours remains under the very nose of the Honourable Minister and where there is a telephone as well? He can inquire all these things and without any delay. He can pay surprise visits to this hospital at any time of the day and whenever he likes. But nobody cares about these things. As I have already pointed out, these expenses do not include the expenditure on instruments or any other expenditure. I have quoted these facts and figures to point out that good care is not taken to ascertain as to what amount should be spent on the patients. In the interests of the public it would be better if the expenses of these hospitals are strictly controlled. I am also aware of the fact that my honourable friend takes interest in his work provided he is free from other things, i.e.,

tours, speeches and other propaganda work. With all this I think that up till now he has not paid any attention towards these facts. The figures that I have quoted relate to the year 1936, but I am of the opinion that last year also the expenses were nearly the same. If he were to examine the accounts of private hospitals he would find that the incidence of expenditure per patient is lower. There is no reason why the incidence of expenditure in the Mayo Hospital should be so high. It can also be lowered. If the Honourable Minister can convince us that during the last two years some improvements have been effected which have further necessitated expenditure, then I will of course think that something has been done to justify this expenditure. But I can say with certainty that so far nothing has been done to justify this expenditure. The Honourable Premier was pleased to say that he had given so many acres of land to Harijans during the last 15 years. This would mean that the Unionist Government is not a child of two years but it came into existence many years before the year of grace 1937. It is strange to see how eager the Government is to take credit for all the good things done by its predecessors and how it becomes a child of two years instead of a grown up person of 15 years when it becomes necessary to excuse its own shortcomings under the plea of a short life! Moreover, if this Government wants to take credit for what has been achieved during the last 15 years, it should also be prepared to shoulder the responsibility for the objectionable features of the administration during that period. It is a pity that the Government does not face facts and take a rational view of things. It believes in cross-examinations, in concealing or shutting its eyes to facts and in trying to explain away the defects in administration of the various departments instead of removing them. Only the other day the Honourable Minister for Development tried to justify the huge salaries drawn by the Ministers by a very ingenious argument. "If we are drawing large salaries," he said, "we are paying large sums by way of income-tax". Now I put it to you, Sir, whether this is an argument at all. I hope the Honourable Minister for Education will not follow in the footsteps of his colleague. Let him face facts and see them in their true perspective. I would draw his attention to the huge expenditure on hospitals in Lahore and Amritsar as compared with the meagre provisions made for medical relief in rural areas. I know that you have established 360 centres of medical relief in rural areas but if you tried to cut down the huge expenditure on the hospitals in Lahore and Amritsar, you could multiply these centres many times. Now, Sir, this is not my department and, therefore, I will only.....

Minister for Education : Whose department is it on your side?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The Honourable Minister should exercise a little patience. He will be speaking just in a few minutes. Anyway Sir, all that I wanted to say is that I am a journalist and, therefore, I am not in my waters while discussing this department. Similar is the case with the Honourable Minister. He is a lawyer and, therefore, a much greater misfit so far as the Medical department is concerned. However, my grievance is that he has done nothing to improve the conditions in this department. There is nothing for which he may claim exclusive credit for himself or the present Government. If you go through the reports on the working of this department, you will find the same old story and the

[Lala Deshbandhu Gupta.]

same stereotyped methods of doing things. If they have provided 2 lakhs of rupees more, that is not a change. Let them tell us where we should look for the Unionist or the Abdul Haye stamp or mark. I submit, Sir, that such a mark is nowhere to be found so far as this department is concerned. I am sure that even the honourable members belonging to the Ministerial party feel in their heart of hearts that the rural areas are being treated very shabbily.

Now let us turn to a very strange state of affairs with regard to the officers employed in this department. First I will draw your attention to the reserved posts, i.e., posts which are directly under the Secretary of State for India. Now, Sir, we are required to retain 17 officers of the I. M. S. in the Punjab but how many officers have we got here? Some time ago my honourable friend Lala Bhim Sen Sachar told the House that although we are not obliged to retain more than 17 I. M. S. officers, yet our benign and munificent Government insists on retaining as many as 29 of them. Now, these 29 officers are responsible for an expenditure of 6 lakhs of rupees. I know that we must retain 17 of them but why have more than that number? Let the Government reduce the number of these officers. I assure my friends that such an act will not make them a disloyal or a Congress ministry. The Government of India Act permits it. By reducing their number you will save about 2½ lakhs of rupees every year which you may spend for providing better medical relief to those poor *kisans* for whom you feel so much and the concern for whose miserable plight is depriving my honourable friend Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani of so much of his weight. You can utilize this money for increasing the number of relief centres so that the rural population may feel that a real change has come in the administration of the province. So long as these poor villagers are dying of malaria for want of quinine worth 2 pice or an anna, your continuous tours and singing your own praises are not going to convince the villagers and *kisans* that you are really their well-wishers. Here in the cities you have magnificent buildings with doctors drawing thousands and nurses drawing two hundred each but in villages they cannot get even first aid. It is, therefore, necessary to get rid of this white elephant of I. M. S. and spend the money thus saved on rural areas.

Then, Sir, my honourable friends opposite often claim that they have increased the number of Indian officers in the services. But may I ask what have they done in this department and whether that Indianization of theirs has really brought some relief to the exchequer? Let me draw their attention to what has been done in Madras. The post of the Principal of the Madras Medical College had been held by an Englishman for eighty years but with one stroke of the pen they got rid not only of the Englishman but also of the I. M. S. officers and now that post is held by an Indian officer of the provincial service. Why cannot you do the same here?

Minister for Education : But how many I. M. S. officers are there in Madras?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : That is a different story.

Minister for Education : Thirty-four.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I do not hold that Congress Governments are ideal Governments. All I am driving at is that if there are some good points in those Governments we should try to incorporate them here in the Punjab. It is from this point of view that I want to quote from " The First Year of Congress Rule in Madras " so far as it relates to medical relief. The following quotation will show what the Madras Government has done in this respect :—

Under the scheme of re-organization of medical services and extension of the system of appointing honorary medical officers, an ultimate saving of Rs. 10 lakhs is expected.

Minister for Education : Expected.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : After all the budget that you have presented is also based on expectations. Again—

In order to economize the expenditure incurred from provincial revenues on medical relief, and to provide greater scope to qualified medical men and women for participating in public service it has been decided to expand the system of appointing Honorary Medical Officers in Government medical institutions. Under the reorganization scheme for the Madras General Hospital which has been sanctioned, the number of unpaid House Surgeons and House Physicians is to be increased and three of the Chief Physicians and three of the Chief Surgeons are to be Honorary Medical Officers.

Whenever we point to such facts concerning other Governments, our honourable friends sitting on the Treasury benches begin to find fault with the Congress. That is not our purpose.

Minister for Education : May I point out one thing? When we rise to make a reply sometimes it is pointed out to us that we need not discuss other provinces. Now that you are allowing this latitude to the honourable members, I assume that it would be open to me to refer to other provinces.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would request the honourable member merely to refer to certain facts if he so desires but not to dilate upon them so that heat may not be generated by insisting upon undesirable comparisons.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : If the Honourable Minister objects, I will not refer to other provinces.

Minister : I have no objection to your discussing the other provinces, but I am only pointing out that I will not be out of order if I refer to them as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The attention of the honourable member has been drawn on more than one occasion to the fact that comparisons should not be instituted between the Government and administration of this province with the Governments and administrations of other provinces. This leads to hot controversy. That is why the honourable member's attention has been drawn to it.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I do not think that this is the sense of the House particularly as I was not referring to the achievements of Madras Government in a laudatory manner. I was only pointing out to the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should go on with his speech.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Certainly, but I think I am perfectly entitled to bring to his notice certain achievements of other Governments; there is no intention to generate any heat and there should be no inferiority complex.

Minister : Not at all. I will welcome this opportunity.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Well, Sir, I now give up further references to the Congress Governments and will confine my speech to matters of principle only. I think it would be a sound principle to encourage private medical practitioners to act as honorary medical officers in the Government institutions like the Medical College, the Mayo Hospital and medical schools. A subject that can well be taught by Indians should not necessarily engage an Englishman. That is done in Bombay and I wonder if the reputation of the medical college of that place stands lower than our medical college on this account. We can also do the same and spend the saving thus effected on the rural dispensaries. That is the way to lessen the expenditure that is now incurred in the cities. Our honourable friends sitting on the Treasury benches claim to be leading and not following other provinces but I would ask them to quote one instance in which they have done so. Mere tall talk will not convince us.

Another way to cut down the expenditure of the urban hospitals is to increase the efficiency of the staff employed in them. There are any number of efficient private doctors to whom the doors of public services are closed and who, if permitted to work honorarily, will prove of great help to the public as well as the Government. There is no scope for them otherwise. I am afraid the Honourable Minister for Education has not devoted attention to this aspect of the question. Had he done so, a considerable money could be saved for use in the rural areas.

There is yet another burden on the province which can easily be avoided. This is the heavy expenditure incurred by appointing European or Anglo-Indian nurses in our hospitals. In fact the European nurses hold the monopoly in this field. They are given high salaries. If Indian nurses were employed instead, a large saving would be effected. Fortunately our learned Parliamentary Secretary, Begum Shah Nawaz, is at the helm of affairs at present and I hope she would see that in future our own sisters are appointed as nurses in the Mayo Hospital. The uninvited guests should make room for our own sisters, as they have already cost a good deal to the poor tax-payers of the Punjab. I may add that boys should also be employed to nurse the patients in the hospitals. (*Laughter*). Is it necessary that all the nurses should be female? There is no harm if men are also given this chance. I am serious. Male nurses would give better service if they are given the necessary training for a year or two. The European nurses are like white elephants to us. They do not serve us; they rule over the patients. The poor patients take them for officers and feel over-awed. They might nurse a man in the European attire but they do not care for a poor khadi-clad man. At least that is so in Delhi, if not in Lahore. People get frightened by them. Such are their ways, manners and costumes as would make the poor patients tremble when these nurses approach them. They begin to look round for fear of having done something amiss at the approach of these

European nurses. The patients think they are *Memsahibs*. If men are encouraged to do nursing in the hospitals, matters would improve and that is why I have made this suggestion in all seriousness.

There is still another matter which requires your consideration and that is that there is going on an unhealthy competition between the private practitioners and the doctors who draw fat salaries, charge fees and are also provided with a good many facilities like that of X-Ray. This competition is proving detrimental to the interests of the people. Can you not find out means to get out of this difficulty by making those who get fat salaries more useful to the poor? I do not suggest that the doctors should be debarred from private practice. But this also you cannot deny that they are abusing their concessions and thereby harming the interests of the poor. Previously the I. M. S. officers were used to be taken by competition. Then merit only counted. But now they come in by favouritism. A patient entrusted to their care cannot survive. (*Laughter*). The Assistant Surgeon however capable he may be, is never entrusted with a major operation because in a way it reflects upon the I. M. S. officer. In fact the I. M. S. officer is neither a surgeon nor a physician. He is no doubt a good administrator. He should be debarred from dealing with cases for which he is not qualified at all. Let competent assistant surgeons perform major operations.

There is yet another very serious grievance of the people to which I would like particularly to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary and that is as to how long allopathy will reign supreme in this country. There are indigenous systems of medicine working as successfully as the western system of medicine. In Delhi, I cannot quote exact figures but I can say this much, indigenous systems of medicine are far less expensive than the western system of medicine. I think the western system of medicine is twenty times more costly than the indigenous system of medicine. Besides, under the latter system the patient has at least the satisfaction of being attended to by an Hakim or a Vaid and not by an officer. Now that you have taken the rural reconstruction work in hand and are anxious to provide medical relief to the poor, may I ask you if you can arrange to send doctors and provide up-to-date medical relief to 34,000 villages in the Punjab? If you cannot do that because enough funds are not available, why don't you reduce the incidence of expenditure on the western system of medicine? Why not try to encourage the indigenous systems of medicine and homœopathy, which has also proved an effective and inexpensive system of medicine in this country? Fortunately we have got very few complicated cases in rural areas in which the examination of urine, blood and sputum may be essential. The ailments of the rural people are simple enough to be dealt with by mediocres. There you will find the majority of the people suffering from cough, bad cold and simple hurt. You have now issued a questionnaire as to how medical relief can be provided to rural areas on a large scale. But I am at a loss to understand what you have been doing for the last two years. Have you ever considered what is being done in other places in this connection? I do not want to refer you to the Congress provinces because the very name of the Congress serves as a red rag to the bull. I have already referred you to an Imperial town, that is Delhi, where the indigenous systems of medicine

[Lala Deshbandhu Gupta.]

are working very successfully. My friends over there have not cared to deal with the rural problem properly. They have always been very loud in their professions but have practically done nothing so far in this respect. If you want to afford medical relief to rural areas on a large scale, you should encourage indigenous systems of medicine. There are teachers of village schools who, if given a little training in medicine, can prove very useful to the rural people. I have been in jail for two or three years and seen with my own eyes a prisoner dispensing medicines to his fellow prisoners. There were only ten bottles of medicines numbered 1, 2, 3 to 10. The jail doctor was always busy otherwise. He had no time to attend to patients. The prisoner dispenser attended to them. Even this arrangement produced good results. The rural problem is a simple one. Let a medical board be appointed to prescribe medicines for general diseases to be administered to the patients on the spot. The serious cases may be sent to the hospitals nearby. In villages you have teachers and patwaris who, if given some training in medicinal treatment, can be very helpful in affording medical relief to the villagers. (Interruption). My friend is an experienced lawyer. He differs with me on this point. I am stating what I actually feel about this matter. My friend can also make constructive suggestions if he has got any to offer in this connection.

Medicines like aphrodisiacs are being advertised in the most objectionable language. These advertisements and posters are full of such captivating but obscene catch phrases as no decent person would like to read. The Bombay Government has to some extent directed its attention to this matter but nothing has so far been done here in the Punjab. I would appeal to the Government to take early steps not only to stem this tide of obscene literature but also to save the population of the Punjab from the quack remedies with which the market is being flooded to-day. Let the Government appoint a board which should test all these medicines and declare their opinion about the efficiency or otherwise of each medicine which is advertised in the newspapers or by posters and hand bills. Then if you do not want to prohibit the sale of such medicines by law you can start counter propaganda by declaring that such and such a medicine has been found useless or injurious and, therefore, nobody should use it. That is being done in America and there is no reason why we should not follow this good example. This is how you can imprint your mark on the administration of the province.

Now I turn to the use in our hospitals of medicines, instruments and other articles made in India. In this respect the Punjab certainly lags behind all other provinces. May I ask whether the Honourable Minister has taken any steps to find out what medicines and instruments are being prepared in India? Has he ever compared their prices with those of the foreign articles? So far as the medical administration is concerned, Delhi is unfortunately under the Punjab. There I have been a member of the Medical Sub-committee and my experience is that no encouragement is given to indigenous goods. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that encouragement of Indian goods will check the outflow of our money to foreign countries and will go a long way to relieve unemployment.

As regards touring hospitals, the United Provinces Government has adopted a scheme of midwifery aid and relief in maternity cases. The province has been divided into parts and a relief lorry has been reserved for every part which not only supplies first aid in maternity cases but also takes the patients to the near-by hospitals if necessary. This is a very useful scheme and we should not hesitate to introduce it in our province. Let no false notions of superiority or priority stand in our way. If another province has adopted a good scheme, there is no harm in our following in the footsteps of that province.

Then I want to draw the attention of the Government to the paucity of tuberculosis hospitals in the province. Nobody can deny the fact that the present number of such hospitals is not enough to meet the needs of the province. A hospital opened in Delhi had to multiply the number of beds three times in the span of no more than one year. A good many patients from the Ambala as well as other districts of the Punjab flocked to that hospital but had to return disappointed because that hospital is meant for the patients of the Delhi province only. This disappointment of the Punjabi patients should suffice to impress upon the Honourable Minister the urgent need of opening more hospitals for treatment of tuberculosis. In this connection I may draw your attention to another matter. A very magnificent building belonging to the Government was lying useless in Karnal. Some time ago a committee was appointed to consider certain matters including the use to which this building could be put. I was invited by the Civil Surgeon and I went to Karnal at my own expenses. But the agenda did not include any useful item. Anyway, when I saw that building lying useless it struck me that it could be used for a tuberculosis hospital or eye operation centre. I hear that an eye operation centre has now been opened there. There may be many other such buildings which could be put to such use with advantage.

Another matter to which I would draw pointed attention of the Honourable Minister is the issue of false certificates in medico-legal cases and for the benefit of the Government servants who may be in need of leave of absence. In such cases the poor who cannot pay exorbitant fees to obtain false certificate have to suffer even though they may be on the right. Similarly there have been cases where a certain Government servant obtained sick leave for a month or so on a false certificate, but when the Insurance Company with which he had insured his life came to know of it and demanded a certificate of health after the expiry of that leave he replied back in writing that he never had been ill and the certificate was obtained only because he wanted leave from his office. These certificates are issued by your white elephants drawing huge salaries. I suggest that really drastic action be taken against 9 or 10 of such persons so that others may desist from this objectionable practice.

All the submissions that I have made have not been made with the object of levelling criticism at the Government. On the other hand I had tried my level best to point out the flaws and the weak points of the department now under the consideration of the House. So far about this department we have not said anything. We were of the opinion, let us wait and see whether this Government could do any thing. It was possible that they

[Lala Deshbandhu Gupta.]

might do something even if they did it at a very late hour. We also thought that the Persian adage *دیر است که دیر* might come true in their case and they might mend themselves. But I am constrained to remark that my friends claim too much but work less.

In the end I may say that not only care but great care is needed to work these departments. If my honourable friend wishes to spend the money in such a manner so that many more people may benefit, he should change his policy. As a matter of fact the house requires complete overhauling. If my friends simply go on increasing the expenditure in the name of medical relief, that would not do. Even if the Honourable Finance Minister increases the expenditure from one lakh to two lakhs that cannot serve any useful purpose. If mere increasing of expenditures can be a consolation to my friends, it is a consolation to them only and they may take pride in it, but it is no consolation so far as this side of the House is concerned.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, my honourable friend, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, stated in the very beginning of his long speech that he was not concerned as to what sum has been allotted by the Government for this department. He admitted that the Government might have spent much. In the course of his speech he dilated on one thing only, that is, that the expenses that have been allotted to this department have not been properly handled. But I may submit that this is not such a thing which should be lightly passed over. If we study the budgets of other provinces, we would find that our Government has allotted much more. During the general discussion of the budget I was not given a chance to speak; otherwise I would have said something about the working of other departments. But so far as the Medical and Public Health Department is concerned, I can say without fear of contradiction and on my own personal experience that it is working very efficiently. I congratulate my friend, the Honourable Minister for Education, on it. As compared with other departments, his department has done much more. During the months of December and January last, a kind of influenza epidemic broke out in my own district. In the rural areas many people died of it. I have witnessed with my own eyes that in spite of the fact that in some *ilagas* there were rural dispensaries, the Public Health officers at once detailed one or two doctors and some dispensers to do the relief work in the flu-stricken area. These doctors and their staff went to that *ilaga* where the epidemic was taking its heavy toll and without charging any fees from the public helped the patients and provided medicines to them. The result was that in a very short time the epidemic was stamped out.

If we study the report for the year 1936-37 we would find that the total number of dispensaries in the Punjab is 961, out of which 687 are rural dispensaries. The total number of villages is not 34,000 as my honourable friend has stated but their number is 37,000. No doubt 687 dispensaries are not sufficient for 37,000 villages, but I know and the whole House knows that the Government has never expressed its satisfaction over this number of dispensaries, and it does not think that this number is sufficient for the whole of the Punjab. In this connection I may also state that the Government has prepared a scheme for extensive rural reconstruction and

includes the building of houses and the setting up of dispensaries and also the cleansing of the rural areas. We hope that after some time this scheme will bring in some revenue as well.

Besides, I wish to point out that my honourable friend, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, stated in the course of his speech that in rural areas one medical practitioner serves 22,500 persons. In this connection I want to state some grievances of my own *ilaga*. As compared with other districts, the Rawalpindi district lags behind in this respect. I particularly draw the attention of the Government to this question. If we cast a glance on the neighbouring districts, we would find that the population of the Jhelum district is a little over 5 lakhs and the population of Campbellpur is also 5 lakhs. But against these the population of the Rawalpindi district is nearly 684,000. We find that in the Campbellpur district the number of rural medical dispensaries is 22 and Jhelum proportionately is well equipped. In the Rawalpindi district the number of dispensaries is only 13. Is it not strange that a district with a population of 5 lakhs has 22 dispensaries and a district with a population of over 6 lakhs has only 13 dispensaries? I do not see any reason why this step-motherly treatment is meted out to my district. In my opinion this is not justified. I, therefore, request that the Government should give full attention to this fact. The inhabitants of that district pay their share of revenue and all other dues of the Government. I do not see any reason why the same kind of facilities should not be provided to the people of my *ilaga* as they have been provided to the inhabitants of other districts.

The second thing to which I wish to draw your attention is that as the people living in rural areas are generally illiterate and have practically no knowledge about the medicines, whether certain medicines suit them or not and whether they are useful or not, something should be done so that they might not be hoodwinked by the clever doctors. As they have no knowledge about the medicines the result generally is that the sub-assistant surgeons in charge of rural dispensaries do not give them proper medicines. For example when any villager goes to a dispensary and tells the doctor that he is suffering from fever, the doctor, instead of giving him quinine No. 1 gives him cinchona. The effect of taking cinchona is that they generally vomit out what they have already taken and thus the already ill-nourished people empty their stomachs. Sometimes when protargol is needed they apply zinc lotion to the eyes of the poor patients. It is, therefore, requested that the Government should take special notice of such cases and endeavour to stop this quackery in the province.

5 P.M.

Another submission which I like to make is that the scope of rise for a sub-assistant surgeon is hopelessly limited. A sub-assistant surgeon cannot be promoted to the rank of an assistant surgeon. He cannot aspire to draw a higher pay than his actual scale of pay. Of course those selected few who succeed in crossing the efficiency bar get a little higher pay but it seldom happens they can be better than sub-assistant surgeons. Otherwise once a person is appointed to the rank of sub-assistant surgeon his fate is sealed for ever. The result is that when the poor doctor fails to find any opening he tries to implement his income by resorting to unfair means.

[Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan.]

I, therefore, request the Honourable Minister either to lift the ban on these doctors or to prescribe any examination by passing which they may be promoted to higher ranks. In the hope of getting better chances I am sure, they would not stoop to unfair and illegal methods of increasing their incomes.

Now I would like to say a few words about the Provincial Hospital Committees appointed by the Government. This committee may serve a useful purpose provided the Government pays a little more attention towards its working. At present a meeting of the committees is held once a year under the presidentship of a civil surgeon. But I am sorry to say that neither any agenda nor any programme is placed before its members. It is no use asking these members to tour about the province and visit the hospitals with a view to see whether the phials of medicines are neatly and artistically arranged. What we require the committee to do is that it should endeavour to bring about a healthy change in the mentality of the doctors. They should be advised to accord sympathetic and humane treatment to their patients. With these remarks, Sir, I hope and trust that the Honourable Minister would try to remove our grievances.

Sardar Rur Singh (Ferozepore East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the honourable members who adorn this Chamber have not come here in their individual capacity but have been sent by their voters to ventilate their grievances and get them redressed. The voters are our masters and they rely on us to do our duty by them and thus a great responsibility rests on our shoulders. But unfortunately the procedure in this House and the short time at our disposal do not allow an opportunity to every member to give expression to the wants and desires of his constituency. However, now that I have been given an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the demand for Medical department, I would submit that the people whom I have the honour to represent in this House form 85 per cent of the population of this province and earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow. But as my honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta has already stated, it is clear from the figures of expenditure that this 85 per cent of the population is being treated very shabbily. When the larger portion of the income of the Government is derived from the rural areas, it is but just that you should spend on their welfare more than you what spend for the benefit of the people living in urban areas. The present Government professes to be a Government of zamindars and is never tired of showering lip sympathy on the rural population but in practice it has proved as unmindful of the needs of the zamindars as its bureaucratic predecessor. It is an undeniable fact that the number of dispensaries and hospitals in the rural areas is not enough to meet the needs of the rural population. But the Government is not prepared to raise its little finger to redress this long standing grievance of those areas. I suggest, Sir, that the money spent on a single hospital at the headquarters of a district can suffice to open the requisite number of dispensaries in the whole district.

Then I wish to draw your attention to the love of our Government for medicines prepared in foreign countries. All our money is spent on foreign goods in this department. It would appear from the attitude of the Government that our Ministers are the agents of the British capitalists

I would, therefore, urge upon the Honourable Minister to direct his attention to the advisability of purchasing for our hospitals medicines and other articles prepared in India. Unless Unani and Ayurvedic physicians are encouraged by the State, no good will accrue to the poor villagers. They will at any rate prove more useful in the rural areas. The treatment meted out to the illiterate patients in the Government hospitals and dispensaries is too bad to be described here. The doctors and compounders take bribes from them and treat them with contempt if they cannot afford any money. The richer classes reap the fullest advantage from the dispensaries. They also take undue advantage of their position and wealth. I am not competent to speak on the subject of medical relief as I am not a doctor, but I can very well describe the corruption in the medical services. The *kisans* are not treated well by the doctors while in fact it is only the *kisans* who pay for them. I am afraid unless the Honourable Minister pays special attention to this aspect of the question, things will not improve. If, however, things will remain as they are at present, the poverty stricken agriculturists will turn round and hate the present Government more than they hated the previous foreign regime. They expect much more from the present Ministry as it is composed of their own kith and kin. The alien people had little sympathy with us. But the present Government is expected to be more solicitous of the welfare of the destitute agriculturists. The Unionists should not rest content with lip-sympathy. They should prove their worth by practice. They should open in every town a dispensary for the benefit of the country side. They should also encourage the native systems of medical relief.

One word more and I have done. There is a great dearth of trained midwives and nurses in the rural areas. This is the chief cause of mortality among children and their mothers. Adequate medical relief is not forthcoming in the villages at the time of labour case. I hope that the Government will pay special heed to what I have said and provide trained midwives and nurses in the rural areas. The Government would do well to shun off their capitalistic mentality and outlook. Their subordinate officers should also do the same. They care more for the intelligentsia than for the simple folks. The poor people of the villages merit special or at least as good attention on the part of the medical officers and officials as the latter devote to the rich and educated classes. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) ; Sir, I do not propose to make any lengthy speech. To begin with I have to offer my felicitations to the Government because as far as the question of providing medical relief both in the urban as well as in the rural areas is concerned, the administration has been fairly good. The doctors employed by Government take a real interest in their patients. There are, however, one or two points which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Education, as they were brought to his notice at Montgomery when he happened to go there on a tour. I mean to say that the system of requiring the rural doctors to tour in the *ilaga* has not been very satisfactory. After all what is the use of a doctor visiting a village once in a month? One dose of medicine will not heal the patient. What is required is that branches should be opened in all big villages and a dispenser appointed

[Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana.]

there. If the doctor goes once a month and makes an entry in the chaukidar's register to that effect, the patients of the village will receive little benefit from that, because the doctor will return to his head-quarters leaving them to their fate.

My second point is that the poor agriculturists can ill-afford to pay the X-Ray fees if and when they want to have an X-Ray examination of their fractured bones or of lungs. My humble suggestion in regard to this is that the X-Ray examination should be made free for the humble peasants and villagers. (*Premier*: No fee is charged from those who are admitted in the Mayo Hospital).

Another point that I want to make is that the people in the rural areas often need visits of the doctors who are in the employ of the Government but these doctors charge exorbitant fees from them. The salaried doctors should be asked to demand a small fee of Rs. 2 only for one visit. That is about the rural dispensaries. Coming to the cities like Lahore, we find that medical officers working in the Mayo Hospital or in the Medical College receive, on the one hand, fat salaries from the Government and on the other hand, charge high fees of Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 for one visit. What they do is that after receiving these exorbitant fees, they test the phlegm of the patients at the cost of the Government in the public laboratory. I would like to have these fees reduced to Rs. 5 only. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat and hope that the Government will give due weight and consideration to the humble suggestions that I have made.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban): I had no intention to take part in to-day's discussion, but certain statements have been made by some honourable members which have compelled me to offer a few observations on the department under discussion. You perhaps do not know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that medicine is my hobby. I have studied almost every system of medicine that is available in English literature and so I can speak with a certain amount of authority on the subject. I have also visited a number of hospitals in this province as well as in a few other provinces. Not only that. During my three visits to Europe and America I spent a fairly good time in visiting hospitals and studying the conditions there and the medical relief that is afforded there to patients. The main speaker on this subject on behalf of our party, I refer to Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, has done full justice to the subject and I do not think he has left out any points which could be considered fundamental or important. But there is one thing which he said with which I would like to say that I entirely disagree and that is the question of boy nurses instead of female nurses. I know that in certain quarters there is an honest difference of opinion on this subject. This subject is discussed not only here but also in Europe and America, whether boys can take the place of female nurses with efficiency. As far as my opinion is concerned, I feel that woman is more suitable for this purpose than man, that nature made woman for healing the wounds of man and the gentle heart of a woman or a girl will accelerate the healing process than the hand of a boy. I doubt whether nature made boys for this purpose. Therefore I think that the Punjab Government or any other Government should never entertain this suggestion of replacing female nurses by boys.

The one important thing that I wanted to refer to is this. In my opinion, unless there is a strong Minister in charge of the Medical Department, there cannot be any reform in the Medical Department. Without casting any personal aspersion on my honourable friend or upon any Minister for that department in any other province, I would say that most of the Ministers for Medical Department have proved weak-minded persons. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we talk of politics, we talk of swaraj. Sometimes I begin to feel that we have too much of politics and I am still looking forward for a statesman who gives proper attention to the health of the people or to the medical relief. I have yet to find a statesman who attaches as much importance to the subject of medical relief as he attaches to certain other beneficent departments. I think that the Medical Department in this province is starving in spite of the fact that there is an addition of about two lakhs in the Medical budget. I still feel and honestly feel that the Medical Department in this province at least is starving and that money is not being properly spent. Why do I consider so? It is because the biggest trade unionism in the world, in my opinion, is the medical fraternity. The medical fraternity has got a coterie of persons, a junta of persons, who would not like any other person to get in to interfere in their matters and hence the difficulty of reforming the Medical department in this province or perhaps in any other province. I have already said that I am not casting any personal aspersion against any particular Minister. But the medical group, the Medical Council or those people who are in the medical services in the Government, are such hide-bound reactionaries, are so narrow-minded and petty-minded, are so much prejudiced people, that they cannot rise above these things and would not allow any Minister to effect the much-needed reforms. They would not like even a charming person like the Parliamentary Secretary, Begum Sahib, to step in. They are such hide-bound reactionaries. If the Honourable Minister wants to effect any medical reform or wants that medical reform should reach the poor people in the rural areas, then he shall have to prove himself a strong-minded person. He should understand one thing clearly. It is that if he goes on with his present policy, which is a negative policy, a policy of acquiescence and one of yielding to the dictates of the medical fraternity in this province, then I have no hope and I am very much pessimistic about giving that medical relief to the poor people in this province which is absolutely necessary. We were just now discussing the question of I. M. S. officers. My honourable friend, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, referred to this matter and the reply given by the Honourable Education Minister was that this reform has not taken place in any other province. So far as I know perhaps he is right. Therefore I said that it requires a very strong man to take courage in both hands and do the needful. The reply given by my honourable friend, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, was very apt and very pertinent. The Punjab Government claims to take a lead in matters of reform; why does not the Punjab Government make it a question of issue? If the Punjab Government is courageous enough they should rise equal to the occasion. Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan stated they were prepared to resign if a certain agrarian piece of legislation was not passed. The Honourable Minister for Development also gave a similar threat. Why cannot that threat be given to the Governor now if he insists that he would have more than 17 I. M. S. officers in the Punjab? Are the Government prepared to make it an issue, to make it a question of honour, so that the

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

salary of those I. M. S. officers over and above the number 17 may be utilized for other purposes? (*An honourable member*: Have the other provinces done it?) My honourable friend has not been listening to my speech. I am discussing the Medical department as such. It is no good argument that it has not been done in other provinces. We possess brains and we must think of the welfare of the province for ourselves. Irrespective of what other people are doing, if a good suggestion is put forward it should be entertained. As I said it does not make me at all happy and it does no credit to the Government that it has given additional two lakhs to this beneficent department, the Medical department, if that money is not properly spent. One of the questions arising out of that is while we are, according to our agreement with the Secretary of State for India, bound to employ only 17 I. M. S. officers, why should we have a single I. M. S. officer over and above that number? We have now 29 of them in the Medical department and in all we have 34 I. M. S. officers in the Punjab. What is the need of having all of them? If the Punjab Government really meant that it should offer a threat to the Governor on the agrarian Bills, it can offer a threat to the Governor in this matter also. But it perhaps knew that the Governor would not veto the Bills. It was not expected that the Governor would even think of vetoing that legislation. But here this is a very important matter. Here the question is that, when the Medical Department is starving, we are having high salaried people and who are they?

Premier: With protected rights.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: I do not want to be interfered in this because I would be prepared to hear the Honourable Premier get up and say, "yes, we would take a step in this direction and we would be prepared to fight with the Governor."

Premier: The Governor does not come into the picture.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: The reply that was given by my honourable friend was that they had no hand in the matter and their salaries are non-voted and are charged to the revenues of the province. It is not necessary. If the Governor is going to take so much money out of the revenues of the province and declare that as a charge on the revenues, then it is the duty of the Punjab Government to fight with the Governor and to thrash this matter out with him because we are not bound to have more than 17 I. M. S. officers. Why should we have them over and above that number?

Premier: It is not the Governor, it is the Government of India Act.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: According to the agreement we have to take only 17. We have 29 instead, in the Medical department and 5 in the Public Health Department, 34 in all.

Premier: Protected rights. See the Government of India Act, chapter on services.

Mian Abdul Aziz: Is the number stated in the Government of India Act?

Premier : It is stated that those with protected rights will not be touched.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Only up to 17.

Premier : My honourable friend has not read the Government of India Act.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : We are in a great difficulty so far as finance is concerned. It is yet to be seen whether provincial autonomy is a blessing or a curse. We have yet to see that. As the Honourable Finance Minister has several times complained about the rigidity and inelasticity of the provincial finance, I quite realize the difficulties of the Punjab Government in allotting more money for the beneficent departments, although I know that there is a great scope for retrenchment. Money can be taken out and spent on medical relief schemes. But the Medical department should have only one ideal before it. In view of the fact that more money is not forthcoming and that the finances of the province are inelastic and rigid, there is only one suggestion that we have to make and the Honourable Minister for Education, I hope, would lend his ear—not only his ear but also his heart—to the suggestion and that is this. The Medical department is encumbered with high salaried Government officers who are, besides, creating an unhealthy competition with the private practitioners. Thus they have got little time to devote to the patients who are in Government hospitals. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have visited quite a few hospitals in the province and I can say from personal experience that the treatment meted out to the patients in a large number of hospitals in the province is very, very disappointing. It is not only disappointing but to use a right word, it is sometimes very tragic. Why is that so? It is because the civil surgeons and assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons are allowed private practice. I think the one step which the Government should take is that it should issue orders that these Government servants in the hospitals will not be allowed to carry on private practice. That is one great step in the direction of reform. If you do that, then, I think you would have done at least ten per cent. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these people have got no time to do research work, they are not merely meant to give medical relief to the patients, they should also have some opportunity and time to do some research because particularly in allopathy where the theories are shifting like summer clouds or like the heart of a woman, research work is absolutely necessary. But these people who are engaged day and night in private practice, creating unhealthy competition with private practitioners, have no time to devote either to the patients or to research work. When other Government servants who get salaries from the Government are not allowed to do any private work, why should these doctors who get regular salaries from the Government be allowed to have a right to practise privately? I fail to see that. I am glad to note in this respect that in Madras, the Madras Government have discontinued the permission given to these medical men to have private practice.

Minister for Education : They have not. It is a wrong report in the press. I made inquiries and I was told that they have not.

Minister for Public Works : The whole thing has fallen flat.

Minister for Education : I read a reference in a newspaper, but on inquiry I was told that they have not passed any order as yet.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Thank you very much for the information. But is it that they have not passed any order *as yet*? This means that the Madras Government are considering whether they should pass such orders or not. If this is what the Honourable Minister for Education means, then this also is a welcome step in the direction and if the Punjab Government also gives some such assurance that the Punjab Government will consider this matter, then that would be a good thing.

2nd Lieutenant Bhai Fateh Jang Singh : No. That would be a great blunder.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I read it in the papers and I do not know whether it is mentioned here in this book or not.

2nd Lieutenant Bhai Fateh Jang Singh : You want to deprive the public of their expert knowledge.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : They are already paid for it by the Government. This is the first step which the Minister for Education should take, that these people should not be allowed private practice. In the next instance, I would suggest another thing which is more important than that. If we want that there should be more hospitals, if we want that these hospitals which are already existing should run efficiently, then private practitioners should be allowed to go there and offer their services gratis. This is what is happening in Bombay. I was once in an hospital in Bombay, called the J. J. Hospital which, I think, is one of the most efficient hospitals in India. There some of the most eminent professors of medicines, some of the greatest celebrities of medicine, are working absolutely honorarily. You have got certain servants who come into Government service by favouritism, who are not students of medicine, and who have perhaps learnt the art of healing for earning their livelihood, but there are medical celebrities who are earnest students of medicine, who can offer their services without any charge to the Government or the authorities of the hospital. If you permit them to practice in the hospitals, that would perhaps lead to efficiency. I think that is the one way in which we can afford a great amount of medical relief to the poor people. I have had talks with a large number of doctors in this province and they have assured me that there are in this province quite a number of good doctors who are prepared to offer their services to work in the Mayo Hospital or other district hospitals in the province without any charge. Why not avail of their services? I make bold to say and I consider this as a most important part of my speech that unless that is done, the hospitals in this province cannot be run efficiently and that proper medical aid cannot be given to the public or even to the rural areas. I trust the Honourable Minister will consider this point.

Minister for Education : What about Homœopathy?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I am reading here from the booklet called 'First Year of Congress Rule in Madras', published by the Madras Legislative Congress Party, Congress House, Madras—

In order to economize the expenditure incurred from provincial revenues on medical relief and to provide greater scope of qualified medical men and women for participating in public service, it has been decided to expand the system of

appointing Honorary Medical officers in Government medical institutions. Under the organization scheme for the Madras General Hospital which has been sanctioned the number of unpaid House Surgeons and House Physicians is to be increased and three of the chief Physicians and three of the chief Surgeons are to be Honorary Medical officers.

The Honourable Minister said that it was merely a suggestion and it has not been put into practice.

Minister for Education : You were suggesting that private practice has been stopped in Madras. I said no. I did not refer to this.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : That suggestion was a part of the larger suggestion I was making.

Minister for Education : You are talking of certain doctors.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : At the outset of my speech I said that so far as the Medical department was concerned I was prepared to eschew politics from medicine as a social reformer, and I also said that I was not concerned with the fact whether a particular Congress Government had been able to do a particular thing or not. I have my differences with the Bombay Government in this respect. There is there a Minister, who is a doctor himself, in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department. The treatment he has meted out to a particular system of medicine is far from satisfactory. I may tell the Minister that I have had talks with some of the Ministers in other provinces and some of them have assured me that this is a very useful suggestion and that as soon as circumstances permit, they would put it into operation. I do not know whether so far they have done or not, but I put this suggestion very seriously to the Minister for Education and if he thinks that by allotting Rs. 44,000 for clothing, etc., and several other items in the Mayo Hospital he is increasing the budget to 48 lakhs, it is merely tinkering. This will not do. There is a very small sum of money at our disposal and we have to see how to make the best use of that. Under the circumstances I think we must have a large number of volunteers from competent doctors who are prepared to offer their services absolutely gratis. Why should we not avail of their services? Just as I said at the beginning of my speech, if the Minister for Education was merely in the hands of the services, he would not be able to put this suggestion into practice. I appeal with all the force and earnestness at my command that he should prove himself to be a courageous Minister because it is only a courageous Minister who will not have any interference from some members of the medical fraternity and thus will be able to put this suggestion into practice.

The last point which I want to refer to is this. While the Government has appointed a committee to go into the question of giving recognition to the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine, the Government has so far not taken any step which should aim at the recognition of Homœopathy which, in my opinion—and I am competent to express an opinion, having made a comparative study of the various systems of medicine—is the most rational and scientific system of medicine. I do not want to waste the time of the House by expatiating on the scientific principles on which it is based or the advantages which this system offers because I am afraid I will thereby bore you or other honourable members of the House. This is the only opportunity which I have got before me of giving expression to my susceptibilities on this subject. The question of Homœopathy in my

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

opinion is one of the most important questions with which we are faced. We cannot give any adequate relief to the patients without the system of Homœopathy.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

I have not been able to understand the apathetic attitude that the Unionist Government has adopted towards this question. I may remind my honourable friend that Homœopathy was born in Germany and to-day in Germany which is the home of Allopathy, and there is no country in the world where Allopathy has touched the acme of progress as in Germany and Austria, Homœopathy is not merely recognized by the Government but it has also been recognized by the German Medical Council. Here unfortunately when the question comes before the Inspector-General of Hospitals or other members of his fraternity, they pooh-poo Homœopathy and do not recognize it. They are prepared to give recognition to the Ayurvedic and Unani systems, although they say that these systems are not scientific. I wonder why they fight shy to recognize the Homœopathic system which is more in accord with the latest scientific discoveries. The Honourable Minister should rise above prejudices which have been generated by the medical fraternity of the Punjab and should accord recognition to Homœopathy. It is a pity that while quite a large number of members on the other side of the House have been benefited through Homœopathy, they have so far been ungrateful to this system of medicine and show their apathy towards this system of medicine. I understand some of the honourable members of the Cabinet are conversant, after the fashion, with the elementary principles of Homœopathy and yet, they have not moved their little finger in this behalf. They should know that in a country like India and particularly in a poor province like the Punjab, the only system of medicine which can reach the poor people is Homœopathy. I know there is scope for Ayurvedic and Unani: their medicines are very cheap. I am not again giving recognition to these systems, but I make bold to say that Homœopathy is the one rational scientific system of medicine which can go to the very poor people in this province because it is the cheapest system in the world. You will be surprised to hear that we can treat about one hundred patients with Homœopathic medicine worth one anna only. Not only that, when the time comes when this Government takes this question in their hand and manufactures the medicines here in this province, we will be able to treat one thousand patients with medicine worth one anna. At present they are not prepared here: we import them from abroad and the middle man gets the profit. Still we can treat at least one hundred patients with medicine costing one anna. Apart from other grounds, I think cheapness is the one fundamental argument because the poor can avail themselves of it. I have already said that the Medical Council in Germany have accorded recognition to it. Not only that, when His Majesty the King was indisposed he got the Homœopathic treatment from Sir John Weir who is a physician to His Majesty the King. His Majesty got pure and simple Homœopathic treatment. There are Allopaths practising Homœopathy and certain so-called Homœopaths practising Allopathy. Homœopathy is considered to be the best system. When His Majesty was suffering from influenza which threatened to develop

into broncho-pneumonia his own physician, Dr. Weir, treated him with Homœopathic medicines and he was all right within a few days. This brings me to the question of quacks in this system and in the other systems of medicine, for instance Ayurvedic and Unani systems and in Allopathy itself. When I see with my own eyes the untold harm done to the people of this province and in other provinces by those people who get a few degrees added to their names which are bought for a few rupees, I shudder to think what would be the fate of suffering humanity. What has the Government done in this direction? Does not the Government know that in this province there are so many people who are taking undue advantage of the fact that Homœopathy is not recognized, that Ayurved is not recognized, that Unani is not recognized and they are playing with medicines which are very very dangerous? There is an impression abroad that Homœopathy is harmless. This is absolutely wrong. Having profound knowledge of Homœopathy I can say that it is not harmless. No drug in this world, whether Ayurvedic or Unani or Homœopathic is harmless. A man who says that does not know the law of nature so far as drugs are concerned. If a drug cannot kill, it cannot cure. This is a fact which all the authorities on drugs have accepted in the domain of science. But the Honourable Minister of Education is sitting with comfort on those benches and has not moved his little finger to curb the element which has proved ruinous to suffering people in this province and which is taking undue advantage of the inertia of the Government. It is high time that the Punjab Government should do something. I am speaking with earnestness because I feel very acutely on this subject. When the question of finance comes, when the question of education comes, the Ministers get up and say, "Oh, we have done this and we have done that," but I ask my honourable friend, what has he done in this connection? There are so many people in the province—those hakims, vaidas, homœopaths and allopaths—who are proving a danger to the State. It is high time that the authorities of the State step in and not take individualistic view and state that it is not the business of the Government to interfere in such cases. If it is not business of the Government, I would say that the Government should resign because we want a Government which takes care of our patients, which takes care of our suffering people. Our suffering people are not being cared for. I say with earnestness and I appeal to the Honourable Minister of Education to appoint a committee to look into this matter. I know that he would say that they have already appointed a committee and that committee is going into that question. That is the question of indigenous medicine, but why keep clear of Homœopathy? Why not appoint a similar committee simultaneously, side by side with that? That is the point which I want to stress. Perhaps the Honourable Minister of Education may be sympathetic to my suggestion of giving recognition to Homœopathy but the question that I want to ask is why has he been keeping mum and sitting silent over this question so far? Why did he give preference to Ayurvedic and Unani medicine over Homœopathy? There is already preference given to Allopathy. I make bold to say that a certain portion of Allopathy would have gone to dogs if there had not been accorded State recognition to this system of medicine. Before I resume my seat I want to make one thing clear. It is very unfortunate that Homœopathy came to be regarded as a separate system of medicine. It should have been in the fitness of things that Homœopathy should have been recognized as a

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

part of general medicine. If Vaccine-therapy and organo-therapy could be regarded as a part of general medicine, if electro-therapy or physio-therapy could be regarded as a part of general medicine and so many other therapies and systems of medicines could be taken as part of general medicine, why not Homœopathy be also taken likewise? The great man who was the founder of Homœopathy was the greatest allopath of his time and because the medical fraternity in those days were very orthodox and prejudiced and petty-minded, such as they are not to-day, they took up hostile attitude against Homœopathy and against Homœopaths. There was no other course but to adopt it as a separate system. Vaccine-therapy is half Homœopathy. To put it more aptly, vaccine-therapy is Homœopathy run wild. When vaccine treatment can become part of Allopathy, why not Homœopathy be a part of general medicine? If the doctors to-day come forward and recognize Homœopathy and take it up in their own hospitals and colleges, I would not ask for any separate recognition of Homœopathy. In Germany they have set apart in every hospital half the beds for patients to be treated by Homœopathy and half for those to be treated by Allopathy. But here, in this province, nothing has been done so far to accord recognition to Homœopathy. In the interest of science, in the interest of suffering people and in the interest of rooting out quackery from this province, I appeal to the Honourable Minister of Education to go into this question without any further delay. I hope my suggestion will be favourably considered by that side of the House. With these words I conclude my speech.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, the other day an honourable member opposite touched the right chord when he remarked that in these days of democratic ideas the success of any party Government mainly depends on the correct appraisalment of the solid work done by it in redressing the general grievances of the public at large, and on the publicity of the true facts about healthy changes affected in respect of the working of all the beneficent departments under that Government.

Sir, before I proceed with my speech and give facts and figures about the working of the Medical department, I would like to say a few words with regard to certain points raised by my honourable colleague Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. His main grievance was that the present Government had failed to affect any reduction in the strength of the I. M. S. officers. He said that the Punjab Government should retain only 17 I. M. S. men in the Medical service and send the additional officers back to the Military. I am afraid that the honourable member opposite has not gone through the Government of India Act of 1935 carefully. Had he done so, he would have thought twice before voicing such a grievance against the Punjab Government. Let me remind him that it does not rest with the provincial Governments to do away with these I. M. S. officers. Their rights are protected and safeguarded under the Act and no one but the Secretary of State for India can do anything. It is, therefore, useless to accuse the Punjab Government of retaining more than 17 I. M. S. officers in the Medical department. So far as the relief work done by these officers is concerned I think my honourable friends opposite would not hesitate to support me when I say that the Punjab Government is justified in making

every possible endeavour to retain such able and highly qualified medical men as Colonel Bharucha and Colonel Mirajkar and others in its service. I am sure that a reference to the list of the professors employed in the Medical College, Lahore, would go a long way in convincing my honourable friends of the correctness of my statement. I would like to submit on the strength of my personal experience that many of these professors are exceptionally able and efficient medical men. As the honourable members know, very recently my son fell ill and I had the opportunity of coming into contact with many of them. It will not be an exaggeration for me to say that had it not been for the medical help and advice offered by some of these I. M. S. officers, my son would not have been alive to-day. There are several provinces in India that are utilizing the services of the I. M. S. officers like Colonel Bharucha and Colonel Mirajkar, and I am sure that even my honourable friend opposite would not like to deprive the province of the services of these surgeons of great repute? Does he not realize the fact that the guidance of these professors is a boon for the students of the Medical College?

Now, Sir, I come to the second point raised by my honourable brother opposite. I agree with him that some private practitioners should be allowed to work honorarily in the civil hospitals. But I am afraid this suggestion, if brought into operation, would give rise to a great many difficulties. The medical service in the hospitals involves a good deal of responsibilities and if private practitioners are allowed to deal with cases in the hospitals, whose will be the responsibility? There is a danger of deterioration in the efficient working of the staff in the hospitals.

My honourable friend wanted to know whether any provision would be made for the registration of Homœopathic doctors. In this connection I would like to inform him that the Government has already appointed a committee to consider the question of the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine. Government has not, however, been able to do anything for the Homœopathic system of treatment so far because unfortunately there are a number of quacks in the province.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It is because of your non-intervention?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : It is difficult to sift the grain from the chaff and such things take time.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : May I ask one question? She has given way.

Mr. Speaker : Is the honourable member speaking from his seat?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I am sorry. It is a very small question.

Mr. Speaker : It is immaterial whether the question is a small or a big one. The honourable member should speak from his own seat.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : My honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta was pleased to quote facts and figures in order to prove that our Government had not made adequate provision for medical relief in the Punjab during the last two years. I am sorry to say that his conclusions

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

were not quite supported by actual facts. An addition of over 7 lakhs of rupees has been made during the last two years as far as the grant for medical relief is concerned. This is not a negligible amount especially if we take into consideration the large amounts which the Government had to spend in the famine-stricken areas of Hissar and other places visited by hailstorms and famine.

Further, my learned friend charged the Government of having wasted most of the budgeted amount. I may inform him with all the emphasis that I can command, that not a single pice of public money has been misused. Accounts are there to show that every single penny that had been spent, had been utilized for the benefit of the public.

Let us take up the new items of expenditure. Here I may inform the House that we have fortunately received large donations from generous countrymen during the last two years. Incidentally I may here lay emphasis on the fact that it is one of the most suitable forms of charity to give donations for providing medical relief. What charity could be better than the one that is made to alleviate human sufferings and lessen ailments? I would appeal, therefore, that a lot of money which is often squandered away on useless customs should be spent on nation building purposes like medical relief, etc. As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and others know, in foreign countries, hospitals and nursing homes are almost entirely run on private donations. In London, for example, most of the hospitals in each and every corner of that great city are financed by private individuals. There are special days when special ceremonies are organized to collect money for these institutions. Women and girls go about selling flowers and other things on special day in order to collect money for hospitals. I would request my brothers and sisters to regard medical relief as a form of public service which requires their special attention. (*Mian Abdul Aziz*: Discontinue giving big tea parties and save money for medical relief.) Yes. Do stop them. I welcome that. During the first year we constructed a T. B. Ward and during the second year, we added an X-Ray Ward out of the private donations received for those purposes, to which of course the Punjab Government had to add substantial amounts from the provincial exchequer. This year a radium institution has been installed. Radium, as you know, is the only form of treatment so far discovered for cancer. It was regrettable that up till now there was no arrangement for the treatment of cancer in our province and persons suffering from this terrible disease had to go to other provinces for treatment. By the institution of radium we have supplied a vital need of the province. This was made possible by private donation and to that the Government has had to add considerable amount.

My honourable friend, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, has accused the Government of spending more on the urban hospitals than on the rural dispensaries. I am sure that if he were to visit the patients lying in the Mayo Hospital, he would be convinced that the majority of the beds there are occupied by patients who have come from the rural areas.

The late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain initiated a scheme of providing one dispensary for a population of thirty thousand persons and one hospital or

dispensary within a radius of 100 miles. Three hundred and seventy-five dispensaries were to be opened out of which 360 dispensaries were established and only 15 more remain to be opened. In 1931, the Retrenchment Committee proposed a cut of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the grant to these dispensaries and in consequence, these rural dispensaries had to suffer from want of equipment a great deal. In the first year of our work the cut was restored by Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 30,000 more has been provided now. During the last two years a sum of over Rs. 7 lakhs has been added to what was previously given to this department in 1936.

Besides the provincialization of several district and tahsil hospitals, Rs. 50,000 were given for the equipment of these institutions in 1937, Rs. 75,000 in 1938 and Rs. 37,500 are provided in this year's budget. Previously because of the financial stringency no such grants of money were forthcoming but now with these liberal amounts, many necessary additions to equipment are being made. It should carefully be noted that these amounts were sanctioned over and above the ordinary expenditure. If you go to other civilized countries, you will find that all big hospitals are located in big cities and continuous efforts are made to keep them up-to-date. The ideal should be to try and have a few up-to-date well-equipped institutions. Lahore being the capital, an up-to-date hospital should have been placed here. Personally I think that we should spend on the Mayo Hospital a couple of lakhs more in order to bring it into line with the well-known hospitals in other countries. This hospital should be made a model hospital where difficult and serious cases, the surgical cases in particular, should be treated and ordinary cases could be dealt with at other hospitals situated at the district or tahsil head-quarters. The question of providing medical relief in rural areas is seriously engaging the attention of the Government. Our main difficulty lies in the fact that a great deal of money is required for the purpose. As has been stated by the honourable member opposite, there are as many as 34,000 villages in the Punjab and it is therefore not an easy task to provide medical relief to such a large number of villages. As is being done in Ireland and Scottish highlands, we have tried to provide the doctors working in different dispensaries with a touring allowance in order to provide medical relief to the people round about. Last year 23 tahsils were selected for the purpose. The doctors select key villages within the area and visit them in turn. The villagers know beforehand the day when the doctor is going to visit their special village and people have an opportunity of seeking his advice. (*An honourable member*: This arrangement too is not satisfactory.) I would ask the honourable member interrupting me to go to the two or three tahsils where I have been and see with his own eyes the good work being accomplished there.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana: There are thirty villages in my tahsil, but the doctor could not visit them even once in a month.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz: It may be due to the fact that the departmental instructions have not been properly understood. I believe my honourable friends opposite are aware of the fact that Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow had started an Anti-Tuberculosis Fund for combating this deadly disease. And it is a matter of great satisfaction that something like 75 lakhs of rupees have been contributed to this fund. It is intended under this scheme that every province should be allotted a sum ranging

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

between 90 to 95 per cent. of the total contribution made by that province towards the central fund. On receiving our share we shall be in a position to open a number of tuberculosis centres and hospitals in the various parts of the province. A tuberculosis centre has already been opened through a private enterprise at Jullundur and it is working with amazing efficiency.

The honourable Sardar Rur Singh remarked that the present Government has done nothing for increasing the number of qualified *dais* and trained nurses. Had he taken the trouble to read the speech which I made last year on a similar occasion, he would, I am sure, have refrained from making such a remark. Let me tell him, and I do not exaggerate when I say this, that the Punjab is leading and has again given lead to other provinces in this respect.

The other day my honourable brother Mian Abdul Rab made a sarcastic remark during his speech on the Budget Estimates. He said that I had played the part of a sister by showering praises on the Honourable Finance Minister. I take this opportunity of saying to him that as I said that day there are three achievements for which the present Government rightly deserves our praises. The first one is that the Punjab Government appointed a committee for revising the syllabus and curriculum of our primary and secondary schools. This committee submitted a report which is admittedly a great improvement on the Wardha and Vidya Mandir Schemes. The second achievement is that in connection with the Rural Reconstruction Scheme a Training School for Women has been started and the courses of study prescribed are such as have never been prescribed in any other institution. The third achievement of the Government is its sound monetary policy. Now I would in all seriousness request the honourable member to see whether the Punjab has or has not given lead to other provinces or done better in all these three things and if it is found that such a claim is untenable I am ready to withdraw all the praises to which my honourable brother has referred. But if it is found to be correct he will have to join me in congratulating the Punjab Government on these achievements.

So far as the question of nurses and trained *dais* is concerned, the Punjab is ahead of any other province. Something like over 200 Infant Welfare Centres are working throughout the length and breadth of this province. Now what is the work done in a centre? Health visitors trained in the Punjab Health School are placed in the Centre with usually two or more trained *dais* to assist them. The indigenous *dais* round about that area are given training in maternity work. A class is opened and the *dais* working in that area are approached and made to attend those classes. Usually six to nine months' training is given to them. After they have finished their training certificates are issued to them and thus they become certified *dais*. After obtaining the said training, these *dais* practice in rural areas and they do not commit the mistakes which used to cost so many women their lives when they were untrained, or which the untrained *dais* commit even now. At present 2,809 *dais* are under training. Thousands of *dais* have been trained and are being trained.

Now I take up the question of the percentage of maternal and infantile mortality. During the last budget session, while speaking on the Public

Health grant, I stated that in those areas where the Infant Welfare Centres were working, instead of 24 mothers losing their lives during the confinement the figure had been reduced to four. So far as the question of infantile mortality is concerned, I may point out that the babies that are born within the area of a certain Infant Welfare Centre are looked after or as the terminology goes are followed up to the ages of four. There is no doubt that all the work that has so far been done is merely a drop in the ocean. I may submit that this is a big province and the Punjab Government does not claim to possess an Aladin's Lamp or a magic wand to set up overnight Infant Welfare Centres throughout the Punjab. A good beginning was made some time ago and the work is progressing. The Punjab Government is trying its utmost to open these Infant Welfare Centres in the whole of the Punjab. The Punjab Health School trains from 14 to 15 health visitors every year. When these health visitors are forthcoming the Government initiates work of child welfare in a certain area and a health centre is opened. Besides, the Punjab Government helps the Red Cross Society (Punjab Branch) to open new centres every year.

My honourable friend, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, stated in the course of his speech or rather appealed to me that so far as I was concerned I should try to see that instead of European nurses Indian nurses are appointed. He further stated that it is not fair that we should appoint European nurses and pay them Rs. 200 or 300 a month by way of salaries. In this connection I may submit that in an annual meeting of the Red Cross Society only the other day, His Excellency the Governor informed us that the honourable Mrs. Copeland-Griffiths said in her remarks that it was regrettable that in the Punjab Nursing Division of the Society the number of Indian nurses was very small. I wish to point out to my honourable friends that so long as the right type of Indian women do not come forward to get the necessary training, we will not be in a position to have good Indian nurses in our hospitals. I do not deny that there are some good Indian nurses but their number is very small. I would appeal to all my Congress sisters and brethren as well as countrymen on these benches to try and persuade women of good families to take up nursing as a profession so that there should be a good supply of trained Indian nurses. Indian women should come forward to serve their country. (*Hear, hear.*) So long as the girls of high families do not come forward to do this work, we cannot hope for any better results. The stuff that is at present at our disposal will never be able to perform efficiently the duties of nurses and they will never be able to keep up the high traditions of nursing. I would therefore again request them that instead of levelling criticism at the Government, my friends should try to produce Florence Nightingales in the Punjab. If even then we do not appoint them as nurses, then they should criticize us. I may quote here my own personal experience. Wherever I have required nurses for members of my household, I have had to ask for European nurses. I tried several Indian nurses but few of them came up to the standard. Therefore one has to ask for Europeans. Now the whole matter boils down to this that when we have not got Indian nurses of the type that are required for these hospitals, you have to ask for European nurses. Unless and until the right type of Indian women come forward, this problem cannot be solved. I may assure the House that the Government is alive to the idea of increasing

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

the number of qualified *dais* and trained nurses in the province. Our Indian women often do not allow themselves to be examined by male doctors. In this connection in the meeting of the All-India Women Conference, Central Punjab Branch, held the other day, over which I had the honour to preside, a resolution was passed urging upon the Government to increase the number of lady doctors. With this end in view the system of co-education was introduced in the Medical College and the Medical School at Amritsar. We used to take ten girls in the Amritsar School; that number has now been increased by the Government to 25. Besides this, a substantial grant is being given to the Ludhiana Medical School. It will be gratifying to note that at present about 75 Punjabi girls are getting training in that institution. Similarly Rs. 10,500 is given as grant-in-aid to the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. Several Punjabi girls are getting their training in that institution. The number of successful girl medical students is increasing day by day. Two hundred and thirty-six girls passed the medical examination in 1937. I hope the honourable lady member who had given notice of a cut motion in this connection would be satisfied with these facts and figures.

In 1925 the Punjab Government wanted to add a woman section to each district and tahsil hospital but because of the financial stringency the scheme had to be abandoned. We now hope to take it up and with this end in view every year new lady doctors are being appointed. This year 3 lady assistant surgeons and 7 lady sub-assistant surgeons and a number of dispensers are to be appointed.

Again, my honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta was not justified in saying that no substantial work had been done in the rural areas. The Punjab Government is paying special attention to the rural population. It has launched a scheme of subsidizing private practitioners. A private practitioner who would be willing to settle down in villages will be given Rs. 50 per mensem in order to give medical relief to the poor free of charge. In this way not only the range of medical relief in the rural areas will be widened but also several unemployed medical graduates would be provided for. Since the budget has been made public, many a medical graduate has come to inquire as to what are the rules under which he will be required to work in these remote areas.

With these few words, Sir, I present an account of our stewardship to our kind critics and cherish a fervent hope that they will appreciate our efforts. For our part, I may assure them that so far as funds permitted us we have not hesitated to provide the maximum amounts of grants for furthering the cause of medical relief in the Punjab. They may also rest assured that not a single penny out of the provincial coffers has been wasted. On the other hand fullest possible advantage has been derived from every item of expenditure. In view of these facts and the assurance that I have given, I am confident that our honourable critics will withdraw the cut motions that they have moved.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : The honourable member, Mrs. Shah Nawaz, said that there were a large number of quacks practising homœopathy. I quite agree. But I ask, are there not a larger number of quacks in the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine for which the Government has shown so much solicitude and appointed a committee to inquire into the systems?

Mr. Speaker : Is the honourable lady member prepared to answer the question?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : No, Sir, I am not answering the question.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p. m. on Friday, 24th March, 1939.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 24th March, 1939.

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR POLICE OFFICERS.

***4153. Munshi Hari Lal:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether photography is a part of the curriculum for the training of the Police Officers, if not, whether Government intends to introduce it?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): It has already been decided that photography should be included in the new detective training course which is to be started at Phillaur in April.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Will the Government please instruct the police officers to have photographs taken of the communal riots so that people may easily be arrested afterwards?

Mr. Speaker: That is a very good subject for a resolution.

ARREST OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH ISLAMIA HIGH SCHOOL, RAWALPINDI, INCIDENT.

***4217. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the persons arrested by police in connection with Islamia High School incident which occurred at Rawalpindi a month or so ago and kept in police lock-up were allowed the use of their beddings or not; if not, why not?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana): The eight accused in this case were arrested on the 26th January. They were confined in the Cantonment police station as the lock-up in the City station was under repair. The legal representative of the arrested persons interviewed the Cantonment Inspector and asked if private arrangements might be made to provide them with food and bedding. The Cantonment Inspector gave permission but added that as the accused had been arrested by the City police, the permission of the City Inspector should also be obtained. The legal representative did not approach the City Inspector nor was any bedding or food sent. The accused were accordingly provided with jail blankets and food at the expense of Government for the night of the 26th January. They were produced in court the next day, and were remanded to judicial custody.

MAGISTRATES POSTED IN THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

***4242. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number, names, castes and the duration of services of those 1st and 2nd Class Magistrates who are residents of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal and are now posted in these four southern districts ;

(b) the names of those who are posted in their own districts and whether there is any rule or convention against this practice ; if so, why an exception has been made ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) Chaudhri Sube Singh, Magistrate, under training at Rohtak. There are no rules or orders which debar Government from posting gazetted Government servants to their home districts, but the practice is generally avoided except for officers under training.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I ask if the statement that the Parliamentary Secretary has placed on the table also includes the names of honorary magistrates ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Kindly read the statement first, and then ask supplementary questions.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I am asking with regard to that very statement as to whether it includes the names of honorary magistrates as well ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have stated already that it concerns the gazetted Government servants. Naturally it does not include honorary magistrates.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it merely by chance that some of the magistrates have been posted in or near their home districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Postings are made, not merely by chance, but in view of the exigencies of the service.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Are not these postings made with a view to serve the ends of the Unionist Party ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should attribute it to the Government and not to the Unionist Party.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can the Parliamentary Secretary please let the House know if it is a fact that only those magistrates are posted in or near their districts who happen to have been liked by Sir Chhotu Ram ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that this view prevails in the Southern Punjab at least ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was this practice in existence even before the Unionist Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member may put a fresh question and the reply will be given.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the admitted practice that a magistrate belonging to any particular district should not be posted to that district, has been departed from in these three or four districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Perhaps the honourable member has not understood the answer that I gave to part (b). It says that there is only one man who is in the home district and he is under training.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is within the knowledge of the Parliamentary Secretary whether a similar practice obtains in any other district of the Punjab ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It has already been answered.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether now that this fact has been brought to the notice of the Parliamentary Secretary, that practice will be discontinued and whether those magistrates who are posted to their home districts will be immediately transferred ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a request for action.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is the Government aware that the giving of choice of stations to officers is not beneficial to public interest in many cases ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Lala Duni Chand : Has this fact been brought to the notice of the Government ? Will they take any action now ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is only one gentleman who has been posted to his home district and he also is only under training there.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Government know that the posting is likely to lead to abuse of power ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a matter of opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is Chaudhri Sube Singh, in spite of the fact that he is a first class magistrate, still under training ?

Premier : Cannot first class magistrates be under training ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I did not think so.

Premier : You are wrong.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has Government received any information that such officers are inclined to favouritism ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is only one officer who is working in his home district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My question is whether those magistrates who are residents of the four districts of Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal and have been posted in these districts have been complained against for being guilty of partiality ?

Premier : My honourable friend should give notice of this question, but as regards the general question that such officers are guilty of partiality I am afraid I cannot agree.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether it is within the knowledge of the Honourable Premier that this practice is likely to lead to the growth of communal feelings in these districts ?

Premier : But the practice does not exist. There is only one person who is posted to his home district and is under training there.

Lala Duni Chand : May I invite the attention of the Premier that his Parliamentary Secretary had admitted the existence of this practice ?

Premier : No, he has never done so.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if it will be convenient for the honourable member to state the broad reasons which prompted the posting of this gentleman there, thus making a departure from the general practice ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Perhaps the honourable member has not heard the answer or he was not here when I read it out. I said that there are no rules or orders which debarred Government from posting gazetted officers to their home district, but the practice is generally avoided except for officers under training and this gentleman Chaudhri Sube Singh is under training in his own district.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know as to how long this period of training will continue ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member shall have to give fresh notice.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Are there any other centres where he could receive his training ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There are other centres for training but this gentleman was posted to his home district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it the considered policy of the Government that so far as possible they should be kept near their own home districts ?

Mr. Speaker : Magistrates cannot be attacked like this. So, no insinuations should be levelled against them.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The allegation is not against the magistrate, but against the policy of the Government.

Mr. Speaker : That is why I did not object to the earlier questions, but magistrates should not be brought in.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I have no intention of attacking any magistrate, I want to know if it is the policy of the Government to keep magistrates near their home districts ?

Premier : No, it is quite the contrary.

Lala Duni Chand : On a point of order. If any magistrate is unfortunately placed in that unenviable position, it is the Government that is to blame.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : How many gazetted officers belonging to the Rohtak district are posted in Hissar ?

Parliamentary Secretary : That is a new question.

Statement.

Serial No.	Name.	Home district.	Caste.	Duration of service.	District where now posted.	Remarks.
1	Chaudhri Rahim Bakht, Tahsildar	Rohtak	Rajput	Yrs. M. D.	Hissar.	
2	Chaudhri Sumdar Singh, Tahsildar	Do.	Jat	33 5 26	Do. (Hansi).	
3	Shakh Ajjez Ahmad, Tahsildar	Gurgaon	Sheikh Qureshi	3 4 19	Do. (Fatehabad).	
4	Sahibzada M. Yaqub Ali Khan, Tahsildar.	Karnal	Pathan	3 11 6	Do. (Bulwani).	
5	M. Abdul Latif, Naib Tahsildar.	Rohtak	Do.	21 0 11	Do. (Tobana).	
6	Khawaja Akhtar Hussain, Tahsildar	Karnal	Sheikh Ansari	1 6 13	Gurgaon (Rewari).	
7	Khawaja Akbar Hussain, Tahsildar	Do.	Do.	24 1 19	Do. (Firozpur-Jirkha).	
8	Chaudhri Vijie Singh, Tahsildar	Rohtak	Jat	5 1 24	Do.	
9	Rao Sultan Singh, Tahsildar	Do.	Ahir	14 10 27	Do. (Ballabgarh).	
10	Honorary Lieutenant Bhoop Singh, Tahsildar.	Gurgaon	Do.	8 5 0	Rohtak.	
11	Chaudhri Faiz Ali Khan, Tahsildar	Do.	Rajput	9 6 0	Rohtak (Sohana)	*Service as Tahsildar only.
12	Lala Kanwar Bahadur, Tahsildar	Hissar	Kyasth	*12 7 0	Do. (Jhajjar)	
13	Thakur Raghbir Singh, Tahsildar	Do.	Rajput	13 8 0	Do. (Sonapat).	
14	Sheikh Sofdar Ali, Tahsildar	Rohtak	Sheikh Siddiqi	16 9 6	Karnal (Panipat).	
15	Chaudhri Hardwar Lal, Tahsildar	Do.	Jat	33 0 0	Do. (Thanesar).	
16	Pt. Lakshmi Dutt, Vasiht, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	Karnal	Brahman	2 8 0	Additional District Magistrate, Rohtak.	
17	Chaudhri Khushi Ram, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	Rohtak	Hindu Jat	17 4 2	Magistrate, 1st Class, Hissar.	
18	Chaudhri Raghvendra Singh, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	Do.	Ditto	5 11 3	Treasury Officer, Hissar.	
19	Chaudhri Sube Singh, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	Do.	Ditto	3 9 17	Magistrate, Rohtak.	
				1 4 17		

POSTING OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

***4243. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether there is any rule or convention according to which an executive officer may not remain posted for more than three years at a time in any station ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : There are no set rules on the subject, but transfers among executive officers are made entirely in the exigencies of the public service and not simply because an officer happens to have completed three years or more at a station.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that officers are not generally kept more than three years in the same district?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If this is the practice, is there any exception with regard to south-eastern districts?

Parliamentary Secretary : What you have stated is generally correct and there is no exception.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it then a fact that there are exceptions regarding Rohtak district and Hissar ?

Premier : No.

RETURNS OF ELECTION EXPENSES IN PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS.

***4250. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to quote the highest and the smallest amount from the returns of expenditure filed by the candidates who contested for seats in the elections of the Punjab Legislative Assembly held so far, along with the names of those candidates ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : A statement is laid on the table.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What is the name of the member who spent the most and the name of the member who spent the least?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member will find it stated in the list.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not know where the statement is. These answers are not laid on the table. The practice of laying answers on the table has been discontinued, I do not know why.

Parliamentary Secretary : All these statements were placed on the table by me before the Assembly met.

Lala Deahbandhu Gupta : The question does not ask for a statement to be laid on the table, it asks for the statement to be read out to the House.

Mr. Speaker : Lengthy answers to questions should be laid on the table and not answered orally.

Lala Deekbandhu Gupta : In this particular case you will hold that the statement should not have been placed on the table of the House but should have been read out because the answer is a short one, the requisite figures being only the highest and the lowest.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do I take it that in the case of 63 honourable members of the House, returns of election expenses were not lodged within the prescribed period?

Parliamentary Secretary : That is the next question.

STATEMENT.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Highest expenditure—Batala (Sikh) Constituency— The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	57,887	3	0
Lowest expenditure—Amritsar Sikh Women's Constituency— Shrimati Ragbir Kaur, wife of Bhagwan Singh, Sheikhupura ..	76	11	0

NOTE.—The following candidates in contested constituencies did not incur any expenditure:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Lala Ram Narain, Sitogano, Tahsil Fazilka. | Ludhiana and Ferozepore (General) Constituency. |
| 2. Nawabzada Mohammad Aijaz Ali Khan, Karnal. | Karnal (Muhammadan) Constituency. |
| 3. M. Alawal Khan, Mammon Khara, Fazilka. | Fazilka (Muhammadan) Constituency. |
| 4. Syed Ghulam Akbar Shah Makhdom of Sher Shah. | Shujabad (Muhammadan) Constituency. |
| 5. Sardar Inder Singh of Dumna, District Ambala. | Ambala North (Sikh) Constituency. |

CANDIDATES DISQUALIFIED FOR NOT SENDING RETURNS OF ELECTION
EXPENSES IN PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS.

***4252. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any candidates for the Punjab Legislative Assembly were disqualified for not sending in their returns of expenditure in time ; if so, their names and addresses ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : Yes. A list, giving the names of candidates who were disqualified either for not lodging their returns of election expenses at all or for not lodging them within the prescribed period, is laid on the table.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has the disqualification of any of these been removed?

Premier : Yes. More than a hundred of them, because they were on technical grounds and they gave explanations in time for not submitting their return in time but when the last chance even of submitting returns was not availed of it was decided not to give any more exemption.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Will the Government in future also remove such disqualifications?

Premier : If the disqualifications are on technical grounds they will be removed.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that these disqualifications have been removed only in the case of those zaildars and honorary magistrates who fought elections on the Unionist ticket and lost?

Premier : It is a question which shows the mentality of my honourable friend.

Mr. Speaker : To attack the Unionist Party means attacking the honourable members of this House.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : There appears to be some misunderstanding. The fact is that he has attacked me in a manner which is anything but parliamentary. However, I will not ask him to withdraw these remarks I shall deal with him in my own way.

Premier : There is no Unionist member who has not filed the return of election expenses. They had expert advice at their disposal and every one of them submitted the accounts at the proper time.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : When a member asks whether the members, whose disqualifications were removed, were either all or mostly members of the Unionist Party, does it mean reflection on the Unionist members or the Government?

Mr. Speaker : It is at least an insinuation against somebody.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : If there is insinuation, it is against the Government for supposed or real, partiality towards a particular section of the House. There is no reflection on the honourable members of the Unionist Party.

Premier : The real power rests with the Governor.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Real responsibility is yours.

List giving the names of candidates who were disqualified either for not lodging their returns of election expenses at all or for not lodging them within the prescribed period.

Name of candidate.	Name of Constituency.
1. Lala Ram Bheja, Vishnoo Gali, Lahore	Lahore City (General).
2. Thakur Charanjit Singh, Pleader, Bhiwani	Hissar South (General).
3. Mr. Bakhtawar Singh of Village Jharli	Jhajjar (General).
4. Mr. Pirbhu of Village Guraura ..	North-West Gurgaon (General).
5. Mr. Dhani	South-East Gurgaon (General).
6. Mr. Bir Singh of village Baodhra, Tahsil Karnal.	Karnal South (General).
7. Lala Balmokand Lal	Karnal North (General).
8. Chaudhri Sukh Lal, son of Budh Ram, Boot-maker, Karnal Sadr.	Karnal North (General).
9. Mr. Kesho Ram, son of Munshi Ram ..	Karnal North (General).
10. Mr. Bakhshi	Ambala and Simla (General).
11. Lala Keshab Ram, Bajora, Tahsil Kulu	Kangra East (General).
12. Chaudhri Ram Singh, Ghandran, Tahsil Nurpur.	Kangra North (General).

Name of candidate.	Name of constituency.
13. Pandit Narain Chand, Honorary Magistrate, Khad.	Una (General).
14. Chaudhri Inder of Nangal Kalan ..	Ludhiana and Ferozepore (General).
15. Master Lal Chand, Matarar Utar ..	Ludhiana and Ferozepore (General).
16. Lala Harbans Lal, Kucha Feroze Din, Lahore.	West Lahore Division (General).
17. Chaudhri Bansil Lal, Contractor, Masti Gate, Lahore.	Amritsar and Sialkot (General).
18. Sardar Amar Singh, Dudhu Chak, Tahsil Shakargarh.	Gurdaspur (General).
19. Lala Hukam Chand, Tandlianwala ..	South East Multan Division (General).
20. Lala Durga Das ..	Lyallpur and Jhang (General).
21. Mohammad Jan, son of Khawaja Rasool Shah.	Amritsar City (Muhammadan).
22. M. Suleman Khan, Honorary Lieutenant, Kalanaur Khurd.	Rohtak (Muhammadan).
23. Chaudhri Jiwan Khan, village Rajpura	South East Gurgaon (Muhammadan).
24. Nawabzada Mohammad Alijiz Ali Khan, Karnal.	Karnal (Muhammadan).
25. M. Mohammad Ismail Khan, Hameedpur	Ambala and Simla (Muhammadan).
26. M. Fazal Ilahi, son of Karam Bakhsh, Taraf Gahellewal.	Ludhiana (Muhammadan).
27. Khan Bahadur Mohammad Inayat Khan, Honorary Magistrate, Jagraon.	Ludhiana (Muhammadan).
28. M. Ahmad Hassan, Amir Shahwala, District Ferozepore.	Ferozepore East (Muhammadan).
29. M. Ali Mohammad, Jandwala Bhima Shah, Tahsil Fazilka.	Fazilka (Muhammadan).
30. M. Mohammad Luqman, Pakan, Tahsil Fazilka.	Fazilka (Muhammadan).
31. M. Mohkam-ud-Din, Dabwala Kalan, Tahsil Fazilka.	Fazilka (Muhammadan).
32. M. Shukrullah Khan, Pleader, Ajnala ..	Ajnala (Muhammadan).
33. M. Ghulam Hassan Shah, Manja Saurian, Tahsil Ajnala.	Ajnala (Muhammadan).
34. M. Fateh Mohammad, Ajnala ..	Ajnala (Muhammadan).
35. Chaudhri Sultan-ul-Mulk, Zaildar, Dehriwala.	Gurdaspur East (Muhammadan).
36. Chaudhri Inayat Mohammad, Zamindar, Jagowal Bet.	Gurdaspur East (Muhammadan).
37. M. Hayat Mohammad, Sakhi, Tahsil Hafizabad.	Hafizabad (Muhammadan).
38. M. Khushi Mohammad, Vanike, Tahsil Hafizabad.	Hafizabad (Muhammadan).
39. Ali Mohammad, Langowala ..	Sheikhupura (Muhammadan).
40. M. Ahmad, Feroze Wotan, Tahsil Sheikhupura.	Sheikhupura (Muhammadan).
41. Raja Mohammad Khan, Talwandi with Thata Isa.	Nankana Sahib (Muhammadan).
42. Raja Rahim Ullah Khan, Kotchra, Tahsil Phalia.	North West Gujrat (Muhammadan).
43. Chaudhri Mohammad Rafi, Lal Kurti Bazar, Rawalpindi.	Rawalpindi Sadr (Muhammadan).
44. M. Mohammad Akbar, village Dhamial..	Rawalpindi Sadr (Muhammadan).

Name of candidate.	Name of constituency.
45. M. Ghulam Sarwar Khan, village Dhamial	Rawalpindi Sadr (Muhammadan).
46. M. Hashmat Ali Khan, village Malpur ..	Rawalpindi Sadr (Muhammadan).
47. M. Mansabdar Khan, village Ranial ..	Rawalpindi Sadr (Muhammadan).
48. Sardar Bahadur Tikka Khan, Dekhain ..	Rawalpindi East (Muhammadan).
49. M. Kamal Khan, Kamalia ..	Semundri (Muhammadan).
50. Khan Sahib Samun Khan, Zaildar, Chak No. 352-G, B.	Jaranwala (Muhammadan).
51. Sardar Sahib Jaswant Singh, Khatkar Kalan.	Jullundur East (Sikh).
52. Sardar Jagir Singh, village Sukhna Ahli	Ferozepore North (Sikh).
53. Sardar Shiv Raj Singh, Badal ..	Ferozepore West (Sikh).
54. Sardar Chana Singh, Pleader, Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur North (Sikh).
55. Sardar Gurdit Singh, Uddowali Khurd	Gurdaspur North (Sikh).
56. Sardar Gurbachan Singh of Rangar Nangal, Majitha Road, Amritsar.	Batala (Sikh).
57. Sardar Jagat Singh, Wasu	Gujrat and Shahpur (Sikh).
58. Sardar Harnam Singh, village Takht Pari, Rawalpindi.	North West Punjab (Sikh).
59. <i>Mrs.</i> Khurshid Begum, wife of Miraj-ud-Din.	Inner Lahore (Muhammadan Women).
60. <i>Mrs.</i> Ghulam Jannat, widow of Abdul Sitar.	Outer Lahore (Muhammadan Women).
61. Mr. Hakim Din, village Kotli Behramji, District Sialkot.	West Central Punjab (Indian Christian).
62. Rana Mohammad Hasan	West Punjab (Landholders).
63. M. Maula Bakhsh	Sialkot North (Muhammadan) Bye-election.

ELECTIONS SET ASIDE BY ELECTION TRIBUNALS.

***4255. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of elections set aside up to date by the election tribunals since the last general elections ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : Twelve.

RECRUITMENT IN POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM NAKODAR AND PHILLAUER TAHSILS.

***4281. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of assistant sub-inspectors, sub-inspectors and inspectors of police enlisted from the Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils, during the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 with their educational qualifications and home addresses ;

(b) whether any of the recruited persons belong to the *Bet ilaga* of the said tahsils ;

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the negative, the reasons for not recruiting any young man from the said *ilaga* ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) and (b) No candidate belonging to the Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils was enlisted as an assistant sub-inspector, sub-inspector or inspector during the years mentioned.

(c) Recruitment is not made on a tahsil basis when better qualified men are available elsewhere.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know if in the list of these inspectors and sub-inspectors there is any person belonging to the depressed classes ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It does not arise out of this question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : After all he has seen the list.

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know the answer given by the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary ? I would request him to repeat the reply.

Parliamentary Secretary : I said, " It does not arise out of this question."

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Nor is he in a position to answer it ?

Mr. Speaker : The question is not in order.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : While recruitment is being made, is any territorial consideration taken into account ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Recruitment is made by the Deputy Inspector-General with the help of a selection board and recruitment is not made on the basis of particular *ilagas* or tahsils.

RECRUITMENT FOR EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERSHIP AND TAHSILDARSHIP FROM NAKODAR AND PHILLAUR TAHSELS.

***4282. Mian Abdul Rab** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names, educational qualifications, parentage and addresses of all those who were enlisted as extra assistant commissioners, tahsildars and naib-tahsildars from the Jullundur district since the 1st April, 1937 ;

(b) the names of those whose rolls were called for directly by the Punjab Government for the above-mentioned posts with reasons for doing so during the same period ;

(c) whether any of the persons so nominated belongs to either Nakodar or Phillaur tahsils of Jullundur district, if not the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

[K. B. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana.]

(b) and (c) No roll was called for directly by Government from the Jullundur district.

Statement showing the number and names, educational qualifications, parentage and addresses of Extra Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars enlisted from the Jullundur district since 1st April, 1937.

Serial No.	Name.	Educational qualifications.	Parentage.	Address.	REMARKS.
1	M. Muhammad Akram.	M. Sc. ..	E. A. C's. M. Hassan Din (father).	Basti Guzan, District Jullundur.	Competitioner.
2	Sardar Sher Jasjit Singh.	B.Sc., LL. B.	Sardar Ram Singh (father).	Jullundur City	Selected on register A-II (Ministerial Government servants)

TAHSILDARS.

Nil.

NAIB-TAHSILDARS.

1	Sardar Hardas Singh.	B.A., LL.B.	Honorary Captain Kala Singh (father).	Village and Post Office Nussi, tahsil Jullundur.	} Were enlisted by the Commissioner, Jullundur.
2	Syed Sadiq Ali ..	B.A., LL.B.	Syed Muhammad Afzal Shah (father).	Pacca Bagh, Jullundur city.	

INTERNEES AND EXTERNEES IN THE PUNJAB.

***4290. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons interned up to date under the Criminal Law Amendment Act since 1st April last ;

(b) the number of those externed from the Punjab up to date in the same period under the same Act ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : (a) Six persons were detained in custody under section 2 of the Punjab Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1935, from 1st April, 1938, up to date (22nd February 1939). No person is detained in custody at present. Twenty persons were restricted to their villages or home districts during the same period ; only 11 of them are under restriction at present.

(b) Seven persons were externed from the Punjab under section 3 of the Act during the same period.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask the honourable member whether he has taken the trouble of comparing the figures of internments and externments since they have taken office with the figures of previous years? Is he aware that the record of the Punjab Government in the matter of internments and externments beats all previous records of bureaucracy?

Premier : My honourable friend is at liberty to draw any conclusion that he wants to.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : It is a question of fact. The Honourable Premier has claimed that even the old bureaucracy was his own, may I know whether it is not a fact that previous to his taking office, the figures of externments and internments were not so high? Does he remember that?

Premier : How could I remember? I was not in charge then.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Has it ever occurred to him to compare the figures and see how his popular administration compares with the bureaucratic régime?

Premier : I do not go after cheap notoriety.

Sardar Hari Singh : What does he mean by that expression?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Oh, to go after costly notoriety!

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : How many of these externees are Punjabis?

Premier : I require notice for this.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is it right that S. Iqbal Singh Hundal has been externed? Is he a Punjabi?

Premier : I do not know which place he belongs to.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is the Government prepared to lay a statement on the table regarding these externments and internments?

Premier : It is in the answer. You will get it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Are names of the persons given?

Premier : No. Those I refuse to give.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On what ground does my honourable friend refuse to give the names?

Premier : The same ground on which I refused to give on previous occasions.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What is the ground?

Premier : Public interest.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What particular public interest would be damaged by the disclosure of names of persons externed and interned?

Mr. Speaker : That question is disallowed. The Premier is the sole judge in such matters.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether these externments and internments amount to acts of repression or not?

Premier : No, Sir. It is to save peaceful citizens from trouble.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Never before in the history of the British connection with the Punjab have there been, in a single year, so many externments and internments as during the period of my honourable friend's tenure of office.

Premier : I am afraid I am not an encyclopædia.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether these externments and internments are necessary in order to carry on the government of this province ?

Premier : They are necessary in the interest of peace and tranquillity of the province and for the safety of law-abiding citizens of the province.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that all the externees are zamindars ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether exactly on the same grounds Hitler interns his people ?

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Premier is not supposed to know these facts officially.

Premier : Not on similar grounds.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know the procedure which the Premier follows in passing these orders for externments and internments ? Does he do so on the recommendations of the police, the Criminal Investigation Department or the Unionist members, or some other officials such as honorary magistrates ? What is the procedure, and how does he decide whether a particular person's presence is prejudicial to the interests of the province ?

Premier : I am afraid I am not here to give details of the procedure but I can assure my honourable friend that the information placed before me is complete and full and it is only after considering all the various aspects of the question that a decision is taken by Government.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Who takes the initiative into the matter ? Is it the Premier or the Criminal Investigation Department ?

Premier : It is the police authorities who take the initiative in the matter.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know if ever in the last two years the recommendations of the police were rejected ?

Premier : Yes, several times.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether the internees and externees under the Criminal Law Amendment Act are all persons connected with the *kisan* movement which is developing in the Punjab whose objective is the reduction in land revenue, *abiana* and the removal of indebtedness ?

Premier : Only those persons are externed whose presence in the province is not in the interest of peace and tranquillity of the province.

Sardar Hari Singh : I want to know whether they are all connected with the *kisan* movement which is developing.

Premier : I do not know what the honourable member means by *kisan* movement.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Does he know of the zamindar movement?

Premier : Yes.

Sardar Hari Singh : *Kisan* movement means a movement whose objective is the reduction in land revenue and *abiana* rates. May I ask him now whether those persons who have been interned or externed are connected with this movement?

Premier : The honourable member is not correct; there is no such movement in the Punjab.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether the cases of these people are periodically reviewed by my honourable friend the Premier?

Premier : People who are externed are normally people who do not belong to this province. We merely request them to confine their activities to their own province.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether the cases of those who are interned are periodically examined by my honourable friend?

Premier : Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether he is prepared to associate a judge of the High Court with himself in that examination?

Mr. Speaker : That is a suggestion for action.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask if he would consider the possibility of associating a judge of the High Court?

Mr. Speaker : That is a suggestion. Disallowed.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am merely asking whether he has decided to do so?

Mr. Speaker : Again, I hold it to be a suggestion for action and therefore disallow.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am merely asking for information. I am not asking him to take action.

Mr. Speaker : That is a suggestion.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Supposing my honourable friend has decided to do so.

Mr. Speaker : I have disallowed that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is my honourable friend prepared to place the cases relating to these internees on the table of the House?

Premier : No.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is my honourable friend prepared to associate the honourable Leader of the Opposition in that examination?

Mr. Speaker : That is a suggestion.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : May I ask if any of the internees ever asked him to have his case examined by a judicial officer?

Premier : No.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is my honourable friend aware that the procedure as far as the central Government is concerned, is that where a person is interned his case is reviewed by, amongst others, a judge under the direction of His Excellency the Viceroy ?

Mr. Speaker : This may or may not be so ; the Honourable Premier is not supposed to be aware of it officially. So, I disallow the question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : There are people who are interned under Regulation III in the Punjab. I want to know the procedure which my honourable friend adopts in those cases.

Premier : In the case of those people their cases are examined by judges of the High Court.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know if the Honourable Premier is prepared to lay on the table of the House the statements of such persons whose cases were recommended by the Criminal Investigation Department for action but were rejected by him.

Premier : I am afraid I cannot place on the table papers connected with such cases.

Sardar Hari Singh : With reference to the answer given by the Premier to the supplementary question to the effect that there is no movement in the Punjab for the reduction in land revenue, may I ask whether he has not received a large number of representations for the reduction of land revenue from various parts of the Punjab, and also whether he has not received police reports of public meetings held in several villages in the Punjab for reduction of land revenue, and whether the object of the demonstration staged by the *kisans* in Lahore yesterday and which was *lathi* charged, was not reduction in land revenue ?

Premier : I am afraid I have not understood the rather omnibus supplementary by my honourable friend defining the *kisan* movement. If it is for the reduction of land revenue and *abiana* then every zamindar has got the right to represent his case constitutionally to Government. I find that the so-called *kisan* movement is run by people who do not own an inch of land in this province and they simply mislead the poor people.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know whether as a result of periodic revision of cases he has been pleased to modify restrictions imposed in any case ?

Premier : Yes, there are several cases in which restrictions have been removed.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Will he bring such cases to the notice of the House ?

Premier : I am afraid I cannot bring any case to the notice of the House.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Which member of the *kisan* committee is not a zamindar ?

Premier : If my friend were to ask me privately, I will let him know.

**BAN ON ENTRY OF MAULANA ATA ULLAH SHAH BUKHARI INTO
GURDASPUR DISTRICT.**

***4291. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the reasons why the entry of Maulana Ata Ullah Shah Bukhari into the Gurdaspur district was recently banned by the Punjab Government under the Criminal Law Amendment Act ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : There were reasonable grounds for believing that he was about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or peace.

Sardar Hari Singh : What were those reasonable grounds for believing that he was about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or peace ?

Premier : To do something which is likely to disturb the peace and safety of the province.

Sardar Hari Singh : Who supplied the information that there were reasonable grounds ?

Premier : Information was given that there were those grounds.

Sardar Hari Singh : Who supplied that information ?

Premier : Our officials and they are meant for that purpose.

Sardar Hari Singh : Are they infallible ?

Mr. Speaker : That question does not arise.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Honourable Premier satisfied that so far as Maulana Ata Ullah Shah Bukhari is concerned there exists no special prejudice in the mind of certain officials against him and that they have not been in the habit of making reports against him ?

Premier : There is no special prejudice in this case so far as I am aware.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is he satisfied and is he in a position to say that he has not allowed the same amount of latitude to him as is allowed to Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and others who make inflammatory speeches ?

Premier : My honourable friend's inference is incorrect.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the reason for putting ban on him is that he is a powerful and persuasive speaker against the present Government ?

Mr. Speaker : That is an argument. Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I ask the reason for banning the entry of Maulana Ata Ullah Shah particularly in the Gurdaspur district ?

Premier : Because he could not create this particular mischief in any other district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How is it that he can be dangerous in the Gurdaspur district while he is not so in any other district ?

Premier : Because he can do certain things in that district which he cannot do in any other district, just as my honourable friend himself can do many things in the Rohtak district which he cannot do in the Rewal-pindi district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is Gurdaspur his native district ?

Premier : It is not a question of native district. Hissar is not the native district of my honourable friend but he can do many things in that district with impunity which can prove very dangerous to him in the Mianwali district.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do I understand that the Honourable Premier can be dangerous only in his own district ?

Premier : I have never proved dangerous to any district.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I enquire whether the Premier had consulted Mr. Jinnah before issuing these orders ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether the Honourable Premier has ever received suggestions or proposals for taking action against one of his colleagues ?

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

REFUSAL BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, ROHTAK, TO ENTERTAIN APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENTAL ACTION.

***4294. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 3416,¹ will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) what were the particular type of cases in dealing with which the course followed by the Deputy Commissioner was suitable ;
- (b) whether in those particular type of cases any member of this House started collecting applications and showed them to the Deputy Commissioner ; if so, the name of that honourable member and the total number of complaints that he showed to the Deputy Commissioner during the last year ;
- (c) whether the Government have already issued any instructions to the Deputy Commissioner concerned and the local officers that applications and grievances coming from or through opposition and particularly Congressite M. L. As. should be rejected down-right, if not, the justification of the action of the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, and the Superintendent of Police there ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : (a) and (b) It is understood that a number of complaints and petitions against subordinate officials—the exact number has not been reported and is probably not on record—were collected by the honourable member and transmitted by him to the Deputy Commissioner.

(c) No such instructions have been issued, but as stated in reply to the earlier question Government consider that in the circumstances the course followed by the Deputy Commissioner was suitable. While there is no abso-

late rule on the subject, complaints and petitions cannot normally be entertained through a third party but must be made direct (whether orally or in writing) by the person aggrieved.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I enquire as to whether the complaints described as 'of a particular type' related to cases of corruption, *begar* and atrocities of the officers?

Premier : I cannot say that. The honourable member himself collected them and he ought to know better.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : It is not the question of my knowing them. Does or does not the Government know it?

Premier : It is not possible for me to say what sort of applications you have been writing and making other people write.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : If the Honourable Premier does not know the contents of those applications then what does he mean by the phrase 'representations of a particular type'?

Premier : By this phrase I mean 'the representations sent through a third party.'

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What was the attitude of the Deputy Commissioner which the Honourable Premier considers as justified?

Premier : He asked the petitioners to present their representations personally and to affix the necessary stamp.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Do I understand that if a representation is presented through an honourable member of this House it should be rejected?

Premier : They were not rejected but the petitioners were asked to affix the proper stamp to them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Did the Honourable Premier enquire as to how those petitions were collected? Were they returned because they were too many and the Deputy Commissioner was unable to deal with them?

Premier : It appears from what I have heard and what I have read in the newspapers of my honourable friend's district that the method in which they were collected was improper. The other parts of the question do not call for a reply.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What was that improper method?

Premier : The honourable member should know better than I.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then how has the Honourable Premier come to know that the method of collecting the applications was improper?

Premier : I have already stated that it appeared from what I heard and what I read in the newspapers of that district that the method employed was improper.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In other words it is a mere conjecture on the part of the Premier?

Premier : No. I came to this conclusion on the basis of what I read about the matter in the newspapers.

Lala Duni Chand : Has this idea ever entered the mind of the Honourable Premier that taking no action on such a complaint emanating from a responsible man like Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is an act of encouragement to the officials concerned to commit further acts of corruption ?

Premier : Such a brilliant idea cannot enter my head. It can only enter my honourable friend's head.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Deputy Commissioner required them to present their petitions personally so that he might somehow or other entangle them in a case under section 182, Indian Penal Code ?

Mr. Speaker : That is an inference.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I know if the position of the Government is that even if some information is conveyed to it by an honourable member of this House, that information will not be acted upon unless that information comes through a particular person called an applicant ?

Premier : I am afraid the inference is wholly incorrect. I never said anything of the sort.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Do I take it that Government does take action even on the information which is conveyed to the Government by the honourable members of this House ?

Premier : Oh, yes.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Without requiring any person to appear in person ?

Premier : My honourable friend has not understood the question, and he is wasting his time as well as mine. In this case applications were put in and they were not properly stamped.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The Honourable Premier has been pleased to refer to certain applications which should be duly stamped and personally presented by the complainants. I want to know if he includes under this category such complaints as are made against a sub-inspector of police charging him of corruption. Is it proper to require serious allegations of corruption to be duly stamped. Does the Government want to discourage complaints against corrupt sub-inspectors as the Deputy Commissioner has done in this case ?

Premier : My honourable friend ought to know that when complaints against an officer are received which require the Government to take action against the officer concerned, it is but proper to have the statements of the complainants recorded in order to see that they are genuine. If that is done, a sifting enquiry is made.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Do the Government require complaints of corruption also to be duly stamped and presented in person to the authorities ?

Premier : That is not necessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Honourable Premier consider the following reply of the Deputy Commissioner in order—

"Returned with the remark that it should be presented in court by the applicant duly stamped."

May I also remind the Honourable Premier that this application was signed by as many as 50 persons and it was against the corruption of a sub-inspector of police ?

Premier : It merely means that the complainants should personally come to present their applications.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does it not mean that people should start a regular litigation for stopping corruption on the part of Government servants ?

Premier : This inference is erroneous. It is but fair that the complainants should personally appear to have their statements recorded.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : That means that the doors of courts are open to all. How then can the Government say that we do not co-operate with them ? Is this the spirit ? You claim to take action immediately but no action was taken on this complaint of 50 persons ?

Sardar Hari Singh : With reference to the circular issued by the Government on the subject of corruption to the effect that if five respectable persons make a representation regarding corruption against a certain official, action will be taken, may I ask the Honourable Premier whether in these cases while making representations against certain officials the complainants have to be present in person before the official to whom they are making the representation ?

Premier : In these cases the Deputy Commissioner wanted the complainants to go before him and put in their representations, but before they had done so my honourable friend went on a roving expedition collecting signatures.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir I repudiate the insinuation that I went about and obtained signatures of the people. The Honourable Premier is taking undue advantage of his position.

Premier : I did not say that the honourable member made other people sign the application. I only said that he collected signatures.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I never did that. The people themselves are bewailing and mourning. Here is a bundle of their applications.

(At this stage the honourable member put a bundle of applications on the table of the House.)

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend whether it is not a fact that legally no stamp is required for the purpose of forwarding an application or a complaint of this nature that certain persons have been guilty of bribery, or for bringing a matter to the notice of the executive officer of the district ?

Premier : That is a moot point, whether a stamp is required or not. But I have already stated that the practice is not uniform in all districts. I am considering the question of having a uniform rule in regard to this matter. I think the conclusion will be that in such cases where complaints of bribery and corruption are made to an executive authority, normally no stamp is required.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY HAILSTORM.

Dr. Satya Pal : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether Government is aware that a very severe hailstorm has recently damaged the crops in Koreke and adjoining villages in Sialkot district ; if so, the steps taken by the Government to afford relief to the peasants of the area who are in a state of distress ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Government are aware that a severe hailstorm occurred in the Sialkot and certain other districts on the 28th February, 1939.

Immediately on receiving information of the occurrence of this hailstorm, the Collectors were addressed to order a special girdawari to be held from the 1st March, 1939, and Government is aware that such girdawaris were instituted.

The decision as to what, if any, relief is called for will be made as soon as the results of the special girdawaris have been examined.

Instructions that have been issued to officers will lead to the damage done by hailstorm being treated on the lines adopted in 1937 for the hailstorm in the Multan division.

Sardar Hari Singh : Has the Honourable Minister received any preliminary report of the investigation which has taken place ?

Minister : When reports are received, the question will be considered.

Sardar Hari Singh : Has he not received any interim report so far ?

Minister : Not yet.

Sardar Hari Singh : When does he expect the report ?

Minister : Very soon.

INTERMENT OF MR. TEHAL SINGH OF BHANGALI UNDER THE
CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Sardar Hari Singh : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Mr. Tehal Singh of Bhangali, district Lahore, has recently been interned in his village under the Criminal Law Amendment Act ; if so, the reasons for the action taken ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : First part : yes.

Second part : He had acted and was about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and peace.

Sardar Hari Singh : Is it a fact that action was taken against Mr. Tehal Singh because he was working day and night in order to create an awakening among the *kisans* of the Lahore district ?

Premier : No.

Sardar Hari Singh : Has any provision been made to give some allowance to him during the period of internment ?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : How often has Mr. Tehal Singh been interned ?

Premier : The honourable member can himself inform me.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : This is the third time he has been interned.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that only three months ago Comrade Tehal Singh was released and has now again been interned ?

Sardar Hari Singh : Is it a fact that action has been taken against Sardar Tehal Singh because of his activities inside the Lahore district or outside the district also ?

Premier : I am afraid I am not in a position to divulge any information.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Medical.

Sardar Hari Singh : What about the adjournment motions of which notice has been given ?

Mr. Speaker : Adjournment motions are not to be taken up during the discussion of the budget.

Sardar Hari Singh : Will they be taken up on the 31st March ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes, if they are in order then.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I submit that since the general discussion of the budget is over and the demand for general administration has been voted, nothing should stand in the way of discussion of the adjournment motions covering the conduct of the Police.

Mr. Speaker : I do not want to enter into a discussion on the adjournment motions during the consideration of the budget. I have given my fullest consideration and I do not find myself in a position to give my consent to their being moved during the budget discussion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then, am I to take it that even at this stage we cannot discuss an adjournment motion regarding police ?

Mr. Speaker : No.

Diwan Chaman Lall : After the budget is disposed of, will you see that the question of urgency does not prejudice the moving of these motions ?

Mr. Speaker : I am not in a position to give any definite undertaking in advance. If under the rules they can be moved, I shall not stand in the way.

Sardar Hari Singh : I take it that you have not ruled them out of order and that notice of them stands.

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

HOURS OF SITTING.

Premier : I beg to move—

That on Monday, the 27th March, 1939, the Assembly shall meet at 12 noon and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly at 4.30 P.M., on that day without question put.

The motion was carried.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

MEDICAL.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Medical.

Mrs. Duni Chand (Lahore City, Women, General) (Urdu) : Sir, the other day I listened to the speech of Begum Shah Nawaz with rapt attention. I am sorry to say that I felt somewhat disappointed at her speech. Why so ? Because I entertained great hopes that my sister who is the president of the All-India Women's Conference, Punjab Branch, would press forward the demands of the women with all the force at her command. But I am sorry that she could not do so for certain reasons of her own. Now I take the duty on myself which in fact was hers. She was pleased to say that much had been done for women. What has been provided for them this year is as follows.

In 1938-39 two women assistant surgeons were appointed for mufasil ilaqa. But for the next year one woman assistant surgeon for Jhelum, one for Hazro, district Attock, the third for another place and the fourth for Maternity Hospital, Montgomery, and still another for family ward of Rewari Hospital, have been appointed. Besides, twelve nurses have also been employed. Now I ask my sister in particular and the Government in general if, in a country where women, owing to the observation of purdah, prefer to die rather than be treated by male doctors, this number of female doctors and nurses is sufficient. How can one congratulate the Government on creating a few posts for such a large population ? Naturally women and children are in greater need of medical aid than men. It is a well-known fact that except the populous towns like Amritsar and Lahore, the rest do not have any hospitals specially meant for women and children. And wherever there happens to be any such institution the number of patients in them is so large that full attention cannot possibly be given to each patient. It is, therefore, necessary that in villages and towns hospitals should be opened on a small scale, wherein the staff should consist of women only. My honourable sister has remarked that the Government is desirous of starting such hospitals with a definite programme but the rub lies in the scarcity of funds. It is much to be regretted that such lame excuses are always offered with regard to the question of affording medical relief to women and children. It is admitted on all hands that the health of a nation depends largely on its healthy women and children. It is, therefore, a wrong policy to evade the solution of a fundamental problem on the score of paucity of funds. Again, if women clamour for their social rights and wish to introduce a Bill, it is rejected on the ground of religious scruples, and a demand for more money for the health and happiness of the women of this province is neglected under the pretext of financial stringency. I cannot help submitting that he is not a wise man who lays a weak foundation of the edifice simply because he is contemplating to spend a huge amount on its superstructure. To seek excuses for depriving the women and children of any medical relief is neither wise nor desirable on the part of the Government which does not hesitate to spend huge sums of money on holding durbars and parties, and in defraying the fat salaries of the big officials. With such a slow progress even a period of 50 years would

not suffice to achieve anything in this direction. The women to-day have politically awakened and they would not allow the Government to trample upon their rights any longer.

The Honourable Minister had remarked that the depressed classes would first be uplifted and brought to the same footing with other classes. I would like to know as to whether these women are not among the depressed. Have they not any claim to the State exchequer? I may remind the Honourable Minister that he is a representative of both men and women. These women flocked to the polling booths in spite of their veils and coverings to record their votes, and any denial of their rights now would certainly create a rebellion in your homes.

Yesterday my honourable brother, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, suggested that unemployed boys should also be trained for nursing. I admit that sometimes female nurses have difficulties in tending men but it is not correct to say that female nurses try to rule over the patients and that their shrill voices frighten the patients. Women are kind-hearted by nature and have an immense capacity for service. It is therefore not right to assert that girls are less efficient than boys in this respect.

I submit that in order to increase the number of lady doctors we must reserve more seats for girl students in the Medical School and the College and also start more schools for training nurses so that like various other articles we may not have to import foreign nurses into our country. Similarly, the number of midwives should also be increased. I am not prepared to listen to the plea that the Government has no funds. I know it is possible for the Government to create funds for a thing which is deemed urgent. But the trouble is that here also might carries the right and the Government shuns to undertake any measures for the welfare of women and children.

There is one more submission. Yesterday my honourable sister remarked that in foreign countries people subscribe funds for hospitals sometimes to the tune of £ 5 or £ 10. I request her not to forget that Indians are not rich like them. Our gold has been taken away by these very foreign countries. The income of the people is low and they are on the verge of starvation. Therefore, how can we follow the example of other countries? It is not possible to expect any subscription from people who are making both ends meet with great difficulty. Even if they desire to do so, they cannot contribute anything. It is the duty of the Government to reduce its top heavy expenditure and thus help such institutions. But what do we see? We find that it is increasing its expenditure which it has inherited from its predecessors. I may submit that it is its duty to remove unemployment from the people and help them in running their business. If the Government does these things, then those people can also contribute something towards these public bodies. But I may submit that the times are such that the people themselves stand in need of bread. In this connection I may point out that many a young man has committed suicide on account of unemployment. How can they contribute anything to these hospitals when they themselves are dying of hunger? How can they pay anything in charity when they themselves need bread to keep their body and soul together? Otherwise there are many good things that are being done in other countries and which

[Mrs. Duni Chand.]

I would like were done here. But unfortunately we cannot follow the example of those countries and in fact we cannot copy them. I would like to illustrate my point by citing an example. In England there are many poor houses, where the poor people are looked after and are provided for. As a matter of fact every kind of facility is provided to them in those poor houses. But against this in this city of Lahore there is a poor house inside the Masti Gate. I may inform the honourable members of this House that the Administrator of Lahore has discontinued the grant that was given to this poor house. When such is the state of affairs, how can we copy and follow the example of other countries? Our Government which realizes crores of rupees by imposing taxes and through excise duty on wines and intoxicants which literally spoil one's life, is in duty bound to help the people.

Here I would like to refer to another matter, although it is not strictly relevant to the question now before the House. It is a matter of great regret that the Government has not been able to stop the carrying on of refuse in open carts up till now. Take it from me that the open carts of refuse are spreading so many epidemics that your hospitals are unable to eradicate them. Epidemics like typhoid, tuberculosis and cholera are the direct result of such refuse which is daily carried in open carts. The whole responsibility lies on the Government, because for the last two years we have been urging this point that it should do something to put a start to the carrying on refuse in open carts. But I am sorry to state that up till now nothing tangible has been done by the Government in this respect. It goes on preparing schemes, even though during that period many people die on account of these diseases.

In view of these things what help can we render to the Government? It behoves my friends on the opposite side that they should think dispassionately over the matter and try to evolve some remedy for it. I may tell them that now the people are not the same old simpletons. They do understand these things. It is matter of regret that our requests produce no effect on the Government and it pays no heed to these matters. Reverting to the subject proper, I may point out to my sister over there that the women of the Punjab look up to her as their representative and guide. I would like to remind her that by sitting on those benches she should not forget the duty which devolves on her in connection with the protection of the rights of the womenfolk of the Punjab. I therefore request her that her presence on those benches can be very useful to us. If per chance she also begins to side with the other members of the Government, then God save them from destruction and ruin. It is necessary for her that when she delivers any speech she should do so with full liberty of conscience. She should not care whether she is sitting on this or that side of the House. With these words I resume my seat.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Women, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the expenditure that was previously provided for demand No. 17 was Rs. 52,57,000. Now it has been increased by Rs. 2,22,000. If we look at this sum we cannot say that the Honourable Minister in charge has done nothing to provide more money for medical aid or that the department now under the consideration of the House has made no progress. But in view of the needs of the public we have to point out that this sum

not sufficient and the relief that is to be given to the public is very small indeed. Allow me to point out that when the Government is our own and the party in power consists of our own kith and kin, it is not fair that medical relief should be provided to one section of the public and new hospitals and dispensaries should be opened for them alone, while other sections of the population should be left in the lurch without medical aid. At a time when we have our Government, it is necessary that it should treat everybody alike and the same kind of facilities provided to all sections of the public. The two honourable members who have preceded me have explicitly stated the needs of their own constituencies. One of them while stating the needs of his constituency stated that in rural areas only one medical practitioner was available for every 22,000 people. But I may point out that the poor people cannot obtain even a single pill of quinine, not to speak of a medical practitioner. In view of these conditions it is highly necessary that a large number of hospitals should be opened throughout the length and breadth of this province and every city should be provided with a medical dispensary, so that people should go there and get themselves treated.

Now I wish to bring to your notice one very important thing and that is that in every tahsil and in every district maternity hospitals should be opened. Their need is greatly felt, and due to their absence thousands of valuable lives are lost every year. There is no gainsaying the fact that most of the women die of labour troubles. In this respect I have great sympathy for my sisters who are living in rural areas. Usually hospitals are situated miles away from their villages. Generally in such hospitals there are no lady doctors. In this connection I wish to point out that Indian women prefer death rather than allow male doctors to treat them. The result is that they do not go to such hospitals. If at all there is any lady doctor in such hospitals, the village people have to bring their women to such hospitals on *charpoys* and either the women breathe their last on the way or their cases become septic and only a few escape death. I therefore, submit that it is highly necessary that maternity hospitals should be set up in which sufficient accommodation should be provided for labour cases. Further in every city and in every village trained *dais* should be appointed and instructions issued to them that if they find that any case has become dangerous they should immediately take the patient to the nearest maternity hospital. The conveyance should also be provided by the Government. When such female patients are admitted in such hospitals, they should be provided all facilities and care should be taken that they get on all right so that in future if they fall ill they should go to such hospitals willingly.

There is one hospital known as the Lady Aitchison Hospital, which is meant for the numerous women of Lahore. In this very hospital the accommodation for the labour cases is so very limited that in one room many labour cases are treated at one and the same time. In my opinion the treatment of different labour cases at one and the same time is troublesome for the patients. Again the number of rooms in the hospital is so very small that before the patients recover they are discharged. Some time ago Government bought a tract of land for building a new building for the Lady Aitchison Hospital. But up till now no building has been built. It is the duty of the present Government to build a new building for that hospital so that the trouble about the lack of accommodation is removed.

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

Besides, it is a matter of regret that there is not even a single Medical School, not to speak of a Medical College, for Women in this province. In this connection I wish to point out that as long as a large number of girls do not study medicine, women in general cannot get medical relief at all. If the Government start some medical schools for women, many girls by studying this subject can serve the public in a better way. Here I may point out that this profession is such that Government service is not required for all those who qualify in it. One can start private practice and thereby one can earn as well as serve others. At present a fixed number of girls are studying with the boys in the Medical College, Lahore. In the Amritsar Medical School ten per cent. of the admissions are for girls. The Honourable

4 P.M.

Minister has remarked that this number has been recently raised to 25. Similarly an annual grant of Rs. 94,500 has been awarded to Miss Browne's school at Ludhiana. It is very easy to judge as to how many lady doctors can be trained by a private institute such as that of Miss Browne's. It is, therefore, necessary that a medical school should be started at Lahore, where there are already a Medical College and various other laboratories and innumerable conveniences of this type. I believe that by starting such an institute at Lahore the Government will not have to spend much.

Sir, while criticising the Government people generally propose several new items of expenditure but they do not suggest any new source of income. There is a well-known saying—

دہائی کا راستہ تو سب بتا دیتے ہیں لیکن خراج کوئی بلے نہیں بندھا

I venture to suggest some schemes for the influx of funds. In the last budget session I put forward certain proposals as to how the income of the Government could be increased for opening new maternity hospitals. And this time I again propose that the Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners should be asked to hold durbars in their respective divisions and districts and invite the big landlords and capitalists of that *ilaga* to such durbars appealing to them to contribute funds towards the establishment of maternity centres. The Government may then honour the leading subscribers with such titles as *Fakhar-i-Qaum* and *Khadim-i-Millat* and also confer upon them gold medals.

Sir, you all remember that when Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow started the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund, many Rajas, Nawabs and Chiefs contributed towards it. When the Honourable Premier visited Muzaffargarh, a tract of 100 squares was offered to him for strengthening the Unionist Party. It is admitted on all hands that the Honourable Premier enjoys the confidence of the whole Punjab, and if he starts any such scheme, I am sure, several capitalists, landlords and chiefs would gladly offer even thousands of squares of land for the purpose. I suggest another source of income which may be ridiculed to-day in the House but which, I submit, if carried out may result in bringing crores of rupees into the public exchequer. It is this. The income arising out of some of the different minerals of this province such as petroleum, salt, etc., which goes at present to the Central Government is thoroughly out of our control. If our Government were to

make a demand from the Central Government for a share in this income. I believe an immense sum can be had. You may consider this proposal improper but you should not lose sight of the fact that similar demands would be made to-morrow if not to-day by other provinces. If my suggestion is rightly followed, very little excuse as to the scarcity of funds for opening new maternity centres will remain valid.

My honourable sister, Mrs. Duni Chand, has observed that our country is extremely poor and therefore an appeal for subscriptions would be futile but I want to assure her that such an appeal is not likely to stand fruitless. When our people are wont to spend huge sums of money on various useless customs and ceremonies on the occasion of marriage, I do not see any reason why they would not help the Government in its important and useful efforts. You might have come to know from the budget that a philanthropist has donated 50 thousand rupees for the establishment of a Radium Institute. Similarly last year at Amritsar some one is reported to have made a donation of Rs. 1,00,000 for opening a hospital. Several instances of the kind can be cited here. There are besides this, innumerable private hospitals already in existence. It is the duty of the Government to start such a work. If it would make an appeal, the public, I am sure, would gladly respond to it.

Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion which relates to water meters and so with your permission I would like to say a few words in this connection.

Minister for Education: On a point of order, Sir, that motion is not covered by the motion under discussion. And therefore any discussion of that matter at present would be irrelevant.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji: I want to mention that point as an analogy. It was remarked by the honourable Lala Deshbandhu Gupta that a considerable saving can be effected by reducing the number of the I. M. S. officers. It is a fact that the Englishmen have conquered the Indian Empire by dint of their medical skill. Even to-day they are very skilful in this science. Although a huge sum is being spent on the I. M. S. officers, yet it has to be admitted that they are worthy of their salaries. But I would venture to draw your attention to the state of affairs prevailing in the Lahore Municipality. How strange it is that without appraising the extent of benefit accruing by the installation of these meters, the Municipality is going to buy meters worth 10 lakhs of rupees from foreign countries! The Honourable Minister for Education has remarked that these meters will be purchased here. I request him to show me whether there is already a factory manufacturing these meters in Lahore. I am prepared to go in my car and visit the factory. Already an amount of Rs. 20,000 has flowed out of the country and still huge sums are expected to go out. This is all a clever trick of an Englishman whom the Government has placed over our heads, and still I am asked not to say a word about him. Why should I keep mum especially when the people of my constituency are being daily subjected to new hardships by the Government? The greatest of such hardships which are going to be inflicted upon them is the scheme of effecting reduction in the water-supply to them. It is admitted on all hands that water is second only to air for keeping up human life. It is a fact that scarcity of water to-day has worsened the conditions in the

[**Begum Rashida Latif Baji.**]

Lahore city. If you increase the water supply here you would see residents of Lahore moving clean and tidy in the streets. The prime need of the time is to sink a number of tube wells and to install several public water taps for the poor people. But the Government is acting quite to the contrary and intends to place restrictions even on the use of the little water that is supplied to the city. Water is the only means to make poor people look clean and to protect them from the scorching heat of the summer sun. It is therefore highly undesirable on the part of the Government to impose any restriction on its use. In view of the short time at my disposal I conclude my speech with a request to the Government that it should dispassionately consider my suggestions and try to carry them out.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, before I express my views on the demand under discussion, I should like to draw your attention to a grievance which I am sure is shared by every section of the House. In fact there are many grievances of the kind but one of them requires special mention. We are expected, and quite rightly too, to criticize the new budget and to offer proposals and suggestions for the future in the light of the past record of the achievements and defaults of the Government. But I am sorry to observe the report on the working of hospitals and dispensaries is not available even for the year 1937. It is a general complaint and a genuine grievance that these departmental reports are not supplied to honourable members but I will let it alone for the time being. My complaint is that the reports are not received even in the library of the Assembly. This is not the case only with the report of this particular department, but reports for that year on the working of other departments also have not as yet been received in the library. Now, Sir, how is a proper criticism of the budget possible unless we have before us the programme as well as the record of the achievements of the Government in the various departments? It is very difficult to criticize the working of a department, the administrative report about which has not been made available to us up till now. Nonetheless I will try to place my views before the House because I am myself connected with the profession of the medical relief which is under discussion to-day. I may here mention that my views will be based on my study of the budget as well as my past experience of the profession. In the absence of the report of the department, I tried to elicit certain information, through an interpellation in this House as to the number of the rural dispensaries and their situation, but, I am sorry to observe that even this information was denied under the pretext that the time and labour involved in collecting this, would be incommensurate with the result to be achieved. Again, I put a question with regard to the Medical Council, and in that connection I was told in July, 1938, that the information was not yet ready and that it would be communicated to me when ready. More than eight months have elapsed and yet the information has not been supplied to me. These are the handicaps under which I have to-day to discuss the Medical Relief Department of the Government.

The first and foremost remark that I want to make in regard to the cut motion, as it was moved yesterday, is that in my opinion it was most unfortunate. That is not the way in which I would like to move cut motions. I

do not feel any hesitation in admitting that. In fact it is our policy, and practice too, that communal tinge should not be given while discussing public departments. It is, of course, the duty of the Government to safeguard the legitimate rights and claims of all the communities entrusted to its care. If Hindus, or Sikhs or Muslims remain unemployed, the State should consider it a burden on itself and a duty to discharge as soon as possible. It is, therefore, futile to raise the communal bogey over these questions. By the way, I may inform the House that I qualified myself as a doctor in 1912 but Government service was denied to me simply because I was a Hindu. I do not bear any grudge on that score. On the other hand, I thank my stars that I was not recruited. At the most I would have become a Superintendent of a Jail or a Civil Surgeon, but then I would have become a slave. Now I am fighting the battle of freedom and am free to liberate my countrymen too. At the same time I am at liberty to serve the public as I think fit in the medical field. However my point was that we should not raise communal issues and should look at things from a purely national point of view. Common welfare of the province as a whole should be our chief concern.

Before proceeding any further I may be permitted to mention that the greatest claim laid by the Government is that they have provided this year an additional sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for the medical relief. But before considering how it will be spent, I may point out what the income of this department has been. The Government estimates show that a sum of Rs. 1,64,000 was received last year from the medical schools and colleges in the form of fees charged from the students. This year the sum to be so received amounts to Rs. 1,72,000, that is, an increase of Rs. 8,000 has been estimated during the present year. Under the head "Hospital Receipts," a sum of Rs. 1,28,000 was received last year and an equal amount has been estimated for this year too. The receipts under "Mental Hospital" amounted to Rs. 2,16,700 last year and amount to Rs. 1,96,700 in the present year. Here a decrease of Rs. 20,000 is due to the fact that large amounts, that were in arrears, were recovered from the local bodies last year but as there were no such arrears to be recovered during the present year, the amount has shown a decrease. Again, under the minor head "Sale of Medicines," a sum of Rs. 28,100 is estimated against Rs. 19,200 of the last year. Here again an increase of Rs. 8,000 is shown. The minor head "Contributions" contains three sub-heads. From the North-West Frontier Province will come an amount of Rs. 2,75,400 as compared with a sum of Rs. 2,68,400 pertaining to the previous year. The District Board and Municipality of Lahore will contribute a sum of Rs. 2,87,330 against Rs. 2,80,500 pertaining to the previous year. From other district boards the same amount of Rs. 16,200 will be received as was received last year. Add to this the sum of Rs. 50,000 being a donation from a philanthropist for the construction of a Radium Institute in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore. Thus under the head "Contributions" a total increase of Rs. 66,000 is expected this year over the sum which was received last year. Again, receipts under the head "Collections of payments for services rendered" relate to the contributions recovered from the Indian States on account of the training of their students in the Punjab. Similarly from "Miscellaneous" an increase is expected under two heads. Transfers

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

from the deposit accounts of the Government of India grant for economic development of rural areas and from the Special Development Fund will amount to Rs. 43,600 and Rs. 49,000 respectively against Rs. 25,880 and Rs. 53,000 pertaining to the previous year.

Thus it appears from these various additions, that a total increase over the income of the last year will amount to Rs. 1,19,800 and the total additions made in the expenditure will be Rs. 2,12,200. So when the Government claim to have incurred 2 lakhs more on the medical relief, they do not tell us that their income too has increased under this head to the extent of Rs. 1,19,800. In reality they have provided only one lakh more than the previous year. Now I would like to tell you how this amount is going to be spent. Although details are given in the New Expenditure, yet as it covers various items of expenditure, the matter is not clear. First of all, there is under 'Superintendence' the pay of the Inspector-General and the Assistant Inspector-General, which is less by Rs. 2,500 than the amount provided for them last year.

In this connection I would like to invite your attention to one point. In the last year's budget Rs. 35,240 were provided on account of total pay of officers and this year Rs. 33,000 have been provided under the same head. This shows a decrease to the extent of Rs. 2,240. When this expenditure was not voted but charged, I for one cannot understand how this decrease has taken place. Then look at the item of expenditure on 'District Medical Officers' and you will find that on account of pay of officers and pay of establishment an extra expenditure of Rs. 25,840 is going to be incurred next year. The reason for this is not far to seek. In 1938-39 the number of I. M. S. officers was shown to be 11 and this year their number is shown to be 14. It is for these three officers that the extra expenditure of Rs. 25,840 is required. No doubt the number of Assistant Surgeons has been reduced from 65 in the last year to 62 in this year. But that makes little difference so far as that extra expenditure is concerned. Then again you will find under the item of expenditure on account of 'Leave Salary' that a sum of Rs. 6,300 has been provided for the next year as against the sum of Rs. 7,000 provided last year. This shows a decrease to the extent of Rs. 700. Then under 'Allowances' there is an increase of Rs. 4,840 and under 'Contingencies' there is a decrease of Rs. 4,430. Again a new expenditure of Rs. 35,100 has been provided for scholarships. No such provision was made last year. We are given to understand that this amount has been provided for the training of *dai* nurses. My sister over there tried to explain the necessity of this expenditure yesterday but I must confess that I had not been able to understand what she said about it. This expenditure is shown under Medical Department, though I think it should have come under Public Health Department. It may be because the *dai* nurses have to be sent to the Medical College or the Medical School for training that this expenditure is shown under Medical Department. No doubt these two departments should co-operate with each other. I am not conversant with the budgeting technique but it appears to me that it would have been better if this expenditure had been shown under Public Health Department. As a matter of fact this amount has been taken from

the Rural Development Fund. This is a Government of India grant to be spent on *dai* nurses. Again under the item 'Hospitals and Dispensaries' a new expenditure of Rs. 1,17,400 has been provided. Then again a new expenditure of Rs. 59,000 is going to be incurred on the construction of a Radium Department in the Mayo Hospital as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(1) Pay of Officers	1,100
(2) Pay of Establishment	10,130

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Let me tell the honourable Leader of the Opposition that the expenditure of Rs. 35,160 has been provided for the training of *dai* nurses who may work as *daïs* and conduct maternity cases. These *daïs* will serve the poor women who cannot afford to requisition the services of nurses. So it is quite a different matter.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I am thankful to the honourable lady member for supplying me this information. The amount of Rs. 35,160 is in fact a Government of India grant which is under instructions from them to be spent on the training of *daïs*. Now, Sir, I wanted to explain how the new expenditure of Rs. 10,130 is going to be incurred. Six nurses in all are going to be employed, three for the Mayo Hospital, one for X-Ray Department and two for the Radium Department proposed to be constructed in the Mayo Hospital. There is another expenditure of Rs. 1,100 provided for the person who will conduct radium exposures. It appears that somebody is already in view. The officer who is already doing this job in the Lady Willingdon Hospital will probably get an allowance of Rs. 100 a month. There is some radium in the Lady Willingdon Hospital. Treatment by radium is not an ordinary thing and consequently one should pay for it. The fee to be charged by the officer can very well meet the proposed expenditure. This item includes two X-Ray Assistants.

Then there is another item which deserves special attention. It is compensatory allowances. Last year the expenditure under this item was no more than Rs. 6,200 but this year it has risen up to Rs. 43,000 which means an increase of about Rs. 37,000. Now, there is no explanatory note in the Memorandum of New Expenditure about this huge increase, and, therefore, we are not in a position to judge the desirability or otherwise of this expenditure. Similarly the expenditure on Board and Uniform allowances to nurses is going to increase by Rs. 4,02,000. Now I turn to Contingencies. The revised estimates for the year 1938-39 were Rs. 4,29,400 and this year the estimates are Rs. 8,79,540. Sir, out of the estimates for the last year Rs. 92,540 were for the purchase of X-Ray plant, and therefore, this year there should have been a decrease of at least that amount. But figures show that it is no more than Rs. 49,860. As regards the Radium Institute included in this sub-head, a local philanthropist has donated Rs. 50,000 and you are going to incur a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 10,000 only. It is also expected that the X-Ray Department will be responsible for an increase in the cost of films as the number of skiagrams is sure to increase. Thus Rs. 7,450 have been provided for the cost of films. In this connection I wish to draw your attention to a very strange state of affairs. The fee charged from a paying patient for a skiagram is Rs. 10 out of which Rs. 6 go to the Radiologist and Rs. 4 are

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

credited to the Government. Now, Sir, the cost of a film is Rs. 7 and this means that out of Rs. 10 received from the patient the Government saves Rs. 3 only and it has to add to that amount Rs. 3 more from the public funds to pay Rs. 6 to the Radiologist. To this private practice within the hospital as well as to private practice generally allowed to doctors in the Government service, I shall return later. Anyway the total increase in the expenditure on Mayo Hospital is Rs. 1,100 which is going to be met out of the increase of 2 lakhs of rupees in the expenditure of this department. On the other hand the expenditure on the Lady Willingdon Hospital has decreased by Rs. 400 this year.

The expenditure on the purchase of quinine will be dealt with at its proper place but I may mention here that this expenditure amounted to Rs. 74,000 last year and this year it is Rs. 40,000 which means a decrease of Rs. 34,000. The Dental Hospital at Lahore has got an increase of Rs. 18,600. This was due to the purchase of Dentists' chairs and certain other improvements in the equipment. We are told that the Government is going to employ some part-time dentists in this hospital, but to this matter I will return later.

Now let us see what treatment has been meted out to the Lady Aitchison Hospital. My honourable sister was pleased to remark in the course of her speech yesterday that Indian women are not yet prepared to get their ailments treated by a male doctor. May I know if that is the reason why you have decreased by Rs. 1,900 the expenditure on this hospital which, barring the Ludhiana Hospital, which is not a Government Hospital, is the only hospital for women in the whole province? I may point out in this connection that the Lady Willingdon Hospital is in charge of a male doctor and is going to remain in charge of a male so long as the matter is in the hands of the Secretary of State. Whether women like or do not like it, they shall have to submit to treatment by a male I. M. S. officer or go without any treatment in maternity cases. There are 13 I. M. S. officers in leave reserve and even if war breaks out and 8 of them have to go, at least 5 will remain here and one of them will remain in charge of the Lady Willingdon Hospital.

The Civil Hospital at Amritsar is going to spend Rs. 19,300 more than what was spent last year. This is probably due to increase in the number of nurses and consequently in their board and uniform allowances.

Now the mufassil hospitals and dispensaries will be responsible for an increase. The details of the increase are : pay of officers Rs. 35,710, establishment Rs. 24,860, travelling allowances Rs. 500, other allowances and honoraria Rs. 5,190, contingencies Rs. 35,840 and charges payable to other departments Rs. 1,000. Thus the total expenditure under the sub-head Hospitals and Dispensaries is going to increase by Rs. 1,17,400.

Out of the increase of 2 lakhs something is going to fall to the share of the Lahore Medical College. The total increase amounts to Rs. 21,400 but leaving aside the increase in the charged items which we are forbidden to touch, the voted expenditure is to increase by Rs. 6,200. But if you go a little into detail you will find that the share of the Medical College has been

devoured by the charged items. For instance, under the item "Pay of officers" the charged expenditure is going to increase by Rs. 15,500 and voted expenditure by Rs. 4,620; expenditure on establishment is to increase by Rs. 4,240; travelling allowances will decrease by Rs. 820 and other allowances and honoraria by Rs. 760; scholarships show an increase of Rs. 60 and contingencies will decrease by Rs. 1,530.

Then the deMontmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore, will have an increase of Rs. 10,000 in its expenditure and the Amritsar Medical School is going to spend Rs. 3,700 more than last year. But the amount recoverable from the North-West Frontier Province Government under this item is going to decrease by Rs. 1,400. The expenditure on the Punjab Mental Hospital will decrease by Rs. 8,500, and on the Chemical Examiner's department by Rs. 18,000. Although there has been a decrease of Rs. 15,490 in the contingencies of the last named department, yet some of it has been devoured by the charged expenditure due to the fact that last year an Indian was officiating for the Chemical Examiner on a comparatively less salary.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh of the panel of chairmen.)

Before I take up all the departments one by one and say something about their working, I would like to say something about the replies that have been given in response to the criticism of the Opposition members. The honourable lady member first of all dealt with the question of the recruitment of I. M. S. officers in the Punjab. I would, therefore, take up this question first of all. In the *Punjab Gazette*, dated April 2, 1937, the following extracts have been published from the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, New Delhi, Thursday, March 25, 1937:

The Secretary of State for India has agreed that with effect from the introduction of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, the following changes will be made in the organization, distribution, and terms of service of the Military Medical Services in India (excluding Burma). Where necessary rules giving effect to these proposals will be made by the Secretary of State under Part X of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Now I will read out to you the portion that relates to the I. M. S. officers:—

- (2) The officer strength of the Indian Medical Service for employment with Indian troops in peace will be limited to 364. Of these, a number not exceeding 220 will be British and the remaining 144 will be Indian. Of the Indian officers a number not exceeding 58 will be short service commissioned officers employed on the terms explained in Part II-A below.
- (3) The future establishment of the Indian Medical Department for employment with British and Indian troops in peace will remain unchanged for the present, but it is under contemplation that a number of selected officers of the Assistant Surgeons' Branch of the Indian Medical Department, possessing the requisite qualifications, shall in course of time undertake the duties of eight Indian and nine European officers of the Indian Medical Service.

As an experimental measure, six qualified Assistant Surgeons have already been appointed to Indian Military Hospitals to carry out the duties of Indian Medical Service officers.

And on the Civil side it is stated that—

(1) In order—

- (a) to provide a Reserve of British officers to complete the numbers required by the Army on mobilization;
- (b) to supply a nucleus of trained Indian officers for the same purpose;

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

- (c) to ensure the number of British officers required for attendance on the British members of Superior Civil Services and their families ;
- (d) to meet the requirements of the civil departments of the Central Government and the Crown Representative (corresponding to the present Home, Education, Health and Lands and Foreign and Political Departments),
there will be a Civil Branch of the Indian Medical Service consisting of not less than 220 officers, of whom 166 will be British and not less than 54 Indians.
- (2) Of these 220 officers, 97 British and 50 Indian will constitute the War Reserve while the remainder [69 British and 4 (or more) Indian] will not be liable to recall to the Army on mobilization and will continue to be known as Residuaries.
- (3) Of the 166 British officers, 122 will be employed by the provinces and the powers provided by section 246 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and the remaining 44 will be employed under the Crown Representative and the civil departments of the Central Government.

In the same way it is further stated :

- (4) Of the 54 Indian officers, not less than 38 will be employed by the provinces under the powers provided by section 246 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and not less than 12 will be employed under the civil departments of the Central Government. The whole of these 50 officers will belong to the War Reserve. In addition there will be a number of Residuary posts open to Indian officers under the Crown Representative and the civil departments of the Central Government ; and it will be permissible for the provinces to employ as many additional Indian officers as they may wish, by agreement with the Central Government, provided only that they will guarantee them sufficient security of tenure to avoid the possibility of an embarrassing surplus being returned to the Army absorption.
- (5) The appointments available for Indian Medical Service officers under the Crown Representative and the appointments reserved for Indian Medical Service officers under the civil departments of the Central Government are shown in Appendix I.

The appointments reserved for Indian Medical Service officers in the provinces are shown in Appendix II.

It is also stated therein :

- (8) The provinces, as at present, will be under no statutory obligation to employ members of the Indian Medical Department.

Now the following appointments have been reserved in the Punjab. It is stated that these officers will be British officers, although it is not stated whether they will belong to England, Canada or Australia. It is simply stated that the persons recruited as I. M. S. officers will be British officers. May I know whether Canadians and Australians are also regarded British officers simply because they happen to be of white colour ?

- (a) To which British officers will be appointed :—

Seven Civil Surgeoncies and 3 senior or two senior and one junior specialist posts.	
Civil Surgeoncies	.. Lahore, Amritsar, Multan, Shahpur (Sargodha), Jhelum or Murree (according to season), Lyallpur and Dera Ghazi Khan.
Specialist posts	.. Three senior or two senior and one junior specialists in each of the subjects of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics with Gynaecology, to be employed at the Medical College, Lahore.
Leave reserve	.. Three officers. Total 13 officers.
War Reserve	.. One specialist, four civil surgeons plus three leave reserve = 8.
Residuary	.. Two specialists and three civil surgeons (Lahore, Amritsar and Lyallpur)=5.

- (b) To which Indian officers will be appointed. Three posts, one leave reserve=4.

It is stated in the *Punjab Gazette* that the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India have agreed that these orders would come into force with effect from the date of introduction of the provincial autonomy. Now we have to see how many I. M. S. officers are working in the Punjab. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals belongs to the I. M. S. cadre. Besides, there are 16 other I. M. S. officers. Of these two are leave reserve officers and 14 are civil surgeons. There are nine I. M. S. officers on the staff of King Edward Medical College, Lahore. Of these three are Europeans. There is also one I. M. S. officer working in the Medical School, Amritsar, and he is an Indian. The officer in charge of the Mental Hospital, Lahore, is an I. M. S. officer. The Director of Public Health belongs to that cadre. The Inspector-General of Prisons is also an I. M. S. officer. In addition to these there are four other officers and they are all I. M. S. officers. The total number of I. M. S. officers employed in the Punjab is 36. In this connection I would like to point out that of these 36 I. M. S. officers two were recruited in the year 1938. Of the remaining 34, 19 I. M. S. officers are Europeans and the rest are all Indians.

Besides, it has been stated on the floor of the House that the Punjab Government has to keep these I. M. S. officers in their employ (under the provisions of the Government of India Act). In this connection I may submit that the relevant section of the Government of India Act has been quoted in this Gazette. In that section the number of I. M. S. officers that has been fixed is 17 only. It is nowhere stated that under the Government of India Act the Punjab Government is in duty bound to retain all the 34 I. M. S. officers in their employ. Even if we take it for granted that the Punjab Government was bound to retain all these 34 I. M. S. officers in their employ, may I know why they have appointed two new I. M. S. officers? They should have refused even to entertain the idea of appointing these people in the Punjab. Now at present the total number of European I. M. S. officers employed in the Punjab is 19 and under the Government of India Act the Punjab Government is required to keep only 18 I. M. S. officers in their employ. When my honourable friends over there assumed office their number was only 17. Now it has risen to 19. In spite of all that, my honourable friends would say, "what is the harm if we have appointed two more British I. M. S. officers?" I may point out that of these two I. M. S. officers that have been recently posted in the Punjab, one is an Australian. If to-day any Indian doctor goes to Australia and proposes to start his practice there, he would not be allowed to do so. Our Government is so thick-skinned that they do not even feel the insults. They are ever ready to welcome the inhabitants of those countries as I. M. S. officers where the Indians are treated so badly and are in fact insulted. Sir, here I am free to admit that the late Sir Mian Fazl-i-Husain did his level best to break the monopoly enjoyed by the I. M. S. people in the Medical College. He also endeavoured to stop further recruitment of the officers of the I. M. D. rank to the Medical department. And it was perhaps in 1923 that the late Mian Sahib while he was the Education Minister of the Punjab Government, got a resolution passed by the old Council to this effect. I strongly feel that he deserved the gratitude of all quarters for doing a singular service to his province by abolishing a cadre which had a strange and absolutely ridiculous origin. I may submit for the information of the House

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

that these I. M. D. officers were in fact only sub-assistant-surgeons. Just as a European medical man employed in the Army was considered to be an I. M. S. man, similarly an Indian sub-assistant-surgeon when called upon to serve under the military department was reckoned as an I. M. D. officer. Even to-day certain senior I. M. D. officers are serving under the Punjab Government as civil surgeons. But now the practice of employing the I. M. D. men under the Punjab Government has been discontinued. Here I may invite your attention to what the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain once said :—

I have mentioned to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals more than once that the Punjab Medical College is the only Medical College in India wherein the medical service is monopolising the college and the hospital. In all other Indian medical colleges there are non-service men acting as professors and as assistant-professors and we all know how difficult it is to break the monopoly. In this case however the time has come when this monopoly should be broken. His Excellency the Governor has agreed to two professorships being given to non-servicemen. So far as the clinic assistants are concerned, the work to be entrusted to them—under studies of their chiefs—they should be something much better than mere demonstrators. Ungenerous critics have already told me that prejudice against taking men with European qualifications is in part due to the fact that men who one day occupy their chiefs' places are not welcomed. I have been also told that the medical service will do their best to keep out the new class that I want to introduce in the interests of the public service. I see no reason why an Indian medical student who has done well in a British University should not stand as good a chance of being useful in his profession as Indians with British University qualifications are in the Educational Department.

Here in this note which relates to the professors of the Medical College the late Mian Sahib says that His Excellency had agreed to appoint two non-I. M. S. men as professors in the said college. But even long before that a non-I. M. S. man Dr. Caleb by name had been serving as a professor in this college and the Government had to admit that his work was as good as that of any I. M. S. man. Then, on the retirement of Dr. Mackenzie—an I. M. S. man—a question arose as to whether his vacant post should be occupied by a European I. M. S. man or whether this vacancy should be filled by recruiting an Indian non-serviceman. Although the Government had definitely decided to offer the post to an I. M. S. man, yet thanks to the timely interference of the late Mian Sahib the post was given to Rai Bahadur Dr. Jiwan Lal. Originally he was only an L. M. S. of the Punjab University but later on he passed his M. D. examination. And now can anybody have the courage to say that Dr. Jiwan Lal has failed to acquit himself in his duties with as much amount of efficiency as an I. M. S. man is expected to put in? Has he not by his remarkable services totally falsified the old notion that an Indian non-serviceman cannot reach even the shadow of the ability of an I. M. S. man? I think the Government has by this time realized its mistake and it will not give undue preference to the I. M. S. men in future at the expense of the Indian non-servicemen.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a great anomaly which exists in both the Medical College and the Medical School and which must needs be removed forthwith. It is often seen that a professor, who has specialized, say, in the subject of Anatomy, is asked to teach Pathology and, again, he is directed to take up classes in Surgery. Such shabby arrangements made in our Medical College and Medical School have been deteriorating the efficiency of the students of these institutions.

There is one thing more which I would like to point out to the Government. The chair of the subject of midwifery in the Medical School, Amritsar, is reserved for the Civil Surgeon of Amritsar. It means that the Government considers every civil surgeon appointed for that district to be an expert in the subject of midwifery. I hope the Honourable Minister would take immediate steps to stop these irregularities.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the encomiums which my honourable sister opposite paid yesterday to the I. M. S. officers. In the course of her speech she related a pathetic tale and remarked that the recovery of her ailing son was entirely due to the medical relief and advice offered by these I. M. S. men. It might be true and I need not doubt the veracity of her statement, but may I ask her the reason why she called in a Jew doctor to the Albert Victor Hospital to attend on her son when the I. M. S. men were already attending on him? If the latter were able enough to handle the case, why did she try to get special permission from the Hospital authorities for engaging the services of that private practitioner in the hospital?

The greatest objection against the employment of English I. M. S. surgeons and physicians is that throughout their service in India they gain experience at our cost and when they become expert after trying their knife on Indians, they run back to their own home country and benefit their countrymen. The point is not as to why they benefit their countrymen. The point is that they deprive us of their expert knowledge and experience. When they have to learn the work, they make experiments on our precious lives. But when we need their assistance to save our lives from deadly ills, they desert us. That is the objection. India remains the loser in this bargain. If you turn out 19 out of the total number of 36 I. M. S. officers and keep the remaining 17 you can employ 360 Indian doctors in their places. Is it not a colossal blunder to deprive the country of a chance of running 720 rural dispensaries merely for the sake of pleasing a few individuals? Turn out these 19 men, and you will have saved sufficient amount to establish a net-work of rural dispensaries in the Punjab.

Turning to the objection against allowing Government doctors to carry on their private practice, I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by my noble sister from Lahore. I may observe in this behalf that the teaching staff employed by the Government in the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, or in the Amritsar School, is naturally expected to do well in treating the patients. But in order to do well in the class room, they are also expected to strengthen and improve their knowledge by carrying on further research. This they cannot do for fear of losing their private practice. They spend all their available time in making money through private practice and do not take the trouble of doing any research work. That is the greatest evil of allowing them to carry on private practice. I say this purely from an impartial point of view. I am not personal. On the other hand, I have friendly relations with several of them and I would like to see their practice flourish. But my objection is based on principle. We pay the surgeons and the physicians huge salaries in order that when a poor patient comes to them, they may treat him well. But what happens is this. The doctors charge fees from the patients and get them admitted in the hospitals

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

and treat them at the cost of the Government. They operate upon their private patients in the operation rooms of the Mayo Hospital and use the Government apparatus. But the fees they charge go into their own pockets. Another evil that results from this is that the time which should have been given to a poor patient is devoted by a paid doctor to his private patient. Besides, the operation room and the apparatus which should have been used for the benefit of the poor, are used for the rich who can afford to pay fees to the doctor. The sad consequence is that the doctors refuse to admit the poor patients in order to make room for their private patients. That is very unfair. It may be urged in reply to this that a fee of Rs. 32 is charged for the operation room. But I may add that this fee is nothing as compared with the benefit derived from the Government apparatus, dressings material, chloroform and other facilities. I challenge any one to prove if these Government surgeons have their own clinic with them. If they have it, why do they not treat their private patients at their own places? They do not do this because they find it very expensive.

Besides, Government have provided separate family wards in the Victor block for the use of the European patients. Very highly paid nurses are engaged and high fees are allowed to the doctors for their visits. I would like to limit the fees to a minimum beyond which they may not be permitted to charge anything. Again, the Medical Superintendent receives the cheques which he passes on to the officers. Short recoveries are shown in the account books.

Here I may remove one misunderstanding. Although I was practising as a doctor, I am not doing so now. Hence none should think that I am jealous of the Government doctors who are allowed private practice. I am not in competition with them. My objections are based on principle only. It is really unfair to allow the paid surgeons and physicians to charge fees from the private patients whom they treat at the cost of the Government. If some one can afford to pay for the doctors, he can find private radiologists to have good skiagrams for them. Besides, the private practitioners keep up-to-date equipment. The new expenditure of Rs. 7,450 on this account is therefore unnecessary. The skiagrams are taken by your officers on Government owned apparatus and the fees charged by them are not credited to Government account. When this is being done, what is the use of incurring this expenditure? It was suggested yesterday by an honourable member that private practitioners may be appointed as honorary surgeons. But it was argued on behalf of Government that the private practitioners were not in Government service and as such they could not feel responsibility. Who would be responsible if they spoiled cases handed over to them? I wish my sister had been a doctor. Let me tell her that when once a doctor takes charge of a patient, he considers himself wholly and solely responsible for him. Besides a private practitioner feels far more responsible than a doctor drawing fat salary under Government. The former cannot afford to be irresponsible. He must see his patient regularly at appointed time; otherwise he is likely to run down his own reputation. He always feels very keen about public opinion. But your doctors getting fat salaries can afford to disregard public opinion. As a matter of fact they do so with impunity. A private practitioner cannot get on to the top unless he creates a good impression about himself in the public mind.

It has been said that corruption is rampant in the Medical Department. That is perfectly true. The I. M. S. officers exploit hospital equipment to raise fees for their personal benefit. They do no research work in their spare time but are always engaged in private practice. I know what is going on in your hospitals. Even their walls are exacting. The poor patients cannot afford to displease even the sweepers. I know and see every day what is taking place in your hospitals. I have been going there to see and serve as a public servant or as a public man if you like me to say that, the victims of the Dusehra Bomb outrage and Hindu-Muslim riots. I witnessed there what treatment was meted out to the patients and I know how they are being treated to-day. You look to England for lead in every matter. Even there house surgeons and house physicians are not permitted to carry on private practice. Even the leading practitioners consider it an honour to be associated with any of the big hospitals in England. Here in Lahore there is the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital where honorary surgeons and physicians are working to the entire satisfaction of the public. There, every one except the house surgeon is working honorarily. Can any one say that Dr. Dharam Vir, Honorary Physician and Rai Sidnath Kaul, the Honorary Eye Surgeon, are working irresponsibly? The latter is appointed an examiner by the Punjab University. There was a time when Dr. Beli Ram and Dr. Hira Lal used to attend to out-door patients in the Mayo Hospital. The doctors feeling that they were losing their private practice represented to the Principal that the services of the honorary doctors should be dispensed with. Consequently the Principal dispensed with their services. Well, Sir, if you are anxious to afford medical relief to rural areas why not avail of the services of the private practitioners at district head-quarters hospitals and send your paid doctors to rural areas? But what you propose to do is the employment of eight part-time private practitioners in the out-door and special departments of district head-quarters hospitals. Let me quote the exact words :—

In view of the fact that out-patients in some of the district head-quarters hospitals do not receive sufficient individual attention and that the special branches of medicines such as eye, ear, nose and throat, venereal diseases, X-ray and laboratory work are often inadequately served owing to lack of suitable specialist staff, it is proposed to give a trial to a system of employing young keen, well-qualified private practitioners to supplement the work of the permanent staff on a part-time basis.

You have provided Rs. 3,420 for the purpose. It means that you want to employ eight specialists for 11 months on Rs. 25 per mensem.

An honorary worker is actuated by the desire to serve his fellow beings. He never thinks of nor cares for your princely remunerations of Rs. 25 per mensem. Moreover, Sir, when people are working honorarily they work with a will because they have the satisfaction of doing service to the suffering fellow creatures. But the moment they are given this remuneration of Rs. 25 they begin to think of their work not in terms of service but of money, with the result that the meagreness of the remuneration tells on the quality of their work.

As regards donations for hospitals and dispensaries, I agree that rich people should come forward to shoulder their share of the responsibility in this connection but it is a pity that the donors are not treated fairly by the Government. There was some talk about Lady Linlithgow's Tuberculosis

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

Fund and of 90 to 95 per cent of the contribution of a province being spent on that province. But that is an unofficial affair and has nothing to do with any department under the Punjab Government. I would, therefore, desist from making any remarks about that fund. But as regards the donation of Rs. 50,000 for setting up of a Radium Institute, I hear that certain conditions were laid down by the donor but his wishes have not been carried out.

Minister of Education : I must protest against that. My honourable friend suggests that my policy or my intention is to accept these donations with reservation and that it would be open to me to ignore any of the conditions suggested by the donor. I may inform the honourable member that after personal talk with the donor the conditions were reduced to black and white and I will stick to them.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Is it not a fact that there was a tug-of-war between the Mayo Hospital and the Lady Willingdon Hospital and may I ask whether it was not said by some one that they should first get the money from the donor and then it would be up to them to fulfil or ignore his conditions ?

Minister : I repudiate this charge.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I know it is correct. My submission is that although the Honourable Premier has declared that he and his colleagues are going to stick to the ministerial chairs for 5,000 years, yet no one can say what is there in the womb of the future. It is just possible that to-morrow you may be replaced by some one else and the interested persons may not place those conditions before him. Anyway, Sir, may I know whether it is denied that nothing of the kind was said in a private talk?

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : May I know whether the honourable member was present there?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : When the money was given neither the Minister nor my friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani was present.

Minister : Misinformed.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Then, Sir, coming to the Red Cross Society it has been stated that this society is doing much by way of training nurses. It has also been said with regard to training the Punjabi girls as nurses that the Government is prepared to make arrangements for the purpose but it cannot find girls of the right type.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : May I correct the honourable Leader of the Opposition? I never said that girls of the right type cannot be found in the Punjab. All that I said was that it was desirable that the right type of girls and women should come forward to get training of nursing but unfortunately very few of them take to this profession. I appealed to my honourable brothers to induce this right type of girls and women to get training of nursing. If they are rich they can work honorarily. I said we wanted a Florence Nightingale to give a lead to my sisters in this matter.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : May I ask my sister whether, if Indian girls took to nursing and got the necessary training, the Government will be prepared to give them a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem as is done in the case of European nurses?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : If there is an efficient and trained Indian nurse she is paid the same salary.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Sir, my submission was this. It has been said that the Red Cross Society has made arrangements for training nurses but the right type of girls is not coming forward. But we are not discussing a non-official body at present. The House is discussing the budget of the Government and I wanted to know what the Government is doing in the matter of training of nurses. We find no provision in this budget for any arrangements for giving training to nurses. My honourable sister, Mrs. Shah Nawaz, said that the right type of women was not available but let us look at the history of medical education for women in the province. When I was studying in the Medical College, Lahore, there were some girl students too. But these girl students were not granted any degrees. There was a separate class for them and they attended lectures there. Then pressure was brought to bear on the Government and some seats were reserved for girl students. Again, in the Amritsar School ten seats were originally reserved for girls but now the Honourable Minister has told us that the number has been raised to 25. Similarly the number of students in the Ludhiana School is steadily increasing. As regards the Lady Hardinge Medical College, our grant to that institution is Rs. 10,000, but the number of students from the Punjab is no more than seven. Now, Sir, if the right type of women and girls is available for receiving training as lady doctors and *dais*, why cannot you find women of the right type to receive training as nurses? Surely, I have much more faith in the Indian womanhood. We can always have any number of women and girls of the right type to become nurses as well as lady doctors. The fact is that the Government itself is not desirous of giving any encouragement to Indian nurses and any difficulty that might have been experienced in getting students of the right type must be due to the fact that Indian nurses are accorded very discouraging treatment by their European and Anglo-Indian superiors. The honourable lady member said that she wanted a Florence Nightingale to give a lead to our young women. My submission is that not only in our province but even in this very House we have many nightingales, though not Florences, who are equally imbued with the desire to serve the suffering humanity. Not only that. We have even male nightingales here. (*Laughter*). Thus the plea that women of the right type are not available is absolutely untenable.

Now I would like to say a few words as regards trained *dais* and nurses. I am definitely of the opinion that there are many such nurses and trained *dais* and they are working in the hospitals of our province. Not only are they working but they are discharging their functions very efficiently. If a sufficient number of Indian nurses is not forthcoming, then we are not to be blamed for it. But it is the Government which does not provide for training of more nurses. Therefore the fault lies with the Government. It was also stated on the floor of the House that as long as women of high families and castes do not come forward to get this training, the quality of the Indian nurses cannot be improved. In this connection I may submit that generally

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

the middle class Hindu women did not like to enter this profession. Some women of that class in order to remove that hitch from the way of their sisters offered themselves for training as nurses and *dais*, even though it was regarded below their dignity to have adopted that profession. These women obtained the necessary training and have worked honorarily. The result of their efforts has been that other women of the middle class have begun to take up the work of nurses and trained *dais*. Those pioneer women have in fact opened the door for other women of the same class to come forward and obtain the necessary training. In this connection I cannot help remarking that the old bureaucratic Government provided no facilities for the examination of nurses and *dais* that were trained in the private institutions. Instead of providing facilities, they placed impediments and obstacles in the way of candidates who wanted to take the required examination. I would like to quote an instance. A certain number of women who obtained the requisite training in a private institution wanted to take their examination. But the officers in charge of the examination objected to the admission of the private women candidates on the ground that they had not obtained sufficient training in midwifery and delivery cases. So it was stated that those private women candidates would not be allowed to take the examination. We lodged a protest and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals sent for me and asked me to certify that they had received the requisite training under my personal supervision. After that those women candidates were allowed to take the necessary examination. I have quoted an instance to show that on such flimsy grounds the previous Government objected to the sitting of private candidates in the examination that was held for the nurses and *dais*. After the examination was over even that rule was changed so that if a private institution wanted to start the training of *dais* and nurses it should not be in a position to do it. I know that in reply to my charges the honourable members over there would say that the rules were there and these officers of the previous Government simply acted on them. I may also submit that the number of Indian nurses that are working in the hospitals is much below the number that has already been fixed by the Indian Registration Act. My honourable friends have admitted this fact. But they say that as sufficient number of properly qualified nurses is not forthcoming so they have been forced to keep European nurses in their hospitals. How can this statement be true? We wanted to train nurses and *dais* in a private institution. But the Government by their adverse attitude showed that they did not like that thing. They wanted us to go to the Red Cross Society and to seek the aid of that body. But why should we go and seek the aid of that society? That is a semi-official body and the bureaucrats use that society against the interest of Indians. I, therefore, venture to say that no self-respecting Indian would like to go to this society. In the Punjab the work of this society is mainly carried on by the British officials. That is a thing which we do not like.

Again it has been stated that women do not like to be treated by male doctors. In this connection I may point out that if we look to Madras, Bengal, Bombay and other provinces, we would find that women in those areas get themselves treated by male doctors. Even in the Lady Willingdon Hospital, male doctors treat the female patients. There are other

private maternity hospitals where women get themselves treated by male doctors, and the days are coming when the women of this country will have no objection to their being treated by male doctors. This is not a sound argument to be advanced in favour of appointment of more female doctors. But may I ask the Government whether by appointing a few female assistant surgeons and a few female sub-assistant surgeons they are satisfied that they have done their duty? This may be a consolation to them but so far as this side of the House is concerned this is no consolation at all.

Now I would like to say a few words about the grants that have been given to the different hospitals in the Punjab. A sum of Rs. 94,500 is granted to the Ludhiana Medical School. Besides this grant, that medical school also gets grants from other public institutions as well. Ludhiana Municipality pays Rs. 6,000 and the District Board also grants Rs. 2,000 every year. The total grant that is given to that Medical School comes to Rs. 1,02,500. This school turns out only female sub-assistant surgeons. If I remember right, one-third of the students that are admitted into this school are Punjabis (*Minister of Education*: It is not correct). Let the honourable Minister correct these figures. I may submit that I tried to obtain a copy of the prospectus of that school but could not get one. However, so far as my knowledge goes, one third of the students admitted in this school are Punjabis and two thirds are non-Punjabis. (*Interruptions*). I wish that this province should also come under the axis of the Congress so that the ills of this province might be removed. I was submitting that at present there are 36 students on the rolls of that school. Of these only 12 are Punjabis and the rest are non-Punjabis. I have already stated on the floor of the House that I do not like to enter into communal questions, but I would point out that it is not fair that we should grant large sums of money for the training of non-Punjabis. Further, a grant of Rs. 1,35,000 is given to the Amritsar Medical School. Besides the training of sub-assistant surgeons, there is a dispenser and dresser class at Amritsar and in the Ludhiana Medical School there is a class for nurses and *dais*. The same kind of training is given there which is given in the Public Health School at Lahore. In the Amritsar Medical School the ratio of female candidates is 25 out of 100, and the total expenditure that is incurred on Amritsar Medical School is Rs. 1,33,000. An expenditure of nearly Rs. 100 is incurred per head. May I suggest here that instead of granting large sums to such institutions which are private only, it will be fair that by spending three or four thousand rupees more, the Government opens a school for girls only. With a very small additional expenditure the Government can start a medical school for girls only. I remember that last year when we were discussing Public Health Grant, an honourable member remarked that the people want bread and you are talking of hospitals. But I would like to point out that just as bread is necessary so is there the necessity for medical relief. It is absolutely necessary that women should also be given medical education. I would therefore suggest that Government should open a medical school for girls.

I would like to make a suggestion to the effect that efforts should be made to raise the standard of the Medical School, Amritsar. Several years ago Sir Abdul Qadir moved a resolution to this effect in the old Council but since he had to face a great opposition from the Government benches, he was constrained to withdraw it. I may here inform the House as to why this school

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

was originally opened by the Government. In the beginning the practice was to appoint only Europeans with British university qualifications as I.M.S. officers in the Indian Army. In reality these officers were not better qualified than our Indian Medical graduates. And so they did not at all like to have these Indian graduates with somewhat equal qualifications working under them. They wanted to employ only those students who had passed the Medical School examination and who were decidedly less qualified than those degree holders. A medical graduate when appointed is given the post of an assistant surgeon and he may be further promoted to the post of a civil surgeon which is at par with all the posts generally held by these I.M.S. men. But a sub-assistant surgeon is seldom promoted to any higher rank. Does this mean that the work put in by the sub-assistant surgeon is not considered to be as satisfactory as that of the I. M. S. men? I personally know that there are several sub-assistant surgeons who have rendered splendid and unparalleled services in the medical line. Even the Government has admitted that there are certain sub-assistant surgeons who have specialised in the treatment of eye diseases and that their work is as commendable as that of any highly qualified man. I feel pleasure in reading out the names of the places where such sub-assistant surgeons are at present working. These places are Gojra, Lyallpur, Banga, Daska and Beri. Anyhow I request the Government to raise the standard of the Medical School, Amritsar, and to extend its course from 4 to 5 years. I may here draw your attention to a resolution adopted by the Medical School Conference held at Delhi. It runs as follows :—

This conference recommends that one uniform minimum standard of training and qualification for practitioners of modern scientific medicine should be established throughout India at an early date and that this standard should be such as shall satisfy the requirements laid down by the Medical Council of India.

It is a pity that even the Medical Council does not register these L. M. S. F. men. I, therefore, suggest that their standard should be raised.

There is one thing more which I would like to point out. If the Government intends to encourage female medical education in the Punjab it should set apart a sum for awarding scholarships to those successful girls who express their willingness to proceed to foreign countries for higher medical studies.

Now I would like to say a few words about the prospectus of the Medical School, Amritsar. It is stated therein that either those matriculates are eligible for admission to the school who have taken up Chemistry and Physics in their matric classes, or those successful students who have passed their F. Sc. (Medical) examination. But may I ask as to why the F. Sc. non-medical group students are not admitted to the school especially when they are decidedly better qualified than the ordinary matriculates? This is another anomaly and must need be stopped forthwith. It is not wise and desirable to debar the F. Sc. non-medical students from admission to this school.

Another thing which deserves the special attention of the Government is the Health Insurance Scheme as it is adopted in every civilized country. This is highly essential for the alleviation of disease of the suffering humanity and to ensure financial help to medical men.

Furthermore, Sir, I strongly feel the absence of any provision in the present budget for research work in the Medical College. No doubt mention has been made in the budget of a scheme for research into the types of pneumococci prevalent in the Punjab but no amount is shown for the purpose. It seems that the research work might have been done in the past but it is not intended to be done next year.

Mr. Chairman (Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh) : If the House wishes to hear the reply from the Honourable Minister to the debate I would request the honourable member to wind up.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Sir, I crave your indulgence for a few minutes more.

Now I turn to the politics of the medical profession. Although the other provinces have done a good deal to amend and modify their Medical Registration Acts, yet I think there is a great scope for making an improvement thereon. But here in the Punjab even after the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy the Punjab Government has done nothing in this direction. Here, in the Punjab Medical Council an overwhelming majority is being enjoyed by the nominated element with the Inspector-General of Hospitals as its *ex-officio* president. Under such circumstances do you expect any nominated member to disapprove of any measure moved by the Government, especially in the presence of the Inspector-General? But conditions prevailing in the State Medical Faculty are even worse than that. This body is entirely composed of nominated members, and I am sure it always acts to the dictates of the Government. The introduction of such an officialdom in the medical politics is highly objectionable. I hope the present Government would make an endeavour to change the constitution and formation of these bodies.

Now, Sir, it is much to be regretted that the Government has not set apart a single penny for the pharmaceutical development in the Punjab.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)

The House will be surprised to learn that in the Punjab there is no hospital for the infectious diseases with the exception of one at Lahore for Indians near the slaughter-house and the other for Europeans near the jail. *(Laughter)*. But there is very little accommodation in the one meant for Indians. I wonder if the Honourable Minister, the Director of Public Health and other officers go to see it. It is only fit to be called a stable for the horses, and not a hospital for men suffering from infectious diseases. *(Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz)*. When was it built? Perhaps my noble sister wants to convey the idea that I was a municipal commissioner when it was constructed. I was not a municipal commissioner then. But I may inform her that it is no use blaming the previous Government. The present Government can improve matters, only if it is willing to do so. We want to see a re-orientation of the policy.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please wind up?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I am winding up, Sir.

Now I want to put up a constructive suggestion. At present the Government is running two departments separately, that is, the department

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

of public health and the department of medical relief. My humble suggestion is that both of them may be combined under one officer. He may be given an additional assistant director or an assistant inspector-general. The saving thus affected can profitably be used on the rural dispensaries.

One suggestion more and I have done. If the Government is under the impression that the whole of the Punjab should be treated by the allopathic system of treatment, then it is sadly mistaken. That can never be. In order to help the public, you will have to encourage what are called the 'home remedies.' A knowledge about them should be promoted in the province and adequate funds should be provided for that purpose.

With these few words, Sir, I strongly support the cut motion that is now under consideration of the House.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)

Minister of Education (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) : There are only 65 minutes left for me while the honourable member who has just resumed his seat has taken two hours for his speech. To begin with I cannot congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on the speech that he has made to-day. He engendered heat into this discussion and referred to a particular matter to which he should not have referred at all. Time and again we have been told that the Punjab Government should tap all sources. A suggestion has been made on the floor of the House on many an occasion that we must tap private munificence and philanthropy. I may say that this is a creed with me and wherever I go I preach it and I try to persuade the well-to-do people who are in a position to do so, to make an endowment ; and I am now in the proud position to say that during the last twelve months I have succeeded to a certain extent. It was in the first instance in my own district where a Sikh gentleman, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Kartar Singh, himself a medical man, offered a sum of Rs. 20,000. I gave away Rs. 10,000 for the establishment of a girls' school. The balance of Rs. 10,000 was placed at the disposal of the local body for the establishment of a dispensary. Some honourable members are aware that another gentleman, Rai Bahadur Gujar Mal, only the other day offered a handsome donation of Rs. 60,000 for the building of a tuberculosis sanatorium. That building is being constructed and will be opened in October next. Still another gentleman, Rai Bahadur Jodha Mal Kothalia of Hoshiarpur, has offered us another Rs. 40,000. All honour is due to these gentlemen. Another philanthropic gentleman from Lahore has offered a sum of Rs. 50,000. That offer has been gratefully accepted. But he laid down certain conditions. I invited that gentleman and his friends and in the presence of some of the officers I discussed the matter with them. The conditions we agreed upon were reduced to writing. It does not behove the Leader of the Opposition to stand up and say that it was ever suggested by me or by any of the officers that we should cheat this gentleman. As I have stated, the conditions were reduced to writing and I stand by those conditions. Those conditions are, first, that all the radium that we have in the other hospitals should be pooled in one place. Secondly, he asked the Government to construct a second storey to a certain building. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been set apart by the Punjab Government for the purpose. He insisted that a portion of the building should be called after the name of his wife and the

other portion after the name of his father. I agreed. He suggested that only the poor and indigent should be treated in the hospital free of cost. After some discussion we agreed that 75 per cent should be free treatment for the indigent and the poor and the remaining 25 per cent should be for the comparatively rich on payment, the money collected by way of fees from the rich being again spent on this institution. But there was a little difficulty of procedure in this respect. I said I could not undertake that this money as it came should go to a certain fund and that this money will have to be credited to the fund of the Punjab Government. But I did undertake that an amount equal to the amount collected by way of fees shall be set apart every year in the budget for the purposes of this institute. (*Hear, hear.*) All these conditions have been reduced to black and white. They are there and we mean to abide by them. It was absolutely unnecessary for the honourable member to make any reference and to make this, I should say, libellous statement that it was suggested on behalf of the Punjab Government or one of the officers of the Punjab Government that we should get hold of this money and then we may abide by these conditions or we may not abide by them. Suppose for the sake of argument that this information was conveyed to the honourable member, I would have expected from a gentleman of the position of the Leader of the Opposition that he would help us by trying to remove this misunderstanding. This was a delicate matter. The gentleman concerned was making this donation of the handsome amount of Rs. 50,000, not to me personally but to the Punjab Government for the benefit of the people.

Coming now to the main discussion, I have had the benefit of various speeches from every side. Reference has been made to certain figures in this province and in other provinces. What is the present position that we have here to-day? As I said the other day, a sum of 55 lakhs is being set apart for this department. This amount is unprecedented. The budget allotment for the Medical Department has grown from year to year and there has never been a set-back and to-day when we are passing through an acute financial stringency, when we are faced with famine conditions in certain parts of the province, we are still in a position to allot an amount of 55 lakhs of rupees. What are the conditions in this province as regards medical relief? I may point out to the honourable members that we have to-day in the Punjab no less than 900 hospitals and dispensaries. In the neighbouring province of the United Provinces there are only 597. In Bombay, they have 429. In the Central Provinces they have only 348 and in Bihar 528. As we compare these figures and try to find out what average population is served by each hospital or dispensary and for how many square miles each hospital or dispensary has been established, we have very encouraging figures. In the Punjab the average area served by each institution is 111 square miles and the average population served by each hospital or dispensary comes to 26,318. In the United Provinces as against the 111 square miles, in the Punjab we have 178 square miles; in Bengal 540 square miles; Bombay 180; Madras 126. The average population served, by one hospital or dispensary in Madras is 41,217; in Bombay 41,940, Bengal 34,585 and the United Provinces 81,087. (*An honourable member:* What about the Central Provinces?) In the Central Provinces it is 45,212, as against 26,318 in the Punjab and the area is 291 square miles as against

[Minister of Education.]

111 square miles of the Punjab. Thus the Punjab stands head and shoulders above all other provinces. (*Hear, hear.*) Let us now compare the figures regarding cost of medical relief *per capita* in the various provinces. In the Punjab the amount spent *per capita* by the Punjab Government on medical relief is 5 annas 7 pies as against 2 annas 7 pies in Madras, 4 annas 9 pies in Bombay, 2 annas 1 pie in Bengal, 1 anna in the United Provinces, 1 anna 5 pies in the Central Provinces and 1 anna 3 pies in Bihar. (*An honourable member: What about Coorg?*) (*Laughter.*)

It has been said by the honourable Leader of the Opposition that in other provinces they are appointing honorary surgeons and physicians. I am not aware of any province.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I never said so.

Minister : Then you made a suggestion that the Punjab should give a lead in this matter. I assume that this system has not been adopted in any other province and the Punjab should give a lead in this matter. May I state for the information of the honourable members that this matter was considered by me and I referred this matter to a committee, the committee known as the Lahore Medical Relief Committee? I asked that committee to examine this question and put up definite proposals and I have now ascertained from the officer concerned that the report of that committee on this point is ready and is being submitted to Government. If honest, straightforward, selfless people are forthcoming, we will try this experiment, but I would not allow any person to go to my hospitals or to my dispensaries or to go to the villages to exploit the people. If suitable type of persons are available in the Punjab, I shall be the first person to introduce this system and the first step in this direction I have already taken (*Hear, hear*). One honourable member who, I am afraid, is not in his seat suggested that we should have male nurses.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Leave it.

Minister : I may point out to him that we have already got some boy nurses, because a sufficient number of female nurses is not available, but I stick to the proposition that female nurses are absolutely essential. Another honourable member pointed out that poor and indigent people in our hospitals are charged fees for X-ray, for preparation of skiagrama. I am in a position to contradict him to-day and I submit that no fee is charged from poor people so far as X-ray or skiagrams are concerned (*Hear, hear*). And you would like to know what standard we have set as regards those people whom we consider poor and unable to pay and who come to our hospitals as indoor patients in the general wards—any person whose monthly income is less than 150. Any person whose monthly income is less than Rs. 150 is welcome in our general wards and no fee is charged from him.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : If the Honourable Minister does not mind the interruption, may I ask when these male nurses had been appointed?

Minister : I cannot give you the date, but I think they were already there when the new Government assumed office. Still another honourable

member raised the question of corruption and drew my attention to the fact that some of the doctors were corrupt, that very often they issued false certificates.

Mian Abdul Aziz : That is right.

Minister : I had to say something about it last year, when I opened the Civil Surgeons' Conference. I spoke frankly and firmly. After that definite instructions were issued drawing the attention of all the officers to this aspect of the case and requiring them to be strictly honest in this matter and I suggested that any complaint proved to be true would result in the dismissal of the officer concerned. As a rule when these medical practitioners and officers issue certificates, they prepare two copies, one copy is given to the person concerned and the other is retained by the officer. We now require that three copies should be prepared and the third copy should be submitted within 24 hours to the civil surgeon because cases have been brought to our notice where the original certificate issued has been tampered with and in order to obviate this difficulty we issued a circular. We have issued two circulars and I may here be permitted to read from one of these—

"I am directed to instruct you to warn all medical officers under your control of the need for the utmost care and accuracy in the issue of medical certificates in medico-legal cases and of the drastic action which Government proposes to take in future where the court finds that a Government medical officer has issued a false certificate."

I hope it will have a very salutary effect and even if we are not able to eradicate this evil, we shall be able to check it to a great extent. Now, Sir, some honourable members made reference to indigenous methods of treatment. India, Sir, is a land of diversity. In India we have so many nations, so many communities.

Lala Duni Chand : Not of many nations.

Minister : India is a land of so many communities, so many religions, so many castes and so many creeds and when we come to the question of medical relief, there even there is diversity. We have allopathy, we have Ayurvedic, we have Unani and the last is homœopathy. When my honourable friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt was speaking yesterday in favour of homœopathy and went to the extent of practically condemning the allopathic system, he went to the extent of saying that Mr. so-and-so and Mr. so-and-so who were originally allopaths but have now taken to homœopathy. It reminded me of Oliver Wendell Holmes, a celebrated American author, who in one of his books said, I am firmly of this opinion that if the whole of the Materia Medica could be sunk to the depths of the sea it would mean so much good to mankind but it would be worse for the fish. Sir, so far as the indigenous methods of treatment are concerned, the honourable members are aware that this Government lost no time in appointing a committee to examine the question of education in Ayurvedic and Unani systems and the question of registration of all those who practice these systems. My honourable friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt said : Well you have done this in the case of Unani and Ayurvedic, but you have done nothing in the case of homœopathy (*Interruptions*). My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand is hopelessly ignorant. I have stated that a committee has been appointed to go into this question and submit a report and the

[Minister of Education.]

said committee has prepared a questionnaire which has been issued to the public and relevant enquiry would be made and the report submitted to the Government in due course. Coming now to the homœopathy, I may say that there are other indigenous systems that were in vogue in India before the advent of the British and before the introduction of allopathy and they have got preference. I am now inclined to appoint a similar committee for the method of treatment which is generally called homœopathy. Now, Sir, one of the honourable members drew my attention to the fact that while purchasing stores for the Medical Department preference should be given to goods that are manufactured in India. Preference should be given to indigenous goods. I may state for the information of the honourable members that action in this matter has already been taken and we impressed upon our officers the desirability of purchasing such goods and articles as are produced in India. I may draw their attention to the resolution of last year, dated the 29th September, 1938. It is as follows :—

“The Governor of the Punjab is pleased to direct that the rules appended to this resolution shall regulate all future purchases of stores by all departments and officers of the Punjab.”

In the preamble it is stated—

“The policy of the Government of the Punjab is to make their purchases of stores for the public service in such a way as to encourage the development of the industries of the country to the utmost possible extent consistent with economy and efficiency.”

Having issued this circular, I make it a point, whenever I visit a medical institution, to discuss this matter with the officer concerned. For instance, in the matter of medical instruments, I have discussed it on many an occasion and I have been told that so far as blunt instruments are concerned, those which are manufactured in the Punjab and in India are quite good but unfortunately the same could not be said about sharp instruments. I may be permitted to quote two more paragraphs from these rules.

“Conditions regarding quality and price being equal, preference in making purchases will be given in the following order :—

Firstly, to articles which are produced in India in the form of raw materials or are manufactured in India from raw materials, produced in India, further preference should be given to articles produced in the Punjab.”

(Hear, hear). That is our first choice. And what is our second choice? It is this—

“*Secondly*, to articles wholly or partially manufactured in India from imported material, further preference should be given to articles produced in the Punjab.”

The third choice relates to articles of other manufacture. They come last of all.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it on paper or carried out in practice?

Minister : The honourable member, who tries to interrupt me—I mean Lala Deshbandhu Gupta—in his speech yesterday raised the question of medical relief in rural areas. I am very glad that the honourable member has the good of the rural areas at heart. I am very

glad to hear that. But in his arguments he quoted certain figures to show that the expenditure on hospitals in the urban area was much higher and that the expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries in the rural area was lower, as an instance, he quoted the case of the Mayo Hospital in Lahore. What he meant, if I understood him correctly, was that the Mayo Hospital of Lahore was run entirely for the benefit of the people residing in urban areas. Even if it were so, even if the Mayo Hospital were entirely for the benefit of the people of Lahore and we were spending as much as twelve annas per patient, may I remind my honourable friends that it was only the other day that they were waxing eloquent over the poverty of the people living in Lahore when they were discussing the house tax which is proposed to be imposed by the Administrator. If it be true that we are spending this enormous amount on Mayo Hospital, and supposing it were entirely for the benefit of Lahore, we are not doing anything which is objectionable. I may point out to the honourable member that the Mayo Hospital is the centre of medical relief, not for Lahore but for the entire province. *(Interruption)*. The hospitals and the dispensaries that we have at the headquarters of the districts are not merely for the benefit of the people living in those towns. They are for the benefit of all including the rural areas. *(Interruption)*.

Mr. Speaker : I request the honourable members not to interrupt.

Minister : I suppose my honourable friend has very few occasions to go to the rural side. He lives in Delhi, the capital of the Government of India.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : You are mistaken.

Minister : He comes to Lahore, the capital of the Punjab Government. He goes to Simla, the capital of both the Governments. *(Interruption)*.

Mr. Speaker : I warn the honourable members not to interrupt. If they want to correct him, they might stand up and seek permission.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I, with your permission, point out, if the honourable member is prepared to give way, that the point which I tried to make out was that the incidence of expense on Medical College alone was as high as twelve annas while in rural dispensaries it was one pice.

Minister : I am coming to that, but did you or did you not state that the expenditure on rural areas is much less as compared with expenditure on urban area ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : He should say "the honourable member" and not "you".

Minister : If the honourable member would take the trouble of coming to me when I go on my tour to visit these hospitals which are situated at the headquarters of the districts.....

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : At State expense ?

Minister : Yes, at State expense and not *gupt dam* of Seth Birla. *(laughter)*.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I want to know if he wants me to accompany him at State expense.

Minister : I will take the honourable member in my own car and will not charge him any thing.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I accept.

Minister : He can visit the Mayo Hospital to-morrow if he likes and subsequently we can visit some other hospitals in the mufassil. He would then realise that out of the total number of patients there in the indoor wards, no less than 75 per cent belong to the villages. People come to Mayo Hospital from distant places. Selected cases are brought over here from all over the country and from some Indian States, also the Rulers whereof have made handsome contributions towards the erection of some buildings. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a running commentary like that. I warn Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma not to interrupt.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I was silent.

Mr. Speaker : Who made the remark ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I did. (*Laughter*).

Minister : I was stating that people from all over the country peasants, poor zamindars, flock to the Mayo Hospital for treatment in serious and complicated cases, cases requiring protracted treatment. When they fall ill they go to the neighbouring dispensary but if the case is serious they are sent to the tahsil headquarters; and some unfortunate people who cannot get suitable treatment in those hospitals come here and stay here for long periods and therefore the cost *per capita* must necessarily be high. You compare the cost in the Mayo Hospital with the cost in outlying dispensaries where a patient goes, states his case and takes medicine and goes back and more often than not his visit is not repeated. I hope honourable members will kindly bear me out. We are not ignoring the villagers; in fact it is a creed with us to do more for them. We realise that in this country the claims of people living in villages were ignored; and if I may be permitted to say, much to my regret and shame, some of us joined with the old bureaucratic Government in exploiting the people in the rural areas; but I find that now there is a change of heart. I hope it is a genuine change and if on a future occasion a measure is brought before the House for the amelioration of the condition of the people living in villages it shall receive a different treatment from the honourable members than the one that was accorded last year. Now let us see what is being done for the people living in the countryside. In the very first year of our life as guardians of the people we saw a system of medical relief in vogue for the people living in the villages, a system conceived and brought into practice by a great statesman, Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain,—the system of rural dispensaries. According to the programme chalked out, it was the intention of the Government to establish 375 dispensaries in the province. When we took over, 360 were already established. The great departure by the present Government made in the light of the experience gained during the last 12 years was that we provided funds and we required that doctors in charge of these rural dispensaries should not stay for 7 days of the week at a particular village waiting for the patients to come, for we realised that there was a vast

number of people in this country who could not afford to walk long distances to hospitals. We now require these doctors to tour in an area of 5 miles radius. These doctors are required three times in the week to go to the neighbouring villages and find out if there is a needy person or if there is a man suffering and to provide treatment and medicine at the very door of his house. Sir, this practice has now been in vogue for over a year. The doctors are paid a small travelling allowance of Rs. 10 a month. We invited the co-operation of the Public Health Department and the officers of that department readily came forward to assist us in the matter. I may be permitted to point out to this honourable House the results that we have achieved during this period. Now, Sir, there are only five districts at present where this system of rural dispensaries has been introduced. In these five districts the total number of patients who were admitted and treated at the dispensaries is 6,986. Besides doing this work the doctors in charge of these dispensaries visited 15,586 villages and treated 15,00,036 patients. This is not a mean achievement. If funds permit, we can further expand this system. Now, Sir, I have already spoken about the proposals that may be put forward before the Government in the near future as regards the employment of honorary physicians and surgeons. We have taken another step in the right direction, namely, the appointment of part time physicians and surgeons to come and assist in the work of medical relief in our hospitals and our dispensaries. There again I had to issue a note of warning that only those persons who are genuine, who are honest, who have got the missionary zeal in them, only those gentlemen need come forward, and I would certainly bang the doors against those who may try to exploit the position. (*An honourable member* : Who is to judge ?) To judge what ? (*An honourable member* : Honest people.) We have to make relevant enquiries and to go forward with our eyes open.

Now, Sir, the honourable members are also aware that another great step is being taken in the matter of affording relief to the people living in the country-side. We have set apart this year Rs. 50,000 for the purpose of opening 83 dispensaries. I told you at the beginning of my speech to-day that I have got 900 dispensaries and hospitals so far in the province and in this one year, besides other items of expenditure, we are opening another 83 dispensaries and all of them in villages. Now, I must refer to the scheme of subsidised practitioners. There again, we have to proceed very cautiously. This scheme is now being put into practice and we have, during the last year, through the co-operation of our officers, succeeded in opening 12 dispensaries. It goes without saying that these 12 dispensaries will have to be taken over. Of the dispensaries that we are opening in rural areas, 83 are on contributory basis. It is obvious that the funds at our disposal are so limited that we cannot shoulder the burden single-handed. What we now propose to do is that we offer to make a grant of Rs. 600 a year to medical practitioners, who would go and live in the country-side and afford medical relief to people in rural areas. But this amount of Rs. 600 is to be paid by the Government to a particular village on one condition and that condition is that the residents of that village will have to raise an equal amount by contribution or the local boards concerned may make that contribution on their behalf.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend whether it is a fact that these doctors will charge fees for treatment ?

Minister : I am coming to that. The scheme that we have before us is that a particular village might contribute Rs. 600 and we shall contribute an equal amount and that doctor will have a living wage. People shall have to form themselves into societies. In some of the villages we know already that there are societies commonly known as co-operative credit societies. They are already in existence in a number of villages, and I understand from the Registrar that they have at their disposal a certain fund which is used for a purpose common to all the villages. It is open for them to make a contribution out of that fund, if they have already got associations, and if they have not got such associations then they will have to form new societies.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not want to interrupt my honourable friend, but may I ask if he would be prepared to consider then a scheme of health insurance in order to bring amenities of medicine to the rural areas ?

Minister : I do not make a fetish of one particular scheme. If there is any useful suggestion that can be made to me, I shall be very glad to accept it.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Will the doctors be provided by the Government or will local men already residing in that area be taken ?

Minister : The appointment will be made by Government. Persons who are members of the society and who make a contribution will be entitled to free treatment and out of the grant made available by Government, the practitioners shall have to give free treatment to all poor and indigent people.

I regret very much that the time at my disposal is very short. But I must refer to two other matters. My honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has raised the question of Ludhiana school and the grant-in-aid that is being paid to that school. We do not pay Rs. 90,000 to that school. A part of that grant is for the purpose of the memorial hospital and the grant that is being paid to that school is Rs. 56,000 a year. He said, 'here is this institution in which there are only $\frac{1}{3}$ rd students belonging to the Punjab and the rest of them come from other provinces.' It was there that I interrupted him and said, 'Yes, the other $\frac{2}{3}$ rd come from the Congress provinces.' Now, it has been suggested that we have been spending lavishly on this institution for the benefit of other provinces, that we must cry halt and not pay in future. In the first instance, I may point out that the Government have got no desire to discourage this institution. What is this institution ? It was founded as far back as 40 or 50 years ago at a time when the country was steeped in ignorance and when the people of the country could not even think of medical relief for their women and children, much less of medical education for girls. I may, however, point out that it is not correct to say that $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the students belong to the Punjab and not more. The present figures are that out of a total number of 149 students, 75 belong to the Punjab and 74 to the Congress provinces. I have great admiration for the founder of this institution, Dr. Miss Edith Brown. Self-denial and self-sacrifice are writ large.

on her face. I deem it my duty to pay a tribute to that lady for the excellent work that she has done in the past. Out of the grant made available to Dr. Brown free education is imparted to the Punjab girls. At any rate, I may state on the floor of the House that this matter is being considered and tentative proposals are already before the Government. They have taken no final decision and the case will be examined in all its aspects and a suitable decision will be taken before long.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition referred to the I. M. S. officers. Unfortunately, he has not been able to understand the correct position as regards the I. M. S. officers. Our hands are tied. Blame cannot be laid at the door of the Government. It was only another prominent member of the Congress Party, I mean Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, who spoke after my honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta had spoken, and who said that Mr. Gupta's criticism of the Punjab Government was not a correct one. He referred to the Government of India Act and he admitted on the floor of this House that the blame lies with the constitution and not with the Punjab Government. I have not the time at my disposal to make detailed references to the various orders and *communiqués*, but in a nutshell the position is this, that although according to a certain *communiqué* we are required to have only 17 I.M.S. officers, yet by virtue of another order and by virtue of section 246 of the Government of India Act, we are bound to retain those officers whose rights have been protected.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : What about enlisting new ones ?

Minister : Last year I had 36 or 37 and now I have 38, and I will take the earliest opportunity to reduce the number, provided I can do so consistently with the law with which my hands are tied.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Is it a fact that under the law you should have only 17 ?

Minister : I would refer the honourable members to the speech made on behalf of Government in one of the previous sessions by my Parliamentary Private Secretary in which he dealt with this subject in detail.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What is the number under the law that is required by the statute in the Punjab ? Is it 17 ?

Minister : Yes, 17 *plus* all those who have protected rights.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Then we have double the number.

Minister : According to the new orders no province in this country is to have more than 19. I am required to have 17. What is the state of affairs in the other provinces ? I have 33, Madras has 34, Bengal has 36, Bombay has 24 and the United Provinces has 25. And yet no province is required to have more than 19 British officers. If the number is less in certain provinces, it is because their quota before the Government of India Act was passed was much less than that of the Punjab. United Provinces has no Government college for medical education.

An Honourable Member : But Lucknow has.

Minister : That is not a Government institution.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : These are the figures for which year ?

Minister : These are the figures of the I. M. S. officers who are actually employed to-day.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : To-day means what ? This budget year or the last budget year ?

Minister : To-day means the 1st of March, 1939. As I have stated already, the difficulty is caused by the constitution. I have agreed with my eyes open to work that constitution. Here I may be permitted to conclude my speech in my own vernacular :—

یکم اپریل سنہ ۱۹۳۷ء کو بادشاہ کے نمائندے گورنروں نے ہندوستان کے ہر ایک صوبے کے دار الحکومت میں ان لوگوں کو جو انتخابات میں کامیاب ہو کر برسر اقتدار آئے تھے پروانشل اتانومی کا ہوائی جہاز پیش کیا۔ کانگریسی لیڈروں نے اس جہاز کو اوپر اور نیچے سے دیکھا اور پوچھا ”کیا یہ ہوا میں اڑیگا“ جواب ملا کہ ”ہاں“۔ پھر انہوں نے پوچھا کہ یہ ہمیں آسمان تک پہنچا دیگا ؟ انہیں جواب دیا گیا ”آسمان حد نگاہ کو کہتے ہیں“ اس پر کانگریسی لیڈروں نے کہا ہم خدا رسیدہ بننا چاہتے ہیں اور آسمان تک اڑنا چاہتے ہیں۔ (کو یہ آسمان تک نہیں پہنچا سکتا تو یہ ناقابل قبول ہے۔)

عین اسی تاریخ کو بعینہ اسی وقت پنجاب کے دار الحکومت لاہور میں گورنر نے یہی پروانشل اتانومی کا ہوائی جہاز ہمیں بھی پیش کیا۔ سردار سکندر حیات خان ہماوی طرف دیکھ کر سسکرائے اور اشارہ کیا ہم سب اس میں سوار ہو گئے۔ تھوڑی دیر کے بعد میں نے دیکھا کہ ہم نوائے آسمانی میں اُڑ رہے ہیں اور جناب صدر اعظم فرما رہے تھے۔

نہ ہو تاب پرواز کو آسمان تک
تو وان تک اُڑیں ہو رسائی جہاں تک
(ہینئر ہیئر)

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : No. It was Provincial Autonomy dancing before Honourable Ministers as was shown in a cartoon in the *Hindustan Times* last summer.

Minister : I have no desire to be interrupted. (*Uproar and shouts of order, order.*)

Mr. Speaker : I am sorry I did not quite follow. What is the position ?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I want to rise to a point of order. My point is that as has been the practice in this House I was saying something in reply to what the Honourable Minister had said and he addressed me in a manner which was (*Shouts of order, order.*)

An Honourable Member : Shut up. (*Uproar*).

Minister : I apologise for the tone.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : My submission is that you as Speaker have every right to protect us and to call us to order if we are out of order, but no member, however big a position he may occupy is in a position to address other members in the way he has addressed.

Mr. Speaker : What did he say ?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Honourable Minister was describing the Provincial Autonomy, by saying that a ship was presented to the Punjab Government. I only said that Provincial Autonomy was dancing, as was shown in a cartoon in the *Hindustan Times* some time ago, wherein the Honourable Ministers were shown playing on their instruments and Provincial Autonomy dancing to the tune. When I was saying that, the Honourable Minister howled at me and addressed me in a commanding tone which he had no right to do.

وزیر تعلیم :— ہم کو ہوا میں اڑتے دیکھ کر کانگریسی بھائی اپنے اپنے گھروں سے باہر نکلی اور اس جگہ پر آئے جہاں گورنر اور پروانشل (انٹومی کے جہاز تھے۔ اور کہا یہ ہوائی جہاز تو نکلا اور ناکارہ ہے اور ہم اس کو استعمال کرنے کے لئے قبول نہیں کر سکتے۔ ہم اس میں سوار ہوتے ہیں مگر اس قیمت سے کہ اس کو تباہ کر دیں۔ جناب من کانگریسی بھائی پروانشل (انٹومی کے جہاز میں ہوا میں اڑ رہے ہیں اور نیچے سے سردار سوہن سنگھ جوش جیسے سوشلسٹ بھائی نہایت جوش کے ساتھ انہیں پے تار برقی سے پیغام بھیج رہے ہیں کہ اس کو تباہ کر دو مگر کانگریسی بھائی جو اس جہاز میں سوار ہیں محسوس کرتے ہیں کہ اس جہاز کو تباہ کرنا اپنے آپ کو تباہ کرنا ہے۔

یہ ہے وہ خلاصہ اس طرز عمل کا جو اس آئین کے متعلق حکومت پنجاب نے اور بعض دیگر صوبوں کی کانگریسی حکومتوں نے اختیار کیا ہے۔

Mr. Speaker : Did the Honourable Minister howl at Dr. Gopi Chand ?

Minister : I said, I have no desire to be interrupted.

Mr. Speaker : Will the Nawab Sahib please say what he heard ?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : I think he only said that he did not want to be interrupted.

Minister : I did not want my time to be wasted and I wanted to finish my speech. (*Shouts of 'withdraw and apologise'*).

Mr. Speaker : The atmosphere of the House should not have become hot and I request my honourable friends not to quarrel. I am sorry that I missed the exact words but it appears that exception is being taken to the tone. (*Shouts of 'apologise and withdraw'*).

Minister : I spoke in a loud voice. I meant no insult. I agreed to express regret merely to save time of the House and to have an opportunity of finishing my speech. (*Uproar.*)

Mr. Speaker : He has expressed regret and there the matter ends. (*More uproar.*)

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Mr. Speaker, may I ask you one thing? The honourable members of the Opposition raised an objection to the tone of the Minister for Education. But on the Opposition side the words 'shut up' were used by half a dozen members. Is that parliamentary?

Mr. Speaker : If that expression was used, it must be withdrawn. The question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 36, Noes 71.

AYES.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Duni Chand, Lala.
Duni Chand, Mrs.
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harjab Singh, Sardar.
Harnam Das, Lala.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.

Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishan Singh, Sardar.
Lal Singh, Sardar.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Husain, Sardar.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Muni Lal Kalra, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Satya Pal, Dr.
Sita Ram, Lala.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
Sudarshan, Seth.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Afzalali Hasnie, Sayed.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.

Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ajmad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieut. Bhai.

Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
 Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Nawabzada Major.
 Kishan Das, Seth.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
 Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
 Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar.

Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.
 Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Muzafer Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.
 Muzafer Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
 Muzafer Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
 Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
 Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,16,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Medical.

The motion was carried.

Sayed Afzaal Ali Hasnie : I rise on a point of order. I have been trying to catch your eye and ear for raising this point so long. Honourable members on my right objected to the behaviour of the Honourable Minister and you decided that since the Minister has expressed his regret the matter should end there. I wish to bring to your notice that the behaviour and manner of my friends on this side demands your notice also.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Are you going to allow the question to be re-opened now? I think it is not desirable to re-open it.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : That is one side only of the case.

Mr. Speaker : Does the honourable member wish to re-open the matter?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The hour of interruption has come and therefore we cannot transact any business at this stage. I would, therefore, request you to take up this question on Monday next if you so please.

Sayed Afzaal Ali Hasnie : In that case I would request you to take up this matter yourself on Monday without any motion being moved.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 27th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 27th March, 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REMOVAL OF ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT CHUHAR CHAK IN DISTRICT FEROZEPORE.

***4301. Sardar Rur Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a representation has recently been made to Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, and to the Honourable Premier by the inhabitants of Chuhar Chak, tahsil Moga, district Ferozepore, requesting for the removal of the additional police force, posted at Chuhar Chak, Dhudike, district Ferozepore, or in the alternative requesting that the expenses of additional police force be paid by the Government on account of the inability of the inhabitants thereof to pay these expenses as both the crops have failed this year for scarcity of rain ; if so, what action the Government have taken or are prepared to take on that representation ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Yes.

The essential facts were given in my reply to Question *3544 put by the honourable member last November. The two villages are canal-irrigated and are well able to bear the cost.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is it a fact that the peasants in the *ilaga* are poorer now on account of want of rain and damage to crops and whether due to the increase of poverty the moral condition of the people has become worse leading to the increase of crime ?

Mr. Speaker : Very argumentative. Disallowed.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is the area where the additional police has been posted also affected by famine ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not at all affected by famine. It is a canal irrigated area.

Sardar Rur Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state whether it is a fact that when poverty increases in an area people are more apt to be guilty of immoral acts and hence likely to commit crimes ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : When was this additional police post created ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It was sanctioned on the 1st of September, 1938.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What amount of money has been recovered from the people of the village on account of this post ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No recovery has been made so far.

Sardar Partab Singh : What amount do the Government intend to recover ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It has already been stated in reply to question No. *8544¹.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : What was the immediate cause of posting the police in that village ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The cause of posting also was stated in reply to the question referred to.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is it not a fact that the causes are not existing now and the parties are on good terms ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the conditions have improved and the authorities are satisfied, they will certainly consider the withdrawal of the additional police.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Have you taken the trouble of finding out whether the mobile force employed in the district is not sufficient to meet the situation in this village ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Not at all.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have the conditions not improved ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Certainly they have and that shows that the posting of additional police was justified.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is it a fact that the honourable member who put the question belongs to the village and he assured the authorities that there was no likelihood of any disturbance and therefore the police should be withdrawn ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If it were to depend solely on my honourable friend who comes from Chuhar Chak the post would never have been located, but there are other persons living in that village for whom this post is necessary and who are responsible for crimes.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : In view of the fact that the poverty of the peasants has increased and peace is being maintained, will the Government please see that the cost of the post is not realised even if the post is to be maintained there ?

Sardar Rur Singh : Has the Government made an effort to know whether the crimes have increased or decreased and what is the number of crimes in the year 1938 ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If my honourable friend gives notice I shall certainly obtain the required information.

EXTENSIONS IN SERVICES.

***4308. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases in which extensions of service beyond the age of 55 or 80 years of service have been granted to gazetted and non-gazetted Government servants in the Punjab during the last one year ;

(b) whether it is intended to stop this system of giving extensions ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : I regret the answer to this question is not yet ready.

MURDERS COMMITTED IN THE JURISDICTION OF POLICE STATION
NURSHAH.

***4337. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) since when the present Sub-Inspector of Police, in charge of thana Nurshah, district Montgomery, is posted there ;

(b) the number of murders committed within the jurisdiction of the said thana during the period the present Sub-Inspector has been there ;

(c) the number of murder cases challaned with the number of convictions and the number of acquittals in these cases ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :
(a) Since the 11th October, 1937 ;

(b) Nine ;

(c) Eight sent for trial. In the ninth case the accused are absconding and proceedings under sections 87/88 and 512 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been taken.

The results in the eight cases sent for trial are as follows :—

Conviction of one or more of the accused	..	..	5
Acquitted ..	..	..	2
Pending in court	..	..	1

SUICIDES.

***4342. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :

(a) the number of suicides committed in the province during the year 1938 ;

(b) the main causes of such acts of suicide as ascertained by the Government ;

(c) the number of suicides due to unemployment ;

(d) the steps that the Government has taken or proposes to take to prevent or reduce such acts of suicide ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :
(a) 409.

(b) and (c)—

Mental derangement	12
Illness	97
Domestic troubles	167
Love affairs	54 (<i>Laughter</i>).
Grief	10
Financial difficulties	9
Unemployment	24
Miscellaneous and unknown	36
Total	409

(d) A reference is invited to the reply given to Question *2977¹, put by the honourable member for Amritsar North (Sikh, Rural) in the last summer session. In answering that question I made a reference to the reply given to an inquiry in one of the last sessions of the old Legislative Council. Figures were then given of suicides and attempted suicides back to 1925, and the Finance Member concluded his answer with the following remarks, which will perhaps bear repetition :

“ The figures make it plain that unemployment is comparatively seldom a cause of suicide in the Punjab. On the other hand, they show a large and steady rise in the suicide rate, fairly constant over the whole of the decennium. The remarkable growth in the population of the province during the period doubtless accounts in part for the increase. It is moreover probable that the number of suicides left unreported is now less than it used to be. Some satisfaction can be obtained from the figures, in that the number of suicides and attempted suicides per million of population in the Punjab is very much lower even now than in most other countries. But fortunately there has again been a decline since 1936. The figure for 1937 was 523 and for 1938—409.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Government consider that the number of suicides committed is too small ?

Premier : My honourable friend can increase the number if he wants to (*Laughter*).

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the gentlemen of the other side will make a start so that we may follow ? (*Laughter*).

DEATHS DUE TO STARVATION.

***4343. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government keeps any statistics of those persons who are driven to the verge of starvation or actually die of starvation ;

(b) whether there exists any official arrangement to report such cases to the Government ;

(c) the number of deaths due to starvation and the number of persons driven to the verge of starvation that have come to the notice of the Government between 1st August, 1938, and 31st January, 1939;

(d) the arrangements, if any, made to help such emergent cases?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No information is available.

(d) None.

DEMANDING OF SECURITY FROM VIRJANAND PRESS, LAHORE.

***4346. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that security has recently been demanded by the Punjab Government from the proprietor of Virjanand Press, Lahore; if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : Yes, because the press printed an article that offended against clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, XXIII of 1931.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Can the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary please quote the article?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, because I do not want to give any further publicity to that objectionable article.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Can he not at least quote the portion which is objectionable?

Parliamentary Secretary : That is the portion which I do not want to divulge any further.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : What was the heading of that article?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : How much circulation has it got?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government decided to demand security from every new newspaper?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : May I know whether the proprietor of this particular press was given a notice and opportunity to explain with reference to the particular article about which objection was taken?

Parliamentary Secretary : The usual procedure was followed.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Was reference also made to the particular article in that usual procedure?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Did the Honourable Premier, according to his own promise, refer the case to the Press Union before demanding the security?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : May I know what the usual practice is in regard to these confiscations?

Premier : You ought to know that when an enquiry is made all the material which is available is considered before any action is taken.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is any warning given before taking action ?

Premier : Warning is given before confiscation takes place.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : In the course of the warning was reference made to the particular article objected to and printed in that press in that warning ?

Premier : How can a warning be given unless attention of the press is drawn to that article ?

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : How is it then said that the article cannot be disclosed in the public interest ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was the warning given once or more than once ?

Premier : It depends upon the keeper or proprietor of the press. A second or third warning is given to those who do not desist from the objectionable practice on one warning.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was the proprietor of this paper the one who desisted on the first warning or more warnings were given to him ?

Premier : I do not think it proper to declare on the floor of this House as to who did not desist on the first warning.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I am asking about this particular case.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the main object underlying the demand for a security is to keep the press under the domination of the Government ?

Premier : I wish Government could dominate the press.

SCHEDULED CASTES RECRUITMENT IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

***4371. Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) the number of scheduled castes young men recruited so far in the Police Department since his speech in the last Budget session ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheduled castes are even now meagrely represented in the said department ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The following answer was laid on the table :—

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) A reference is invited to the reply to question *4093¹.

(b) It is by no means easy to obtain suitable recruits from the castes in question, and while I am most anxious to redress their grievances, progress is necessarily slow.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG POLICE CLERICAL CADRE.

***4384. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table:—

- (a) the number at present of Head Assistants, Assistants, Senior Clerks and Junior Clerks in the whole police clerical cadre;
- (b) whether any particular community is not properly represented in these posts; if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps that the Government propose to give proper representation to that community;
- (c) the number of new appointments made in each of these grades in this cadre since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy and whether the general instructions to recruit 50 per cent Muslims was followed in making these appointments; if not, why not?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur (Sardar Ujjal Singh): I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House. I am sorry to have to adopt this attitude, but I consider it necessary in the public interest to adhere to the convention set up in connection with such questions. The Honourable Premier and his colleagues will, however, always be prepared to examine any particular instance of disproportionate representation which honourable members may bring to our notice in a more informal way, or by means of an unstarred question.

PETITION FROM ONE MAKHAN SINGH OF MOHALLA RANGPURA,
GUJRAT.

***4395. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he received a petition on 11th November, 1938, from one Makhan Singh of Mohalla Rangpura, Gujrat, grandfather of Harbans Singh who was murdered at about 10 A. M. on 18th October, 1938, when he was studying in the 10th class in the Intermediate College, Gujrat, complaining against the indifference in the investigation of the case of the City Sub-Inspector of Police, Gujrat; if so, what action has been taken by him?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): The memorial was duly received in the Secretariat, and inquiries are in progress to ascertain whether any negligence was in fact shown by the police in taking up the investigation.

TRANSFER OF POLICE CONSTABLES FROM JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

***4402. Mian Abdul Rab:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names of the foot constables who have been transferred, from the Jullundur district to some other districts since 1st January, 1938, with reasons in each case for such inter-district transfers?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Since the 1st January, 1938, 45 constables of the Jullundur district have been transferred to other districts. Out of these 4 were transferred at their own request. The remaining 41 were transferred in exchange for constables from neighbouring districts. The latter were brought in as it was considered administratively inconvenient to have the City and Cantonment police stations in Jullundur manned by local residents.

It is not the practice to give names in such cases.

EXTENSION GIVEN TO MR. B. H. DOBSON, FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER.

***4404. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. B. H. Dobson who was due to retire in the month of April, 1939, as Financial Commissioner has been given extension ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after his first retirement he will be appointed Financial Commissioner of famine ; if so, why ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) and (b) Mr. Dobson is due to retire on the 1st December, 1939. He wished to take leave from 1st April but owing to the additional work caused by the famine his leave has been refused for the present with the result that he will be entitled to a short period of leave after the 1st December under Fundamental Rule 86.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is it correct that there are four Financial Commissioners in the Punjab at present ?

Premier : It is absolutely incorrect.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : How many are there ?

Minister : Two.

Sardar Partab Singh : Are two more to be appointed ? (*Laughter*).

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : What is the duty assigned to Mr. Ram Chandra ?

Premier : His turn has not yet come. When his turn comes he will be appointed.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : What about Mr. Alan Mitchell ?

Premier : He is Financial Commissioner.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : What about Mr. Brayne ?

Premier : He is not Financial Commissioner.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is the Government going to appoint two more Financial Commissioners ?

Premier : No. Somebody has given incorrect information to the honourable member.

KIDNAPPING CASES.

***4405. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of kidnapping cases which occurred from 1st April, 1938, to 28th February, 1939, in the province;
- (b) the number of such kidnapping cases community-wise;
- (c) the number of kidnapped boys and girls, separately;
- (d) the number of arrests in this connexion;
- (e) the number of convictions in this connexion;
- (f) the number of lost children restored to their parents;
- (g) the measures the Government proposes to adopt to check the evil of kidnapping?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready.

DR. BHAG SINGH, SOCIALIST WORKER OF AMRITSAR.

***4415. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Dr. Bhag Singh, a prominent socialist worker of Amritsar, has been bound down for one year prohibiting him from making speeches or writing articles, which fall under section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the territorial limit of the prohibitory order extends to the whole of British India;
- (c) if the answer to the above parts be in the affirmative, whether he would be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement containing such writings and speeches of Dr. Bhag Singh as justify the action taken against him?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : (a) and (b) No such prohibitory order has been issued against Dr. Bhag Singh, but he has been ordered by a court of law under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, to furnish security for his good behaviour for a period of one year.

(c) Government do not wish to give further publicity to Dr. Bhag Singh's speeches by laying a statement on the table. The honourable member is referred to the judgment in the case in which the speeches are briefly reviewed.

OBJECTION TO CREMATION OF AN *ACHHUT*.

***4424. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the zamindars of village Gavalayra of tahsil Panipat, district Karnal, objected to the burning of the corpse of an *achhut* on the common land of the village on the midnight of the 20th January, 1939;

[Ch. Paqir Chand.]

(b) whether the next day telegrams were sent to the local authorities (Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent, Police) by the *achhuts* for intervention in this matter ;

(c) whether the cremation ceremony was performed in the presence of police, which arrived at 9 P. M. of the 24th January, 1939, after full 99 hours ; if so, the reasons for delay on the part of the police ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) No. The *Chamars* of the village named deliberately refrained from cremating the dead body of a member of their community as a protest against the levy of a grazing tax.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter was not reported at the police station (Urlana) until the morning of the 23rd January. A constable went out the same day to the village, which is twenty-two miles from the police station. The *Chamars* finally agreed to cremate the body on the evening of the 24th.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS IN SEVEN VILLAGES OF DISTRICT
GURDASPUR.

***4427. Sardar Rur Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that additional police forces have been posted in seven villages of district Gurdaspur, namely, Chima Khuddi, Bharath Bham, Mathanal, Khojala, Bhathwala, Harpura, since 1st July, 1938 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) the amount of expenses that the villagers have to pay for the maintenance of the police forces and the period of their appointment ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that for want of rain this year the inhabitants of the above-named villages are starving and are altogether unable to bear the expenses of the additional police posts ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : (a) and (b) The honourable member is invited to refer to the answers given to questions *4068 and *4182 asked by the honourable members for the Amritsar (Sikh) Women and the Hoshiarpur South (Sikh) Rural Constituencies respectively.

(c) No. These villages are largely canal irrigated and are well able to bear the cost.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is it a fact that many applications have been given by the residents of this *ilaga* saying therein that they cannot bear this burden any longer ?

¹ Page 66 *ante*.

² Page 81 *ante*.

Parliamentary Secretary : The petitions have been given by them but the Government does not agree with their views.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is he aware that they held big diwans recently and passed resolutions about the fact that they were starving ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware of any resolution having been received by the Government.

ASSISTANT TO ADVOCATE-GENERAL, PUNJAB.

***428. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) the names and qualifications of the assistant to the Advocate-General and the two assistant Legal Remembrancers and the grounds on which the selection of these officers was made ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is another officer on special duty in the Law Department appointed by the Government to assist the Legal Remembrancer ; if so, whether this job was ever offered to any member of the Bar ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) *Assistant to the Advocate-General.*—Mr. Muhammad Munir. Appointed July, 1937. M.A., L.L.B., Advocate. In practice since 1920 and the author of an important treatise on the Law of Evidence.

Assistant Legal Remembrancers.—

- (i) *Mr. Norman Edmunds.*—Appointed October, 1933. M.A., Barrister-at-Law. Called to the Bar in January, 1923. Passed the Inns of Court examination in Hindu and Muhammadan Law. Had had five years practical experience in a London office learning commercial routine and had done practical work in the reporting of cases for the Old Bailey record.
- (ii) *Chaudhri Nazir Hussain.*—Appointed April 1934. B.A., LL.B., Advocate. Had nine years legal practice at the time of his appointment. Formerly editor of "Indian Cases", and Lecturer in the Lahore Law College.

These officers were chosen as being the best available for the appointments.

(b) There are at present two officers on special duty in the Legal Remembrancer's office, the first an officer of the Provincial Civil Service transferred to his present post in October, 1932, the second an I. C. S. officer from the 5th January, 1933. The first of these appointments was created to provide assistance to the Legal Remembrancer in the administrative part of his work. The second officer (who is incidentally, a barrister) was brought into the office to assist him in the legislative drafting, which for the last year or two has been exceptionally heavy and to be ready to take his place in case of need.

Neither post was offered to any member of the Bar, as in view of the nature of the duties the appointment of a service man was considered more suitable.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if any applications are invited to fill up the posts of Assistant to the Advocate-General and Assistant to the Legal Remembrancer ?

Minister : No.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if care is taken that the best available men are taken for the posts ?

Minister : Utmost care.

Lala Duni Chand : Is the Minister in a position to state whether the present incumbents of these posts are the best available men ?

Minister : They were so when they were appointed and in the meantime they have gathered experience.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Who finally decides about them ?

Minister : I have given the dates. One was appointed in July, 1937 ; he is Assistant to the Advocate-General. Mr. Edmunds was appointed in 1938, and Chaudhri Nazir Hussain was appointed in 1934. There is a P. C. S. officer to help the Legal Remembrancer in the administrative work. He was appointed in 1932, and the I. C. S. officer who is an officer on special duty in the Legal Remembrancer's office to help particularly in the work of drafting was appointed last year.

FATEHWAL CASE.

***4429. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount which the Government has spent in conducting the Fatehwal case from beginning to the end, the number of persons charged and the number of accused who were acquitted by the Sessions Judge ;

(b) whether any part was played by the Parliamentary Secretaries or any one of them in the launching and conduct of the case, if so, what ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Approximately Rs. 68,000. The number of persons charged was 33, of whom 26 were acquitted.

(b) No, Sir.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if Government has made any enquiry into the circumstances which led to the arrest and prosecution of a large number of accused and most of the prosecutions failed ?

Premier : I thought my honourable friend was a lawyer himself and knows that several persons who are prosecuted are acquitted by courts but that is no ground for an enquiry at all.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if Government is aware of the fact that this was particularly a State prosecution started for certain political objects in view ?

Premier : This was not particularly State prosecution. All prosecutions are State prosecutions in an offence of that character.

PERMANENT POLICE POST AT RAJA JANG.

***4435. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he intends or has under consideration the question of stationing a permanent police post at Raja Jang where there prevails communal tension over the question of calling of *Azan* ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : The honourable member is invited to refer to *Punjab Gazette* notification No. 1002-B, dated the 18th February, 1939. In pursuance of this notification a body of additional police, consisting of 1 sub-inspector, 2 head constables and 18 constables, has been located in the village with effect from the 10th March. As the honourable member will see, the notification is operative for two years, but the Commissioner has been informed that if the communities can compose their differences Government will be ready to consider the withdrawal of the additional police at the end of one year or whenever there is a reasonable prospect of communal peace in the village.

Sardar Partab Singh : May I know if the charges of these posts are imposed upon the whole village irrespective of any community ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If a notice is given I will supply the necessary information.

Sardar Partab Singh : I want to enquire if both the communities have to pay in respect of this post or some invidious distinction has been made in the case of one community ?

Premier : The burden is laid on all the communities equally excepting those who are poor and are unable to pay.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Who has to decide as to who is poor ? Is the Honourable the Premier to decide this question ?

Premier : Officers.

DECLARATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF SHRI MAHARAJ MAHABIR
SWAMI AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

***4436. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** With reference to the reply given to supplementary question to question No. *3575,¹ will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government has since then received a heavily signed representation by the Jains of the province, through Shri Amar Singh Jain Sabha, Ambala city, requesting the Government to declare the birthday of Shri Maharaj Mahabir Swami, the 24th Tirthankar of Jain religion, as a public holiday ;

(b) whether the said Sabha also requested the Premier to receive their deputation in that connexion ; if so, what decision have Government taken on their representations ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The question had already been carefully considered, with the result indicated in my reply to the original question. It was clear that no

[Premier.]

useful purpose would have been served by receiving a deputation, and not wishing to arouse hopes which it would have been necessary afterwards to disappoint I thought it better to refuse the request for an interview.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if there are any founders of religions whose birthdays are not celebrated by holidays in the Punjab ?

Premier : Many. As a matter of fact there are several sectional holidays which are granted to the members of particular sects if their members apply for a holiday.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My question was whether there are any birthdays of founders of religions which are not observed as holidays in the Punjab ?

Premier : If the honourable member wants that information he should give notice.

VACANCIES IN THE PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT FOR MEMBERS OF SCHEDULED CASTES.

*4458. **Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Government is going to fill 20 vacancies of junior clerks in the Punjab Civil Secretariat on the 27th March, 1939, as published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated February 17th, 1939 ; if so, the number of vacancies proposed to be offered to candidates belonging to scheduled castes ; if no vacancy is meant for them, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana) : Twenty vacancies are expected to occur in the course of the next year and will be filled from among the candidates who pass the qualifying examination to be held by the Public Service Commission. No particular number of vacancies has so far been reserved for members of any community in the filling of these vacancies but the matter is under consideration. If suitable candidates from the scheduled castes are available their claims will receive sympathetic consideration.

Lala Duni Chand : Is Government prepared to give an assurance that some of these posts will go to the members of the scheduled castes ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member has not understood my reply. I have said, if suitable candidates from the scheduled castes are available their claims will receive sympathetic consideration.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is not a fact that there are a lot of matriculates and F. A.'s to be found among the scheduled castes ? Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of that fact ?

Premier : I am sorry to say that the honourable member has not understood the reply. He said that appointments would be made on the result of a qualifying examination to be held by the Public Services Commission and those members of the scheduled castes who are according to my honourable friend qualified are at liberty to sit in the examination.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if all these posts will be filled as a result of some competitive examination ?

Premier : Of a qualifying examination.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know what he means by a qualifying examination? Does he mean competitive examination?

Premier : I said qualifying examination. About the meaning of that word I would refer him to Webster or any other respectable dictionary of the English language.

CARNIVALS IN AMBALA CANTONMENT AND CITY.

***4459. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the period for which carnivals have been operating in Ambala cantonment and city respectively during the year 1938;
- (b) whether the carnivals are operating at present at both the above-mentioned places and if not, whether any permissions are about to be granted for the operation of the carnivals at any of these two places;
- (c) the authority which recommends and which sanctions the operation of the carnivals;
- (d) whether he is aware that the operations of the carnivals are being objected to by the general public of both the above-mentioned places;
- (e) the considerations that the authorities have in view in allowing the carnivals to operate at any place?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready.

PENSIONS WITHHELD.

***4463. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number, district-wise, of persons, payment of whose pensions was withheld under orders of the Punjab Government for taking part in the Gurdwara and Congress agitations of 1921;
- (b) whether the present Government has any intention of revising those orders?

Parliamentary Secretary (Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana) : I am sorry that I cannot undertake historical research into incidents that occurred years before the present constitution came into being.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is the Government prepared to restore the pensions withheld by the previous Government on account of pensioners taking part in the Gurdwara agitation?

**AGITATION AGAINST RATES OF *ABIANA* IN CANAL IRRIGATED AREA
OF PALWAL.**

***3914. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the answer to short notice question put on 1st July, 1938, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the United Provinces' Government has agreed to adjust the difference in rates of *abiana* in force on Agra canal to bring them in conformity with those obtaining on the Western Jumna canal and enforce the same rates in the Palwal tahsil?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The United Provinces Government have replied that the matter is still under consideration.

BEGAR EXACTED FROM SAQQAS OF BERI.

***3923. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Saqqas of Beri are forced to work without any remuneration and *begar* is exacted from them by the local police and the Municipal authorities whenever fire breaks out in the town?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : No.

**NAMES OF ACCEPTED CANDIDATES AND NEW ENTRANTS TAKEN IN SERVICE
IN AMBALA DIVISION.**

***3933. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the names of candidates accepted and new entrants taken for the ministerial and gazetted Government posts in all the Government offices of Ambala division since April, 1937?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : A statement giving the required information in figures for the offices of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners in the Ambala division is laid on the table. It is not in the public interest to give the names.

Number of candidates accepted for and number of new entrants to ministerial and gazetted posts in the offices of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner in the Ambala division since the 1st April, 1937.

Name of office.	Number of candidates.	Number of new entrants.
Commissioner	5	2
Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak	8	2
Deputy Commissioner, Hissar	16	6
Deputy Commissioner, Ambala .. ..	..	..
Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon	5	2
Deputy Commissioner, Karnal	5	7
Deputy Commissioner, Simla	2	..
Total	41	19

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME AND IRRIGATION OF AMBALA DIVISION.

***3967. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether any survey plan of the parts of the Punjab through which the canals proposed to be constructed on the materialization of the Bhakra Dam Scheme will pass, has been prepared so far and if so, which parts of each of the five districts of the Ambala division, namely Ambala, Karnal, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar are likely to be irrigated according to this plan?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Final detailed proposals fixing irrigation boundaries have not yet been made, hence it is not possible to give any definite reply.

LAND GIVEN ON *MUSTAJARI* IN EXECUTION OF DECREES.

***4027. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state district-wise how much land has been given on *Mustajari* in execution of decrees in the Punjab with periods and amounts for which such land has been given during the years 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : I regret the information is not readily available and the labour involved in its collection would be out of all proportion to the results likely to be attained.

ACREAGE OF LAND SOLD AND AUCTIONED IN EXECUTION OF DECREES.

***4028. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the acreage of the land sold and auctioned in execution of decrees in the Punjab and the amount thus realized during the years 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 ;
- (b) how much land was left for the maintenance of the judgment-debtors and what was the number of such judgment-debtors in respect of the land mentioned in (a) ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : It is regretted that as the results will not be commensurate with the time and labour required for the collection of this information, the information cannot be supplied.

CONTRACTORS PUT ON BLACK LISTS IN GREY CANAL DEPARTMENT,
FEROZEPORE.

***4031. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue kindly state—

- (a) the names of those contractors who were put on the black lists in the Grey Canal Department, Ferozepore, since 1918, with reasons for putting them on the black list and the names of the officers who were responsible for placing them on the black lists ;

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

- (b) the names of those contractors among them who were re-appointed as contractors with reasons therefor ;
- (c) the names of the contractors in the department mentioned in (a) appointed after 1927 up till now with their previous experience and the amount of the security deposited by them and reasons for their appointment ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a), (b) and (c) Three¹ statements marked "A", "B" and "C" containing the required information are laid on the table.

GRANTEES OF CHAK No. 67/12-L., TAHSIL AND DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY.

***4067. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the grantees of Chak No. 67/12-L., tahsil and district Montgomery ever submitted representations orally as well as in writing to the Canal, District and higher authorities requesting that they should be allowed water from 12-L. Distributary which is at a distance of 8 squares from their Chak ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the local Canal authorities recommended their representation ; if so, what action has been taken on their representation by the Government ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his Assembly question No. *4064.²

NOTICE FOR COMPENSATION BY GRANTEES OF CHAK No. 67/12-L.

***4068. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the grantees of Chak No. 67/12-L. have recently served the Government with a notice claiming compensation on account of damage done to the cotton crop in 1938 and the non-sowing of wheat in the present *rabi* (1939) for short supply of water ; if so, whether any step has been taken in the matter ; if so, what ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his Assembly question No. *4064.²

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE ON PRESENT KHARIF OF 1938 IN
PAKPATTAN TAHSIL.

***4078. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether Government has granted any remission of land revenue on the present *khariif* of 1938 to any part whether of the old or new colony in the Pakpattan tahsil ; if so, how much and to which part ?

¹ Kept in the Library.

² Page 132 ante.

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Yes, in the New Colony to the extent of Rs. 1,49,584 as detailed below :—

	Rs.
Land revenue	79,408
Malikana	56,279
Cesses	18,897

RELIEF FOR SUFFERERS OF VILLAGE BULLARA DILAWAR, TAHSIL PAKPATTAN.

***4080. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- the area of village Bullara Dilawar, tahsil Pakpattan ;
- the area inundated by the river of the said village and the area now under cultivation ;
- whether it is a fact that the cultivable area left with the zamindars of the said village is very small for their maintenance ; if so, the action Government proposes to take for the relief of the sufferers residing in the said area ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) 5,978 acres.

- Area inundated by river 1,425 "
- Area under cultivation 1,285 "

(c) Yes, the culturable area left with the zamindars is insufficient for their maintenance. The trouble caused by the vagaries of the river is not confined to this particular village, but it exists in the case of all such villages which are situated in riverain tract of the province. Since the rivers are always changing their course, it is a matter which is irremediable.

QILA SOBHA SINGH IN SIALKOT DISTRICT.

***4089. Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- whether the Government has moved the North-Western Railway authorities for the construction of a suitable bridge for the passage of the Dek inundation waters near Qila Sobha Singh for the old Dek channel irrigating the Ilqa in Pasrur and Narowal tahsils of the Sialkot district ;
- if so, with what result ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway administration has not agreed to the construction of a bridge.

DECLARATION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES AS AGRICULTURISTS.

***4106. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- whether any memorial was presented to the Honourable Premier on behalf of the scheduled classes on the occasion of the Zamindara Conference held at Lyallpur in September, 1933, praying

[L. Deshbandhu Gupta.]

that the scheduled classes be declared as statutory agricultural tribes under the Land Alienation Act; if so, what action has been taken on the same;

(b) whether the Government have decided to accept their demands; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) and (b) The Honourable Premier does not recollect having received such a memorial. But there is no bar to the inclusion of any group or class of the community in the category of notified agricultural tribes, provided they fulfil the main conditions necessary for notification, namely :

- (i) that the tribe or group as a whole are dependent mainly on agriculture for their livelihood;
- (ii) that they are sufficiently important both as regards numbers and the area which they own; and
- (iii) that they are losing land to an extent and at a rate which would justify the extension of protection of the Act to them.

REMISSION OF GOVERNMENT DUES IN FIVE TAHSILS OF AMBALA DISTRICT.

***4125. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the information received by the Government since the adjournment of the last session of the Assembly as to the famine conditions as prevailing in different districts of the Punjab with particular reference to the conditions prevailing in each of the five tahsils of the Ambala district;
- (b) the steps that have been taken or are being taken to meet those conditions either in the form of remission or suspension of land revenue and other Government dues or in any other form with particular reference to the amount of Government dues remitted or suspended in each of the five tahsils of the Ambala district and whether the remissions granted in these five tahsils bear any relation to the demands made for relief from the residents thereof?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) and (b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer¹ given to short notice question asked by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava on 19th January, 1939. A copy of Famine Bulletin No. 8 for the month ending 15th February, 1939, relating to the areas affected by famine and scarcity in the Ambala division is also laid on the table.

In the Ambala district conditions have not deteriorated to such an extent that it can yet be said that famine or even scarcity prevails there. Recent rain will improve the situation.

Statements² showing the relief in the form of suspensions and remissions of land revenue and remissions of abiana in (1) the Punjab and (2) the Ambala district, are laid on the table.

¹Volume VII, page 546.

²Kept in the Library.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that most of the districts of the Punjab have suffered from acute famine conditions?

Minister : There may not be so much scarcity as to declare them as famine areas.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know to how many districts in the Punjab any kind of relief has been given?

Minister : Relief has been given throughout the Punjab where it was found necessary to give.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it not true that a good many districts in which scarcity of famine conditions exist, have not been given any kind of relief?

Minister : I do not think that the information of my honourable friend is correct.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if Gurdaspur has been given any relief of any kind? (*An honourable member :* Batala also).

Minister : I want notice from my honourable friends.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PATWARI OF VILLAGE SANDHWAN, DISTRICT
JULLUNDUR.

***4136. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that as required by the notification issued by the Government on the subject, more than five respectable residents including lambardars and a member of the Jullundur District Board have recently lodged a complaint against the Patwari of village Sandhwan, district Jullundur;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, what action have the authorities concerned taken or intend to take against the patwari?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes.

(b) The allegations were investigated and found to be baseless.

Master Kabul Singh : Is it a fact that 45 respectable persons deposed on oath in the court of the Tahsildar of Nawanshahr that this particular patwari had accepted bribe?

Minister : I have no information on that subject.

Master Kabul Singh : Is the Government prepared to lay these statements on the table?

Minister : If my honourable friend can give five such people who are prepared to prove these allegations, I am prepared to make an enquiry.

Master Kabul Singh : But 45 are more than 5. Is the Government therefore prepared to place those statements on the table?

Minister : I know a little bit of mathematics, if not as much as my honourable friend does. Forty-five may be more than 5, but they have not sent in a representation.

Master Kabul Singh : I have said that these people have given affidavits in a court and if their statements are wrong they can be prosecuted.

Minister : If the matter has been referred to a court, let the court decide it.

Master Kabul Singh : I have to add that five respectable men have made their representation also and there are a lambardar and a member of the district board among them.

Minister : Will they kindly send their representation directly to me ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Could the Honourable Minister recollect any occasion when he may have answered something like this ? After an enquiry the complaints have been found to be correct and action is going to be taken.

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it true that in theory testimony or evidence of five persons is regarded as sufficient, but in practice many multiples of five are not regarded as sufficient ? (*Laughter*).

CONTRACTORS OF SIRHIND CANAL.

***4140. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Sirhind Canal, has issued orders to remove the names of several Hindu contractors from the list ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the criterion fixed by the Government for the selection of contractors ; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter to ensure the selection of efficient contractors ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) No. All Superintending Engineers have been asked to revise lists of approved contractors in order to give due representation to all communities. This would naturally involve a reduction in the number of contractors of a community which at present may be over represented.

(b) The general criterion fixed for selection of a contractor is that—

- (i) he should understand the works which he has to carry out,
- (ii) he possesses adequate funds and command of labour,
- (iii) he can devote whole of his time to contract work,
- (iv) he is straightforward in his dealings.

(c) Superintending Engineers have been instructed to satisfy themselves that only suitable contractors are taken on the approved lists and all communities get a share of the contract work.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Was any distinction between Jats and non-Jats observed even in this connection ?

Premier : What is your suggestion ? Should Government observe such distinctions ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : When we come to power, we will make no distinctions between Rawalpindi men on the one hand and men belonging to the central districts on the other.

GRANT OF TACCARI TO SCHEDULED CASTES IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***4143. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the amount of *taccari* given to the members of the scheduled castes in Hissar since the appearance of famine conditions in that district ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Rs. 55,290 by the end of February, 1939.

FOOT-BRIDGE OVER UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL NEAR
NANU-NANGAL.

***4181. Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that in the absence of a foot-bridge over the Upper Bari Doab Canal between the bridges Dhumroy and Nanu-Nangal, the residents of mauza Bhatoa in the Gurdaspur district and also of the neighbouring villages are put to a great inconvenience in the matter of cultivating their lands on the other side of the canal and also in the matter of burying the dead ; if so, what action is intended to be taken to remove this grievance of the residents of these villages ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : No. A bridge already exists at a distance of about three-quarters of a mile from the Bhatoa village. Government, therefore, does not intend to take any action.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : May I ask the Honourable Minister to please answer the question in Urdu.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : The honourable member requested that the question be answered in Urdu. I want to know whether under section 85 of the Government of India Act the Speaker has the discretion to allow the members of Government to answer in the vernacular or in any other language in order that it may be helpful to the non-English speaking members of the House.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is a learned and experienced lawyer. So, he can interpret section 85 as well as anyone else.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : I am bringing it to the notice of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Please read the section. Does it confer any power or discretion on the Speaker ?

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : It has been so held by the Speaker of the Madras Assembly.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the honourable member to refer me to that part of the section which empowers me to act as suggested.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Is it not a fact that there is a distance of 2½ miles between villages Dhumroy and Nanu-Nangal ? Is it not a fact

[Ch. Ali Akbar.]

also that the Dhumroy bridge is situated at *burji* No. 101 and Nanu-Nangal bridge is situated at *burji* 114? Is it also a fact that village Bhatoa is on the right side of these bridges and village Alya Chak is on the left side of these bridges and the lands of both these villages are on the left bank of the canal? Zamindars therefore have to walk a distance of six miles in order to plough their lands.

Minister : I think there is no mention of the bridges in the question to which my honourable friend is referring now.

Premier : What does my honourable friend mean? Does he mean to say that the distance quoted in the answer, that is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, is incorrect?

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Yes.

Premier : Very well. A correct answer will be given after making enquiries.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Is it further not a fact that the graves dug in village Bhatoa are filled with water and the people who bury their dead there experience lot of inconvenience? Is the Government prepared to construct a foot-bridge between the bridges referred to?

Premier : May I suggest a quick remedy? Do not let people die. (*Laughter*).

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : My complaint was that the canal water has affected even the graveyard of the village. Some action should be taken to remove that complaint.

Minister : These things are not to be found in our report. If my honourable friend will send his complaint in writing to me, I shall look into the matter.

DECLARATION OF JALPAT BRAHMINS OF NAKODAR TAHSIL AS AGRICULTURISTS.

***4183. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that Jalpat Brahmins of tahsil Nakodar, district Jullundur, have been agriculturists by profession from time immemorial;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a few months ago they submitted a petition to the Honourable Premier inviting his attention to the fact of their being agriculturists by profession and also requesting that they be declared as statutory agriculturists; if so, the action taken or intended to be taken on that petition?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Enquiries show that Jalpat Brahmins of village Khiwa, tahsil Nakodar, own land, which they have been cultivating themselves.

(b) The Honourable Premier does not recollect having received any petition on the subject. The concluding part of the question therefore does not arise. I may, however, inform the honourable member that the

main considerations which are kept in view in deciding whether a particular tribe or group needs the protection of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, are :—

- (i) that the tribe or group as a whole are dependent mainly on agriculture for their livelihood ;
- (ii) that they are sufficiently important both as regards numbers and the area which they own : and
- (iii) that they are losing land to an extent and at a rate which would justify the extension of protection to them.

WATER LEVEL IN DOABA.

***4194. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the progress made up to date by Survey Divisional Office opened at Jullundur to examine the causes of fall of water level in the Doaba and to draw up a scheme for supply of water and also state when the report on the subject will be ready ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : From the observation of gauges fixed on the Sutlej and Beas rivers during the monsoon of 1938, it has been found that it is not possible for want of command to take off a canal from the Beas river to command that area of the Bist Doab whose water table has fallen to a serious extent. Also so many big drainages would have to be crossed by such a canal that the cost would be prohibitive. It appears, however, to be possible to take off a canal from the Sutlej river above the Rupar Headworks which can command the Phillaur and Nakodar tahsils which have suffered seriously from the fall in the water table.

A tentative alignment of a canal from the Sutlej above Rupar has been laid out and levelled. Details of the catchments and discharges of the Chos which cross this alignment are being collected. Further progress cannot be made until the completion of the contoured survey of the Bist Doab and the maps are available and these are expected to be received in July or August next.

Survey of the Eastern Bein has been mostly done and will be completed before the end of March. This survey will come in useful if it is found that the Eastern Bein can be used in the scheme for an inundation canal.

The report on the scheme will, it is expected, be ready next winter, not earlier. Progress cannot be made until the contoured survey maps of the Bist Doab are received.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Will the Jullundur tahsil be also served by the said canal or is it going to be left out ?

Minister : It depends on the contour plan.

INUNDATION OF LAND IN VILLAGE JHAMLAYRA.

***4196. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the area of land of village Jhamlayra, tahsil Pakpattan ;
- (b) the area of land of the said village inundated by the river ;

[Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana.]

- (c) the area of land uninundated by the river and the area of land now under cultivation in the said village;
- (d) the number of *pattidar* of the said village;
- (e) the area of land which forms the share of an average *pattidar* and how much of that share is under cultivation;
- (f) the smallest area of land which forms the share of a *pattidar* and how much of that is cultivable and how much is not;
- (g) the action Government propose to take in respect of those who have suffered by the inundation of the river Sutlej?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) 5,850 acres.

(b) 1,888 acres.

(c) 4,462 and 1,290 acres respectively.

(d) 275.

(e) About 22 and 9 acres respectively.

(f) 3, 1 and 2 acres respectively.

(g) No particular action is proposed, as Government cannot undertake to compensate persons who have suffered in this manner.

Mian Abdul Rab : Does Government intend to distribute the land lying with them to those people who have suffered on account of river action?

Minister : The land according to the plan of the colony has either been distributed or otherwise disposed of. I cannot change the plan now.

COMPLAINT AGAINST PATWARI BY RESIDENTS OF VILLAGES HIMMATPURA AND DAMKOR.

***4212. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the residents of the villages Himmatpura and Damkor (district Hissar) made complaints against Patwari Ghaffar Beg to the effect that he accepted illegal gratification from the zamindars of the area in connexion with *taqavi* loan of fodder;
- (b) whether any inquiry was made by the Naib-Tahsildar, Tohana, into these allegations; if so, whether the statement of the complainants was recorded and whether they were asked to produce witnesses in support of their allegations; if so, with what result?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The complainants were given an opportunity to produce evidence. Statements of witnesses were recorded and the patwari also produced his defence. The complaint was found to be baseless and actuated by enmity.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government ever tried to find out why people make baseless complaints in such a large number? Have they gone off their heads?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have the Government ever received any complaint based on true facts?

Premier : The officers against whom complaints are found to be genuine are dismissed forthwith.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Have the Government ever given any reply other than this patent reply in such cases?

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Will the Honourable Minister please say whether the enmity referred to in the answer was of a local character or whether it arose out of any litigation? Can he give reasons for this enmity?

Minister : I cannot give that information off hand.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Was this enmity directly between the complainant and the patwari or between the patwari and a third person?

Minister : I cannot add anything to what I have already stated.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Has the Government tried to find out what sort of enmity existed between the patwari who did not belong to that village and the complainant who belonged to that village?

Minister : If my honourable friend will give notice I shall certainly make enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the answer given by the Honourable Minister based on the report of the enquiry held by the Naib-Tahsildar?

Minister : The report of the enquiry was received from the Deputy Commissioner.

IMPORT OF *BHOOSA* IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***4223. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) what arrangements have been made for importing *bhoosa* to the famine-stricken area in the Rohtak district;
- (b) the past and recent practice of issuing railway freight concession passes;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a few persons have been given the monopoly of bringing *bhoosa* on concession rates to different railway stations in the district;
- (d) whether tenders were called for; if so, when and the number and names of those who applied;
- (e) whether a representation signed by a few zamindars and contractors was recently submitted to him and the authorities concerned against these arrangements; if so, the contents of the representations and the action taken on it?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) A number of railway stations in the Punjab and outside have been notified, from which fodder can be imported at concession rates of railway freight, and contractors are granted certificates for the import of fodder at concession rates. Fodder imported by these contractors is sold at fixed rates and fodder taccavi is also issued from their depots. Certificates for the import of fodder are also given to persons who wish to bring fodder for their own cattle.

(b) The past and the present practice is the same, except that in the case of exporting stations on railways other than the North-Western Railway certain restrictions on the issue of certificates have been imposed in order to keep down prices and to regulate traffic.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes. The allegations made in the representation were found to be inaccurate.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has this fact been brought to the notice of Government that when the zamindars approach the contractor with a chit of taccavi they are either made to receive third class *bhoosa* or Rs. 8 in cash instead of *bhoosa* of Rs. 10.

Minister : I have received no such complaint.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government ever received any complaints against the contractors ?

Minister : If my honourable friend will communicate any complaint on the subject I shall certainly make enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : My question is whether complaints against corruptions of the contractors have ever been brought to the notice of the Government.

Minister : If the honourable member will give notice, I shall make enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I should like to know whether the procedure for the grant of *bhoosa* at concession rates has been changed.

Minister : If my friend will give notice I will make enquiries.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether concession Railway freight passes issued by the tahsildar were cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner ?

Minister : I require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The required notice is already there. The main question in part (b) asks whether there is any difference between the past and the present practice.

Minister : I have already replied that the past and the present practice is the same.

REPRESENTATION FROM SUB-TENANTS OF TAHSIL KHANEWAL.

***4240. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he has recently received any representation from sub-tenants of tahsil Khanewal regarding the ejectment orders and other hardships : if so, what does he propose to do ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Government have received representations from both tenants and sub-tenants in the Khanewal tahsil. The honourable member is aware that it is difficult for Government to interfere in the arrangements between landlords and their tenants and between grantees and their sub-tenants. Both landlords and grantees are entitled to act according to their legal rights in the matter and can take any action that the law provides. Government, however, have desired local authorities to use their good offices to compose so far as possible, any differences that may have arisen between them and their landlords.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : May I know from how many chaks such complaints have been received ?

Minister : I do not carry such information with me.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is it the policy of Government not to interfere with the contractual relations between the sub-tenants and the proprietors, or is it due to any other reason that Government does not interfere ?

Minister : I have already replied that in the matter of relations between the landlords and the tenants or the lessees, they have got a right to go to court of law if they so like and get their grievances redressed. Government only exercises some sort of influence in seeing that these differences are composed.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Does Government take any action to remove the difficulties of the tenants in case they find them in trouble ?

Minister : My friend should study the *communiqués* that have been issued on the subject.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

DACOITIES IN TAHSIL KHARAR.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any dacoities have recently occurred in several villages in the jurisdiction of police stations Chandigarh, Kharar and in the vicinity of Lalru in the Ambala district ;
- (b) whether on the 9th of March, 1939, another dacoity occurred at Mauza Khizrabad in the tahsil of Kharar ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that firearms have been used in these dacoities ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that eight sub-inspectors of police with a special force were deputed some eight months ago for the arrest of three absconding dacoits ;

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

- (e) whether any reports have been received explaining why no arrests have taken place so far;
- (f) the name of the officer under whose leadership these sub-inspectors have been carrying on their pursuit of the absconding dacoits;
- (g) whether Government intends to replace the officers who have failed to effect the arrest of these dacoits so far by some one else and if not, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) During the year 1938 two cases of dacoity occurred in the Chandigarh and Kharar police stations. Since the beginning of the new year there have been three such cases in the area mentioned.

(b) Yes. This is one of the three cases mentioned above.

(c) Fire-arms were used in four out of the five cases.

(d)—(g) The honourable member probably refers to the three absconders Ishar Singh, Hazura Singh and Koora for whose arrest a reward of Rs. 400 was offered by the Superintendent of Police, Ambala, in September last. There has been no occasion for reports to be submitted to Government regarding the measures taken for the arrest of these absconders. I will have enquiries made, but I should like to say at once that there is no reason to doubt that the district authorities have been doing everything in their power to secure the arrest of the wanted men. (It does not seem likely that eight sub-inspectors have been detailed to effect the arrests).

Lala Duni Chand: May I know if the victims of these dacoities were all money-lenders?

I P. M.

Parliamentary Secretary: I have no definite information on that point.

WITHDRAWAL OF OBJECTIONABLE EXPRESSIONS.

Mr. Speaker: I am authorised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to state that the members of his party who used objectionable words at the time of interruption on the 24th instant withdraw those words. So the incident should be considered as closed.

Minister for Education (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): Besides, I have a grievance against the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: The incident is closed.

Minister: You were pleased to direct that I should make a statement on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: I would have allowed a statement if necessary.

Minister: I have to make submission that it is necessary. I have a grievance against the Leader of the Opposition. He rose in his seat—*(Honourable members: "Order, order")*.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has already expressed regret while the objectionable words used by some members of the Opposition have been withdrawn. So, the matter ends.

Minister : Who ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member himself.

Minister : I ?

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Minister : I made it quite clear that—

Mr. Speaker : I do not want any explanation. The honourable member has got a copy of the proceedings of Friday last.

Minister : I have not seen them. They may be incorrectly reported.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may see and then say what he wants to say.

Minister : I want to point out—(*Cries of order, order.*)

Mr. Speaker : Order, please. Sorry, I cannot allow the honourable member to make a speech.

Minister : I am raising a point of order. It is that some incident happened on the floor of this House, and you were pleased to say that as you were busy otherwise, namely, reading the agenda you were not aware as to what had happened. It is now my duty to point out—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member explained it yesterday. He should refer to the proceedings. He did explain his position and I understood him.

Minister : I did not explain. I have had no opportunity to explain on Friday. All that you were pleased to say was that there was no time.

Mr. Speaker : I disallow any further discussion on this point. So, the matter ends. (*Cheers from the Opposition.*)

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : On a point of order. Can withdrawal of any objectionable remarks be made by proxy ?

Mr. Speaker : As it was difficult to ascertain the names of gentlemen who actually used objectionable words from the opposition side, I acted on the authority given to me by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. E. Few : On a point of order. Has any regret been expressed along with the withdrawal ?

Mr. Speaker : What I proposed the other day was ' withdrawal '.

MOTOR SPIRIT AND LUBRICANTS (TAXATION OF SALES) BILL.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill, No. 5 of 1939. Copies have already been made available to honourable members.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

AGRICULTURE.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,20,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,20,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Agriculture.

Administration of Agriculture Department.

Sardar Hari Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

with a view to discuss the administration of the department and make suggestions for its improvements and extension. While moving this motion, Mr. Speaker, I have to submit in the first place and at the very beginning that India and more so our own province, the Punjab, being pre-eminently an agricultural province, the main industry of the population of this province is agriculture. Agriculture is the chief source of our sustenance, is the main prop of our livelihood. Therefore we have very intimate relation between our prosperity and the prosperity of agriculture. But what is the present position of our industry? That is the first question that arises in our mind when we begin to discuss the demand under consideration to-day. This main industry of the population of the Punjab is not a paying proposition. There is no gain-saying the fact, we have got facts and figures to prove and to corroborate the statement that I have made that agriculture unfortunately at the present moment is a losing concern and that is a tragic fact which no one can contradict on the floor of this House. Why is agriculture a losing concern? The main reason is the prevalence for a number of years of low prices of agricultural commodities. Our agricultural produce cannot, on account of the fact that we have got no control over the policy of exchange and currency, compete with the products of other countries in the world markets.

That is because we are a subject race, because we are ruled over by an alien race which has got no sympathy for the agricultural population of this country. Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that at the present time, the main industry of the province is a losing proposition and the peasantry is going from bad to worse the peasantry is growing more and more penurious from day to day, and more and more unable to bear the high rates of land revenue, *abiana* and *chahi* and other dues of the Government, in spite of that fact we find that there is no systematic effort made to improve the position of agriculture in the manner required by the situation prevailing at the present time. There is, I should say, anarchy in production, there is anarchy in the development of land resources and there is anarchy in the marketing of produce. In other words, I should say that there is a lack of method, there is a lack of system, there is a lack of economic and agricultural planning

which is the dire need of the hour. Unless we think out and execute a well-considered, sound agricultural policy, there is no hope for the peasantry of this province to prosper. (*Interruption*). Mr. Josh says there can be no planning in a capitalistic system. I am coming to his favourite Russian model of collectivised farming. The peasant is getting from bad to worse, as I said, and the tragedy of the situation is heightened by the fact that the population of the province is increasing at a rapid rate and you will be surprised to note that the birth rate of the Punjab is the highest not only in India but in the whole of the world. The present birth rate is about 47 per thousand and Egypt also which exceeds the birth rate of India, as a whole comes next to the Punjab. Increase in population has been going on for many decades and even at the present moment there is an increase of 4 lakhs of human beings every year in the population of the province. That means there will be a grim tragedy in store for this province, unless we adopt radical measures to meet the situation.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair which was occupied by Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh of the panel of chairmen.)

In twenty years' time all the land that lies waste at the present time and that can be brought under cultivation, will have been brought under the plough and there will not be available even an inch of land that can be further brought under cultivation. What will happen after 20 years when all the land resources of the provinces have been exhausted? Then will reach the saturation point and there will be no further land available for colonization and for cultivation. Then will arrive the time when we will be faced with a serious crisis, with a very critical situation. What shall we do then? The solution of the problem does not lie merely in bringing under cultivation land which lies at present waste and uncultivated, but it lies in some other direction, in adopting radical measures for industrialization of the province, for urbanization of the country and for collectivising the system of farming in the province. I am suggesting methods which have been adopted in other countries with success and with prosperity to the population. So in order to place agriculture on a sound footing, we require will, we require determination, we require the pooling of all our resources. Let the engineer, the biologist, the chemist, the finance minister, central as well as provincial, unite together to pool the resources and take agriculture out of its present morass into the sunshine and place it on the pedestal of prosperity, on the rock of security, where it may rest proof against the ravages of disease and pest, proof against the vagaries of weather, proof against the vicissitudes of world market, proof against all that militates against the interest and well-being of the man behind the plough. Only will and determination can secure that position to agriculture in the economy of this country and this province. I was talking of the alarming birth rate, of the alarming fall in the prices of agricultural produce, alarming tragedy that is in store for the province, unless we adopt radical measures. Now let me give, Mr. Chairman, a few facts, a few statistics in support of what I said in my introductory remarks. If you turn to the figures you will find that cotton was sold at Rs. 7-8-0 per maund in the year 1905-06, but in the year 1935-36 cotton was sold at Rs. 11 per maund, and during the last year 1937-38 it was selling at Rs. 6 per maund. That was the average price. So during the previous year we were worse off as

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

compared with the year preceding that and as compared with the year 1905-06. When we compare these figures with the year 1924-25, we will find that we are still worse off. In that year, Mr. Chairman, the Government raised the abiana by 20 per cent. on account of the fact that the farmers were fetching high prices for cotton and those rates have been reduced by only 10 per cent. in the year 1935. The ten per cent. increase made in the year 1924-25 on account of increase in the prices of cotton is still being maintained by the present Government which claims to be so sympathetic to the peasantry of the province. As regards exports of cotton, they decreased from $4\frac{1}{2}$ million bales to 2,100,000 bales in the year 1938. I am giving figures for 1937-38. The export of cotton has actually fallen during the previous year. As regards wheat, decrease in prices has been very serious indeed. From Rs. 3-12-0 it has fallen to Rs. 2-5-0. In the year 1924-25 when the water rates were raised by the then Government the rate was Rs. 4-8-0 per maund. There has been recently increase in the pressure on land. The figures for the past decade go to show that during the years 1920-30 the number of partial agriculturists, those who depend on agriculture as well as on some other occupation increased from 1,49,000 to 4,86,000. That is during these ten years, there was increase in the number of partial agriculturists by 300 per cent. The number of agricultural labourers increased from 4,68,000 to 7,36,000. This means that the number of agricultural labourers doubled during the period. That shows how the people during the period went on to agriculture and the pressure on land increased by as much as one hundred per cent. The figures for imports and exports show in what serious situation we are placed as regards our economic position. There has been a fall to the extent of 50 per cent. in the value of imports and exports during the last year. India is in the eighth or ninth position in the world from the point of view of gold value of our trade. The *per capita* value of imports into India is only 3-4 rupees. Japan has ten times as much and this fall has taken place only during the last year. Similarly, exports have been harmed. These figures remind us of our continuous impoverishment. Then, Mr. Chairman, I talked of disproportion between rural and urban population. The ratio of rural and urban population is 90 and 10. In civilised countries the ratio is generally 45 and 55 or 40 and 60. This ratio shows that we have got one-legged economy. The Honourable Minister of Finance talked some time ago of the alarming situation to which the country has been reduced on account of this one-legged economy being perpetuated in this province and in this country.

Let me now give you statistics regarding birth rates and compare them with statistics of other countries. In British India the birth rate is 35-7. In the Punjab it is 46-85. In Egypt it is 44-4. Egypt is the only country in the world which exceeds India in the matter of birth rate, but it does not exceed the Punjab. In the Punjab it is 46-85 while in Egypt it is 44-4 per thousand. So, we have the highest birth rate in this province. And what about death rate? I am talking of death rate to show that we require more wholesome food, more nutritious food, food which may protect us against deficiency diseases which are the cause of a proportion of mortality in the province. The death rate is 26 per thousand for British India. It

is 26·2 in Egypt. That means that we have got the highest death rate but for Egypt. So, with almost the highest death rate in the world, we have got a serious situation to deal with. I shall, therefore, ask the Honourable Minister of Development as to what he is doing, so far as it lies in his power as Minister of Agriculture, to provide better nutrition to the people of this province so that they may be saved from such diseases that arise from deficiency in vitamins, deficiency in nutrition and deficiency in health-giving elements of our food.

As regards increase in population, if in 1901—I will take an index figure—it were 100, then in 1911 the figure rose to 107. In 1921 it rose to 109 and in 1931 it rose to 120. So during thirty years' time we have got 20 per cent increase in the population of India and I think the percentage of increase in population of the province is even greater.

I shall compare the expectation of life in India with that of other countries of the world. In 1931 the expectation of life of males in India was only 26·91. In England and Wales it was 55·62. In Japan it was 42·06. In Russia it was 41·93. In France it was 52·19, and in Italy it was 49·25. So, the expectation of life in India—this disease-ridden country, this country where the population is under-fed, under-nourished and suffering from malnutrition—is the lowest in the world. Let us then take the percentage of population depending on agriculture. In Egypt the percentage of population that depends on agriculture is 67·1. In India it is 67·0. So, the largest proportion of population in India depends on agriculture. As regards the output of agricultural labour, if we compare the figures we see that while at one end of the scale you have the United States of America, at the other end of the scale you have China and British India. The labour output in various countries is as follows :—

United States of America	..	..	..	30
Canada ..	..	..	..	20
Great Britain ..	..	..	..	18
Belgium ..	..	..	..	16
Germany ..	..	..	..	12
Australia ..	..	..	..	8·5
British India ..	..	..	..	1½
China ..	..	..	..	1

So, we lead the whole world in the matter of being at the bottom of the scale in labour output per inhabitant but for China! That is due to the fact that we lack capital, we lack genius, we lack machinery, we lack scientific method and, last but not the least, we lack a sympathetic government. Information regarding labour output per inhabitant in the various countries of the world is contained in an article in the *Twentieth Century*. The article in that journal is entitled "The Indian Farmer" and is written by Mason Vaughn of the Naini Agricultural Institute. The figures as regards the ratio of labour output per worker given in that journal are as follows :—

America ..	..	..	..	35
Great Britain ..	..	..	..	24
Canada ..	..	..	..	22
Belgium ..	..	..	..	19
Germany ..	..	..	..	15
India ..	..	..	..	1·4
China ..	..	..	..	1·2

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

There is much difference between the figures given in the Twentieth Century and the figures that I have already quoted. When we compare our labour output with countries like America and Canada, we find that we are at the lowest rung of the ladder and it should certainly give us food for serious thought as to how we should improve our average labour output and to improve our agricultural production. "The menace of Punjab's growing population" is a small pamphlet written by Mr. Cyril P. K. Fazal, M.A. It gives the following figures. In 1881, the area under cultivation was 28.4 million acres. In 1901, 27.8 million acres. In 1931, 30.7 million acres and the latest figures are 31.1 million acres. The area under cultivation in 1881 was 28.4 million acres and it has increased to 31.1 million acres. There has, no doubt, been increase in the area under cultivation. Much land in the Punjab that lay waste is now under irrigation because the canals were started, the land was colonised and on account of that land is brought under cultivation. There has not been increase in the pressure on land. But what will happen twenty years hence when all the available land in the Punjab is brought under cultivation? So far the increase in the cultivated area has kept pace with the increase in population but with the increase of four lakhs in population every year, we shall, after a few years, be faced with a serious situation. We shall then have to adopt very radical and drastic measures and we shall have to revolutionise the methods of agriculture. In the article, which I referred to just now, it is stated—

Even proportion of one man per acre is too high with the present uneconomic methods in agriculture.

At the very beginning I stated the fact that in this province agriculture is a losing proposition. The farmers find it very hard, rather impossible to make both ends meet. They are living from hand to mouth. I shall now give you hard facts and figures based on an enquiry made by the Board of Economic Enquiry, a semi-official enquiry, in Lyallpur district. For the purpose of an enquiry the Board took a farm of 28 acres. Farm accounts of 5 years were recorded by the Board for the years 1927-28—1931-32. The value of produce was recorded, expenditure of the farm was recorded, land revenue and water rates by this farmer were recorded, net assets were found out, balance was found out and what was the result? The result according to this enquiry is that there was a loss in the first three years: land revenue was more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the net assets. There was loss in the 3 other years and more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the net assets was taken by land revenue. Then the same Board of Economic Enquiry made an investigation into a farm in tahsil Dasuya in Hoshiarpur. This farm is 10 bighas, 4 kanals and 7 marlas in area, some of which is *chabi* and some *barani*. As regards income during the year 1933-34 it was Rs. 511. Expenditure excluding wages of farmers was Rs. 455, land revenue was Rs. 50 and expenditure excluding land revenue was Rs. 405. Net assets were Rs. 106. So the ratio of land revenue to the net assets was 47/100 and if we include wages of the peasant and his assistant at the rate of 8 annas and 5 annas respectively, this expenditure comes to Rs. 296. On account of wages the gross expenditure comes to Rs. 701 and the true net assets come to Rs. minus 190. Taking the three years into account we find that there is a loss of Rs. 141. How was the land revenue paid? It was paid by

selling jewellery and by selling the cattle. It is unfortunate that the Agricultural Department has not supplied us the latest information as regards its operations during the last year. We have got a copy of the report of the department for the year ending 30th June, 1937. We have got no copy of the report of the working of the department ending 30th June, 1938. That shows the interest of the department to keep the public informed of the working of the department during the latest period. As regards the year 1937, the salient features mentioned in the report are these. I do not touch the ordinary points: I shall mention in my speech only some of the salient points. There is some mention about the cultivation of sugarcane and further on there is a note which says that there is a very small number of factories in the Punjab and the reason stated as to why there is such a small number of factories in the Punjab is because of the inferiority of the Punjab cane from the sugar produce point of view. The report says that the reason for this fact is that the sugarcane of the Punjab has not been of a high sugar-produce value. Two years have elapsed since this report was written. May I ask the Honourable Minister for Development if these reasons have been fully investigated into? What are the reasons for low sugar produce value of the Punjab? The report mentions that it was probably due to the alkalinity of the soil. Is that the final decision of the investigator about the causes of the low sugar produce value or are there any other reasons? If there are other reasons which have been discovered by the investigator and by the agricultural expert, let the Minister take the public and the House into his confidence and let him also tell the House what steps have been taken to improve the sugar produce value of the sugarcane of the Punjab. As regards the expenditure per acre in that year, the rate was six pies per acre. As regards the rate per cultivated acre it was 11.5 pies per acre. Now for the year 1938-39 we have got a figure of 40 lakhs and if you work out the ratio it comes to 13 pies per cultivated acre of land in the province. So during these years there has been an increase in expenditure for cultivated acre of land of $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies only. Is that small increase a matter to be proud of? The report does make a valuable admission about the expenditure on the department. It says that an expenditure of such small dimensions cannot be regarded as extravagant. On the other hand, it says that it is infinitesimal for an essentially agricultural province such as the Punjab. The report further goes on to describe the working of the Agricultural Department at Lyallpur. It says—

There are signs that the hope of the government employment is by no means the only attraction to the students of the college, one of them being the fact that the number of applications for admission very far exceeds what might be considered proportionate to the number of appointments available.

That is a very strange and funny logic that because the number of appointments available for those who go out of the college is far smaller than the number of admissions, therefore the students are not after government employ. May I ask my honourable friend if those who wrote the report made any enquiry from the students at the time of their admission whether they were going to join the college in order to get government employ or do something else. If they wanted to ignore government employ what was their object? Have they got any data to base this opinion on and why did they write that the students joining the college did not join simply to seek

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

government employ? The students join the college in order to seek government employ no doubt. Just as the government proposes to subsidise the medical practitioners to settle them in villages, similarly it will be worth consideration if a similar proposal were made as regards agricultural graduates who pass out of this college. Is it not a fine proposal to settle them in villages? Subsidize them under the condition that they will give helpful advice and assistance to the agriculturists in the neighbouring villages. Let a unit of villages be formed. Settle agricultural assistants in the unit, subsidize them on the condition that they will render useful service, advice, assistance and encouragement to the agriculturists of that unit.

Under this heading we find a note that in the year 1914-15, the yield of milk per cow per day in the dairy at the Lyallpur College was 5·65 pounds and now the report says with pride that the yield has increased to 18·95 pounds. There has been an increase of more than 13 pounds. That is a matter to be proud of, no doubt, as far as the College itself is concerned and as far as the work of the experts on the dairy is concerned, but what has the Punjab Government done to increase the supply of milk in this province, to make the milk available to the children of this province, to the babies of this province, to the poor people of this province, to the poor expectant mothers of this province and to those who are suffering from various ailments? What has the Government done to increase the supply of milk? Has the Government got statistics to show what increase has been effected in the supply of milk during the last two years, during the last decade, two decades or during the last half a century? It is regretted that we cannot find sufficient data, sufficient facts and statistics in our Assembly library as regards the Punjab, as regards India and as regards the world.

As regards cotton, the report says :—

The Government note that the department appears to be on the track of discovering the cause of the condition which on several occasions during the last 20 years has reduced the yield of American cotton by as much as two-thirds.

This is distressing that on certain occasions the pest destroyed almost two-third of the crop of the American variety of cotton of the peasants of the province. The Department has not yet come to a definite and final conclusion as to the causes of the diseases, as to the preventive measures and remedial measures to be adopted. Nowhere in the report or in the information so far supplied to us do we find that the Department has adopted measures to overcome this disease which is responsible for a loss of crores of rupees to the peasants of the province. If my honourable friend has got further information in his possession, he may enlighten the House and the province as to what he has done during the two years of his tenure to overcome this disease which is responsible for a loss of 5 crores a year sometimes.

As regards fruit, what has the Department done? The report says :—

A canning hall erected at Lyallpur for experiments on fruit preservation on semi-commercial basis.

So far so good.

A small experimental cold storage plant built at Lyallpur.

and then the Punjab Fruit Development Board was started. But what has the Government done to subsidise it? Only Rs. 2,500 a year for the first time have been budgeted as a subsidy for this Board. My honourable friend Sardar Ujjal Singh is delighted when I criticise this small amount because he is so keenly interested in the development of fruit. The report says :—

20,865 nursery plants were supplied and still demand could not be satisfied.

That is what the report says on fruit industry in this province for the present. I have not much to say on the development of fruit industry in this province, so I pass on to poultry. The report notes with distress that the growth of poultry farming in this province is hindered by epidemics and the department has not been able to investigate the causes and to find out remedies to overcome that disease, to which the poultry of the province, wherever experiments have been started, fall a prey, taking a toll of thousands of young stock. Preventive measures are yet to be discovered. This was written two years ago. May I ask my honourable friend whether his department and the poultry experts have investigated the causes of this epidemic and come to any definite conclusion as to how to overcome this disease and how to bring poultry in a healthier atmosphere and circumstances and how it can be saved from a disease like that?

Further on the report says :—

There are 100 agents for selling departmental wheat.

Who are they? Are they co-operative societies or are they private individuals? There is no mention made in the report as to who these agents are. May I ask my honourable friend what steps are taken to ensure that the grain is not mixed and that the seed is not adulterated by the agents to gain a profit? What steps has the Government taken to ensure their purity?

The same report notes at another place under the head Eradication of *pohli* that not much success has been made in the eradication of *pohli*. I remember a campaign against this was started more than a decade ago and lambardars, zaildars and sufaidposhes were ordered by the tahsildars and naib-tahsildars in the villages to press upon the farmers to eradicate *pohli* after harvesting. Ten years seem to have elapsed and yet we find this information in the report that no success has been achieved in eradication of *pohli*. This is an admission made in the report itself. The report also makes a suggestion. I do not know why the Government has not adopted that suggestion which the department has made. In Western countries weeds of this nature are controlled by legislation and eradication is made compulsory by a certain date. Why has the Government not touched upon this suggestion made by the department in the report? Why has it not brought forward a legislation to control this weed so that it is eradicated as soon as possible by a certain fixed date? May I now ask my honourable friend whether he intends or whether he is prepared to accept the suggestion that the power of eradicating *pohli* should be entrusted to the punchayats which are going to be constituted under his new Bill? Will he give them the power under the legislation to control the growth of *pohli* and to eradicate *pohli* under the law by a certain date?

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

The Farmers' Week is another heading under which we find attendance at various centres. It is to be noted with regret that the Montgomery Farmers' Week during the year attracted 2,600 souls and the Lyallpur Farmers' Week attracted only 586 persons, and mostly I think those who attended the Farmers' Weeks were school-boys or urban people or *tamasha dekhnewale*. A very few farmers might have attended those Farmers' Weeks, an account of which we find in the report, yet the department takes pride in saying that we are organising the Farmers' Weeks in order to demonstrate to the people the value of improved methods of agriculture. Why do you not hold Farmers' Weeks in villages instead of towns, so that you may attract the actual tillers of the soil and not merely boys or riff-raff of the town? The report says that there are seven circles for administrative purposes, each being in charge of a Deputy Director of Agriculture. One of these circles is rather too big. Montgomery circle has only two districts under its administrative control—Montgomery and Lahore, but what about the Jullundur circle? It has seven districts—Jullundur, Ludhiana, Kangra—a big hilly district—Hoshiarpur, Ferozepore, in fact the whole of Jullundur division and then Simla district tagged on to Jullundur division. There are seven districts of a varied kind under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Jullundur, and in Montgomery circle there are only two districts. The Jullundur circle is too big for administrative purposes. It ought to be split up into two immediately, if my honourable friend the Honourable Minister for Development is anxious to do anything for the peasants living in those districts.

I now pass on to the Punjab Government Budget for the year 1939-40, but before I take up the important items of the next year's Budget, let me have a look at the revised and estimated Budget for the last year. In the year 1938-39, Rs. 40,83,000 were budgeted for expenditure on Agriculture. What is the revised estimate? Mr. Chairman, you will be surprised to find that during the year the department has not come forward for a supplementary demand, asking for an increased expenditure on the main industry of the province. What have they done? Instead of coming forward for a supplementary demand, as they have done perhaps for additional police and some other departments, they have in the revised estimate decreased the amount to be spent on agriculture. What is the revised estimate? Instead of 40 lakhs it is only 36 lakhs. There is a decrease of Rs. 3,83,800 in the budgeted amount. So the department has spent less than it asked for at the time of the Budget last year. What is the explanation? My honourable friend the Minister for Development has been crying over the woes of the peasants of this province, he has been crying so loudly for the welfare of the peasants of this province. Why has he not spent this amount which was allocated to him last year? Why has he not spent 4 lakhs for the betterment of the peasants? Why has he allowed the Finance Minister to take away this amount and to use it for other purposes? For the next year the total expenditure is Rs. 39,91,800. So it is lower as far as the estimated budget is concerned, for the next year the figure is actually lower than for the previous year. The budgeted estimate is lower than the figure for the last year and yet they say, we are pushing forward, we are forging ahead and bettering the poverty-stricken condition of this province. Revenue receipts

from this head are shown as Rs. 17,94,900, for the next year. So the net expenditure of the department will be Rs. 21,86,900. I ask my honourable friends : Do you lead in your expenditure on the main industry of this province, on the industry which gives sustenance to the teeming millions of the province ? Are you leading the rest of India ? Are you leading the world in this matter ?

(At this stage Sardar Sahib Sardar Gurbachan Singh left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

There are numerous items of expenditure under this head in the Budget. I need not touch them. I may only refer to expenditure under Botanical and other Government Gardens. They have allotted Rs. 1,87,800 for that purpose. May I ask my honourable friend how the maintenance of the Minto Park is going to help in the improvement of agriculture in this province ? What experiments is he carrying on in Minto Park for which we have budgeted Rs. 50,000 a year ? He smiles—perhaps at his own ignorance. Is the maintenance of the Minto Park and other Government gardens going to help the agricultural condition of the province ? I have not the Memoranda with me, but I remember to have read that the Minto Park gives a healthy outlet for the citizens of Lahore. There they go out in the evening. They stroll in the Minto Park. They play there. They laugh there. They smile there. They have healthy recreation in the Park ; that is a very good thing. Let the people of Lahore have another Minto Park. I would not grudge them that. But how is the department proposing to help the agricultural conditions of the province by providing a healthy recreation for the citizens of Lahore in the Minto Park and other gardens ? How is that going to help the farmer to get two blades of grass where one grew before ? How does that help agriculture ? Let him enlighten the House.

The Punjab Budget for the next year shows that the number of agricultural assistants to be employed for demonstration and propaganda purposes will be 168, and the number of *muqaddams* will be 293. If we only look at the policy laid down by Government in the year 1936 wherein the ideal was one agricultural assistant per tahsil and two to three *muqaddams* per tahsil, these figures may be satisfactory, but are they satisfactory when we look at the number of villages in the Punjab ? There are 37,131 villages. It gives us one agricultural assistant for every 227 villages and one *muqaddam* for every 127 villages. Is that satisfactory ? I would like that for every 50 villages there should be at least one agricultural assistant for the time being and for every 10 villages at least one *muqaddam*.

May I compare the Budget of the Punjab with certain important features of the United Provinces Budget, not to show up the Punjab Government to the ridicule of the world but only to show what people who have a will to do, people who have actual sympathy for the tillers of the soil are doing in the neighbouring province ?

The total expenditure in that province is Rs. 80,54,000 and the important features of the Budget are that Besides an agricultural college there are agricultural schools which administer to the needs of agricultural education of boys in rural areas and the amount allotted for the purpose is Rs. 66,392. On special rural uplift scheme they have provided Rs. 33,97,000 over and above the amount contributed

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

by the central Government. Then there is a provision for increasing the pay of inferior servants and small salaried people. These are the provisions for developing the agricultural industry of the province. But what is the Punjab Government doing to see that the key industry of the province is improved? What has the Government there done for the increased supply of ghee in the province or for improving its quality? Special schemes have been formulated for the improvement of milch cattle and a sum of Rs. 30,000 has been provided for increasing the milk supply of the province. If you compare the budget for the next year with that of the current year or the previous year, you will find a marked difference. In 1937-38 the United Provinces Government had budgeted only Rs. 29,67,000. This is the budget prepared by the bureaucracy which preceded the present Congress Government. The Congress Government when it took over the reins of Government increased this provision to 57 lakhs, that is a difference of 28 lakhs. In the next year's budget they have increased it still further. If you compare the budget of the United Provinces Government of 1937-38 with that of 1939-40 you will find that it has increased by 51 lakhs. This increase is more than 125 per cent of the total amount budgeted by the Punjab Government.

What has the United Provinces Government done in the matter of seed distribution? Seed has been given as taccavi to cultivators. In some cases seed has been given to cultivators in exchange. In the latter case the cost of transportation and loss on account of difference in prices has been borne by the Government. Again, before the Congress Ministry came into power there were 200 seed stores. The present Government opened 330 more seed stores so that there are at present 530 seed stores in the province. Another important feature that I may mention in this connection in passing is that the seed stores have been placed in charge of trained supervisors under each of whom there are three agricultural assistants. These agricultural assistants or demonstrators are in charge of units of six or seven villages each, whereas here in the Punjab we have one *mukaddam* for a group of 293 villages. For the improvement of cattle breeding of the province a sum of Rs. 1,59,000 was spent during 1938-39. How was it spent? It was spent on the purchase of bulls and cows of good breed for supply to stock-owners.

Chaudhri Tikka Ram : That is the concern of the Veterinary Department.

Sardar Hari Singh : Yes, formerly the expenditure on the Veterinary Department was included in the budget for Agriculture. It is now that the Veterinary Department has been separated from the Agriculture Department for the purpose of budgeting.

While on this subject it would be worth while making just a passing reference to what the governments in other countries had done when their cultivators were hard hit by the depression and fall in prices. I shall just refer to a few countries. As regards Great Britain from which our alien rulers hail, what did they do? On 12th May, 1932, the Wheat Act was passed just when the depression had touched the bottom of trough. This Act provided markets and fixed the prices. By this Act the farmer was entitled at the

end of the year to receive payments known as deficiency payments equal to the difference between the standard price fixed and the average price for every quantity of mill-able wheat sold. How were funds secured for the purpose? Not by taxing the farmers nor even that portion of the population known as urban nor the money-lenders. Every mill and every importer of flour became liable to a wheat tax equal to 10s. 8d. per cwt. of his output. The huge sum of money raised by taxation in this way was spent in order to help the wheat grower. This is what was done in Great Britain. What about the Irish Free State? It will be remembered that England raised very high tariff walls against the Irish Free State on account of political reasons. In spite of that Ireland was able to maintain the income of the peasants very well. There was only a small reduction from 26 to 24 while here the reduction in the income of the peasant was more than 50 per cent. How did that country maintain the income of the peasant? It levied protective duties, prohibited certain imports and paid bounties to the growers of potatoes so that the farmers may get handsome prices for their produce. What was the agricultural policy of Germany? Its policy was that every farm must be made a paying proposition: farmers must not lose, but must get adequate reward for their hard and arduous labour. How did that country give effect to this policy? In the same way as Britain did and as Ireland did, that is by tariffs, by state regulation of imports and by the establishment of equilibrium between production and demand and by fixing standard prices and by assuring equitable prices for the producers. How did the United States of America help the farmers? It was also in the same way. Prices were established, fertilisers were cheapened, import duty on wheat was raised. There were institutions to grant loans to growers. So that if farmers would be compelled, when the Government comes forward to demand land revenue and other dues, to sell their wheat, they would be helped by loans at that time or at the time of the harvest, so that they paid land taxes and other Government dues from that loan and they might sell their wheat at the proper time and fetch good prices for their produce. It was the hardest hit country as regards agricultural depression. It raised the prices. Further on the land was developed. Abundant land was purchased and re-afforested by the Government. Then what was known as the Agricultural Adjustment Act was passed by the Government to help the agriculturists. Similarly Hungary, Denmark, Canada, Australia and other countries adopted measures by legislation and otherwise. What did Hungary do? It reduced transport charges on cereals and live-stock and machinery indispensable for agriculture. Then land tax—this is something important, a procedure that was not adopted by other countries—land tax on small farmers was paid out of a special fund which was set aside for the purpose. Denmark made a State subvention and 8 million crowns were made available for the laying out of gardens for fruit and vegetables. This is something important for the development of fruit culture. In Canada a bonus of 5 per cent. per bushel was paid by the Federal Government in respect of the crop of the year 1931. In Australia in 1931-32 a sum of £0 lakhs was set aside to help the wheat grower. Out of this amount a premium of 6d. a bushel was granted and further on a special Wheat Growers' Act was passed in 1933 and the sum made available was 80 million pounds instead of 20 lakhs. In what way was it raised? By allocation from the budget and by increase in imported tobacco duty. These were the measures that were adopted.

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

in the civilised countries of the world to help the farmer. How did they help the farmer? We may recapitulate. These Governments in the hard times of depression helped their farmers by fixing prices, by stabilising prices, by raising the import duty, by giving bonuses and subventions and subsidies to the growers of wheat and potato and other agricultural commodities. What has the Indian Government done? That is not the fault of the Punjab Government if the Indian Government has not moved in the matter of lowering rupee ratio by depreciating the currency and by imposing import duties to help the growers of wheat in this province. I have got to say much about fruit industry in this province. In the year 1937 for the first time in provincial autonomy Agriculture was discussed at the Simla session and it was Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, I think, who moved the first cut motion to raise the question of improving fruit industry in this province. Then he was a free man, not a Parliamentary Secretary. He had not then been initiated into the mysteries of preparing stereotyped replies and monosyllabic 'yes' and 'no' to questions from this side of the House. Citing the example of Egypt, he said: Look at Egypt; 50 lakhs are provided for fruit culture of that country and as regards fruit plants they are supplied free to the fruit growers and these fellows sitting on the Treasury benches are not supplying adequate number of seedlings to the farmers even on sale. In Italy land revenue is remitted for a number of years in the case of fruit growers who use approved methods of fruit growing. He said that there were only 70,000 acres under fruit garden in this province and contended that it was only 25 per cent of the total cultivated area of the Punjab and the Minister for Development admitted that the area under gardens was very small and said it was not a matter to be proud of. What, may I ask now, has he done during the last two years to increase the area under fruit gardens? He said on that occasion that the ideal of the Punjab Government's Agriculture Department was that within a period of 5 years instead of 25 per cent of the area under gardens they would have an area of 1 per cent under gardens. Two years have now elapsed since that discussion took place. May I now ask him what achievement he has made within the last two years to increase the area under fruit gardens? Instead of the 70,000 acres under fruit garden how many acres has he now got in the year 1939? Then Sardar Bahadur said that there were a number of difficulties which the fruit growers had to contend with. Sir William Roberts joined him in that contention. Then Mr. Amjad Ali too supported him and Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani also with his weighty pronouncement came to his support and corroborated his contention. They narrated the difficulties of the peasants as regards fruit growing and those difficulties still subsist and I ask my honourable friend to stand up and say what he has done to overcome those difficulties, to fulfil those needs and to carry out and redeem the promises given on that occasion. He said there was a lack of supply of seedlings, they were not adequate and they were not of the good quality: they were not healthy. The grafts were not good and they were not of the right type. What has he done to supply grafts of the right type and seedlings of the right type and also at lower prices? He also complained of the lack of proper fruit markets. What steps has my honourable friend taken to establish good, decent, sanitary fruit markets in the province? Has he made any improvement in the Lahore fruit market, in the Amritsar fruit market or any of the fruit

markets of this province? Has he made any improvement at all? He sits mum. No improvement.

Further on they rightly complained that no *kharaba* was allowed to fruit growers. In case of other crops, *kharaba* is allowed. If wheat is damaged by natural calamity, *kharaba* is allowed, if cotton is damaged, *kharaba* is allowed, but if the whole of a mango crop is damaged by *tela* or some other natural calamity, no *kharaba* is allowed. Then they complained of water rates and land revenue rates being charged twice a year while fruit growers have benefit accruing to them only once a year. Their complaint was justified and it is as much justified to-day as it was two years ago when the honourable member sitting behind the Honourable Minister for Development complained of these things. They urged the reduction of *abiana* on fruit gardens by 50 per cent and they said that no land revenue should be charged on fruit gardens during the first five years or so when the garden gives no benefit to the growers. They complained rightly and their demand was justified and genuine and this demand of the peasants still remains. When a fruit grower starts his fruit orchard, during the first four or five years or even ten years and in the case of mangoes 15 or even 20 years, there is no benefit accruing to the fruit grower, why should the Government from the very beginning charge land revenue and why should they tax at the very initial stage when there is no return, no reward? There also was a demand for cold storage and refrigeration facilities for the preservation and transport of fruit from one place to another particularly in case of soft fruit. A writer emphasizing the necessity of cold storage says:—

The chief function of cold storage is to equalize the distribution of seasonal products throughout the year. In other words cold storage acts like a reservoir receiving the surplus flow of goods when production exceeds demand and market glut is impending and giving over these goods when production has fallen off and a market scarcity is impending.

So the function of cold storage is to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of fruit throughout the season and there is no rise in prices on account of scarcity at one time and fall in prices on account of glut in the market at another time. A second function of cold storage is transportation of perishable fruits in good condition to the consumer. United States of America which leads in agriculture has got 1,500 such storage houses and what has the Punjab Government done? Only one poor cold storage plant of a very small dimension exists at Lyallpur College and that even for making experiments. The Honourable Minister on that occasion made the following promises and I to-day from my seat in this House remind him of these promises and ask him to let this House know what has he done to redeem those promises. He said as regards concession in water rates to fruit growers—

It should be made to all alike not only to those having a holding of over 50 acres. If favour is to be shown, it should be shown to smaller rather than big landlords.

What has he done to see that the smaller fruit grower also gets the concession which is enjoyed by those holding more than 50 acres of land under fruit gardens? Has he done anything? He also said—

I shall bring to the notice of the Revenue Minister and if need be, to the notice of the Cabinet the irrigation aspects of the question and the revenue aspect of the question and shall adopt necessary measures to see that reasonable demands of the agriculturists are fulfilled as regards irrigation and revenue aspects referred to during the discussion by friends from this side of the House.

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

Has he done anything to fulfil these promises? Has he been able to persuade his Government, his colleagues in the Cabinet to reduce *abiana* on fruit gardens? Has he done anything to see that in the first four or five years fruit growers are not made liable to any land revenue charges? He frowns. This seems to pinch him. I can give to the House some quotations to show what Italy has done, what California has done, what Palestine has done, what France has done, what Denmark has done to help fruit industry in their respective countries. But I think members of this honourable House will find enough material to study in the fruit journal issued by the Fruit Development Board of the province and in that journal they will find this leaflet called 'Fruit Industry in other Countries.' There is much useful matter in that leaflet. Our problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is how to make agriculture a paying proposition. That is the first and foremost problem that the Department of Agriculture should tackle. Unless the peasants of the province get enough return from their land to pay land revenue, to pay taxes, *abiana*, *chahi* rates, interest on capital and after making all these payments they have enough and to spare to keep their body and soul together and they can educate their children, they can feed their children properly, can clothe their children properly and their needs are fulfilled, then I dare say the Government shall have to face a revolution if drastic remedies are not adopted in time. The peasantry of this province is very patient, is very forbearing, is very hard-working, but time will come when the fund of its patience will be exhausted, when its energies will be exhausted, when the cup of its sufferings will be full and then the grim tragedy, the grim situation will arise and it is the part of wisdom for a popular government, for a representative government to take time by the fore-lock and to take steps to make agriculture a paying concern, before it is too late (*Hear, hear*). Now, how can agriculture be made a paying proposition? There are certain measures which the provincial government can adopt and there are certain measures which the Central Government can adopt, as measures have been adopted in certain other countries. The first and the foremost thing is that currency should be depreciated, exchange ratio should be altered and the whole of political India for the past many, many years has been crying hoarse for alteration in the rupee ratio, for the reduction from 18 to 16 pence so that the exports from this country to other countries may be accelerated, so that we may be able to give better prices to the agriculturists of this country. Every Congress provincial Government has, I suppose, pressed on the Central Government for a change in the rupee-sterling ratio. The Finance Minister of this province, I am told, has expressed a different opinion that there is no necessity for a change in the existing ratio.

I would now refer to another matter which is not under the control of the provincial Government but it can certainly put pressure on the Central Government. No doubt it has put some pressure in the past year. If all the provincial governments—eleven provinces of India—put united pressure on the Central Government in the Railway Department, to reduce the transport charges, it will go a long way to help agriculturists of this country. It is very regrettable that the cost of transport of wheat from Canada to Karachi is actually lower than the cost of transport of wheat from the Mandi of Lyallpur to Karachi and the freight from Lyallpur to Calcutta is higher than the

cost of transport of wheat from Canada or Australia to Calcutta. The Railway Department may be pressed upon, in the interest of the welfare of the chief industry of this province and in the ultimate interest of the Railway Department itself, to reduce the freight. The prosperity of the Railway Department of the Government, in the last resort, depends on the prosperity of the major portion of the population of this province and this country. If the Railway Department lowers the transport charges to a rate where it would be earning no profit, it would be doing useful service not only to the peasantry of the province but also to the government of the country and to its own self, because, in case agricultural produce gets better prices, that would mean that the purchasing power of the agriculturist will be raised and if the agriculturist has his purchasing power raised, what will it mean? It will mean that he will be able to buy more articles of trade and that would lead to more exports from England and foreign countries and there will be a better circulation of imports and exports. That will actually, in the last resort, benefit the Railway Department itself. It will be carrying more goods from place to place. The goods traffic will go up and the railway will thus be the gainer and not the loser if it reduces the transport charges to a rate at which it should not earn any profit from the agriculturists. As regards the import duties, it is again a question for the Central Government to solve. The duty was reimposed last November. It was lifted last year, after three years' imposition of duty on wheat, but it was reimposed as, I have said, last November up to March 1940 only. Have you heard of an industry being protected for one year only? There must be protection accorded for a number of years. What is the significance of imposing duty on imported wheat for one year only? That is a joke. Let it be imposed till the year 1944 so as to give security, satisfaction and sense of safety to the agriculturists of the province. They will thus get fair prices for their produce. The readjustment of *abiana* rates and *chahi* rates is an old question which has been hanging fire for a number of years. The Government appointed the Land Revenue Committee whose report has been ready for long, yet it is said that the report is under consideration of the Government. No one knows when the incubation period will be over and when the hen will hatch the egg. No one knows that. In order to give better prices to the agriculturists, not only are the measures that I have enumerated above essential, but it is also very necessary that marketing conditions should be improved. No doubt the Government has taken one step in the direction of marketing but it is essential that marketing of wheat, cotton and other commodities of the Punjab peasants should be placed on a co-operative marketing basis. There is much advantage not only in co-operative farming but in co-operative marketing. The Government is very proud of its co-operative credit societies, agricultural co-operative societies and so on and so forth, but if it understands the real advantage and significance of co-operation, it should extend co-operation to the sphere of marketing too. What is the present position? There is, as I said in the beginning, anarchy in marketing. The farmer brings in his harvest, say in April or May. The tax-collector then comes. The *lambardar* demands the *abiana*, land revenue and some other taxes for different purposes. The farmer takes the wheat or cotton to the *mandi*. The farmer is thus compelled, at the time he brings in the harvest, to pay the demands of the Government

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

which he does by selling his wheat or cotton at lower rates. The *sahukar* also presses him at that very time. He demands interest accruing on the money advanced. So, all the people who have to demand anything from the farmer, come just at the harvest time. The poor farmer has, therefore, to throw the whole of his wheat and cotton in the market all at once. There is thus serious fall in prices and glut in the market as the farmer is compelled to sell at the time. By co-operative farming and giving the farmer loans at the time the harvest comes in, you will be helping him to secure better prices for his produce. The Marketing Officer very aptly remarks in his Report on "Marketing of Wheat" as follows :—

The most outstanding and probably the most serious factor from the growers' point of view is the seasonal depression in prices at the harvest time, year by year, in some of the leading markets. As the harvest reaches its height prices fall on an average by 19 per cent.

And what are you going to do to prevent the 19 per cent fall in prices at the time of harvest? Chaudhri Mukhtar Singh, who has written a very valuable book "Agrarian Relief" says as follows while commenting on this note :—

If we make a law that every producer will be a member of the co-operative society and place the entire crop to be marketed by the co-operative societies a better price for their crop can be easily realised. The sale society of co-operative organisation may advance money to the extent of 75 per cent on the basis of the produce to be stocked either in the house of the farmer or at a central place and the crop may then be gradually marketed.

So, there should be gradual marketing instead of sudden glut in the market that arises out of circumstances which are not under the control of the grower. In order to remedy that state of affairs there should be an organisation of marketing co-operative societies whereby you can eradicate the disease and secure better prices for the tillers of the soil. The Government should, therefore, introduce co-operative marketing too where it has introduced co-operative credit societies. Not only that. Our production per worker is the lowest in the world. Let me compare it with other countries. United States of America has 30 compared with India which has got 1·2. That is a distressing state of affairs. If we want to improve the economic condition of the farmer, we must make him produce more.

What is the method by which we can increase the production? The only way to revolutionise agriculture is by the adoption of scientific methods, scientific planning on the same basis which have been tried by other civilised countries of the world. The only way to improve the productivity of the labourer and the tiller of the soil is by wedding agriculture to science. But there are serious difficulties in the way of improving agriculture by means of scientific methods, because scientific machinery and up-to-date means of agriculture cannot be applied where the holdings of the peasants are so small and uneconomic, and fragmentation on account of the law of the land is going still further, the scientific methods tried in the other countries will not at all succeed unless we change the situation altogether. The only method by which we can revolutionise our agriculture is to start collective farming. Let the government make an experiment and make a beginning on the land that is to be irrigated by the Haveli and Thal projects and the other irrigation projects that are still to come. Let Government make a start

and let the people of the province know that collective farming has been started by Government and that the yield has gone up by two, three and four times as much as the yield on individual farming. The method is not a new one. There is nothing new in it: it has already been tried for a number of years in Russia. What was the state of affairs in Russia when collective farming was started? If you want to know the result of collective farming in Russia you should turn to the report of the League of Nations Economic Committee, Volume II, page 65 'The Agricultural crisis.' In one part of Russia the value of production of individual farming was compared with collective farming. In Northern Caucasus in individual farms the value of produce per hectare was 402 roubles in the year 1931 and in collective farming known as kolkhoz it was 748 roubles, nearly twice as much as of individual farming. In another place, Central Volga sector, from individual farming it was 279 roubles in 1931 and in collective farming it was 588 roubles, twice as much as from individual farming. Again in Lower Volga district in the year 1931 the value of produce from individual farming per hectare was 282 roubles and in collective farming something like 1,016 roubles per hectare, four times comparing the figure with individual farming. We find that collective farming gives for the same area the same soil, the same climate, twice as much, three times as much and even four times as much production as on individual farming. A note is written by the Geneva experts which says—

The advantages of collective production do not merely consist in the ability of large socialistic enterprises to organise work on rational lines and suitably to distribute reserves of labour, but also in the fact that such enterprises possess the necessary technical equipment.

If you want to revolutionise agriculture in the province, and we shall have sooner or later to revolutionise agriculture in order to withstand the competition from the rest of the world, it is necessary that small holdings should be amalgamated on voluntary basis into big holdings on co-operative, collective basis. Let Government take the lead in Haveli and Thal projects and let it start propaganda to persuade the farmers to join together like big families, 10 or 20 or 100 families joining together in a village and start agriculture on co-operative collective basis.

One point was specially stressed by my friend the Leader of the Opposition at the time of the debate on Agriculture in 1937. He said I look on the problem of agriculture from the point of view of nutrition and from the point of view of the health of the people, not only the prosperity but also the health of the people and the nutrition of the people. He then made a suggestion which has not been accepted by the Government so far. He said that an expert should study the problem of nutrition. The research in nutrition as suggested by my friend Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava has not been started. It is admitted on all hands that our population is underfed and undernourished which leads to many deficiency diseases. All of us rich or poor alike require well-balanced food and healthy food. We require what are known as health protective foods, i.e., more milk, more vegetables, more fruit and those who take eggs require more eggs. There is a book which has recently been received by our office known as British Agriculture, published by Longmans. It says that recent discoveries all emphasise the importance to human welfare of the part played by the 'health protective foods, as distinct from energy building foods, or those which protect people against

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

deficiency diseases and which promote good health and well-being. The main foods falling in this category are milk (pre-eminently), fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs. If we want to improve the nutrition and promote the health and well being of the people, our slogan should be: 'Give us more milk, give us more fruit, give us more vegetables and give us more eggs.' As regards milk the only thing that the Agriculture department has done is that it has started a dairy at the Agriculture College at Lyallpur. I referred to it in my speech because they have quoted figures to show that a cow yielding 5 pounds now yields 18 pounds. What has my friend done to increase the milk supply in the province? Milk is a most nourishing and well balanced food, so says the physiologist. Milk is required for children, for babies, for the sick and for expectant mothers, and in particular in a province and a country which is a vegetarian country it is all the more essential that milk should be produced in greater quantity. It is essential that the supply of milk should be increased a hundred times. What has my honourable friend done during the two years of tenure of his office to increase the supply of milk in towns and villages? What has he done to ensure adequate supply of undiluted, unadulterated and pure milk? He has done nothing. His record is zero.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand under consideration. Motion moved is—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) : Sir, I have listened with great pleasure to the speech—a well prepared and well thought out speech—of my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur. But a good portion of his speech related to matters which are beyond the purview of the Punjab Government and concern mainly the Government of India, and still a portion of his speech was directed to those matters which even the Central Government cannot touch or is incompetent to touch, unless in that Government, a man of the political views of my honourable friend, holding such economic theories as he does, is at the helm of affairs.

Any appreciation of the achievement of the Punjab Government or any criticism of the work done by the Department of Agriculture should be made from four points of view. First, it has got to be seen whether the Government has done anything to introduce crops which can give a higher yield to the cultivator; secondly, whether the Government has done anything to introduce new varieties by which a cultivator may be able to fetch higher prices for his produce; thirdly, whether the Department has done anything to control the crop diseases; and fourthly, whether the Government have done anything to raise the price of agricultural produce or have adopted any measures by which the cultivators are able to secure better prices for their commodities? Sir, to begin with I would like the honourable members to see that the Government is now spending nearly 9½ lakhs more on the Department of Agriculture than was being spent in the year 1936-37. In that year the total amount spent on agricultural was 30·68 lakhs and the amount provided in the Budget is 39,92,000. My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur has quoted figures from the United Provinces Budget, but he has forgotten all the time that the population of the United Provinces is double, if not more than double the population of the Punjab and the

same is the case of its area. Even then, the figure of 80 lakhs given by my friend must be scrutinised before being accepted as true. In any case, the Punjab Government, within its limited budget, has been able to provide within 8 years 9½ lakhs more for agriculture. Now, Sir, taking the first two points together, that is, whether this Government has done anything to introduce crops which will give better yield to the farmers and the varieties which will fetch better prices, I would like the honourable members to understand some of the figures that I am going to quote. Take the case of wheat. The total area under wheat in the Punjab is near about 9,800,000. Out of this over 5 million acres are under improved varieties of wheat, that is 8-A, 591 and 518. Those of my friends, who take any interest in agriculture, will agree with me that these varieties have not only given greater yield but fetched better prices. The first variety of wheat that was introduced by the Agricultural Department was No. 11 which was replaced by another improved variety No. 8-A. Experiments were carried on and it was found that there was a still better variety which was 591 and which could fetch near about 4 annas per maund more and could give better yield than even the previous variety of 8-A. By the introduction of these new varieties of wheat, the farmer has been able to earn much more than he was able to do previously. If the total area of improved wheat is taken into consideration and only one and a half maund of increased yield is taken into account, the total income that accrues to the zamindars by the introduction of the improved varieties of wheat amounts to no less than Rs. 1,66,64,000. (*An honourable member* : Question.) My honourable friend questions, but I must ask him to have the figures before him, take the area and the yield and multiply.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What is the price of wheat ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I am taking Rs. 2-4-0 as the price of wheat.

Sardar Partab Singh : Does it give 4 annas per maund in the market ? The rate is the same as ever.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I think my honourable friend is not aware of the price, nor is he aware of the new varieties of wheat. He does not know the fluctuations in price. He is only thinking of Rs. 1-10-0 or Re. 1-12-0, but the price of wheat to-day is near about Rs. 2-4-0.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : By how much has the wheat crop of the province increased during the last 10 years ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : That was what I was going to say.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Not in terms of money but in terms of maunds.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I would request the honourable member just to listen to me and then calculate whether I am right or wrong. My honourable friend is, I think, confusing himself with the total crop of the Punjab which varies with the total area or on factors beyond the control of Government. That has nothing to do with the yield. I have to say that by the improved varieties, the Punjab farmers have been able to earn nearly one crore and sixty-six lakhs of rupees more than they were able to do before.

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

Take the case of cotton. The Agricultural Department has introduced an improved variety of *desi* known as "Mollisoni" which has a high ginning outturn. Our well-known variety of 4-F. Punjab-American was introduced as far back as 1906 and recently we have been able to introduce new varieties of 289-F, 43-F, K.-T. 25 and L. S. S., which are an improvement even on 4-F. The price of *kapas* depends again on ginning percentage and the length of staple. The price of *kapas* of these improved long staple varieties is near about 8 annas more than 4-F and about Re. 1-8-0 more than the price of *desi kapas*. We have a total area of 2,909,152 acres under cotton. Out of this area, 1,440,422 acres were under the Punjab-American and 1,055,558 acres under improved *desi* cotton, "Mollisoni" type, which gives a higher yield than the ordinary *desi* by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per acre. The total additional income to zamindars by improved cotton alone comes to Rs. 1,55,00,000. That is the most conservative estimate taking the price of American cotton at Rs. 5-12-0 a maund, i.e., half a rupee per maund more than the *desi* cotton and with an average yield of 6 maunds per acre.

Diwan Chaman Lall : When the rates drop from Rs. 11 to Rs. 5 a maund, what is the loss to agriculture ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : That is a question apart from this. If the price of cotton had been Rs. 11 the gain to the farmer would have been not Rs. 1.55 lakhs on these improved varieties, it would have been much more. What I mean to say is this, that even taking the price at Rs. 5-12-0 a maund which is a very low price, the gain to the zamindar by growing this long staple variety is near about Rs. 1.55 lakhs. The Government in order to achieve this is distributing nearly 277,000 maunds of improved seed of wheat every year. In 1937-38 it distributed 277,000 maunds of improved seed of wheat and in the same year it distributed 92,000 maunds of cotton seed of the improved variety. (*An honourable member* : Free of charge ?) No, at a reasonable rate. Of these improved varieties of cotton near about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of acres are under L. S. S. which is an improved variety of 4-F and over a lakh of acres is under 289-F varieties. The department is not content with the results. What is needed is this, that the Punjab zamindar should be able to grow a variety of cotton which is a high yielder in the first instance and which has a high ginning outturn and which matures early. The price of *kapas*, whatever may be the price of cotton, largely depends upon the ginning outturn. The 43-F variety which the department has introduced is a long staple variety. Cotton fetches a very high price, but because of the fact that it has a low ginning outturn, that variety is selling at a lower price than the ordinary 4-F with the result that the zamindars are not now anxious to sow that variety. The other improved strain, viz., K. T. 25, has a ginning outturn of over 35 per cent. as against 32 per cent of 4-F., and 28 per cent of 43-F. The result is that K. T. 25 *kapas* sells near about 12 annas to Re. 1 higher than 4-F. variety, which is a distinct gain to the zamindar. But the trouble about this long staple variety is this that it matures late, and the zamindars, generally require water in November for wheat sowing, but this long staple variety requires water even in October and November. The department is anxious to introduce a variety which will have a higher ginning outturn and

still will mature early. If that is achieved, I think it will be a big step forward and a great improvement on the results which have so far been achieved and which are not insignificant.

Take again the case of sugarcane. In sugarcane the Department has introduced the Coimbatore varieties, and the area under these improved varieties is 919,231 acres. Even if you calculated the yield to be 15 maunds higher, these varieties would give an additional income to zamindars of Rs. 1,55,00,000. Similarly in the case of rice, the Government has distributed 5,700 maunds of improved rice seed which has fetched a better price and gives a higher yield.

Apart from this research which can be calculated in rupees, annas and pies, the Department has introduced an improved variety of fodder called Burseem, which is a very great improvement on the other varieties. It is not only a higher yielder, but it is a fodder crop which improves the soil. You can grow other crops for two or three years with very good results, where once Burseem has been grown.

Not only has the Department introduced new high yielding varieties which fetch better prices, but the Department has been carrying on propaganda for better methods of cultivation. If my honourable friends were to study the figures of the improved implements which have been sold during the years 1936-37 and 1937-38, they would have satisfaction in the results achieved by demonstration and propaganda. The zamindars purchased in 1936-37 more than 4,700 ploughs, improved ploughs, Meston, Hindustan, Raja ploughs of local manufacture—and near about 1,950 improved ploughs were imported. Similarly in 1937-38, 5,200 improved ploughs were purchased of local manufacture and 1,500 were imported. Similarly in the case of fodder cutters, very useful implements, in 1937-38, 34,500 of local make were purchased and 1,500 were imported. The same is the case with hoes, drills, bar harrows and other implements which were purchased in large numbers. Now with these improved ploughs and other implements the zamindar has been able to add to his income, which he would not have done otherwise.

Coming to the other question whether the department has been able to control the diseases that sometimes wipe off the entire crops, my honourable friends know that in the North-West Punjab, gram has often been attacked by a disease called gram blight, and once or twice the whole crop was destroyed. Now the department has been able to introduce a variety of seed which is immune from this disease. At present on one of their farms they have got 1,500 maunds in the present harvest, but next year they will have 80,000 maunds of that improved variety of gram which will be available to the zamindars. That variety is absolutely proof against gram blight. Again wheat crop used to suffer considerably from wheat smut. Our learned Professor Rai Sahib Jai Chand has introduced a system by which ordinary zamindars can have wheat seed which will be absolutely immune from wheat smut. It is a very simple method. It is called the solar heat system. By this method the zamindar has to soak the wheat for some time and then expose it to the sun for a certain number of hours in June. The Rai Sahib got a prize for this research work.

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

Coming to cotton, the diseases of cotton are such that the department has not been able to devise any effective control. Experiments are being carried on. For example, in the case of white fly by which cotton crop and especially the American variety suffers tremendously, the department has carried on experiments for controlling the disease by spraying which costs Re. 1-4-0 per acre. By spending this small sum they have been able to counteract the effect of white fly. Although this method has not been adopted on a commercial scale, the results show definitely that the zamindars will be able to add at least one maund per acre to the crop by spending Re 1-4-0 on spraying. Now take the case of 'root rot' which is a very terrible disease so far as American cotton is concerned. Although the department has not yet been able to devise any definite check, it has, however, been able to show that cotton crop sown late is least affected by this disease. Experiments have shown that if cotton is sown in June it is least damaged by 'root rot' as against cotton sown in May. This is definitely established and the zamindars who are wise enough to delay their sowings can certainly benefit by it. It is possible that the crop sown late may suffer from early frost. But the department is trying to introduce improved varieties which will mature early. If this is found out then the question of 'root rot' will be solved. Experiments are also being carried on to deal with 'boll worm' which is a very serious disease, but no definite results have yet been achieved.

Now I come to the question which was raised during the debate on General Administration by my friend Diwan Chaman Lal and was also raised again to-day by Sardar Hari Singh, that is, in regard to the raising of prices of agricultural produce. It is perfectly true that in these days of unprecedented depression something must be done to help the zamindars to secure better prices. But my honourable friends will agree with me that a provincial government, however sympathetic it may be, whatever ambition it may have for helping the zamindars raising prices, is incapable of doing so. In the first instance, we in the Punjab grow wheat and cotton to an extent that we have got an exportable surplus. Our total crop of wheat is over three million tons. It varies between three and three and a half million tons. We require for our own use about $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tons for our food requirements and for purposes of seed. Our surplus is therefore near about one million tons. That surplus we have got to export somewhere. Either it must go to other provinces which do not grow wheat or it must be exported outside India. (*Interruption.*) Certainly I do not dispute that if the general standard of living rises and propaganda is carried on, people in this province may be able to consume more wheat than they do at present. But so far as the Punjab is concerned we consume the maximum wheat. In other provinces, however, more wheat requires to be consumed. I may quote a few figures here. In 1935-36 we booked to Karachi for 77,984 tons. Honourable members may remember that since 1927-28 up to 1935-36 there had been absolutely no export of wheat from India. It was only since 1935-36 that we have begun to export wheat from India. In 1935-36 we exported from the Punjab via Karachi 77,984 tons; in 1936-37, 246,645 tons; in 1937, in four months, 192,109 tons. These were our exports. Besides this, we exported to other provinces in 1935-36 nearly 9,054,000 maunds of wheat plus 2,779,000 maunds of wheat

flour, and in 1936-37, 10,715,000 maunds of wheat and 2,519,000 maunds of wheat flour. Thus nearly a million tons of wheat are exported generally to other provinces and to foreign countries. Now, is it possible for this provincial Government to fix any price? If you raise the price, the result would be that you will not be able to export any wheat. Now, take Calcutta. Before the import duty was imposed, in Calcutta, Australian wheat was selling at Rs. 2-7-0 per maund, when Rs. 2 was the price of wheat in the Punjab markets. But we could not sell wheat at anything less than Rs. 3-1-0 per maund in Calcutta. That is to say Australians were able to undersell us by nearly ten annas per maund of wheat.

An Honourable Member : Was Australian wheat subsidised?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : The difference is mainly due to freight. The freight from Australia to Calcutta is less than it is from any of the Punjab markets to Calcutta. It costs Re. 0-12-0 per maund to transport wheat from inland towns in Australia to Calcutta whereas the freight from Punjab markets to Calcutta is Re 1-0-4 per maund. Another factor to be noticed is that Australia and New Zealand depreciated their currency in 1931-32 and therefore have an advantage in competition with Indian produce.

An Honourable Member : The Punjab Government did the other thing!

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : No, it is not within the power of the Punjab Government to do anything in regard to currency and exchange.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What did the Punjab Government recommend to the Government of India?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : The matter is not within the purview of the Punjab Government. (*An honourable member :* You could recommend.) That may be. It is an individual opinion. Opinions differ on that point. I do think that by the lowering of the exchange ratio and depreciation of currency, the agriculturists will stand to gain. But leave that alone. What I was saying was this that we were not able to compete with Australian wheat in Calcutta market even when wheat prices in Punjab markets ranged near about Rs. 2 per maund. If we were to raise prices it will be impossible to sell our surplus anywhere in India and far less outside India.

Now, Sir, take the case of cotton. The total crop of cotton in the Punjab is near about one and a half million bales. It varies from 1,300,000 bales to one and a half million bales. In 1936-37 we were able to sell 482,000 bales to Indian mills and 1,220,000 bales were exported to foreign countries. This of course includes surplus of the previous year. But that only shows that out of the whole of our cotton crop we are able to sell to the mills in India nearly 400,000 bales and over a million bales are exported to Japan, Europe, Great Britain and other countries. It has been suggested that the United States of America and some other countries took steps to raise prices or to fix prices. I think it is a mistake to consider or to say that any country has been able to fix prices. Take the case of the United States of America. That country certainly tried to help the zamindars when the prices began

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

to fall. At first, the United States of America fixed the price of 14 cents. They said that at 14 cents. they would be able to purchase a certain quantity of American crop and the Government thus subsidised the farmer. They were not able to keep the prices at that level. Then later on, after another year, they fixed the price at 12 cents. They guaranteed that price to American farmers. The difference had to be paid by the Government. The Government also had to buy cotton at that price and store it. Then this year they had to fix it at 9 cents. It will be observed that the prices have been falling in spite of the effort of the government in that country, which is the biggest producer of cotton in the world with a total crop of nearly 19 million bales out of the world's supply of 30 million bales. In spite of all the resources of that big country, they were not able to control the prices. What they did was to suffer a loss. Even now a huge quantity of cotton is lying in the stores of the Government and whenever prices start rising Government tries to throw that stock into the market with the result that the prices go down again. That stock is certainly hanging like the sword of Damocles on the cotton markets.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I interrupt my honourable friend ? Nobody has suggested that they were trying to fix the prices. All that we said was that so far as all those countries were concerned, they guaranteed deficiency payments and in the case of America, the subsidy given for cotton had been raised from a penny to a two pence per pound of cotton.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : What my honourable friend said the other day was that the Government ought to stabilise the prices.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Particular prices, just as in England they had stabilised up to 45s. a quarter. They guaranteed 45s. a quarter for wheat. In America they guaranteed 2d. per pound for cotton.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I was trying to explain to my honourable friend that in spite of the efforts made by the Government in the United States, they were not able to stabilise the prices anywhere. From 16 cents. the prices fell down to 9 cents. and even lower. Of course the Government did suffer a loss. But is it possible for this provincial Government to stabilise prices or fix prices and then suffer loss to that extent ? Is it at all possible ? It will require near about six crores of rupees annually simply to bear the loss that might accrue to the Government if they were only to pay the difference calculated at the rate of Re. 0-8-0 per maund of wheat and Re. 1-0-0 per maund of *kapas* produced in the province. This is a question which, as I have already stated, concerns more the Central Government. Has any province in India or any State, for instance, Texas in the United States of America, fixed a price for itself ? That is because it is impossible from the very nature of the problem to fix prices. It is only the central or the federal Government which can tackle the problem if at all, and it is only that Government which can afford to suffer losses to the extent of several crores. In the matter of prices the economic law of supply and demand must ultimately prevail. The only remedy which, I think, we in this province can suggest to the Government of India in the case of certain crops like wheat, is that any import of foreign stuff should be stopped, because we know that India as a whole does not produce more wheat than is required

for its own consumption. We have altogether nearly 9½ million tons of wheat crop in India, which is just enough for our food requirements. The Government of the Punjab have been pressing the Government of India to impose an import duty on foreign wheat; and the honourable members of this House will remember that the Government party brought forward a resolution on this subject at the last Simla session, although that resolution could not be discussed to its conclusion. But that was the view of the Punjab Government and the Punjab Government has always pressed the Government of India to stop the import of foreign wheat. When duty on foreign wheat was imposed in December last the prices jumped up immediately, and the producer is now able to secure higher prices than he would have done had the imports of Australian wheat not discouraged. As my honourable friends know near about 58,000 tons of Australian wheat were imported up to the 15th December, 1938, and even after the imposition of duty Australian wheat has continued to be imported. Up to the end of March, 1939, as much as 140,000 tons of wheat have been imported into India. But for this import duty a still greater quantity would have been dumped into India with a depressing effect on prices. If, however, the amount of duty imposed had been higher, there would have been still greater rise in the price of Punjab wheat.

I now come to the import duty on cotton. The exports of Indian cotton amount to about 2½ million bales annually. My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur pointed out to-day and Diwan Chaman Lall pointed out the other day during the course of his long and eloquent speech on General Administration, that our export of cotton had dwindled. My honourable friends do not take into account the fact that although the export of cotton to foregoing countries has decreased, the consumption of cotton by Indian mills has increased considerably. Is it or is it not to the advantage of the country? If whatever raw material we produce in this country we are able to consume in India, it should be a matter of gratification indeed. That our mills are able to consume nearly 3 million bales of cotton, is a matter of great satisfaction. That I think is the greatest advantage of the country. That was not a point on which my honourable friends should have criticised the policy of the Government. Now, Sir, the import duty that has been recently imposed on raw cotton has been subjected to criticism from various quarters. I must say at the very outset that the import of foreign cotton has been increasing for the last two or three years. In 1937-38 as much as 752,718 bales of foreign cotton were imported. The result of that was that we in the Punjab who grow long staple cotton were the greatest sufferers. After the import duty was imposed the premium on long staple cotton went up by nearly ten rupees a candy. Some of my honourable friends who are engaged in cotton trade, will be aware of the fact that our 4-F cotton fetches a certain premium, near about Rs. 15 per candy over Broach.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Eight to fifteen.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : It is 20 to 25 now. The 289-F varieties before the import duty was imposed were fetching only Rs. 45 to Rs. 47 premium over Broach. In Bombay as soon as the import duty was levied, the premium of 289-F cotton went up and to-day it is about Rs. 60 per candy. That is a distinct advantage to the Punjab grower.

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

That is a gain of Rs. 10 to 12 per candy on 289-F variety. The net result was that by this import duty, the Punjab was the greatest gainer. Now it has been said that the mill industry is unable to bear this loss, a loss which amounts to near about 3 to 4 per cent, and some critics say, that it would amount to giving subsidy to Lancashire. Without entering into any discussion whether this is a subsidy to Lancashire or not, I must say that the effect of this import duty will be split up. Mr. Mann Subedar pointed out in the Central Legislative Assembly that as soon as this import duty was announced, the price of cotton in Kenya fell by about Rs. 20 per candy. Now, the net result would be this that to some extent the duty will affect the price of foreign cotton, that is, the price of foreign cotton in Kenya or Egypt will fall, and to some extent the cotton grower of India will gain and to some extent the mill-owner will suffer, that is, the loss of 3 to 4 per cent will be split up between three parties, the seller of foreign cotton and the Indian mill-owner will to some extent suffer but the grower of Indian cotton will benefit. Now, Sir, the mills in these days are making substantial profits. For the last two or three years the mills have had good business so far as profits are concerned and if the Indian cotton grower is sought to be benefited or actually benefits why should the mill-owners grudge that small benefit to the cotton grower in these days of abnormally low prices? (*Hear, hear.*) Punjab Government has been pressing upon the Government of India, for the imposition of import duty on foreign cotton and after all have been successful. But I must say that to impose a duty temporarily would not have that lasting effect. If we want that long staple cotton should be grown in India and more particularly in the Punjab colonies which are well suited for long staple cottons, then this duty on imported foreign cotton should be more or less permanent because the results cannot be achieved in a year or two. The Government will have to make it permanent in the interest of cotton growers. I know that one or two varieties are being experimented upon and if the Punjab grower has to get the full benefit then this duty should be more or less permanent. The other remedy which I should suggest and which was touched upon by my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur and also by Diwan Chaman Lall, is about the railway freight. Railway freight ought to be adjusted to our agricultural and industrial requirements and to the prevailing prices. The railway freight policy is certainly not conducive to the encouragement of agriculture and we have been pressing this on the Government of India and the Railway Board that they should adjust their railway freight in accordance with the best interests of agriculture. Take again shipping freights. In 1933-34 the shipping freight to Europe and Great Britain was 25 s. but since 1935-36, it has been raised to 35 and 37 shillings. That is a point which we should press upon the Government of India so that they might exercise their pressure on the shipping companies. My honourable friends will perhaps remember that when we tried to strike a bargain with Japan, the shipping companies co-operated with the Government of Japan and lowered the freight and tried to ship more manufactured articles to India. That is a point which we should also press on the Government of India. I need not deal with the question of exchange and currency. It is a disputed point but I must say that some of the leading countries depreciated their currencies in order to help agriculture and their manufactures. Of course opinions do differ.

India is a debtor country, but certainly that is a point which ought to be taken into consideration by the Government of India and decision should be arrived at with the sole object of helping the interests of India and not those of Great Britain or any other country (*hear, hear*).

Sir, I come to the last point that is the fruit industry. My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur was right when he said that I was very much interested in this industry. Not only from the point of view that this is an industry which will give an additional income to the ordinary cultivator, but from the national health point of view, I consider, Government ought to encourage fruit industry in our province. This province is particularly suited for fruit culture; particularly our canal colonies, Kulu and other sub-mountainous parts of the Punjab are eminently suited for this purpose. We can really grow all varieties of fruit in the Punjab. Since the year 1928, when the special Fruit department was opened, we have added considerably to the area under fruit trees. That was mostly due to the guidance, energy, zeal, I should say, missionary zeal of the Fruit Specialist, Sardar Lal Singh. (*Hear, hear.*) This goes to his credit, but I do admit that there has been difficulty in the further development of this industry. Total area under orchards in the Punjab is about 25 per cent of the total cultivated area.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : 50 per cent of the total cultivated area.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : The area under fruit trees is 25 per cent. The percentage is 15 of the total cultivated area if you take canal colonies alone. The difficulty has been with regard to water supply. I must say quite frankly that the Irrigation Department has not been able to supply more water for fruit gardens.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.*)

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Why ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I will come to it later on (*Interruption.*) (*An honourable member :* Is not the Government at fault ?) No, there were some practical difficulties. Their position was that water was not available. As the honourable members know, whenever the Irrigation Department takes in hand the remodelling of outlets, there is hue and cry and agitation. Government does not wish to create agitation and there is not much surplus water. That was the point of view of the Irrigation authorities. The Fruit Development Board approached the Government with regard to water supply, and all the Chief Engineers held a conference and the Director of Agriculture and others interested in fruit industry were present. I am glad to inform my friends on the floor of this House that after prolonged talks the Irrigation Department has eventually agreed to give extra water for fruit gardens to the extent of 5 per cent of the cultivated area on each canal. (*Interruption.*)

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : When there is no water forthcoming for fruit culture, what is the use of having surplus ? That is the main point. (*Interruption.*)

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : It is the business of the Irrigation Department. They can economise water wherever they can possibly do but what I am glad to say is this that they have agreed to give extra water for gardens. (*Interruption.*) My honourable friends have not been able to follow. It was a technical matter and unless the Chief Engineers were able to spare water, it was not possible for the Government to say, "No, you must give water even at the expense of the ordinary cultivator." We had to press the Chief Engineers to stop leakages here and there and to make water available for gardens. Eventually they agreed to spare water for .5 per cent of total cultivated area in the canal colonies which means that the area under orchards in canal colonies will become nearly fourfold in the course of a few years.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : For canal colonies or all over ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : There is no restriction to the planting of fruit gardens provided there is enough water. Any one can grow fruit trees anywhere he likes. As I said, the difficulty was in regard to the supply of canal water and eventually the Irrigation Department agreed to this. They have also stated that they will be prepared to give extra water even to the small cultivator provided he is anxious to plant fruit trees on a small farm. That is a step in the right direction although there has been a great delay. But, as I have stated, the delay was due to the fact that the Chief Engineer and Irrigation authorities were not sure whether they could spare water for gardens. They have after careful consideration agreed to supply water for gardens.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it extra for all fruit growers or for particular fruit growers only ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I may state for the information of my honourable friend that what is agreed upon is this, that on every canal extra water will be given to the extent of .5 per cent of the cultivated area on that canal so that no one canal will be able to usurp the area of another canal. Then, on one distributary they will be able to give water up to two per cent of the cultivated area on that distributary, so that if people of one distributary are not anxious to use water for gardens, people on the other distributaries should be able to develop fruit industry to the extent of 1 to 2 per cent of total area cultivated.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Will it be given to every cultivator ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Every cultivator who is anxious to take interest in fruit industry.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Irrespective of the area under fruit trees ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : It will be given to big fruit growers and not small ones.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : My honourable friend has his own suspicions but I say that the policy of the Government is that every small cultivator should be allowed to benefit from this decision and that is why they are going to make an experiment in one sub-division in the Lower

Chenab Colony. The difficulty arises that if there are fifteen or twenty cultivators on one outlet, how could the turn of water be regulated for the benefit of the fruit grower? They are going to make an experiment, as I have stated, in the Lyallpur district. Let us see how that experiment succeeds. If it succeeds, I think it will give a great impetus to the fruit industry. I quite admit that fruit industry has not been developed to the extent to which it was entitled, but now that the decision has been arrived at by the Irrigation Department, I am sure that fruit gardens will grow in every canal colony and on every distributary and in every district. In spite of the fact that additional water was not available for new gardens, the fruit industry has been making rapid progress. For example, the chief defect was that the old gardens had very poor plants. The Fruit Department tried to provide new varieties of fruit plants to old gardens. (*An honourable member* : How many? Which gardens?) All kinds of fruits and to all gardens in which old trees had to be replaced. The best varieties of malta plants are now available at a very low price. (*Interruption.*) I may inform my friends that I bought nearly two thousand plants only recently. Perhaps my honourable friend is not at all interested in it, otherwise fruit plants are available for him too. I do admit that with the rapid growth of gardens, the nurseries will not be able to cope with the demand for plants but still the department has made provision for supply of good plants and seedlings at fairly low prices. Previously malta plants were being sold at one rupee per plant (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq* : Four rupees.) May be at four rupees but I am not aware of that. But I at one time bought malta plants at one rupee. Now, red blood malta plants are available at six to eight annas per plant and I think that in the course of next one or two years plants will be available at four annas per plant. Another step in the right direction was the establishment of a Fruit Development Board. That Board has made very rapid progress. It has got 450 members on its register. (*An honourable member* : They are all big cultivators.) I am astonished at my honourable friend's ignorance. The doors of the Fruit Development Board are open to every fruit grower and I dare say that most of the members are small growers. It should be remembered that out of the 450 members or so there cannot be many big fruit growers. There are many small growers who are members of the Board. As I said, the doors of the Board are open to every fruit grower and it is making rapid progress.

Now that the canal water is made available, I am sure the activities of the Board will expand. Even now the Board is trying to set up a good fruit market in Lahore : this is engaging the attention of the Administrator. The difficulties are there and I think those difficulties will be overcome in due course and the Fruit Development Board will be able to carry on the work in the interest of fruit industry.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Are you thinking of setting up a separate department?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I am not aware of it. Perhaps my honourable friend the Minister for Agriculture may have to think of a separate fruit department if the fruit industry makes good progress and the activities of the Fruit Development Board expand. For the present

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

I do not know whether there is any proposal for a separate fruit department. As one of my honourable friends pointed out the fruit growers did point out to the Government that *kharaba* rules should also apply to fruit gardens and I am glad to say that it is receiving the attention of the Canal Committee which is considering the whole question of *kharaba*. I am sure that this question of applying *kharaba* rules to fruit gardens will be very sympathetically considered. About land revenue also the Government has been approached by the fruit growers that land revenue ought to be charged once a year as fruits give crop once a year. I have not been able to understand why land revenue is charged twice a year on fruit gardens, but the practice varies from place to place. In some places land revenue is charged once a year while in other places perhaps due to some confusion during settlement, land revenue is charged twice a year on gardens: but that matter again is receiving the attention of the Government and I think the Government will come to the right decision very shortly.

I do not wish to take any more time of the House, but I must say that it must be admitted that agriculture is an industry in which there is a constant scope for expansion in all directions. There is scope of expansion in research: there is scope in giving demonstrations, introducing new methods of cultivation and carrying on propaganda. This is an industry on which more money requires to be spent, but whatever Government can spend within its limited resources, it is spending on this biggest industry of the province. Now, Sir, take the Lyallpur College. Lyallpur College is a place which I think every honourable member of the House and every person who has any interest in agriculture should visit. Last December, the Indian Central Cotton Committee held its sittings there at Lyallpur in the College and the members who came there from different provinces were full of praise for the work being done at Lyallpur. If any honourable member goes to Lyallpur to study the work which is being carried on there he will certainly benefit. I think those honourable members who are really anxious that the agriculturists should prosper and who claim to be working for the interests of the agriculturists, instead of going about and preaching principles of communism, or collective farming, which cannot do any good to the agriculturists, would be well advised to go to Lyallpur and study the methods of cultivation and study the research work being carried on there. If they disseminate that valuable knowledge and information which they might gain at Lyallpur, to the rural people, I am sure, that the rural classes will benefit by their advice; and they will in that way be serving the best interests of the rural classes. (Applause.)

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, I am one of those who believe that the Agricultural Department has done a good deal in the matter of the supply of good seeds and in propagating improved methods of cultivation. Their ways are sympathetic and persuasive. Much, however, still remains to be done. For that purpose more concerted action will have to be taken to achieve the desired results. In that, this department will need the sympathy and support of all concerned and I

hope this support will not be denied to them. Having said this I must join issue with the honourable Parliamentary Secretary who has just spoken before me. He has painted a very rosy picture of the zamindar of this province. He has told us in so many words that the zamindar because of the various improvements introduced by this department and because of the higher yield from his land has gained no less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 crores. I believe, Sir, that in saying this he has simply drawn on his imagination. He should have been the last man not to know that the zamindar has suffered a great deal as the prices have fallen all round. The prices of wheat and cotton, the two principal articles which this province produces, have gone down by more than 60 to 65 per cent. We all know that there was a time when *kapas*—I am talking of *kapas* with seed—was being sold at Rs. 15 to 20 a maund. To-day the same *kapas* is being sold at Rs. 4 per maund *desi* and the American *kapas* is being sold at Rs. 6 to 6-8-0 a maund. This is the situation so far as prices are concerned.

My honourable friend has on the contrary told us that the zamindars have gained so much because of this and because of that. He himself laid down four tests just to see what the Government has or has not done to ameliorate the condition of the zamindars. The fourth test laid down by him is the most important and the crucial test. That fourth test is whether the Government has done anything to stabilise the prices. So far as his own contribution to this discussion is concerned, I am constrained to say that he has kept absolutely mum on that matter because he knows in his heart of hearts that the Government has never done anything with regard to this matter. But to us, sitting on this side of the House, the thing is as clear as day-light that the Government has done absolutely nothing. When discussing the Marketing Bill, I raised the point of import duty. I asked the Honourable Minister for Development whether he had made any representations to the Government of India with regard to the imposition of this import duty. I requested him further that if any representations were made, he might be pleased to lay those papers on the table. But in all the speeches that he made, he never said a word about it; the report of the debates may be referred to. I feel that if the Government had done anything with regard to this matter, he would have immediately laid the papers on the table just to tell the House as to how many representations they had made to the Government of India with regard to a matter which is of so vital an importance to this province. Then my honourable friend expressed a surprise as to how the prices could be stabilised in this province, which was an exporting province. He gave facts and figures to show that because out of our production of about 8 million tons of wheat, the exports were nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ th of a million or 1 million tons, therefore the prices could not be stabilised. I do want to point out to my zamindar friends as well as traders that the United States of America are the greatest producers and the greatest exporters.

S. B. S. Ujjal Singh : How much have the Government of the United States of America lost?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : I will come to that. Do the zamindars gain or do they not gain to the extent of the contributions made by the Government? I would ask him that question. I accept his position that the United States of America have lost a good deal of money by making

[S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

bounties and by making contributions towards the benefit of zamindars. Will my honourable friend not accept this position that the zamindar has gained to the extent to which the Government has lost? The point is whether the zamindar has gained or not. I can quote chapter and verse to show that the zamindar in the United States of America would have gained still more if the prices had been stabilised. But notwithstanding these bounties the prices went down a great deal, as a result of world depression, which was not confined to only one country but extended to all the world over. Nevertheless, the United States of America have played their part nobly towards the zamindars.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a point of order, Sir. May I draw your attention to the fact that the Director of Information Bureau sitting in the official box is carrying on a conversation with honourable members of this House, and is thereby interfering with the business of the House. It is most improper and derogatory to the dignity and prestige of the House.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable members should not hold conversation with gentlemen sitting in the official box.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Sir, our Government in season and out of season sheds crocodile tears over the miserable plight of zamindars. But when the time really to help them comes, how do they acquit themselves? I need not go further than to remind them of the exchange problem. They had an opportunity to show at least their sympathy for the poor zamindars when the Bombay Government asked them to join in the representation to the Government of India requesting that the exchange ratio be reverted from 18d. to 16d. But how did they acquit themselves? This zamindara government, who always say that they are doing so much to improve the lot of the zamindars, said "no" to the Government of Bombay and refused to join in the representation to the Government of India. Now, Sir, the fact is quite clear, and the man in the street knows, that this reversion to 16d. ratio will bring a benefit to the agriculturist to the extent of 12½ per cent in the prices. I ask the Government whether this is or this is not a fact. I should like to ask the Honourable Minister for Development whether he has studied this question from the point of view of the zamindar. Our Government think of vested interests, our Government think in terms of the loans of the Government of India, but they forget their own province altogether. The interests of Lancashire are dearer to them than those of the Punjab. The point merely was that if the Government of Bombay and the other seven Congress governments could join in making a representation to the Government of India that exchange ratio should be reduced to its normal and natural level of 16d. there was no reason why our Government should not have joined them. History will record the fact that this zamindara government of pre-eminently agricultural province, although the province was to benefit to the extent of 12½ per cent in prices by the reversion of exchange ratio, had the audacity to get up and say that they refused to join the other governments in that representation. This is the sympathy that this Government has for the zamindar. Not only should they not have refused to join the representation, but they should have taken the initiative themselves, if they had any regard for the interests of the zamindar. I say that if there was any province which was to gain by this reversion of exchange

ratio, it was the Punjab which was to gain much more than any other province. The Punjab is the most important province for agricultural produce in India and still the Government did not care to raise their little finger. It does not simply touch them. Our Government is more imperialistic in its views than even the Government of India. They do not have any regard for the interests of their own province and this is the kind of sympathy that this Government has towards the zamindars whom they say they are out to protect.

As has been said many a times before, the question of transportation charges is another most important factor in the matter of prices to the zamindars. Representations should have been made to the Railway, and if they have been already made it is very good indeed, although I doubt very much if anything has been done in this direction to secure reduction in railway freight. If the Railway authorities are adamant and if they do not accede to our wishes, then there are other means by which we can bring them down. We all know that most of the cotton which goes from the Punjab to the mills in the United Provinces, goes by lorries. It does not go by rail simply because the railway freight is much higher than what the lorry-walas will accept. To my knowledge lorry-walas accept about 25 per cent less freight than what the railway does. It is, therefore, a matter only of calculation as to how much the zamindar will gain if our Government takes this matter up, in right earnestness to improve the roads, to encourage lorry-walas and encourage lorry traffic. This thing can be very easily done.

We all know that Karachi is the principal port, where our goods find an outlet. But unfortunately there is no pucca metalled road connecting Karachi with the Punjab. Something should have been done by now. Government should have done something even during the brief period of two years. The present Punjab Government takes credit for having been in power for the last eighteen years. I would say, therefore, not two years but during the last eighteen years they should have done something to bring about a direct pucca road between the Punjab and Karachi, so that if the Railway persist in keeping their freight charges as high as at present, we should be in a position to fall back on the lorry traffic. It may be said that Karachi is not in the Punjab. Something could have been easily done by the Punjab Government in conjunction with the Sind Government to bring into being a direct pucca road between the Punjab markets and Karachi. There is, I understand, a road as far as Multan or a little further down, so that with some co-operation on the part of both the Governments, the Punjab Government as well as the Sind Government, which is as much interested as we are in this matter in having more agricultural produce at their port, a pucca road would soon be an accomplished fact; and our zamindars stand to gain substantially in whatever we will be able to transport to Karachi by road. I would say that in the case of a port like Karachi, the gain to the Punjab zamindar, if a road were brought into existence, would be on an average no less than three to four annas per maund in the price of cotton wheat and other cereals.

Coming to the stabilisation of prices my friends on this side of the House have put in facts and figures to show that Governments in other countries give bounties to zamindars and they guarantee certain prices in order to

[S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

encourage cultivation, whereas nothing whatsoever seems to have been done in our province, even with the advent of the Provincial Autonomy. Prices are, of course, beyond human control. Government cannot be expected to have artificial high prices. Prices are governed by world factors. India can be no exception to that. Of course there are ways and ways of doing things especially in provinces such as ours, and Government should explore every possibility of giving certain bounties to the zamindars in order to let them benefit by them. The zamindar is groaning under very great difficulties. The price of his produce has fallen very considerably of late. He has to pay a high rate of *abiana* and land revenue. Your plea is that you cannot give bounties to help the zamindar, because you have not the funds at your disposal. There are of course famines and we are in a province which is so much dependent on rains. Famines periodically visit us. We cannot be famine proof and you have to so shape your finances and reserves as to be able to give some relief to the zamindar without your having to produce a deficit budget. You have brought out certain agrarian legislation. You may be thinking that it will help the zamindar, but if you are honest and well informed you ought to have realised by now that this legislation of yours has entirely shaken the credit of the zamindar. What has been done to re-establish his credit? What have you done to give him loans on lower rates of interest? Have you done anything of the kind? You know the poor man cannot get any money from anywhere. You know those who used to go to his assistance at times like this cannot absolutely and entirely give that man even a pie because they do not hope to get it back under any circumstances. You have passed legislation which has destroyed the sanctity of the contract. You have passed legislation which has deprived people of their legal mortgages. And you take pride in that. Do you realise that you have shaken the credit of the zamindar which was already not very high and you have put him in an unenviable position because of your legislation? You cannot find him money. You have not the means to advance him money at a low rate of interest. The Honourable Premier was pleased himself to admit on the floor of this House that 97 per cent of the loans are advanced by other than the co-operative banks. I ask in all seriousness, what have you done to re-establish or to help the zamindar by providing him facilities for raising loans? Have you established any co-operative societies in the villages where the zamindars can go and get loans? Have you brought out any agencies of the co-operative banks in the villages to replace the agency of the much accursed *bania* whom you have destroyed? Have you done anything? Or do you think that by destroying this credit which you have actually done, you are doing him some useful service? Are you not aware that the price of his land has already declined by about 60 or 70 per cent? Would it be news to you if I were to say that the poor man cannot simply find a buyer for his land because no one but a big landlord is competent to buy it?

Minister for Development : Has this portion of the speech any relevancy to the demand under discussion?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : If all the speeches which have been made before me are any criterion then I think I am perfectly justified in saying what I am saying. When talking of agriculture you cannot refrain from referring to the agriculturist.

Now regarding exports. Our exports have fallen very much. As a matter of fact with the increase of population and the crop being stationary, at least the wheat crop stands where it was ten years ago—this province does not now export much of its wheat. India on the whole is becoming more and more an importing country. The population is rising but the crops have not risen to the same extent. I challenge the figures of the honourable the Parliamentary Secretary when he says that five million acres of wheat are under improved varieties and they are giving a large return so far as quantity is concerned. If that were so, the production of this province should have risen by leaps and bounds during the last few years since the new varieties have been introduced, but I do not find that to be the case.

My friend might argue that the area under the crop was not as big, but he knows it as well as I do that the acreage under wheat crop is in no way smaller now than it was before. I can assure him that he will not find much difference in the area now under cultivation and that sown 10 years ago, so that his statement that the yield per acre of these new improved varieties has gone up considerably does not seem at least to me to be correct.

The position is that wheat production in spite of all that has been done—I concede that the department has really done some solid and useful work in this direction—has not increased in our province. We all know that the United States of America and some other countries produce two crops a year. Unfortunately in our province we have got only one crop. I would therefore suggest to our experts of the Agricultural Department to direct their attention to this matter to see whether a similar thing is not possible in this province also.

Cotton prices also have gone down considerably. My friend takes pride that the zamindar is benefited to the extent of 1½ crores of rupees. (*An honourable member*: He would have been worse off but for this.)

Diwan Chaman Lall: What a consolation!

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh: The price of cotton has so much fallen that the poor zamindar cannot make both ends meet. He is not in a position to pay the *abiana* and other rates. You may take pride in the fact that he is getting more by these improved varieties. I do admit that to a certain extent he is getting a little higher price, but not to the same extent as my friend tried to make out. But the benefit of this higher price in the improved varieties is counterbalanced by the shorter ginning output as my friend himself pointed out. Therefore it is the duty of the Government to seriously consider what measures will be of real help in the uplift of the zamindars, and if the Government brings forward any measure which will be of real benefit to the tillers of the soil, I can assure them that it will have the support of all sections of the House.

Now, coming to the measures which the Government has passed, I should say, as was pointed out before that the Marketing Bill, in spite of the controversy that it has raised in the province, in spite of the class hatred that it has engendered—for which, I make bold to say, the Minister for Development is more responsible than any body else (*hear, hear*)—does not touch the fringe of the problem. This Bill applies to only five pies in the rupee. It is for the Government to say what they are going to do for the emaining Rs. 0-15-7. So far there has been no inkling of what they

[S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

intend to do. I would repeat that if anything is done to really improve the lot of the zamindar we shall be the first to come forward to support them.

Agriculture, industry and trade go hand in hand. You cannot separate them. One cannot prosper without the other. If you wish the zamindars to really prosper, you should encourage trade and industry. Unfortunately so far as trade is concerned, you have done all that was possible for you to do, to destroy it. Regarding industry you have not done much. You have given a few thousands here and a few thousands there and that too by way of loans given not on real business methods but on political considerations. If the Government has a real interest in the welfare of the province, it must advance loans to the best paying industries which need them. The loans should be advanced to people who are in a position to return them and not to people from whom you cannot expect back a pie. Again the small amount that is given by way of loans here and there is not adequate. To be of any use to the province, you have to find out more money. The Government itself may even take some of the industries in its own hands, although I am afraid that there is not much hope of the present government coming out successful in an enterprise of this kind. If it wants to do anything for the Punjab, let it in every way help the industries which need help. Only those industries should be helped which can thrive and will become paying. Further, industries should be helped on business lines. I appeal to Government not to advance loans on political considerations as it has done hitherto, in some cases.

My friend, Sardar Hari Singh, did say, and he was quoting from a book by the Marketing Officer of India, that during the beginning of the season, prices generally fall by 19 per cent, simply because the zamindar is in a hurry to bring his produce to the market, because he has to pay *abiana* and land revenue, and because he cannot have ready cash for this purpose otherwise. I am at one with him when he says that the zamindar does feel the necessity of having to market his produce all at one time during the beginning of the season in order to have ready cash to be able to pay the Government dues. But so far as the question of reduction of prices is concerned, his statement is not borne out by facts. I can say as a result of my practical experience that for the last eight or nine years, as borne out by figures, the prices during the beginning of the season of wheat and cotton were higher than at the later period. That may be a matter of accident, but all the same the facts are there. I have no objection however if the Government comes to the help of the zamindar to enable him to bring his produce to the market at the latter part of the season. The Government may introduce the elevators. There is nothing to prevent them having their own elevators. They may grant loans to the zamindars through this department or through any other agency and enable the zamindar to keep his stock with him for some time or for as long a time as he wants. This is one sure way of helping the zamindars and not the measures which bring about class hatred or measures which do harm to one section of the people, without any corresponding benefit to the other. This is a suggestion which I expect the Government to consider in all seriousness.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 28th March, 1939.

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CHAHÍ RATE CHARGED FROM AGRICULTURISTS OF MAJITHA.

***4251. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether *chahi* rate is still being charged from the agriculturists of Majitha, district Amritsar, from whom land was acquired for the Amritsar-Narowal Railway, more than a decade ago ;
- (b) whether it is proposed to stop this charge ;
- (c) if the answer to the (a) above be in the affirmative, the amount so far collected ;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to refund the amount in question ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) The expression "charging of *chahi* rates" used by the honourable member is not clear, but if it means remission of land revenue assessed on the land acquired, a sum of Rs. 123 on account of land revenue for the land acquired in this village was remitted with effect from *kharif*, 1927.

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

Sardar Hari Singh : When was the land acquired ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am afraid I cannot give the exact date when this land was acquired. The amount was remitted with effect from *kharif*, 1927. The honourable member may assume that the land was acquired when this railway line was constructed.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I take it that nothing was charged from the original owners of the land after the acquisition of land by the Government for the railway ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is it a fact that *chahi* rate is still realized from the zamindars of village Majitha from whom land was acquired for the Amritsar-Narowal Railway ?

Parliamentary Secretary : In this question it is only asked whether *chahi* rate is still realized from those zamindars from whom land was acquired for the above mentioned railway. The answer is in the negative.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : May I know whether any *chahi* rate is still levied on the lands that were acquired for the Amritsar-Narowal Railway ?

Parliamentary Secretary : When the lands have been acquired, how can the *chahi* rate be realized ?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is the Government aware that *chahi* rate is still being levied ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, Sir.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Does the Government propose to hold an inquiry into this matter, namely, whether or not the *chahi* rate is still being realized from the zamindars of that area ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government are satisfied that *chahi* rates are not realised from the zamindars from whom land was acquired for the Amritsar-Narowal Railway.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether he is satisfied that no land revenue was charged prior to 1927, that is from the time the land was acquired till 1927 ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If my honourable friend will see the original question, he will find that it merely asks whether any revenue is still being charged.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***4254. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have given any remission in land revenue to the agriculturists of the Amritsar district in the last *kharif* ; if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : On an examination of the crop statistics of the Amritsar district for *kharif*, 1938, it was found that, with the exception of a small sum in one estate only, no case was made out for any general remission of land revenue in this district.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Has the Government considered the question of giving relief to those zamindars whose crops have failed ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government are satisfied that under the rules no remission could be given to these people.

DARLING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

***4259. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the Darling Committee's report ; if so, the conclusion they have arrived at ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The report is still under consideration.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has any time been fixed for the consideration of this report.

Parliamentary Secretary : No.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : How long will it remain under consideration ?

Parliamentary Secretary : As long as Government does not come to a decision on the vital questions.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will it take five years ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What are the vital questions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Most important issues.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : What are they ?

Minister : If they can be disclosed at present, Government might as well lay the report on the table.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I enquire whether Government is going to take more time to consider the report than the committee took to form its opinion ?

Minister : Previous to this I think I said that Government would consider this report in Simla.

GRANT OF LAND IN RAKH SARAI AMANAT KHAN ON TEMPORARY CULTIVATION.

***4267. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in 1938 the Government decided to give on temporary cultivation for five years some land in Rakh Sarai Amanat Khan in the district of Amritsar to the zamindars of tahsil Hafizabad in lieu of their land spoiled by water-logging ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Irrigation department had shown its readiness to supply water to the land to be granted in Rakh Sarai Amanat Khan ;
- (c) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for not carrying out the decision so far ;
- (d) what action does the Government propose to take in the matter in order to secure cultivation of the land for the next crop ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes. Orders to this effect were issued in 1937.

(b) Yes.

(c) Because the Settlement Officer reported that much of the area was affected by *kallar* and of inferior quality.

(d) The matter is under active consideration.

**SUPPLY OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION OF LAND IN MAUZA MOOLO CHAK IN
GUJRANWALA DISTRICT.**

***4268. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 400 out of 900 acres of land in Mauza Moolo Chak, tahsil Hafizabad, district Gujranwala, have been given a supply of water from the canal while the rest of the land, which is of good quality, is lying unirrigated ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the water level in the Rajbah of Gajargola is about 8 feet higher than the land in the Moolo Chak ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the villages close to Moolo Chak, for example Kolo Tarar, Pindi Baura, etc., have been given water for irrigation from Gajargola Rajbah ;
- (d) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for not supplying water to the whole land of Moolo Chak ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) It is a fact that 405 acres out of total of 882 acres of land in Chak Moolo have been allowed water because the rest of the land is either unculturable, uncommanded or *chahi*.

(b) Some of the land in Chak Moolo is 8 feet lower than the water level in Gajargola distributary but all such land is already receiving water from Premkot distributary of Kot Nikka branch.

(c) Yes.

(d) The land uncommanded by the Premkot distributary could be given water from the Gajargola distributary only if a drainage between these two channels was obstructed by the watercourse. As this tract has a very high water-table, the obstruction of a drainage is particularly objectionable.

The Gajargola distributary is a *kharif* distributary, while the Premkot is perennial. Should the transfer be effected, no *rabi* supplies could be given, and it is far from certain that all shareholders would agree to being deprived of *rabi* supplies.

CROWN LANDS IN NILI AND GANJI BARS.

***4270. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the area of Crown land in acres, in Nili Bar colony and the Ganji Bar colony, separately, which has neither been sold by auction nor otherwise disposed of so far and the manner in which it is intended to be disposed of ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The area of Crown land not yet permanently allotted was on 30th September, 1938, as follows :—

Nili Bar.

				Acres.
Perennial	..	..	..	814,725
Non-perennial	..	..	..	88,273
Total				402,998

Ganji Bar (Lower Bari Doab colony).

The total area is 118,826 acres.

As regards the methods of disposal of the un-allotted area in the Nili Bar the programme of sales by auction given at pages 107—132 of the Sutlej Valley Project Completion Report, still stands, but it is being considered whether means can be devised for speeding up the sale of this land without prejudicing the financial aspects of the Project. Owing to the fall in the value of land since the Project was framed, this is a matter of great difficulty and it is not possible to commit Government at this stage.

In the Lower Bari Doab colony, except for the un-allotted land in the Renala Lift Area which is gradually to be sold by public auction disposal must depend upon the supply of water available, much of this land is also believed to be inferior in quality.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to whether the Government intends to distribute this land amongst those persons in the province whose lands have been washed away owing to river action ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a suitable subject for a resolution. So, I disallow the question.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is Government prepared to distribute this land among those who have been cultivating it as tenants for a long time ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a fit subject for a resolution. Disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Are there many cultivators who have been cultivating these lands as tenants for a long time ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Possibly.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that in the Ganji Bar land was distributed to these tenants ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is giving information.

Sardar Ajit Singh : My question is whether it is a fact that land was so given.

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Will land be given to such people in the Nili Bar ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Hari Singh : Has the Government any guiding principles to secure a proper disposal of land ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the Government is not prepared to commit itself to anything in this matter. At the time of distribution, they will keep in view every consideration that is reasonable and practical.

Sardar Hari Singh : What are those considerations ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not prepared to disclose them.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I take it that the Government has no principle in view in this matter ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Has the Government given any land grant since its coming into power ?

Parliamentary Secretary : As far as I know, Government has given no land grant to any body during this period.

LOSS DUE TO INUNDATION OF SUTLEJ RIVER.

***4271. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) how many villages in the Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils suffered loss on account of the overflowing of the Sutlej river last year during the rainy season ;
- (b) the total amount of loss suffered thereby by the landlords and tenants of the said tahsils which has been compensated for, either in the shape of remission of land revenue or in any other form ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :

(a) 37 villages in Nakodar tahsil and 19 villages in Phillaur tahsil.

(b) *Name of tahsil.* *Area swept away.* *Land revenue remitted.*

		Acres.	Rs.
Nakodar	--	1,458	2,680
Phillaur	..	295	605

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know what further relief the Government has given to these people ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No other relief has been given.

Mian Abdul Rab : Has the Government distributed any taccavi ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Some amount was advanced for distribution as taccavi and I am sure the honourable member would read the *communiqué* issued on the subject to get further information.

KHARIF CROP.

***4272. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number of acres under the *kharif* crop in 1937 and 1938 with the amount of produce from these crops in those two years, separately, in the Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils of the Jullundur district ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the area under Kharif crop in Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils during the years 1937 and 1938 and the produce thereof according to the normal rates assumed at last settlement.

Name of tahsil.	1937.		1938.	
	Area.	Produce in maunds.	Area.	Produce in maunds.
Nakodar	87,571	3,659,900	75,937	1,995,533
Phillaur	77,232	4,023,547	75,096	2,611,572

BRIDGE ON LOWER SOHAG CANAL.

***4288. Mahant Girdhari Dass :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is no bridge on Lower Sohag Canal between R. D. 85 and R. D. 127, a distance of 8 miles ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that there is a village road crossing the canal at R. D. 102 connecting various villages such as Kotha, Chak Gulab Dass, Mari, Chak No. 64, Chak No. 45, Bhumanshah, Jasoke, Faridpore Jagir, Bhapparwal Pasel, Buta Kot, Jalalkot Makhdum, Vendla Jagir, Chak Fazal Shah, etc., to the railway station Wasawewala and Haveli town which are on the other side of the canal ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the public is put to great trouble for want of a bridge on the canal in the above-mentioned distance of 8 miles ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that an application was submitted recently to the Chief Engineer and the Minister in charge by the prominent members of the local public soliciting them for the construction of a bridge over the above-said canal ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the application was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Montgomery, for report ; if so, the nature of his report ;
- (f) if the report of the Deputy Commissioner is in favour of the construction of the bridge what action the Government proposes to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a), (b) and (c) Enquiries are being made and if the facts are as stated, endeavours will be made to provide a foot bridge.

(d), (e) and (f) Do not arise.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE FOR FAILURE OF CROPS IN FEROZEPOR DISTRICT.

***4299. Sardar Rur Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that on account of want of rain crops of *fasal kharif* and *fasal rabi* have totally failed in the district of Ferozepore ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of Rode, Kokri Kalan, Tarewala, Chuhar Chak, Machheke, tahsil Moga, district Ferozepore, have made representations to Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, and the Honourable Minister of Revenue for the remission of land revenue for the failure of crops ;
- (c) if the answers to the above parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the action that the Government has taken or proposes to take in this connexion, ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Generally speaking, the *barani kharif* crops failed, but the condition of crops in the irrigated areas was normal. *Rabi* crops have not failed as the recent rains have greatly benefited them and prospects have considerably brightened.

(b) Yes, except from villages Roda and Machhike.

(c) The cases of all these villages have been examined, but no special relief has been found to be necessary.

Sardar Rur Singh : Does the Government consider that there is no *kharaba* in Ferozepore ? Has any enquiry been made as to the villages from which representations have been received whether there is any *kharaba* there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Representations made by these villages were enquired into and the Government have after consideration come to the conclusion that no action is called for.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that some of the villages adjoining Hissar were adversely affected and no remission has been made in their case ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government are satisfied that wherever remissions were needed and justified, they have been given.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : My question is clear. Were the villages adjoining Hissar which were adversely affected given any remissions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : My answer is equally clear.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is it a fact that in reply to my question in the last session, the Honourable Minister for Revenue said that crops have been damaged in the *ilaga* and even irrigated crops have been damaged ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may read that answer himself.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the God of Rain was as late in affording relief as the Government of the Punjab very often is ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He knows nothing about God's (Laughter).

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS BY ODS IN LUDHIANA AND FEROZEPURE DISTRICTS.

***4300. Sardar Rur Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a tribe called Ods have herds of sheep, etc., and camp in the fields causing great damage to the crops and fodder belonging to the agriculturists in the districts of Ludhiana and Ferozepore ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that several times representations have been made by the agriculturists of these districts to Deputy Commissioners, Ferozepore and Ludhiana and to the Honourable Minister of Revenue requesting the Government to save them from this nuisance by giving land to the Ods for their permanent settlement ;
- (c) if the answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken or is intended to be taken on the representations mentioned above ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : The honourable member is asked to refer to the answer given to his previous question *3546,¹ communicated to him through the Secretary of the Assembly on the 10th January, and to the reply given to an Assembly question early this session inviting attention to the Committee recently appointed under the chairmanship of Parliamentary Secretary, Revenue, to examine certain aspects of this question.

Sardar Rur Singh : I want to know whether action cannot be taken against the Ods under the same provisions as are applicable to them when they trespass on irrigation departmental Government lands, "that is lands along the Raibahas and Canals" ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that Government has appointed a committee which will go into all these questions.

INQUIRY AGAINST TAHSILDAR AT ROHTAK.

***4320. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether a departmental inquiry was recently held against the Tahsildar at Rohtak on the complaint of the lambardars of village Baliana, Rohtak ; if so, the nature of the complaint, the name of those who appeared as witnesses in support of the allegations and the result of the inquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : 1st part.—Yes.

2nd part.—The lambardars had complained that the Tahsildar used abusive language.

3rd part.—The names of the witnesses who appeared in support of the complaint are Sheo Ram, Surajmal, Lajje, Jats of Balyana who have also appended their thumb-marks to the original complaints and Chaudhri Bhola Singh, Pleader, Rohtak.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

4th part.—The allegations were found to be distorted and exaggerated. The Tahsildar had threatened to take action against the lambardars for their obstinate defiance of orders requiring them to nominate a third chaukidar.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware that the complaint against the Tahsildar was first made to the Deputy Commissioner who rejected it but when it was made to the Commissioner he ordered an enquiry to be made ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government is aware that a departmental enquiry was made.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware that in the Rohtak district conditions are so strange that when a complaint is made to the Deputy Commissioner he refuses to look into it but when the same complaint is made to the Commissioner an enquiry is instituted ?

Mr. Speaker : The honorable member is arguing.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I only want to know whether this matter has come to the notice of the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question was whether the Government has made any enquiry regarding the Tahsildar. The answer is yes. Now to say whether the enquiry was made on the representation made to the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner is unintelligible to me. I cannot answer that without notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government know whether the enquiry was held before or after the receipt of the complaint by the Commissioner against the Tahsildar ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Sir, I have replied that an enquiry was held, but now I cannot say without fresh notice as to whether the enquiry was made before or after a certain time.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that during the course of the enquiry, pressure has been brought to bear upon the complainants in the court room presumably with a view to make them desist from pressing their point forward ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not known, but the Government is not inclined to believe that pressure could have been brought to bear upon the complainants in the court room.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary saying this as a result of some enquiry or without it ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The only thing established against the Tahsildar was that he had used strong words. In fact the Deputy Commissioner had decided the case and the complainants were repeatedly disobeying the orders by the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildar threatened them that if they did not carry the orders out, some action would be taken against them.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But the point is whether it was proved that the Tahsildar had used objectionable words and whether any action had been taken against him ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I never said that objectionable words were used. In fact I said that strong words were used by the Tahsildar, hence there was no need for taking action against him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What objectionable or strong words were used against the complainants by the Tahsildar ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Strong but not objectionable words were used, as I have already stated.

FAILURE OF KHARIF AND RABI CROPS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

***4329. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that *kharif* 1938 and *rabi* 1939 have completely failed in the Kangra district and that there are general famine conditions prevailing in this district ; if so, what action does the Government propose to take to offer relief to the public ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : It is not a fact that *kharif* 1938 and *rabi* 1939 have failed in the Kangra district, nor do famine conditions exist in this district.

Land revenue to the extent of Rs. 4,162 was remitted in *kharif* 1938 but the crop as a whole was only 12½ per cent below normal. The question of granting relief in *rabi* 1939 will be considered after the results of the *gir-dawari* are known. Recent rains have greatly improved the position for this crop.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Did the Honourable Minister of Revenue investigate into this matter or his Parliamentary Secretary ?

Minister : The Minister is not supposed to go always and make enquiries personally.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Then who made the enquiry ? Was it the Parliamentary Secretary who made the enquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The local officers made the enquiry.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Who investigated ?

Mr. Speaker : That is immaterial and not in the public interest.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : All I wish to ask is as to how many of the officers did it, whether only one officer made the enquiry or several officers, and, if so, how many of them made the enquiry ?

Minister : May I know if it is necessary that we should appoint a dozen men to make enquiries ?

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE IN NILI BAR COLONY.

***4330. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Lyallpur district in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony and in the Nili Bar Colony the zamindars are granted 35 per cent remission in the land revenue due to the sliding scale formula ; if so, why no such remission is granted in the Sidhnai Colony in the Multan district ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Remissions in the land revenue demand in Lyallpur district and the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony for *kharif* 1988, under their sliding scales of assessment were 58 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. A remission of 35 per cent was also given in the Nili Bar Colony as a special measure pending the reassessment of this area by a regular settlement. The Sidhnai Colony in Multan district is not subject to a sliding scale of assessment, and after careful enquiry no remission was found necessary under the terms of its present settlement.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Is it a fact that Sidhnai Colony is situated between Ganji Bar and Lyallpur Bar?

Minister: My honourable friend might consult the geographical map of this *ilaga* for the purpose.

Sardar Ajit Singh: The same water is used here as is used in Ganj Bar. May I know the reason why more land revenue is being charged from this *ilaga*?

Minister: That question does not arise out of this question.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Why not? This colony also wants justice and should be given the remission due to the fall of rates of agricultural produce according to the sliding scale system.

GRANT OF REWARDS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE HAVELI PROJECT.

*4334. **Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Haveli Project is to be completed shortly before the time estimated to be taken for its completion and whether this achievement is due to the unflinching and ardent devotion to duty of the employees in the Project;

(b) whether the Government contemplate giving any rewards to these employees for bringing the Project to a successful end in a remarkably short period?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Government is gratified to learn that the staff under the Chief Engineer—Mr. Bedford—had not spared themselves in constructing the Project Weir and Canal in a creditably short time thereby affecting a considerable saving on the estimate. The question of suitable reward will not be overlooked.

Sardar Hari Singh: May I ask whether the Government is really satisfied that the so-called completion of the work before its original estimated time is not due to over-estimation of the time required for the completion?

Parliamentary Secretary: Let me assure my honourable friend once for all that when the Government is satisfied they are really satisfied.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh: At how many places has the canal bank broken after the water was run in for the first time?

Parliamentary Secretary: The water is not yet put in.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh: Can you deny the fact that the canal has broken at many a place?

Minister : It is a fact that water has gone in the canal due to breakage of the river bank and instead of six thousand cusecs fourteen thousand cusecs have gone in without any damage being caused.

Sardar Hari Singh : How does he maintain that the original estimates were not incorrect estimates ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The estimates were not over-estimates.

Sardar Hari Singh : Then, may I take it that my friend has brought about a miracle ?

Minister : Let my friend wait a little. He will get all the replies in the address that Mr. Bedford is going to read on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the barrage.

COMPENSATION TO ZAMINDARS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUND (DAM)
IN NAKAHAR KHAD.

***4335. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been finally decided to construct a bund in Nakahar Khad near Dehra Gopipur, district Kangra ;

(b) the number of villages the lands of which used to be irrigated by the said Khad and which are likely to be adversely affected by the construction of the proposed bund (dam) ; whether the Government have by now given a notice to the inhabitants of those villages to quit their villages and has further decided to compensate these villagers for the loss that they will suffer by the construction of the dam ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MEMORIAL FROM THE HEREDITARY TENANTS OF 84 VILLAGES IN
TAHSIL UNA.

***4336. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has recently received any memorial from the hereditary tenants of 84 villages of Tahsil Una, district Hoshiarpur ; if so, what are its contents ;

(b) the action ; if any, taken on that memorial ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes The memorial contained complaints against the landlords.

(b) It is being sent to local officers for enquiry.

NOTICES OF EJECTMENT ISSUED BY REVENUE OFFICERS IN ALL THE
TAHSILS OF MULTAN DISTRICT.

***4356. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number of notices of ejectment issued by the revenue

[Munshi Hari Lal.]

officers in Lodhran, Shujabad, Multan, Mailsi and Khanewal tahsils of the Multan district, on tenants at will under the Punjab Tenancy Act in the last year, i.e., 1938, respectively ?

Parliamentary Secretary : (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :—

<i>Name of tahsil.</i>				<i>Number of notices issued.</i>
Lodhran	..	..	..	145
Shujabad	..	..	..	286
Multan	..	..	..	504
Mailsi	..	..	..	533
Khanewal	..	..	..	701

Sardar Ajit Singh : Where should the tenants, who have been served with notices of ejectment, go and cultivate land ?

Parliamentary Secretary : An abnormally large number of notices was due to the agitation created by certain people amongst the tenants. (*Hear, hear.*) The honourable members will be glad to know that the officers succeeded, in most of the cases, in restoring good friendly relations between the landlords and tenants.

Sardar Rur Singh : Should we take it that the Government is in sympathy with big landlords ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The view that all these tenants, who have been served with notices, will be ejected is not correct.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it true that in the United Provinces a tenant who once occupies a land cannot be ejected so long as he continues to pay the rent ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that many of the tenants are those who have been cultivating land for the last ten or twenty years ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The reason why they were served with notices was due to the kindness of some people, but all these tenants will not be ejected.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order. It is an insinuation against us. He says that it is due to some members.

Parliamentary Secretary : I never used the word 'honourable member.' I said it was due to some people.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that those tenants are being ejected who have got sympathy with the Congress ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Government contemplate any legislation that will relax the rigour of ejectment law ?

Parliamentary Secretary : How does it arise out of this question ?

Lala Duni Chand : A large number of tenants have been given notices of ejectment.

ABIANA IN VILLAGE JALLOWAL.

***4359. Rana Nasrulla Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether *abiana* is charged in village Jallowal, district Hoshiarpur ;

(b) whether canal water is supplied to this village for which the *abiana* is charged ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) No.

(b) No.

HIGHEST FIGURE OF RATE OF LAND REVENUE IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

***4360. Rana Nasrulla Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to give the highest figure of the rate of land revenue in Hoshiarpur district and the rate of land revenue to which village Jallowal in the jurisdiction of thana Hariana, district Hoshiarpur, has been assessed ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The highest rate in the district is Rs. 7-2-0 per acre, which is the rate on *chahi* and *abi* lands in the Sirowal circle. The rate on similar land in village Jallowal is Rs. 6-6-4 per acre.

AREA UNDER MANGO GARDENS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

***4362. Rana Nasrulla Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the total area under gardens of mangoes in Hoshiarpur district at the time of the last settlement and the area now under such gardens in the same district ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The information is not readily available, and the time and labour involved in its collection will take up too much of the time of officials already fully employed in other work.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that in the Hoshiarpur district the whole crop of mangoes is wasted every year due to no arrangement for preservation of this crop ?

Mr. Speaker : This does not arise out of the answer given.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that there exist no marketing arrangements ? If we ask for such arrangements to be made we are directed to move a Bill to this effect. We cannot achieve this object by moving Bills or resolutions which never can be discussed on non-official days of business. So how can we ask such questions ?

**REPRESENTATION FOR REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE IN TAHSIL
SARGODHA.**

***4366. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he received a representation from the zamindars of Chak No. 120 South, tahsil Sargodha, requesting remission of land revenue owing to failure of crops ; if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : Yes, as representation was received some time in January last for the grant of remission in land revenue for *rabi* 1938 and *kharif* 1938. No remission was sanctioned for *rabi* 1938, as the enquiry which was held with special reference to the low prices of agricultural produce showed that none was necessary. In consequence of a similar enquiry made in *kharif* 1938, a remission of three annas in the rupee of land revenue was sanctioned, but as the orders were passed late, it was not possible to give effect to the remission in the collection of land revenue demand of that harvest. This will now be allowed in the collection of the demand for *rabi* 1939.

**APPLICATIONS BY SCHEDULED CASTES FOR REVENUE PATWARSHIP IN
SIALKOT DISTRICT.**

***4372. Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number of applications submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, by the members of scheduled castes for selection as revenue patwaris at the last selection with the number of those accepted, and, if none of the applications was accepted, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khah) : Nine applications were received from members of scheduled castes. Unfortunately none of these applications was accepted as two out of the three vacancies were filled by members of notified agricultural tribes under paragraph 3·6 of Land Record Manual, and the third vacancy went to a non-agriculturist under provisions of correction slip No. 80 to paragraph 3·7 of the Land Record Manual.

Lala Harnam Das : The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that nine applications were received from members of scheduled castes and none of these applications was accepted. May I ask if this is the treatment that is being meted out to the members of the scheduled castes ?

Parliamentary Secretary : My answer is quite clear.

Lala Harnam Das : Are there any notified agricultural tribes among Achhnts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, there are some.

Lala Harnam Das : Which are those ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the honourable member wants that information let him give notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How many vacancies were there and how many applications were received ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There were three vacancies. Two were to be filled by members of notified agricultural tribes and there were no such candidates among the applicants. The third vacancy went to a patwari's son who was entitled to it under provisions of correction slip No. 80 to Paragraph 3·7 of the Land Record Manual.

Sardar Mula Singh : May I know if in the Sialkot district there is fixed any proportion of representation of Aechuts among revenue patwaris ?

Parliamentary Secretary : A proportion is already fixed for the whole of the province.

Paragraph 3·6, Punjab Land Records Manual.

For each tahsil a register of candidates is kept in form P.-1, given in appendix G. In this register candidates shall be entered in order in which their applications are accepted, but priority of entry shall give no priority of claim to appointment. The total number of candidates in any tahsil, should never exceed fifteen per cent of the total number of patwaris and assistant patwaris employed in the tahsil. In districts under settlement this limit may be raised to thirty per cent at the discretion of the Settlement Officer. Any further increase in these percentages by the Deputy Commissioner or Settlement Officer requires the previous sanction of the Financial Commissioner. At least half of the candidates must belong to notified agricultural tribes, except that in districts where the backward condition of education amongst the agricultural population justified this course, the Commissioner of the division may sanction the relaxation of this rule, if he is satisfied that it is impossible to give effect to it, without lowering too much the standard of the candidates.

Paragraph 3·7.

Application for entry in this register must be made by candidates in person to the Collector or such other officer not below the rank of Assistant Collector of the 1st grade as he shall appoint, but no name should be entered in the register except by the Collector's own order, passed after he has seen the candidate.

In the case of candidates who claim to be members of agricultural tribes, Collectors should satisfy themselves by documentary evidence that they are really so and the evidence should be preserved.

The chief qualifications of candidates are as follows :—

- (1) Ability to write the Urdu character with facility and with a legible formed hand.
- (2) Ability to work out correctly and quickly simple sums in arithmetic, such as occur in a patwari's daily work.
- (3) Good physique and health, good eye-sight, age not less than 15 or more than 21 years.

NOTE.—Deputy Commissioner may, however, accept candidates above the age of 21 years with the special sanction of the Director of Land Records.

- (4) Respectable character, antecedents and family, special consideration being given to the claims of qualified sons of patwaris who have grown up in their fathers' circles and may be presumed to have learnt something of their work. No dismissed Government servants should be re-employed as patwaris.

Before entering an applicant's name it should also be noted whether there are any vacancies. Vernacular Final Examination is the minimum educational qualification for all classes of patwari candidates and from all localities except Lahaul and Spiti *parganas* of the Kangra district, Phalia tahsil of the Gujrat district, Kahuta and Murree tahsils of the Rawalpindi district, and the districts of Mianwali, Attock, Simla, Gurgaon and Hissar, where the 5th Class Examination will be the minimum qualification. The name of any applicant who does not possess the prescribed minimum educational qualifications should in no case be entered.

NOTE.—The rule in respect of minimum educational qualifications may, in case of real ardschip be waived by the Commissioner.

OVERSEERS IN CANAL DEPARTMENT.

***4373. Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of overseers that are working in the Canal Department ;

(b) the number of those overseers who have qualified themselves from recognized colleges and the number of those who have qualified themselves from unrecognized colleges ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Four hundred and sixty-seven permanent subordinates.

(b) Four hundred and forty-eight hold qualifications from recognised colleges, and 6 from colleges not recognized. In addition there are 13 subordinates who were made permanent on promotion from the ranks of temporary subordinates.

The information regarding qualifications of 204 subordinates now in temporary employ would not serve any useful purpose as the tenure of their employment is liable to cover changes which could not apply in case of permanent hands.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know how many such recognised colleges are there in the Punjab ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I would require notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the number of such colleges so large that the Parliamentary Secretary cannot give that information off-hand ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes. It is rather difficult to remember the names of all such colleges.

Lala Harnam Das : May I know if arrangements can be made to admit Achhuts in these recognised colleges ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This does not arise out of the original question, but I may tell the honourable member that such arrangements can be made.

DAMAGE TO RABI CROPS BY HAILSTORM IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

***4397. Chaudhri Abdul Rahim :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that a hail-storm on the evening of the 16th February, 1939, has greatly affected the rabi crops of certain villages in Firozpur-Jhirka, Nuh and Palwal tahsils of the Gurgaon district ; if so, whether the district authorities have inspected the affected area and, if so, the steps the Government intends to take to help the zamindars of the affected area as well as the area which is irrigated by the Jamna Gharbi Canal ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :

First Part.

Yes.

Second Part.

.. Inspection of the crops damaged is being done with the object of ascertaining the damage done to the crops with a view to see what relief, if any, is desirable.

Last Part ..

.. The attention of the honourable member is invited to the Press *Communiqué* issued on the 4th March, 1939, a copy of which is placed on the table.

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ.

Reports have been received of hailstorms in Amritsar, Hissar and Gurgaon districts.

In Amritsar District 33 villages have been affected in the Tarn Taran and Amritsar tahsils to varying extents. No clear estimate of the damage done is at present available, but it is probable that only less advanced crops of wheat, *senji* and shaftal may recover. Standing and out *toris* has been completely destroyed, as well as all the more advanced crops. The local Revenue and Settlement staff are at present inspecting the villages in order to prepare *khara* lists, and the Canal authorities have been asked to carry out a special *girdawari*. Taccavi loans for fodder will be given as required in these villages, in which it has been destroyed, as well as the sanctioned remission of land revenue and *abiana* on all damaged crops.

Similar measures for detailed local inspection have been taken in Hissar and Gurgaon districts. In the latter district the hailstorms destroyed all crops in an area 15 miles long by 5 or 6 miles broad north of the main Palwal-Hodal road towards the Jumna. Damage to cattle, sheep and goats might have been severe had the storm not come at night. The loss in land revenue and *abiana* is estimated to be about Rs. 2 lakhs and the damage has affected about 40,000 acres of crops. The United Provinces Government have, at the request of the Punjab Government, agreed to appoint a special officer to undertake a joint inspection of canal irrigated crops, damaged by hailstorm, served by the Agra Canal.

Applications are coming in from other areas in the province where hailstorm has affected the crops. In such cases also the local officers are bound to make inquiries to ascertain the damage done to the crops on the lines indicated above. Wherever a case for affording relief is made out, the same will be sympathetically considered as was done in 1937.

MAURUSI OWNERS OF LAND IN TAHSIL GUJRAT AND PAYMENT OF LAND REVENUE.

***4399. Mahant Prem Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the *Maurusi* owners of land in tahsil Gujrat, district Gujrat, have to pay much more land revenue than the permanent owners of land in the same tahsil; if so, the reasons for this discrimination?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia: It is not a fact that occupancy tenants in Gujrat tahsil pay more land revenue than land owners.

The second part of the question does not arise.

NOTICES OF EJECTMENT SERVED ON TENANTS OF NILI BAR AND GANJI BAR COLONIES.

***4403. Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several notices of ejectment have been issued to the tenants of the Nili Bar and Ganji Bar colonies by the zamindars through the courts which have caused restlessness among them; if so, what action do the Government propose to take to protect the rights of the poor tenants?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia: Notices of ejectment under the Tenancy Act are issued every year in almost every part of the province and Government are confident that when this occurs, the procedure long established by law is fully sufficient to safeguard the rights of tenants.

[Minister for Revenue.]

It must be recognized that landlords and tenants are entitled to assert their rights under the law and it is not a matter in which Government can readily intervene. Where, however, owing to the disputes which arose in the Nili Bar and the Ganji Bar Colonies between landlords and tenants and between lessees and sub-tenants, Government has reason to believe that such notices might have been given in rather larger numbers than usual, they have issued instructions to local officers to use their good offices to endeavour to compose disputes.

Sardar Ajit Singh : In the United Provinces a tenancy law has been enacted. Is it proposed to enact a similar law in the Punjab to protect the poor tenants by giving them occupancy rights so that no tenant could be ejected who has cultivated any land for more than six years?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

DEATHS DUE TO FAMINE IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***4410. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the total number of deaths from starvation of men and women, separately, due to famine in the Hissar district?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : None.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether any record is kept of mortality rate prevailing in the famine-stricken area?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is a record of mortality.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether it is not a fact that the mortality rate during the last few months since the prevalence of famine is higher than in normal times?

Parliamentary Secretary : Not as far as Government is aware.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I take it that the honourable member means that the mortality rate has been normal in that area?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is no doubt that whenever there are famine conditions in a district, the vitality of the people decreases, but thanks to the prompt measures adopted by the Government and the most generous help that they have accorded, there is no danger of mortality increasing.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether the Government is perfectly satisfied that there has been no increase in mortality rate but that on the average it is normal?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have to request my honourable friend to bear in mind that when Government says 'satisfied,' it means really or perfectly satisfied. It would not serve any object to put one adjective or the other.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Government made any enquiry into the affected areas as to the number of persons having died on account of starvation?

Parliamentary Secretary : Let me assure my honourable friend that the Government do not give any reply unless they make an enquiry.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know what kind of enquiry has been made?

Parliamentary Secretary : Generally the Government ask the deputy commissioner to make full enquiry and then report. The deputy commissioner after satisfying himself sends his report to the Government and then a reply is given.

Lala Duni Chand : Has the Government received any report as regards the enquiry conducted by the deputy commissioner?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already said that none died of starvation and that was the result of the report of the enquiry made by the deputy commissioner.

Sardar Hari Singh : May I ask whether it is a fact that on account of famine conditions in the district the Government is employing the agency of an extraordinary machinery in order to avail itself of the statistics of mortality, etc.

Parliamentary Secretary : The ordinary machinery is employed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What is the ordinary rate of mortality in the district of Hissar?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for that question.

REPRESENTATIONS FOR RELIEF FROM PEASANTS OF DISTRICT JHELM.

***4417. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government has recently received any representations for relief from the peasants of district Jhelum affected by fodder famine; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Yes. To afford relief to the people of scarcity-stricken areas in the Jhelum district, concession rates for the carriage of fodder by rail into that district have been sanctioned with effect from the 16th December, 1938.

Rupees 1,04,000 have also been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for grant of taccavi advances for the purchase of fodder, seed grain and bullocks during the current financial year. Proposals for suspension and remission of outstanding balances of taccavi loans in the district are under consideration.

In addition Rs. 42,116 have been suspended out of the fixed land revenue demand for *kharif* 1938 and Rs. 4,609 have been remitted out of the suspended land revenue demand of previous years.

Sardar Hari Singh : Was the relief afforded promptly?

Parliamentary Secretary : There was no undue delay.

Sardar Hari Singh : Because of your own district.

MAHTAM TRIBE IN MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

***4433. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Mahtam tribe also known as "Rai Sikhs," is classed as a criminal tribe in some parts of the district Montgomery; if so, the reasons for the distinction;

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

- (b) whether any crimes have been committed by the members of the tribe during the past five years; if so, the number of crimes committed by them during this period and its proportion to the number of their tribe living in the district?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Yes. The Mahtam tribe is classed as a criminal tribe in these parts of the Montgomery district where they have shown themselves addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences.

(b) Yes. They were suspected or convicted of the commission of 339 offences during the period. The number of Mahtams registered in the district is 597.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is the Government prepared to enter the Rai Sikhs as Rajputs in the official records?

Minister : I do not know how that arises out of this question.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Are these Rai Sikhs habitual criminals?

Minister : They were either suspected of having committed offences or they actually committed offences and the honourable member would realise that the number of offences is very large.

Sardar Rur Singh : Are the Rai Sikhs residing in the district of Ferozepore also banned simply because they refused to take part in the Great War?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, what I want to ask is whether the Rai Sikhs are considered to be ordinary moral criminals or habitual ones because I know that these people do not commit criminal offences and are not therefore habitual criminals.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is giving information rather than seeking information.

Sardar Ajit Singh : What is the nature of their offence?

When the Government itself admits that they do not commit any crime, then, why are they placed in the category of criminal tribes and are oppressed for no fault of theirs? They should at once be declared as ordinary civilians of their motherland.

Mr. Speaker : That is an argument. The honourable member will be well-advised to move a resolution.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the nature of their crimes is serious or otherwise?

Minister : If the honourable member wants to know the list of offences committed by those persons he should give a fresh notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether they committed offences to the effect that they left certain places which they were forbidden to leave without permission.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister has already answered that question.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of the district has received several representations to the effect that he should lift the ban from them?

Minister : They were suspected or convicted of the commission of 339 offences and an application of the kind suggested would probably not be accepted.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is it a fact that they committed such crimes simply to maintain their rights and privileges?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Lala Duni Chand : Is the conviction of some of those people of certain offences a ground for keeping them in the category of criminal tribes?

Minister : That would be a very good ground.

FAMINE RELIEF GIVEN TO SCHEDULED CASTES IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***4441. Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total amount of money that has been spent in the Hissar district on account of famine up to 31st January, 1939 ;
- (b) the total amount of loan and *tagavi* that has been distributed amongst the scheduled castes in the district and, if no such loan or *tagavi* has been advanced to them, the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Up to the 28th January, 1939, the total amount spent was Rs. 17,24,535, including Rs. 9,19,005 on account of taccavi advances, but excluding—

- (1) suspensions and remissions of land revenue and taccavi ;
- (2) remissions of *abiana* ;
- (3) cost of establishment specially employed on famine work.

(b) Rupees 55,280 have been distributed to members of scheduled castes up to the end of February, 1939.

Lala Harnam Das : Is it a fact that taccavi loans are given to the members of the scheduled castes on the recommendation of the lambardar of the village?

Parliamentary Secretary : Usually lambardars and other responsible persons have to be consulted before giving any relief.

Lala Harnam Das : My question relates to the distribution of taccavi loans.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that lambardars and other responsible persons are consulted before distributing taccavi loans in order to find out whether the applicants belong to the same village.

Lala Harnam Das : Is it not a fact that sometimes these lambardars and responsible persons of the village do not recommend the case of certain persons simply out of malice and personal enmity against them ; if so, what arrangements do the Government propose to make for redressing the grievances of the people in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am free to admit that there are personal enmities in villages as elsewhere but the whole machinery of the Government is not in the hands of the lambardars. The Government has other resources too.

Lala Harnam Das : Is it not a fact that the Honourable Minister for Revenue was pleased to remark one day at the time of an interview that taccavi would only be given on the recommendation of the lambardar ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that it is necessary to consult the lambardars, so that any person not entitled to taccavi loans, for instance, residents of the United Provinces, may not obtain such loans.

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore : Have any taccavi loans ever been given to the members of the scheduled castes ? If so, how much ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that a sum of Rs. 55,280 has been given to the members of the scheduled castes.

Sardar Mula Singh : May I know in what ways this money has been spent on the members of the scheduled castes ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot state the different heads under which this sum has been spent, but I can tell my honourable friend that Rs. 55,280 have been given to the members of the scheduled castes.

Lala Harnam Das : May I know whether this sum like the three scholarships that were awarded by the Education Department could also be given to the *Achhut* Muhammadans ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I may inform the honourable member that there is not a single Muhammadan who can be called an *Achhut* nor will there be any in future.

Lala Harnam Das : Is it a fact that in reply to an unstarred question put by my friend Bhagat Hans Raj it was stated that out of six scholarships that have been reserved for the members of the scheduled castes three have been given to Muhammadans ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may read the answer himself.

Chaudhri Jugal Kishore : May I know whether the sum of Rs. 55,280 includes the salaries of Sardar Gopal Singh and Bhagat Hans Raj (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker : I have noticed with regret that certain members in asking questions make insinuations. Such questions should not be asked, as they create unpleasantness and heat.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You have every support of this House in what you have said. But sometimes it does happen that the proceedings become a little dull, and perhaps in order to make them lively these things are said. (*Laughter*).

Lala Duni Chand : You, Mr. Speaker, may have observed many times that a good many answers are replete with insinuations. Will you please see that no such insinuations are made unnecessarily in answer to questions.

Mr. Speaker : When I said that honourable members of this House should not ask supplementary questions which contain insinuations, I also meant to include all members of Government and Parliamentary Secretaries who answer such questions.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Will you also advise the Government members that they should not be rude and contemptuous and insulting, as they often are, when answering questions and that they should not show their thumbs to honourable members?

Mr. Speaker : That applies to all members of the House, individually as well as collectively.

Sardar Mula Singh : Is it a fact that a deputation of Harijans of Hissar waited on the Honourable Minister for Revenue? If so, has he done anything for them?

REPORT IN *MUSTAJRI* CASES RELATING TO THE CIVIL
COURT DECREES.

***4451. Chaudhri Nasir-ud-Din :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Collector of the Gujranwala district issued in the month of August, 1938, a circular letter to the tahsildars in the district asking them to send reports in *Mustajri* cases relating to the Civil Court decrees direct to his office in future and not through the Revenue Assistant as was the practice in the past; if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Yes, to accelerate the disposal of such cases.

MUSTA JRI CASES IN GUJRANWALA.

***4452. Chaudhri Nasir-ud-Din :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of *Mustajri* cases in which the present Collector of Gujranwala district has left 10 acres of land or less for the maintenance of the families of judgment-debtors and the number of the members of the family in each case?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : I regret the information is not available and its collection would involve a great amount of labour and expense.

ACTION TAKEN ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOREST COMMITTEE.

***4464. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the action taken by the Government in pursuance of the recommendations of the Forest Committee?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Government have accepted the majority of the recommendations of the Forest Committee either in principle or subject to details being elaborated. In pursuance of the recommendations of the said committee Government have laid before the House proposals for the formation of a separate Anti-Erosion Forest Circle with effect from the 1st April, 1939, which will deal with not only the problems of erosion but with many of the recommendations of the Forest Committee in Gurgaon, Ambala, Kangra, Hoshiarpur, Gujrat, Shahpur, Jhelum, Rawalpindi and Attock districts for the present. Detailed orders of Government will be found in their letter No. 1522-C. (S.), dated the 13th August, 1938, a copy of which was supplied to all the honourable members of the Assembly.

Lala Duni Chand : Is it a fact that several months ago, it was promised by Government on the floor of this House that as soon as possible this report will be placed before this House in order to invite suggestions from the honourable members of the House? If so, why has that not been done?

Mr. Speaker : Whenever any honourable member wishes to rely upon any statement made by another honourable member of this House, he should have that statement in his hand for ready reference, otherwise his question or statement will not be taken as based on correct facts.

Lala Duni Chand : May I draw the attention of the Honourable Speaker to the fact that it was I who put that question?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may read the answer in which case I shall have no objection.

Lala Duni Chand : I have not that particular answer with me at the moment.

NAKEHR KHAD BUND SCHEME.

***4467. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the survey of the Dam scheme intended to store the water of the Nakehr Khad in Tualaka Mangarh in tahsil Dehra, district Kangra, has now been completed; if so, the total expenditure incurred on the survey of the scheme;
- (b) whether any list of the property likely to be adversely affected by the said scheme has been prepared by the survey officers and, if so, whether it is or it is not a fact that the scheme, if under-

taken, will bring under water about twenty-six complete *tikas* and four *mauzias* in the said tahsil and render homeless and helpless about two thousand poor agriculturists ;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that the area proposed to be occupied by the said scheme is one of the most fertile and productive parts of Dehra tahsil ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the scheme when completed will deprive two thousand people of the right of drinking water and water for the cattle and irrigation purposes and thus put them to a lot of inconvenience on account of there being no other source of supply of such water available nearby ;
- (e) whether it is further a fact that the said scheme on being undertaken will split up the proprietary holdings of about one hundred families of agriculturists in the said tahsil and further render some houses in its vicinity uninhabitable and make about 200 flour mills and about fifty Persian wheels unworkable to the detriment of a large number of people depending for their livelihood on these mills and wheels ;
- (f) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, the manner in which it is intended to compensate those who will suffer any loss on this scheme being undertaken ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) The question is under consideration and no decision has yet been reached on the construction of the dam.

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

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : How long did it take the survey party to complete the survey?

Minister : They have already finished their work.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My question was how long did the survey party take to complete the survey?

Minister : Two months or so.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Was not damage done to the crops?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Was not a list of the property prepared?

Parliamentary Secretary : How does it arise out of the original question?

Diwan Chaman Lal : Part (b) of the question reads :—

Whether any list of the property likely to be adversely affected by the said scheme has been prepared.....

So the question what damage has been done by the survey party does arise.

Parliamentary Secretary : May I ask the honourable member to read the question?

Mr. Speaker : I am afraid the question hour is over.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Why not take this question the next day?

Mr. Speaker : Personally I have no objection, but that is not the practice.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : But the supplementary questions and answers have not yet finished. I hesitated to put the question as there was not sufficient time to put the question.

Mr. Speaker : Supplementary questions may be asked only within the time allowed by rules.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : But there was not sufficient time.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may give a fresh notice.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : By giving a fresh notice I will be wasting much valuable time of the office.

Mr. Speaker : The practice of the House is that supplementary questions are not passed on to the next day. But if the whole House wishes that they may be carried to the next day, I have no objection.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I was reluctant to put this question because there was only half a minute.

Mr. Speaker : I also called the Honourable member because there was half a minute yet.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I am not disputing that. I only suggest that I may be permitted to put supplementary questions on the next day, otherwise it will be only waste of time if I put in a fresh notice of the question.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may refer to rule 28.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ASSESSORS AND SCHEDULED CASTES.

729. Bhagat Hans Raj : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of assessors community-wise on the list of the District and Sessions Judge, Sialkot, with special reference to the number of scheduled castes among them ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the representation of the scheduled castes among them is inadequate ; and if so, the action proposed to be taken in this direction ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a)

<i>Mustims.</i>	<i>Hindus.</i>	<i>Sikhs.</i>	<i>Christians.</i>
87	49	49	1

(b) Yes. The position with regard to scheduled castes has been brought to the notice of the appropriate authority, so that due consideration may be paid to the claims of any suitable candidates for inclusion in the list of assessors.

SEDUCTION OF BOYS IN SCHOOLS BY TEACHERS.

730. Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Will the Minister for Education kindly state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the Youths Welfare Association waited upon the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, about the 1st of December, 1938, and brought to his notice certain cases of seduction of boys by teachers in which the offenders had been either let off without any punishment or were inadequately punished ; if so, what action has been taken on the representation made to the Director of Public Instruction by the said deputation ;
- (b) whether he is aware that Mr. B. Sanderson when he was Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, issued a circular to all the schools, colleges, and other educational authorities, deploring the delay that generally took place in instituting legal proceedings or conducting departmental enquiries in the cases of seduction of boys by teachers, with the result that the offenders generally escaped without adequate punishment or any punishment at all ;
- (c) the effect of the above circular ;
- (d) what further steps he has taken so far or proposes to take to minimise this fatal delay in the investigation of these cases ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes. The cases reported are being enquired into.

(b) Yes.

(c) Such cases now receive prompt attention by all officials of the department.

(d) No further steps are possible.

**MOTOR TRAFFIC CHALLANS AND THE AMOUNT OF FINE REALISED
BY THE COURTS.**

731. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of motor traffic challans throughout the province in each district separately, in the months of September, October, November, and December, 1938, respectively ;
- (b) the number of challans withdrawn by the scrutinizing authorities before producing the cases in the court in each district and for each month, separately as mentioned in part (a) above ;
- (c) the total amount of the fine realized by the courts during the months mentioned in part (a) above in each district throughout the province separately ?

The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Detailed figures were collected, with considerable difficulty, in connection with a similar question ¹(*3622), put by the honourable member in the autumn session. The collection of such special statistics entails an expenditure of time and labour which is not perhaps always realised, and in the present case I do not think that I should be justified in ordering further inquiries to be made.

**AMOUNT OF FEE REALIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE
PUNJAB MOTOR RULES, 1931.**

732. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total amount of registration fee for the issue of permits to public motor vehicles under rule 6, Punjab Motor Rules, 1931, realized by the Government in the years 1936-37-38, separately, in each of the districts of the province ;
- (b) the total amount of fees realized by the Government under rule 148, Punjab Motor Rules, 1931, from public motor vehicles in serial Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, in the years 1936 to 1938 separately in each district of the province ;
- (c) the total amount of fees realised by the Government under rules 18, 19 and 20, Punjab Motor Rules, 1931, in the years 1936 to 1938 in each district of the province separately ;
- (d) the total amount of tax realized by the Government under the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Rules, 1925, as described in 4-A, Motor Vehicles Taxation Schedule in the years 1936 to 1938 separately from taxi cars and public motor vehicles separately ?

The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : (a), (b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table. The figures given in reply to part (a) are for the issue of permits for all classes of vehicles. Separate figures for public vehicles are not available.

(d) Separate figures of the amount of tax collected under item 4-A of the taxation schedule are available for the quarter ending the 30th September, 1938, only. They are Rs. 2,677 in respect of motor cabs, and Rs. 28,898-10-0 in respect of other classes of vehicles taxed under this item.

During the financial years 1936-37 and 1937-38 the amount of tax realized in respect of all classes of vehicles was Rs. 7,29,306-4-6 and Rs. 7,93,993-1-9, respectively.

Statement.

Division.	District.	RECEIPTS FROM FEES FOR ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR ALL CLASSES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DURING THE YEAR		RECEIPTS FROM FEES FOR ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES (SERIAL NOS. 2-5 IN THE SCHEDULE TO RULE 148) DURING THE YEAR		RECEIPTS FROM FEES FOR DRIVING TEST AND FOR ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENSES AND ENDORSEMENTS (SERIAL NOS. 9-13 IN THE SCHEDULE TO RULE 148) DURING THE YEAR	
		1936-1937.	1937-1938.	1936-1937.	1937-1938.	1936-1937.	1937-1938.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Ambala	Hisar	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rohtak	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gurgaon	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Karnal	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ambala	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Simla	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total for the Ambala Division.	8,057 0 0	11,130 0 0	24,747 0 0	24,195 0 0	12,405 8 0	14,597 4 0
Jullundur	Kangra	320 0 0	568 0 0	2,080 0 0	2,200 0 0	1,306 8 0	1,598 0 0
	Rohatpur	652 0 0	452 0 0	5,399 0 0	5,193 4 0	3,052 8 0	2,826 8 0
	Jullundur	1,433 0 0	2,698 0 0	8,902 8 0	12,542 0 0	5,764 8 0	5,918 0 0
	Ludhiana	2,304 0 0	2,509 0 0	7,600 0 0	10,964 0 0	3,905 8 0	5,473 8 0
	Ferozepore	1,464 0 0	1,840 0 0	912 0 0	1,975 0 0	4,616 0 0	4,366 0 0
	Total	6,173 0 0	8,067 0 0	24,868 8 0	32,874 4 0	18,645 0 0	20,082 0 0

Separate figures are not available.

LAHORE	..	14,459 0 0	12,385 0 0	10,881 0 0	12,012 8 0	30,050 0 0	27,330 8 0
	..	2,121 0 0	1,805 0 0	11,660 0 0	11,050 0 0	7,092 0 0	8,317 0 0
	..	1,092 0 0	1,786 0 0	4,701 0 0	3,263 0 0	2,398 0 0	2,242 0 0
	..	1,076 0 0	1,300 0 0	2,597 0 0	3,550 0 0	3,391 0 0	3,747 0 0
	..	1,664 0 0	1,212 0 0	5,694 0 0	5,896 0 0	2,382 8 0	2,206 0 0
	..	4,207 0 0	3,393 0 0	..	1,582 0 0	1,644 0 0	2,031 8 0
Total		24,619 0 0	2,181 0 0	35,023 0 0	37,323 8 0	45,557 8 0	45,774 0 0
RAWALPINDI	..	316 0 0	480 0 0	1,850 0 0	1,350 0 0	1,657 0 0	1,555 0 0
	..	1,968 0 0	1,320 0 0	8,260 8 0	5,662 8 0	2,585 8 0	3,016 8 0
	..	494 0 0	1,028 4 0	954 0 0	725 0 0	994 8 0	1,220 8 0
	..	2,880 0 0	3,964 0 0	14,227 8 0	15,615 0 0	14,300 8 0	16,458 0 0
	..	104 0 0	276 0 0	87 0 0	275 0 0	537 0 0	669 0 0
	..	48 0 0	96 0 0	250 0 0	625 0 0	308 0 0	370 12 0
Total		5,760 0 0	7,164 4 0	25,629 0 0	24,252 8 0	20,383 0 0	23,289 12 0
MULTAN	..	Separate figures are not available.					
	..	Montgomery					
	..	Lyalpur					
	..	Jhang					
	..	Multan					
	..	Muzaffargarh					
Total for the Multan Division.		10,167 0 0	9,848 0 0	24,120 0 0	27,781 8 0	14,725 0 0	18,168 0 0
GRAND TOTAL FOR THE PROVINCE.		54,666 0 0	38,397 4 0	1,34,412 8 0	1,46,436 12 0	1,13,716 0 0	1,21,911 0 0

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

733. Sardar Lal Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comparative statement showing consolidations of holdings carried out in Ludhiana district during the years 1937-38 and 1938-39 both by the Revenue and the Co-operative Departments ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :

	CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.	REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
	<i>1st August, 1937, to 31st July, 1938.</i>	<i>1937-38.</i>
Area consolidated	.. Acres 21,475	} Nil. Consolidation work is not done by the Revenue Department in the Ludhi- ana district.
Total cost ..	.. Rs. 88,520	
Cost per acre ..	.. Rs. 1-12-9	

Figures for the year 1938-39 are not yet available as the co-operative year ends on the 31st July, 1939.

PERCENTAGE OF SIKHS AMONG PATWARIS IN JHANG DISTRICT.

734. Sardar Lal Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to circular No. 1594-A, dated 16th April, 1936, issued by the Government, the number of permanent Sikh patwaris in district Jhang was to be brought up to a certain percentage ;
- (b) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, whether the instructions in the said circular have been carried out, and if not, when it is proposed to do so ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) No. In the statement attached to the official letter no percentage was fixed. All deputy commissioners were asked to give due consideration to the claims of Sikhs in future appointments.

- (b) I have no reason to believe that these instructions are not observed.

MUNICIPAL AND NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES AT GUJRAT.

735. Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazl Ali Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that at Gujrat with a population of not more than 26,000 one municipal and two notified area committees are functioning within a radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles ;

- (b) whether there is any instance of a similar nature in any other part of the province ;
- (c) when the railway station area was included within Gujrat municipal limits and for how long it remained attached to the city ;
- (d) whether during this period house-tax was being levied by the municipal committee in that area ;
- (e) whether the two small villages, Chak Mahnda and Chak Buddewala are included in the area of the Notified Area Committee, Civil Lines, Gujrat, and the residents of these villages are burdened with the payment of a house-tax without any corresponding benefit ;
- (f) whether the Government is aware that the rates of taxes levied by the committees and the methods of realization are different in case of each committee and whether this inequality has tended to disorganise trade ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that goods are taxed twice for passing through the limits of the said committees ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that several memorials have been submitted from time to time to the Government and deputations have waited upon the authorities for voicing their grievances in the matter ;
- (i) if the answer to the above questions be in the affirmative, whether Government intend to remove the complaint of the public in order that the trade of the town may be rehabilitated ?

The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana : Government are aware that there has of late been criticism of the arrangement under which there are three local bodies at Gujrat, namely the municipal committee, the civil lines notified area committee and the railway bazar notified area committee. The arrangement was administratively convenient at the time it was made. In view, however, of the criticisms now brought, the local officers have been asked to submit a report and when that is received Government propose to review the whole situation.

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY THE OVERFLOODING OF RIVER RAVI IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

736. Khan Sabib Chaudhri Fazal Din : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a recent flood in the Ravi overflooded the irrigated area of villages Dahyanpur and Gill in the Amritsar district and others and totally destroyed the crops there ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, what action the Government intend to take to give relief to the said villages ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) The recent flood in the Ravi has damaged the crops in villages Dahyanpur and Gill in the Ajnala tahsil of this district. Exact figures can be had after the *rabi girdawari* is over, i.e., 10th April, 1939.

(b) The damage to the crops will be treated as "Extraordinary" and relief under paragraphs 566 and 567 of the Land Administration Manual may be admissible.

737.—Cancelled.

INSPECTORS, SUB-INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS
RECRUITED IN 1938.

738. Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of assistant sub-inspectors of police, recruited community-wise in the Punjab in 1938 ;
- (b) the number of sub-inspectors recruited community-wise in the Punjab in 1938 ;
- (c) the total number at present of inspectors of police in the Police Department community-wise ;
- (d) the number of sub-inspectors of police promoted to the rank of inspectors of police in 1938 community-wise and number of inspectors of police directly recruited in 1938, community-wise.
- (e) the number of inspectors of police promoted to the rank of deputy superintendent of police in 1938, community-wise ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander-Hyat Khan : (a)—

Muslims	21
Hindus	8
Sikhs	19
Indian Christian	1
Total	48

(b) Muslims	5
Hindus	1
Sikhs	3
Total	9

(All these were recruited as prosecuting sub-inspectors. There is no direct recruitment to the rank of sub-inspector in the executive line.)

(c) Europeans	31
Muslims	48
Hindus	39
Sikhs	15
Indian Christians	1
Total	134

(d) No sub-inspector was promoted to Inspector during 1933. Two direct appointments in the rank of inspector (one Muslima and one Hindu) were made during the year.

(e) None.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for Agriculture.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) :

3 P.M.

While discussing this question of the stability of prices I should like to add that all over the world immense quantities of agricultural produce are being produced and in plenty. Every country has got much surplus and consequently prices have given way all over the world. In our province, as I read the figures, I find that it is impossible for the peasant to make the two ends meet. It is, therefore, very necessary that some relief in the shape of either reduction in water and other rates or some bounties should be given to the zamindar. I am afraid if the Government proceeds with the bounty business in the usual stereotyped manner, the situation will not improve. The present position does not brook any delay. I would request the Government to do something and that too at no distant date, in order to bring relief to those people who need it most.

Now, I would make a few suggestions as to how the prices can be stabilized. The first and foremost suggestion I should like to make is that the Government should re-consider its decision regarding the exchange ratio. Let it for a moment forget the interests of Lancashire. Let it for a moment forget the vast political interests of the Government of India. Let it consider this question purely from the point of view of the benefit of this province and this province alone; and once it considers this question in this light, I am quite sure that it will arrive at no other decision than that the exchange ratio of 16d. will be most advantageous to this province. I hope that the Government will do all it possibly can with the Government of India to bring them to this point of view. If it succeeds in persuading the Government of India to revert to this exchange ratio, the zamindars in this province will gain to the extent of several crores, whilst hundreds of measures like the Marketing Bill will not be able to do anything substantial for the zamindar.

My second suggestion is that there should be a net work of roads connecting all important villages with the marketing centres. I do realize that it is not the question of a day. Roads cannot be constructed overnight. But the Government must have in view this matter with a view to bring about these new *pucca* roads between the villages and the marketing centres as early as possible. This will mean lessening of transport charges to a very great extent and will mean a real saving to the zamindars of the province.

My third suggestion is that for our outlet of this province we depend entirely on the port of Karachi. Now the railway freight from here to Karachi is very excessive. For a distance of about 700 miles the railway

[Sardar Sahib Sardar Santok Singh.]

freight is about 150 per cent of the shipping freight for a distance of 8,000 miles from Karachi to the continent. Therefore something substantial is needed to be done in this connection. I do hope that the Honourable Minister for Development will take up this matter in right earnest with the Railway and will bring about a reduction in railway freight. If the railways are adamant and do not listen to him, then the only alternative is to have a *pucca* metalled road from the Punjab markets to Karachi. In this matter the Punjab Government will have to work hand in hand with the Sind Government. Once they construct a metalled road between the Punjab and Karachi, I am sure the railways will be compelled to make a reduction in the railway freight. They cannot face the lorry traffic, which will cut down rates and there will be a reduction of at least three to four annas per maund in the transport charges from here to Karachi, which will in turn mean a substantial benefit exclusively to the zamindar or the producer of this province.

There is another question I should like to refer to and it is this. The railways at the present moment are giving rebates in railway freight to the extent of 25 per cent on all those quantities which are shipped abroad from Karachi. I would suggest to the Minister for Development that he should press on the railways to make this rebate on all quantities that find their way to Karachi. This will mean a reduction of further three annas per maund in the railway freight and the Punjab zamindars will benefit to that extent. I think it should not be difficult for the Punjab Government to do this as the railways are already granting rebates in the case of shipments abroad. I see no reason why they should not allow similar rebates in the case of quantities of wheat consumed or milled in Karachi.

There is another question and that is bounties. My honourable friend, the Parliamentary Secretary was at pains to tell us that because we export a good deal of wheat, from this province the question of bounty cannot be considered, much less applied. I would suggest for the information of the Government that if it were to give some bounty on wheat exported outside this province, it will help the zamindar. There will then be no accumulations of undesired stocks here, and no dumping in prices. The giving of bounties on wheat exported outside this province will directly benefit the zamindar and will be a move in the right direction. Something has got to be done. If the Government has no money it has to find means to cut down the expenditure. Reduction in expenditure is the most advisable thing to do because the administration expenditure is top heavy. You will have to cut down the expenditure with a view to benefit the zamindar. As for additional taxation, I believe the province is already over-burdened with taxation and there is no scope for imposing further taxes, so that you will have to give this relief by making reduction in your expenditure and the sooner you start doing it, the better for all concerned.

There is yet another suggestion which I want to make. Having destroyed the credit of the zamindar, you have to do something now to offer him facilities for credit and for that purpose I suggest that you open banks in the villages to supply cheap money to the zamindar. The zamindar needs money at times and you will have to provide facilities for that purpose.

Since you have destroyed his credit, the only feasible thing is to open your own banks in the villages and give money to the zamindar at cheap rates of interest. This will incidentally show to you what difficulties there were on the part of the money-lenders. It will further prove to you what the other side of the picture was; you will gain experience in this respect and learn that it was not the money lender alone who was to blame.

Last but not least, you have to mete out sympathetic treatment to the *arhtiyas* and the various exchanges that are found established in the *mandis*. These *arhtiyas* and exchanges are the best friends of the zamindars. Through them the zamindar gains a lot. I need not go over the same ground which I have already covered. But I do say that as a result of these exchanges in many markets where there is no export, the zamindar stands to gain as much as 8 to 4 annas a maund, and if by your legislative Acts you make these exchanges impotent or compel them to stop working, I dare say the losses of the zamindars will be greater than those of the *arhtiyas* and the urban people.

Before I sit down I wish to make a passing reference to certain remarks which the Honourable Premier was pleased to address to these benches on which I have the privilege to sit. The Honourable Premier referred to a certain conference held in Amritsar and said that some of us were political adventurers.

Mr. Speaker : Order, please. Even if the Honourable Premier had made any such personal remarks, I request the honourable member not to reply to them. Personal references and remarks should be avoided, as they create heat and lead to unpleasantness.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : The remarks were not personal. They involve a question of principle. Without referring to the particular conference that has been held, I ask your permission to reply to the remarks which the Honourable Premier had made. I had stood up also before to ask your permission for this.

Mr. Speaker : How does the honourable member make his remarks relevant to the demand before the House?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : They relate to this very important matter of agriculturists versus non-agriculturists. That is my position. They relate to agriculture.

Mr. Speaker : An able lawyer can easily make irrelevant remarks relevant. But there are degrees of relevancy. It may be remote or immediate. There is no limit. Yet I request the honourable member not to make personal remarks.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : I will leave personal references aside. Even threats were held and it was said that by the passing of those resolutions the *arhtiyas* or the traders were cutting their own noses to spite their faces. I do want to say in reply to those remarks that so far as the question of trade is concerned, the traders have passed those resolutions with open eyes. Nobody knows more than we that we are inviting suffering upon ourselves, because it is by that suffering that we want to prove to the zamindars, to prove to the public at large and to this Government, that the *arhtiyas* and the traders were the best friends of the zamindars.

[Sardar Sahib Sardar Sultan Singh.]

Through them the zamindars were gaining to the extent of at least 3 to 4 annas a maund and the moment these people stop having any more stocks, the zamindars would lose to the extent of 3 to 4 annas per maund, besides the losses that we shall be inflicting upon ourselves. If only the traders can carry out the resolutions they have passed—and I have no doubt that they will, because they do feel that the treatment that is being meted out to them means nothing else but their entire extinction—they will find they have to fight for their very existence. I therefore want to make it quite clear that so far as these threats are aimed at the organization which the traders have formed under these circumstances, they will be absolutely of no avail and will break no bones. If the Government felt, as was apparent from the Premier's remarks, that violence was being preached by these traders and *arkhtiyas*, I do want to make it clear that this creed of violence is not the creed of the *arkhtiyas* and the traders. The trader or the *arkhtiya* abhors violence more than anybody else does. (Hear, hear). He knows that he can only thrive if there is peace and tranquility in the province. He is the last man to preach or practice violence either in thought or in action. This is the position of the traders and I have made it quite clear that if those threats are aimed at the organization that the traders have felt compelled to form, they will be absolutely of no avail whatsoever. Let all concerned know at the same time that violence is furthest from our thoughts and we shall never be a party to that.

Having said that, there is just a small matter that I wish to refer to. I understand that about 50,000 acres of land in the colony area is reduced every year to *kallar* or *thur* owing to waterlogging. These 50,000 acres of land mean a value of about a crore of rupees and no step whatsoever has so far been taken to establish any proper reclamation department to look after these lands and to prevent their becoming uncultivable and falling into decay. I would request the Government to lose no time in organizing a proper reclamation department to look after these lands so that the poor people may be saved from this loss which is occurring year after year. With these remarks I support the cut motion of my honourable friend.

Sir William Roberts (European): Sir, I wish to oppose this cut. While I find myself in agreement with my honourable friend the mover of this cut on many points, I feel it my duty to correct some of the misapprehensions. He laid particular stress on the possibility of land being a limiting factor in Punjab agriculture. From a deep study of this subject for the last 32 years, I can confidently tell him that land is not likely to be a limiting factor. Water in the Punjab is certainly the most likely limiting factor for the next thirty or fifty years. Then again we hear of countries like Egypt being often quoted as producing more per acre than the Punjab, but it must be remembered that Egypt grows from two to three crops per annum. In other words it grows from two to three crops per annum whereas in the Punjab even in the irrigated areas the average cultivation is under a hundred per cent.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Why?

Sir William Roberts: Lack of water. This is the point which I am trying to make. Then again a fact which is well-known to those who

have dealings in practical agriculture is that the same amount of water applied to first class land or land in good condition will give twice the yield as the same amount of water applied to poor land. In the canal colony exactly the same amount of water is given to every area as if its productivity is the same. There is room for improvement in the return from water if it is not wasted on poor land. I wish we could visualize this as the basis of our return and think of yields not so much per acre but per unit of water.

I am grateful to the honourable member of this cut for supporting the import tax on foreign wheat and cotton and particularly for suggesting that this tax should be maintained for a period of at least five years. There is no doubt that if the tax had been levied on a big industry, that would never have been put on in this way for a short period. There are facts with regard to protection which I do not think we in the Punjab have sufficiently realized. Take, for example, the sugar protection tax. We have not here in the Punjab a very large interest in the sugar factories, but the protection is so heavy that we are paying from two to two and a half times as much for sugar as we would be paying without protection. (*Question.*) In other words, in this respect the Punjab farmer and consumer is paying for the success of India in producing her own sugar. Quite a laudable object and I have nothing against it. The same thing happens with cotton. We pay now Rs. 8 for a piece of cloth which without protection would cost Rs. 2 only. Here again the Punjab has not a very great interest in cotton mills. We have only two in the province. So the Punjab is paying to give the cotton mill industry its own place in the country and to make it ultimately supply the whole of the requirements of the country. That again is a laudable object. But what I cannot understand is why sugar industry is protected up to over 150 per cent and cotton up to 50 per cent. The producer gets 20 per cent protection only against foreign cotton imports. After all we know that mills, for example in Cawnpore, which spin up to 40 counts do not use one bale of cotton from foreign countries, so that a great deal more could be done in the use of our indigenous cotton than is being done at the present moment. My honourable friend from Amritsar said that the Agricultural Department has not increased the income of the farmer by four crores per annum. I beg to differ from him. People's memory is very short and we have to go back to 1905 or 1906 to the time when the Agricultural Department started its work. In my opinion, the introduction of American cotton of which $12\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of acres are sown and especially the longer staple types have put about 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees in the pockets of the zamindar. (*Hear, hear.*) The introduction of a new variety of wheat, judging the benefit less than what I estimate on the areas I control, has added to the income of the zamindars by another $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores on the 50 lakhs of acres under four varieties. Besides, the remaining 50 lakhs of acres have been improved. A survey of the wheat fields in any part of the province will show that in this province in the year 1906 there was a mixture of 80 to 50 per cent. Now if you go to any part of the province you will find that it is no more than 8 to 10 per cent and even if you estimate the improvement at 8 annas per acre, in the remaining 50 lakhs you have saved another 25 lakhs over and above the $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores in the area where pure wheat is grown. These two crops alone, therefore, account for over 4 crores per annum. What about some credit to agricultural education and improved implements and fruit development? You gain nothing by minimising what has been

[Sir William Roberts.]

achieved. There is plenty that has been done and plenty that still remains to be done, but we cannot criticise at all fairly unless we can appreciate that good work has been done and is being done. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab Landholders) : I do not need to offer any defence as far as this department is concerned.

Mr. Speaker : As a rule I call one member from each side alternately; but when speakers on one side take too much time, very little time is left for the other side.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Let the Honourable Minister get up and speak, so that others may have a chance of speaking and answering him. I think he should make it a point to speak at a time when his speech can also be subjected to an examination and analysis and some reply given. He can again speak if he likes. He has two chances and he can let us know what he thinks about the matter.

Mr. Speaker : That is for the Honourable Minister to decide.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Of course. It is really a bad practice into which we have fallen.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man : As I was saying, the policy of the Government hardly needs a defence. Virtue, they say, is itself not free from calumny and there may be no lack of critics of even the best line of actions adopted by the Government. I would like to survey the working of this department. The most important crop is cotton. It occupies about three million acres of land in the Punjab, i.e., slightly more than one-tenth of British India. The department actually started the work of giving seeds of a variety which is called 4-F to the farmers in 1918. This variety was later improved and a new variety was invented which is called L. S. S. This proved to be a very good variety for the reason that it gives higher yield and there is also a premium of price in this improved variety to the range of a rupee or so. The area under cotton is 1,861,042 acres and the additional income as a result of this crop produced from this L. S. S. variety comes to about ten million rupees annually. This shows that the department has gained by having more yield of produce. Some years ago the yield per acre was 4.65 maunds while now it has gone up to 8.07 maunds, i.e., about three maunds more per acre. That brings profit to the zamindars to the tune of five crores of rupees annually.

I would like to say a few words about wheat. The area under wheat is 2.5 million acres. Five million maunds are produced in addition, due to the good variety of wheat seed which is used, thereby bringing to the pockets of the zamindars money to the tune of about 11 million annually. The department under discussion distributes pure seed to the extent of 10 lakhs of rupees annually. I think that in this respect it is leading the other provinces of India. I think sufficient has been said about fruit by Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh and I need not add anything except this that it is a very good industry. As regards climate and soil we are very fortunate but we are not getting full advantage out of them. I must admire the department controlled by the Fruit Specialist. The latest researches show that $\frac{1}{2}$ acre fetched an income of Rs. 531, while one plant of *falsa* fetched an income of Rs. 2-8-8 which goes to show that there is great scope of getting lot of money

from this industry. I wish my brethren would try to encourage this industry. There was no doubt some drawback in respect of water but I learnt yesterday from Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh that that restriction has been removed and the canal authorities are prepared to give more water for this industry.

There can be no improvement amongst cattle unless adequate arrangements for fodder are made. Unfortunately we are not having satisfactory arrangements for fodder and so our cattle are not properly fed. As a matter of fact, on account of small holdings the zamindar can produce just sufficient for himself and his family to live upon and to pay to the Government in the form of revenue. He does not pay so much attention towards fodder for his cattle. I wish the Government keeps a note of this fact and sees that this defect is removed. I think that this department is doing excellent work so far as poultry is concerned. It is tackling this problem very satisfactorily. The latest report of the Department of Agriculture shows that it has reduced the mortality to poultry by 60 per cent by certain rearing methods. I would like to say one thing in connection with breeding. Sufficient arrangements are being made to have good breed of cows but no attention has been paid to the breeding of buffaloes. It would be in the fitness of things if something is done in connection with breeding of buffaloes.

Let me now refer to consolidation. Fragmentation of holdings is very injurious for agriculture and I am glad to know that the department in this connection is doing very good work. We are having consolidation to the extent of sixty thousand acres annually. Before consolidation the average was about half an acre while after consolidation it goes to three acres. The cost to the Government per acre on this account is about two rupees, while the advantage that the zamindar derives is incalculable.

The work done by the Government with regard to indebtedness will be written in golden letters because it will go a long way to relieve the miseries of the poor zamindars. It is rightly said that the zamindar in this province is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt. That is true. Calculations show that there is debt to the extent of Rs. 45 per cultivated acre and the debt per head is Rs. 104. So the enactments which have recently been passed by the Government will relieve them and make the poor zamindars free men to live in a free country.

I would like to say a word more and then I finish. The Government propose to spend 1 48 lakhs in the coming year on this very department (agriculture) alone; and I think that we lead in this respect all other provinces of India. (*Hear, hear.*) If this policy of the Government, i.e., of supplying good seeds and also paying attention towards the diseases and all other activities which I have just surveyed, is pursued, I am sure that the day will not be far off when the zamindars' income will be doubled. I may be allowed to say that we are leading all the ministries in other Congress provinces.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not attack the other ministries.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man : When other members bring in those governments, I have no other alternative but to reply to their criticism. Anyhow, I wish that these activities on behalf of the Government continue more rigorously so that our zamindars should flourish and be very happy and contented. With these word I oppose the cut motion.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali Khan (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural): It is all very well to single out a particular department of the Government and to level criticism against it and make it a target of shots from all flanks. But I would request my honourable friends of the Opposition to place themselves once in the position of the Government itself. It is very easy to get up and say that the Government has not made adequate provision for medical relief. Again, it is quite easy to say that sufficient amount has not been spent on the Education Department and so on and so forth. The other day my friends got up and said that the Government had failed to give adequate relief to the sufferers from Hissar famine. In the same breath when a cut motion is moved for reduction in the land revenue or abiana rates prevailing in the province, they will be simply gasping for breath to press that 75 per cent or 50 per cent of the remission should be granted. I would submit that they cannot have these things both ways. The Government is not in possession of a gold rock to which it should apply its hammer, cut a slice and take it to Mincks or Girdhari Lal Bros. the Jewellers at Lahore, to be changed into cash. When money is to be spent in a particular department the Government is bound to look to the length of its purse. It has to distribute and supply money to all the departments which are under its administration. Again, when a fiscal measure is brought, even that is opposed in spite of the fact that a similar one has been passed in other provinces. So I would request my honourable friends to be fair to the Government in this respect and they should also help it to find out money which should be spent on the various items of expenditure under a given head. Taking this department alone I would suggest that from the year 1921 up to the present time there has been a marked improvement in the amount of money which has been earmarked under Agriculture. In 1921 it was 17 lakhs. In 1926 it was 22 lakhs. In 1930-31 it was 31 lakhs. In 1936 it was 33 lakhs and after the very first year when the present Government assumed office it rose to 36 lakhs and the present provision is no less than 38 lakhs. Taking into consideration all these figures, I would submit that the Government has done whatever it could in the way of providing money for carrying on the activities of the department. As my honourable friends here know, these activities fall into three categories, i.e., teaching, research and demonstration. So far as teaching work is concerned, we have the best college not only in this province but in the whole of India. So far as research is concerned, there are 24 agricultural assistants in that college who are studying the life history of insect pests of crops and they are devoting the whole time to that important work. On account of certain climatic defects some of the crops have totally failed in our province and it is the primary duty of the research section of the technical department to find out what particular means should be adopted in order to check the failure of a crop. That is being done very satisfactorily in the Lyallpur College. Then there is the third category of demonstration. My honourable friend knows that there are no less than 8 agricultural farms which are experimental farms supervised by one of the Deputy Directors. There are no less than 11 other small district farms. The first thing to do is to make provision for the supervising staff, i.e., for those who are to carry the message of these workers to the cultivator himself on his own land. For this particular purpose under each of these seven Deputy Directors there are two Extra Assistant Directors, and there are no less than 816 agricultural

assistants and 376 mukaddams. The programme of the present ministry as soon as it took office was that this message should be carried to every hut in every village and to every nook and corner of the province. For that purpose it was proposed to have one agricultural assistant and two mukaddams at each tahsil headquarters. For that purpose half the money required was earmarked during the last financial year and when the Government finds more money then it will fulfil the whole programme. But unfortunately our province, being an agricultural province, is always in the hands of the vagaries of nature. One adverse visitation of nature might deprive the province of half of its revenue within an hour or so. Therefore it is very difficult to earmark more money than has been done under the present circumstances. It has been sufficiently impressed on the House what the department has done in order to improve the varieties of seeds of cotton and seeds of wheat. No less than 1,000 distributing agencies are now working in the province. No less than 95 thousand maunds of wheat and no less than 221,000 maunds of cotton seed have been distributed.

Now as to the provision made under the head "Seeds". It was 8½ lakhs in 1933-34, 5 lakhs in 1934-35. It rose to 7½ lakhs in 1936-37 and ultimately it rose to a huge figure of 11½ lakhs in 1937-38. Can it be said that the department has not done anything in the way of improvement of agriculture? What better can be done? Another thing which was mentioned on the floor of the House was the question of the unprecedented slump in the market of the agricultural produce. This is a question which can be discussed for a very great length of time from various aspects. It has little bearing, technically speaking, on the subject of agriculture. Whatever Government could do in that respect it has done. The only thing which Government can do is to see that the agriculturists get full price for the goods which they take to the market and in order to achieve that end the Marketing Bill which is to become an Act shortly has been passed. I need not discuss the various aspects of the question so far as the provisions of that Bill are concerned, but suffice it to say that this one measure alone is a sufficient effort and quite an adequate effort on the part of the Government to do its duty so far as the raising of the prices is concerned. Of course there are other factors, some of which are of international importance and we cannot discuss them in the limited time at our disposal.

Reference was also made to the land which has been rendered ineffective on account of *thur* for agricultural purposes. I have not got the facts and figures but I can assure my honourable friend that something has been done in that direction too. I can say that research work which is of a very important nature has been taken in hand for that purpose and is being done in order that the land may again be reclaimed for agricultural purposes. Of course the canals are not unmixed blessings because they render the land unfit for the purpose of agriculture more than they have been a source of blessing in giving additional income to the people. Government, so far as I can see, is not indifferent to that aspect of the question. In Chakanwahi Farm, in my district, work has been done in reclaiming land and by the investment of very great capital success has been achieved.

Another thing mentioned on the floor of the House was about roads and freight question. Again I need not enter into that discussion in a detailed manner. Everybody knows that there is a road programme extending

[Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali Khan.]

over 8 years. If it is possible for the Government to find out more money I should think every effort will be made to extend communications throughout the province in order to facilitate the transport of commodities throughout the province.

The question of railway freight is a central subject and I need not take any time to dilate upon it.

There are one or two other things which are very important and which I would like to mention. One is that no less than 79 grants of 50 acres each have been given by the Government to the educated people in order to create a more enlightened class of agriculturists in rural areas. It is expected that these people will carry the message of the department, so far as the research work is concerned and they will see the adaptability of that particular soil to the experiments which have been made in the laboratories. The result will be that most of the ignorant farmers, who are not very conversant with modern methods of agriculture, will have the benefit of looking at those demonstrations and, if possible, and if it is within their resources, will imitate them and get the benefit of the advice of those men.

One lakh of rupees have also been earmarked for the purpose of sinking wells in the Nili Bar Colony and in those areas which are uncommanded and where it is impossible to carry the work of irrigation through channels or canals. This money is not to be realized like taccavi loans as arrears of land revenue, but people will have to pay it back by easy half-yearly instalments through their non-official agencies, like lambardars. It is hoped that if the people of that particular area take advantage of this method, more money will be provided for that purpose. The Government is not ignorant of well-boring also and it is doing a good deal of work to supply additional sources of irrigation. It has been said that the Honourable Minister in charge of the department has not done anything for the zamindar. This is most unfair. The Honourable Minister in charge of the department has risen from the ranks. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth and being a peasant proprietor himself he knows the practical difficulties of an ordinary agriculturist. He knows what misfortunes and troubles befall the lot of a small landholder. He has been shedding, and I should say, is prepared to shed every drop of his blood for the service of the agriculturist, and if he is unable to do anything to ameliorate the position of the Punjabi zamindar, I do not know of any other soul who breathes in this province who can do this thing better. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of great surprise to me that whenever any Honourable Minister rises to make a speech, he begins to sing praises of the department working under him and tries to win encomiums from a particular section of the House by quoting certain figures here and there in the budget. I am glad that my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh has done his duty by taking a leaf out of the book of the ministers. Similarly the honourable Sardar Jagjit Singh Man has followed in the footsteps of the honourable Sardar Bahadur and touched the same chord while making his speech on the cut motion under discussion. Again, when my honourable friend Chaudhri Riasat Ali rose to participate in the debate, he also harped

on the same arguments and took the trouble of repeating the figures as they appear in the budget. It is much to be regretted that such eminent and learned members of the treasury benches waste the highly useful time of the House by showering undue and undeserved praises on the Honourable Minister especially when we do not find anything done by him which may be considered extraordinary. There may be some justification for a minister to defend any of the departments under him from the usual criticism levelled against it by his opponents; but describing the black as white on the part of the learned and well-informed members does not seem commendable at all. They should bear in mind that such log-rolling and exchange of praises are not going to benefit our country in any way.

The speech made by my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh gave me an impression that to his mind there are only four duties of a government in respect of its agricultural department. He remarked that the Punjab Government has helped the zamindars by introducing new crops and has made arrangements for protecting such crops from catching any fell disease, for producing good seeds and for stabilizing the agricultural prices to a certain extent. But I must confess, Sir, that I have serious doubts about the tenability of the hyperbolic claims made by him. It goes without saying that the prosperity of the Punjab absolutely depends upon the prosperity of our zamindars who form 70 per cent of our population. If the present Government has done its duty by the zamindars and fulfilled its commitments towards them, it means that the Punjab is on the way to prosperity. Any such Government which is responsible for bringing prosperity to the people and effecting amelioration of the rural population, rightly deserves praises from all sections of the House. But if its efforts do not result in adding a single penny to our national wealth, it should be prepared to face the severest condemnation from every fair-minded person. I do admit that the Punjab Government intends to spend some 38 lakhs of rupees next year on the Agricultural Department, but may I ask in all seriousness whether this paltry sum will be enough to fulfil the requirements of the agriculturists? Would it be sufficient for the amelioration of the condition of the zamindars? I have reasons to believe that this Government is a bankrupt Government. It may smile at the use of the term "bankrupt," but I may submit that I have not used it in the ordinary sense of the word. What I mean to say is that the real supporters of the Government, i.e., the agriculturists are to-day face to face with bankruptcy of a terrible nature which would ultimately lead to the downfall of the present Government. The pitiable condition of the zamindars calls for drastic measures on the part of the Government. It is a fact that the land revenue paid by the zamindars is the main source of its income. In other words, the zamindars are in fact running the machinery of the Government. But I feel sorry to observe that the latter is not prepared to raise its little finger for improving their lot. The Government has been averting the inevitable bankruptcy for the last 10 years. After every 5 or 10 years a canal is dug and the poor and credulous agriculturists are advised to buy lands stretching along the canal but after a few years when the abadkars observe that the soil is losing its fertility and the yield of the land is decreasing day by day, they raise a hue and cry to the effect that the Government has played false with them. On this the Government comes forward with another stunt. Here I am reminded of an

(Sardar Lal Singh)

English saying which runs as follows :—" He made more money to buy more land to raise more grain to make more money, to buy more land....." It is a matter of regret that the Government has been exploiting the situation and behaving all this time in a clever manner. Similarly when the people of the Eastern Punjab grumbled for want for water, the Government appeased them by saying that the Bhakra Dam Scheme was under consideration of the Government. Although the Government made an announcement to this effect several years ago, yet it has not given any practical shape to its scheme. And so these are the tactics by which it tries to gag the aggrieved people. But does this show that the stability of the Government is assured? Does this mean that the present Government stands on firm and sound footing? I would like to sound a note of warning to the Government that by resorting to such tactics it cannot escape the impending bankruptcy. I am constrained to remark that this Government has run bankrupt

4 P.M.

and will remain bankrupt as long as it goes on turning the pages of the budget instead of referring to the actual economic condition of the people.

My honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh was pleased to observe that the Punjab Government had provided 38 lakhs of rupees for Agriculture in this year's budget, while in 1921 the expenditure of this department used to be 17 lakhs only. My honourable friend, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Biasat Ali, has also supported this view. But I am sorry to observe that the Sardar Bahadur has mis-stated facts when he said that the Punjab Government has provided more money than the Congress Government of the United Provinces for the Department of Agriculture. It is a habit with them to mis-state facts.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I did not say that. In fact I had observed that my Congress friends do not compare the population and the area of the United Provinces with those of the Punjab when they compare the budgets of the two provinces.

Sardar Lal Singh : I do admit that the population of the United Provinces is double that of the Punjab. But so far as the income is concerned I am inclined to remark that it is the same in both the provinces. The total revenue of each of them amounts to about 12 or 13 crores of rupees. Now let us consider the position of the Punjab Government dispassionately. The Unionist Ministry have provided a sum of 38 lakhs for the promotion of Agriculture in this province where 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture. But the Congress Government of the United Provinces had actually provided 71 lakhs on agriculture in 1938-39, that is, double as much as the Punjab Government has provided in 1939-40. (Shaiikh Muhammad Sadiq : Including the famine expenditure.) My honourable friend ought to know that there is a separate department for famine. Again, I may inform the House that 85 lakhs out of this sum of 71 lakhs was actually to be spent on the rural uplift of the United Provinces. Now let us consider the figures of our own budget. Out of the total sum provided for agriculture, as many as three lakhs of rupees will be spent on the salaries of the high officers, two lakhs on the farms, seven lakhs on propaganda and demonstrations among the people, 10 lakhs on the purchase of

seed which would be sold to the public—and the money thus spent will be recovered—this could be done by any firm—7 lakhs on research work, 2½ lakhs on education, 3 lakhs on boring operations, 3 lakhs on gardens. Only 7 lakhs for spreading knowledge of agriculture in the villages of this wide province. Against this the United Provinces Government has spent Rs. 35 lakhs on rural uplift work, which means that the money spent there will actually reach the tillers of the soil. That is the way to help the agriculturists. But our Government seem to have put forward a superfluous budget. It is a pity that the speech of the Honourable Minister for Finance did not deserve any praise although I am very anxious to persuade myself to praise him. He has shown absolutely no originality of thought or vision.

Turning again to the speech of my learned friend, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, I may be permitted to point out that in his attempt to prove that the Unionist Government has done a lot to improve the agricultural conditions of the zamindars of the Punjab, he has taken pains to inform the House that one crore and 35 lakhs have been added to the income of the agriculturists by the Government having introduced an improved variety of wheat, and another sum of one crore and 55 lakhs has been added through the improved variety of sugarcane and so on and so forth. But may I ask him to work out the figures and see how much the whole population of the Punjab will gain by this increase? The total population of this province is about two crores and the population of the zamindars and those dependent on agriculture, is one crore and sixty lakhs. Now the per capita income per annum in this province is only 14 or 15 rupees. If the honourable member will work out the figures, he will find that the increase which he has proved comes to be one rupee per head per annum in the Punjab. He may now calculate how many pies per month it will be for each individual. That is the big increase which the Unionists have brought about in the income of the zamindars and that is the increase of which they are so proud! I may note in this connection that my honourable friend, Professor W. Roberts, was pleased to observe that we should not hesitate to praise the Government where praise is due to it. I entirely agree with him and hasten to suggest that the increase effected certainly does some credit to the efficient staff engaged in performing experiments in the laboratories to find ways and means to improve the varieties of the agricultural commodities. But I fail to understand how the Ministers can claim credit for that. After all, the increase effected in the income of the zamindars by improved varieties works out to Rs. 5 per annum per head in the Punjab. In other words, the Unionists have added a few *kauris* to the income of the peasants whose per capita annual income is Rs. 15 only. (*Premier*: That is exactly so.) I am surprised to find my honourable friend the Premier jubilant over this trivial matter. But has he ever devoted a serious thought to the top-heavy administration of the Punjab? Will it not bring tears in his eyes if I would tell him that under his top-heavy administration, the poor agriculturists are groaning and starving? The growing population coupled with the fall in the prices of the agricultural commodities, has rendered them poorer still. The small increase due to the improved varieties of agricultural crops has made no appreciable effect on the prosperity of the Punjabis.

Again, my honourable friend, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, was pleased to observe that the peasants had made the purchase of a few hundred

[Sardar Lal Singh.]

ploughs and *khurpas*. By quoting this fact, he meant perhaps to prove that the conditions of the poverty-stricken agriculturists of the Punjab had improved. I am stating all this on the authority of Government reports. My honourable friend might have read only one report. But I may tell him that I have gone through seven reports for the years 1930 to 1938. These reports tell us that within this period of seven or eight years about three lakhs of improved agricultural implements were purchased by the agriculturists of this province. This means that about forty thousand implements were purchased by the people every year. I am subject to correction. If my statement is incorrect, the honourable members over there may point out to me where my mistake lies. I take it for granted that my statement is correct. Now on the assumption that forty thousand implements are purchased every year, if we take into consideration the total population of the province, that is, one crore and sixty lakhs and divide amongst them the number of implements purchased annually, we come to the conclusion that for every four hundred families only one man could purchase an agricultural implement like *khurpa* or *ramba*. From this you can very well conclude that the financial condition of the agriculturists of the province is anything but satisfactory. In this connexion let me quote the opinion of an Englishman who made the following remarks some three decades ago :—

Elaborate and costly departments have been created but the indigenous methods of agriculture have not been improved one jot or tittle by official enterprise. The Rayats of India possess an amount of knowledge and practical skill within their own humble sphere which no expert scientist can ever hope to acquire. Our attempts to teach the natives of India agriculture are based upon forgetfulness of the essential elements of the case. The native cultivators of India are too poor to be able to adopt the scientific improvements which English experience suggests.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man : What is the year of the report and who is the author?

Sardar Lal Singh : This book is "The Wealth of India" by Messrs. Wadia and Joshi. What I am quoting is the opinion of an Englishman, an eminent economist. Then, Sir, that eminent Englishman says further—

They are told to plough deeper to do more than scratch the soil. But it is forgotten that the cattle with which they plough are incapable of deep ploughing. We tell them to enrich their field with manure and that the produce of the land would be augmented by its use. No doubt it would. The Rayats do utilize manure as much as they possibly can in the way of simple forms of manure such as cow-dung which is, however, also an extremely useful article to the poor cultivator as a substitute for firewood, but they can no more afford to procure the expensive manures with which we are so familiar than they can afford to plough with elephants. I do not know whether the poverty of the people does not always obtrude as a permanent obstacle to improvement.

Well, Sir, the condition of the Punjab peasantry is as gloomy and hopeless to-day as it was at the time when this eminent Englishman made these remarks. Since then their condition has not in the least improved. They are getting poorer and poorer every day. Apparently there is some inherent defect in the administration of the country. As I have already shown, they are so poor that for every 400 cultivators, only one can purchase an ordinary implement like *ramba*.

Then again Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh while stating figures of export of wheat and grain exultantly remarked that this was a sure sign of the prosperity of the province. This is anything but true. The real reason for this is again explained by the author of the book already referred to above in the following words :—

India exports food-stuffs, not because she has a surplus, but because her people are deprived of the means to buy them and are compelled to live an underfed life.

This province does not export wheat and grain because it has surplus but because the people are poverty-stricken and are so placed that they cannot do otherwise. To say that they are happy and prosperous is absolutely wrong. There is a world of difference between our and Government's points of view. It considers the cultivators as well-to-do people but in our view they are most depressed and cannot make both ends meet. They are not living. They are simply existing. Look at England. She has a surplus of coal but never exports it even in winter. My friends over there will say that I am merely quoting from books. Let me ask the Honourable Minister for Agriculture if the famine conditions prevailing in the Hissar district indicate that the cultivators are well-off. You get the famished people of Hissar to toil for the whole day and you give males only two annas and females some six pice and the children two or three pice a day. Does it show that the financial condition of the cultivators is improved? In fact they are head and shoulders under debt. They have fallen on evil days, so much so that they cannot keep their body and soul together. Their position is the worst to-day.

May I know if this is what we are expected to congratulate the Government on? Have my honourable friends opposite showered encomiums on the Ministry merely because we are told that Rs. 38 lakhs are going to be spent on the department of agriculture? Now, Sir, let me make it quite clear that it is not our policy to condemn the Government in season and out of season. Far from it. We only request it to direct its attention towards the problems confronting the poor zamindars. We entreat it to tackle these problems without any further loss of time. The Honourable Minister in charge of agriculture cannot be so ignorant as not to know that even a negro in Africa gets seven or eight annas a day when he is required to accompany some sportsman to the jungle. But what is the state of affairs here in the Punjab which is called the granary of the North? Is there any civilized country in the world where a man would be overjoyed if he got three or four annas as wages for a full day's hard-work? Are these the instances by which my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh has tried to prove that the zamindars are living in affluence?

Again he was pleased to remark that "it is impossible for this Government to stabilize prices." Well, Sir, he may be right. But you will remember that this Government was asked by the Bombay Government to join hands with the latter in bringing pressure to bear upon the Government of India to take steps to get the exchange ratio changed from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 4d. for a rupee. At that time we on this side of the House too requested the Government to co-operate with the Bombay Government. But our Government refused point blank to do anything of the sort. Sir, it was the

[Sardar Lal Singh.]

duty of the Government to justify its attitude by proving that the proposed change in exchange ratio would have reduced the prices of agricultural produce still further. And if it cannot prove that then it certainly cannot escape the responsibility for all the consequences of this criminal dereliction of duty. If they lacked the necessary foresight and ability for taking the initiative they could take their cue from the Bombay Government and accept our suggestions in this connection.

Then he was pleased to remark with regard to the supply of canal water to fruit gardens that the Government had asked the Irrigation Department to give more water. Now, this betrays a pitiable lack of self-confidence on the part of my honourable friends opposite. They forget that they are the Government and consequently the Irrigation Department is one of their departments. It is a clear proof of their helplessness. It would have been much better if instead of referring us to the Irrigation Department they had openly confessed their helplessness in the matter.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : My honourable friend has not understood me. What I said was that the Irrigation authorities contended that there was no more water to spare for fruit gardens and, therefore, the Irrigation Department was asked to see if the extra supply to these gardens could be given.

Sardar Lal Singh : I am quite prepared to take my honourable friend at his word but his colleague, Sir W. Roberts, said that it is possible to effect an increase in the supply of water and I fail to understand what he means by that statement. How is it possible to increase this supply under the present circumstances? After all there are only five rivers in the Punjab and you cannot increase their number to six in order to get more water. Then if you deplete the rivers of one area for the benefit of another, you actually do a great harm to the former area. You know the Doaba was surrounded by two rivers and there was sufficient water in the wells for the crops of that *ilaga*. But since you have depleted these rivers the water table in that part of the province has gone down to the tune of 30 feet. Still my honourable friend opposite thinks that the Government can increase in one *ilaga* the water supply from the present sources without any harm being done to the other *ilaga*. How is it possible? Have my friends got a magic wand to work such wonders? Thus it is impossible to reconcile the two statements made by the Sardar Bahadur and Sir William Roberts. Anyway, it does not behove a Parliamentary Secretary of the Unionist Government to come forward to say that there is no water to spare for fruit gardens when this particular produce has so many possibilities. You know, Sir, that we are importing fruit worth lakhs of rupees every year and thus so much of our money is going out simply because we are denied the means to develop this particular industry.

Now, I have no desire to take up too much time of the House but there are certain very important points to which I must draw your attention. First of all I should like to point out that whenever we on these benches said that the present Government is only a reincarnation of its bureaucratic predecessor, my honourable friends opposite used to shake their heads in disagreement, but only the other day they themselves were pleased to admit

that the Unionist party had a hand in all that was done before the advent of provincial autonomy in the Punjab. In the Bhagwadgita Lord Krishna says to Arjuna: "I was extant before this world came into being, am extant at present and shall be extant when this world will be no more." Here the Unionist Government has claimed existence before it really came into being and so far as the present and the future are concerned the Honourable Premier has declared that his Government is to last not only for the five years prescribed in the Government of India Act but for five thousand years. Anyway what I mean to say is that the Government has admitted its closest affinity to its predecessor. Now it is the duty of the Punjab press to broadcast throughout the country that on its own admission the present Government of the Punjab is not a whit different from the previous bureaucratic Government. And if any further proof of this affinity were needed, it has been supplied by the Government by its attitude towards the *kisan jatha* of the Lahore district. The Government has shown that prestige is as much a fetish with it as it was with the previous Government. The *kisans* of the district came to Lahore to place their grievances before the Premier but the latter told them that if they wanted him to meet a deputation of theirs then it must consist of only the *kisans* of the district and not of their accredited leaders. The Honourable Premier replied that if any member from Ludhiana was included in that deputation of the Lahore zamindars, he would not meet that deputation at all. I for one cannot understand the object of the Honourable Premier in asking the deputationists not to include any member from the Ludhiana district. May I know whether the condition of the zamindars outside the Lahore district is somewhat different from that of the zamindars of this district? Well, Sir, they agreed that no member from outside the district of Lahore would be included in the deputation. Then again the deputationists were told that they should not include Mr. Yog Raj amongst them. They agreed to comply with this demand of the Honourable Premier as well.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

Sardar Lal Singh : I am speaking to the motion.

Mr. Speaker : I have given my ruling and do not want any discussion on it. I expect the honourable member to follow it.

Sardar Lal Singh : I was submitting that seventy per cent of the people of this province depend on agriculture and so long as the attitude of the Government remains unchanged it is impossible to ameliorate the hard lot of the poor zamindars. They are groaning under the increased weight of land revenue and the Honourable Minister in charge—

Mr. Speaker : I did not mean that the honourable member was irrelevant. Anything can be made relevant; but I would request him not to bring in matters which he is bringing in.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Sir, what he meant to say, as I understood him, is this that as the land revenue in the Lahore district has been increased by 30 to 50 per cent, it is bound to affect agriculture in the district of Lahore and therefore the representatives of agriculturists ought to be heard. They should be given an opportunity to lay their grievances before the Government.

Mr. Speaker : A statement to that effect would be perfectly justified but to go into further details would not be justified.

Sardar Lal Singh : I was submitting, that so long as the present Government do not give any opportunity to the zamindars to lay their grievances before them and do not allow them even to see the Ministers, I am of the opinion that it is very difficult for any one to take to agriculture and to thrive on it. I go further and say that so long as the attitude of the present Government remains unchanged, even if they grant 84 crores, that would not improve matters and the zamindars will never flourish.

Now I wish to say one or two things more. The first is that when we quite realize that our land cannot support the increasing population of the province, it is highly necessary that we should do something to direct the surplus population to other professions, e.g., industry. But it is absolutely necessary that there should be some capital for the starting of industries, and that is not forthcoming. The second thing which I wish to lay before you is this that the Government should see that those lands which previously produced only one maund, should now produce $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. This thing requires that we should spread manure in our fields. And manure cannot be had for the mere asking but it requires some capital as well. I respectfully submit that the attitude that the present Government has adopted towards the capitalists and the recent legislation that has been passed has divided the population of the country into two camps. It has become very difficult for the zamindars to procure capital from the *sahukars*. As a matter of fact the agrarian legislation of the present Government has reduced the credit of the zamindars and thereby the capital has become shy. The capitalist and the *sahukars* will now think twice before they lend any money to any zamindar. I think the agricultural interest as a whole would also suffer. In this connection I would like to cite an example. A few days ago a military pensioner, who is enjoying a pension of Rs. 180 a month, who has several war medals and who is in possession of two squares of land, was forced to take away his children from school. The reason was that he could not raise even a small loan of Rs. 200 from his village in order to meet some urgent expenses. Such are the conditions under which the zamindars are labouring. In fact their credit has fallen very low.

In the end I wish to point out one very important thing. I know that the Honourable Minister is dead against the taking of bribes and in fact he wishes to cut at the very root of corruption. But let me tell him that his attitude towards the Jat officers indirectly encourages corruption. How? I will explain it in a minute. A small booklet has been issued by the Finance Department. In this book the expenditure about agriculture has been set down. It is stated here in this book that a certain clerk prepared a form which involved a sum of Rs. 20,000 and got it signed by an officer perhaps who was drawing Rs. 500 or 700 a month. And in this way the department had to suffer a loss of Rs. 20,000. But may I ask how was that officer treated? It is stated that he was let off after being severely censured. A person who was guilty of neglect of duty was let off after some rebukes. I may submit that ordinary people cannot even earn Rs. 20,000 in their lifetime and it is in reality a big fortune. Another example is in connection

with the Seeds department. This department has suffered a loss of Rs. 89,000 in one year in wheat seed alone. Nobody cares a jot for these things. The officers of the department are neglecting their duty and the department is suffering heavy losses. It is possible that some of my friends would inquire as to how these people escape punishment. In this connection I may submit that the Honourable Minister has a great love for the Jats. When anybody mentions the name of Jat before him, he becomes exhilarated and forgets everything else. The people are fully aware of his weakness. Wherever he goes, people simply tell him that they are holding a meeting of the Jats and he should participate in it. He at once accepts their invitation and forgets everything else. This is the way in which the guilty escape unnoticed.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Very far fetched.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please speak to the motion ?

Sardar Lal Singh : I am talking of corruption in the department. The result generally is that the officials try to win his favour by resorting to such kind of flattery. Every one knows that even the ordinary naib-tahsildars when they go on tour waste many precious days of the poor zamindars who happen to have some business with them. But by extending one invitation to the Honourable Minister they cover up all their misdeeds and dereliction of duty. I would like to illustrate my point by citing an instance. There is a rakh in Ludhiana. The Government officers at Ludhiana wanted to raise a building for the club which they had formed there. They made an encroachment on the Ludhiana rakh and got the necessary money for building the club hall on that land from a rich man who must have several suits pending in the local courts. The Government did not take any action against these officers who had misappropriated the public property. Had any other person attempted to do so he would have been challaned by this time under section 443, Indian Penal Code.

In the end I would request the Government to realize the gravity of the situation from our point of view. Such half-hearted measures on its part are not going to ameliorate the condition of the poor zamindars. If it proposes to do any good to them, it should make constant endeavour to effect radical changes in the direction. With these words, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the cut motion under discussion.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : I wish to make a few observations in regard to one or two important points raised during the course of discussion on the demand under consideration—the demand for grant for Agriculture. But after hearing the rambling and confused speech of the honourable member who preceded me I had to make sure by consulting my neighbour here whether we were still discussing the demand for Agriculture. The two points to which I wish to refer are, first, the suggestion made by my friends opposite that Government had done nothing to increase the purchasing power of the cultivator and, secondly, the question of ratio. The question of ratio was raised during the course of the discussion as an argument to support the contention that Government had failed to improve the purchasing power of the agriculturist which could have been easily done by deflating the currency or by altering

[Premier.]

the exchange ratio. As regards the purchasing power of the agriculturist, this House is aware, or should be aware, that during the past few years, by reason of introduction of improved varieties of seeds of cotton and wheat, several crores of rupees have been added to the income of the agriculturists. Unfortunately, that increase or advantage has been more than counter-balanced by the fall in prices. But for this unfortunate and unprecedented fall in prices, the standard of living of zamindars in this province would have improved considerably. It is a matter for gratification that even now the standard of living in the Punjab is higher than that in any other province in the country. I am sure my honourable friends opposite will concede that but for this unprecedented world-wide depression Punjab would have by now left the rest of India far behind.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

My honourable friends opposite have failed to recognise the fact that there are several factors which impinge on the purchasing power of the cultivator and over which we have no control. For instance, there is the question of prices. Normally, as you are aware, Sir, it is a question of supply and demand. Prices ordinarily and primarily are governed by the supply and demand factor. That factor is wholly out of our control and, as a matter of fact, it is beyond the control of the Government of India also. But in spite of this difficulty, and in spite of other handicaps and limitations which are well known, the Punjab Government has succeeded in securing some advantage for the grower by pressing the Central Government (*Hear, hear*) to give such assistance to the agriculturists as lay in their power. You are aware, Sir, that the question of duty on foreign wheat was taken up by the present Government immediately after we assumed office. After protracted correspondence and negotiations and unceasing efforts on the part of the Government in which we received solid support from this House, we were ultimately successful in persuading the Government of India to re-impose duty on wheat. We are indebted to Sir James Grigg and Sir Zafrullah Khan as without their sympathetic support it would have been difficult to get the Government of India accede to our request. Unfortunately this duty has been put on only temporarily for the present and I am certain that I am voicing the feelings of all sections of this House, including those members who are not directly concerned with agriculture, when I say that they would like us to make further and strong representations to the Government of India with a view to secure an extension of period as also an increase of this duty. (*Cheers*). We propose to make a representation, as strongly and emphatically as we can, to the Government of India on this question.

Before I deal with the duty on cotton, allow me, very briefly, to refer to the question of exchange ratio. I confess that the subject is a very complex and delicate one. It is a subject on which even experts and eminent economists, like my Hon'ble colleague the Finance Minister, hesitate to commit themselves unconditionally. It is a highly controversial and technical subject and I do not propose to enter into a controversy on the present occasion; nor is it necessary for my purpose. All that I want to say is this, that had we been convinced that the time had arrived for

pressing for a change in the existing ratio in the interest of the cultivator and the general public in this province, your Government would not have hesitated for a moment to do so. But I must also frankly confess that after consulting experts and after full and careful consideration, we came to the conclusion that at the present juncture a change in the present ratio was not likely to affect the price of commodities or otherwise benefit the agriculturist if it was reduced from $1/6$ to $1/4$ or even lower.

Sardar Hari Singh : Try for a year.

Premier : It is not in my power to do so. I may have taken the risk and gambled for a year if only to convince my honourable friend that he was wrong and I was right, but I have not the authority to do so. It is the Central Government which has that power. But even if I could do so I would not have taken a step which might prove to be false having regard to the agricultural economy in this province. My honourable friend will concede, as all those who have studied this question must concede, that a reduction in the present ratio could benefit the agriculturists only if by such manipulation the export of agricultural commodities can be stimulated at prices which correspond to parity in the chief commodity markets in Europe or elsewhere. Without this essential corollary which is often taken for granted by the protagonists of $1/4$ ratio, it is futile to expect that any benefit will accrue to the agriculturists in this country. If my honourable friends could convince me that that would happen as the result of a reduction of rate of exchange from $1/6$ to $1/4$, I would not hesitate for a moment to support the proposition, and I can confidently assert that my Hon'ble colleague the Finance Minister also would not be behind any other Finance Minister of any province in pressing for a change in the exchange ratio. We came to the conclusion after giving much thought to this vexed problem that the necessary stimulus to our exports which alone could justify a change was unlikely under the existing circumstances. I am not laying down any hard and fast rule. All that I say is that under the conditions which exist at present it is extremely doubtful whether the alteration of ratio would benefit the growers. We are however certain of one thing and that is this, that our sterling commitments and liabilities would increase straightaway by a bound. My honourable friends opposite cannot deny that obvious fact. To sum up, the position is this. While on the one hand our sterling commitments would increase immediately, on the other side, there is no certainty that there would be any increase in the exports of our agricultural produce. Apart from exchange there are other factors which militate against any such possibility. For instance, let us take wheat. My honourable friends are aware that we have been pressing for a protective duty in order to stop the dumping of Australian wheat in this country. Export can take place only if our prices are equal to or below the prices of wheat in other countries. It is a simple and elementary rule of economics that no country can expect to export its produce unless it can compete successfully with other countries which produce the same commodity. Unfortunately we are not in that position. My honourable friends, if they have been following the trend of prices and movements of agricultural produce, will agree with me that it is not possible to stimulate our exports so long as our prices remain above the world parity. It follows therefore that we cannot expect to benefit or stimulate our exports at present by a change

[Premier.]

in the exchange ratio. Again, my honourable friends who press for a change in the ratio must remember that it is not possible to take unilateral action in this matter. They must not imagine that if India were to manipulate its currency and exchange, other countries which will be affected by this action, would acquiesce quietly and not retaliate.

Sardar Hari Singh : Other countries have already done it.

Premier : You cannot stop other countries from doing it again. If we reduce to $\frac{1}{4}$ they can also act to wipe off any advantage which we might gain.

Sardar Hari Singh : It will be you who will be retorting ; they have already done it.

Premier : The real difficulty is that we do not count where world markets are concerned.

Sardar Hari Singh : Why ? What is the reason ?

Premier : The reason is simple. Take for instance, wheat. We do not control the wheat markets ; there are other countries which control the world wheat markets, for instance Russia, Argentine, Brazil, Canada, Australia and other European countries. Similarly with regard to cotton we are in the same position. I do not think I need dwell on this complex and highly technical problem any longer. I trust I have made the position clear as best as a layman can do. I have some experience in these matters and I repeat my assurance to my hon'ble friends that had there been the slightest prospect of getting some benefit for our agriculturists by the manipulation of exchange, the present Government would have been the first to press the Government of India to alter.

Sardar Hari Singh : Even if you have to displease British imperialism ?

Premier : I am coming to that shortly. If my honourable friend will have the patience and will not interrupt me, I will tell him how the so-called 'patriotic' nationalists behave and exploit the term used by him. Just let me tell him what we have done. Take wheat. We have been pressing the Government of India ever since we took office, to put duty on foreign wheat, and we have succeeded in persuading them to do so. We consider that the duty is inadequate but we are glad that it has been re-imposed. We propose to make further representation for an increase. Now, take cotton. Here again though the House may not be aware of it, we have been constantly striving to persuade the Government of India to put duty on imported cotton because Punjab and Sindh, as also some other provinces, grow cotton which is surplus to the requirements of this country and which we must export. Our sales have been curtailed as a result of the Sino-Japanese War. Other foreign countries do not now look to us for their raw cotton requirements. There is a large quantity of cotton in our hands every year. Therefore to safeguard the interests of our agriculturists we pressed for duty on imported cotton. Unfortunately some of our 'patriotic' millowners buy foreign cotton in preference to Indian cotton. In the circumstances, it was our duty to represent strongly to the Government of India that some duty should be imposed on imported

cotton. As my friends are aware, the Finance Member of the Government of India, eventually agreed to put on a small duty for one year only and incorporated it in the Finance Bill. (*A voice*: It is a revenue duty). Whether it is a revenue duty or a protective duty, it suits me. My honourable friends know what happened to the Finance Bill and the cotton duty in the Central Legislature. The 'patriotic' millowners set the tune and the majority party there joined in the chorus and refrained with a gusto. What did you do about it? The Finance Member is being maligned by the so-called national press and 'the patriotic' Congressmen because he came to the rescue of the poor agriculturists by imposing this duty. I must here pay my quota of tribute to the sagacity, sympathy and far sightedness of Sir James Grigg in presenting once again a budget which is a poor man's budget and is in the best interest of the country and the agriculturists. The chief characteristics of the Finance Member are that he is frank and straightforward sometimes to the extent of being considered Frusque. Nobody, not even his worst enemies, can doubt his frankness and honesty. He tried to help the agriculturists by imposing this duty. And who thwarted him? The very people who pose to be the greatest friends of the poor and the down trodden masses. They opposed the Finance Bill and moved an amendment for the elimination of this particular item, namely cotton duty, from the Finance Bill. And Sir, who are the people who would have been affected by this duty? The multi-millionaire mill-owners. There can be no better corroboration of the suggestions made in some quarters that these multi-millionaire mill-owners control the Congress caucus at the present moment. At any rate that seems to be the position in the Central Legislature. My honourable friend wanted to know what the Punjab Government had done or is doing to raise the purchasing power of the people. He should now have the courage to get up and say that while we have done our best to help the peasant by persuading the Government of India to put a duty on wheat and cotton, the representatives of the multi-millionaire mill-owners and the Congress had joined hands in the Central Legislature to undo what little had been done in the interests of the agriculturists. I do hope that the clause relating to cotton duty would be restored when the Bill is certified. If it is not restored when the Bill is certified it would mean that the benefit which would have accrued to the agriculturists of this province.....

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether it is a fact that the price of cotton has not increased in spite of this duty?

Premier : My honourable friend says that the price of cotton has not increased. Facts and figures have been quoted on the floor of the House which indicate that the price of cotton after this duty was announced rose by Rs. 10 per candy for long staple and Rs. 5 for short staple.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker occupied the Chair).

Diwan Chaman Lall : The price per candy was Rs. 154 before the announcement and to-day it is Rs. 154 per candy Broach.

Premier : My honourable friend is very likely correct ; it is because the market is aware that that particular item in the Finance Bill had been deleted by my honourable friend's confreres in the Central Assembly. (*Applause*).

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does my friend know that this Bill is generally certified ?

Premier : My honourable friend says that this Bill is always certified. I concede that it is always certified. But why ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does he know that it has been generally certified ? (*Interruptions*).

Premier : My honourable friend says that this Bill is certified every year. I admit that. I agree with him, but I trust, Sir, that my honourable friend would in fairness and justice also concede that the budgets during the past 4 or 5 years were different from the previous budgets and the present budget is an outstanding example of this change. I do not hold a brief for the Finance Member of the Government of India, but I must say that Sir James Grigg, during his regime—and if I may say so, a memorable regime—has been instrumental in contributing to the provinces substantial sums from the central revenues much earlier than any one expected and in spite of the depression, I submit, Sir, that this is an achievement which would redound to his credit in the financial history of this country. But apart from this outstanding achievement the fact that the present budget is essentially a poor man's budget, and was conceived to help the agriculturists should have been enough for the so-called friends of the poor to support it. If they desired to force Government to have resort to certification on the pretext of political expediency, they should have thrown out the whole Bill. One can legitimately ask, why did they move an amendment for deleting this particular item if they wanted to throw out the whole Bill ? (*Hear, hear*). But it is impossible to shut one's eyes to the glaring and obvious fact that an amendment was moved by the Congress Party and was carried with the help of representatives of the rich mill-owners in the Assembly to omit the duty on cotton.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friend—and I am grateful to him for giving way—whether he is not aware that there is a very serious opinion in the country that the imposition of an extra duty means an extra burden on the poor, by raising prices ?

Premier : I am fully aware that there is a school of thought in this country who put forward the argument that this duty is likely to put a further burden on the poor. But who are the people who put forward that argument ? The very persons whom I have named, that is, the representatives of the multi-millionaire mill-owners and their henchmen in the Central Assembly, my honourable friend's political companions and confreres. (*Applause*). As I have said, if they had not moved the amendment for elimination of this duty, they might have succeeded in saving their faces to some extent. Sir James Grigg came to the assistance of the provinces much earlier than the most optimistic financial prophets could forecast and they should have had the decency of giving him credit for this at least. I quite realise that in view of their relations with the millowners they could not take the risk of applauding him, much less supporting him, for presenting a budget which was meant to help the middle classes as well as the hard hit agriculturists. I can confidently assert that, whatever those multi-millionaire friends of my honourable friend might say when Sir James Grigg relinquishes office, the country as a whole would regret his departure because

he is a friend of the under-dog and has never lacked courage and frankness to speak out the truth. Diplomacy and the term 'political expediency' are foreign to his nature. I can assure you, Sir, that so far as Sir James Grigg is concerned, his regime will remain memorable, and the masses—the middle class and the peasant will always remember him with gratitude and affection. The only class which will perhaps continue to malign him is that class of multi-millionaires whom my honourable friends opposite want to support and shield by the name of 'nationalism.'

Now, Sir, so far as the purchasing power of the agriculturist is concerned the Indo-British trade agreement is also germane to the question. Probably my friends opposite would adopt the same attitude in regard to this agreement as they did about the cotton duty. I might remind the House that under the Ottawa Pact Great Britain enjoyed a large number of preferences in respect of goods imported into India. If I remember correctly those preferences amounted to about 18 crores. They have now, under this agreement, been reduced to less than half, that is to about 8 crores. I must here offer our thanks and congratulation to our two representatives—Sir William Roberts and Sardar Datar Singh—for their excellent work as members of the Advisory Committee. Now let us see what has been done for our agricultural produce. Tobacco has been given a preference which it never had before. Linseed and jute, which are produced by the agriculturists in Bengal—but perhaps they do not interest my honourable friends opposite—and tea, which is one of the important commodities imported into Great Britain and produced in this country, hides and skins and several other commodities which directly benefit the agriculturist, have received preference. The most important part of the agreement which has been so ably discussed in his minute by my honourable friend, Sir William Roberts, is, however, the arrangement about the off-take of cotton. As you are aware, Lancashire was very chary of binding itself to any figure so far as the off-take of cotton was concerned. Unfortunately some members of the advisory board who represented agricultural interests were in a hopeless minority. They were only two, and even two swallows do not make a summer. The rest of the advisory body consisted of big mill-owners, who tried every ruse to torpedo this arrangement. Their tactics were such of which even a school boy would be ashamed. They said, that this arrangement was not going to help the agriculturists, the very argument which my honourable friend opposite has employed. Now let us face facts. Formerly, England used to take between 200,000 and 300,000 bales of cotton but under the new arrangement Lancashire will buy over 400,000 in the first instance, then over 500,000 and eventually over 600,000 bales of cotton every year. That is the arrangement proposed in the new agreement. The representatives of millowners said that Great Britain should take at least (*interruptions*)—

Diwan Cahman Lall : No, they did not say it.

Premier : Then who said it ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Others whom my honourable friend has maligned here on the floor of the House. Great Britain should take a larger share than the share that my honourable friend's colleague wanted her to take. Is it a crime to insist on Great Britain taking a larger share of cotton under the agreement ?

Premier : Exactly. That is precisely what I would call a childish ruse. (*Interruptions*). They said we would agree to the proposals, provided Lancashire agrees to take a million bales. How considerate of them ! It was merely a ruse to torpedo the whole agreement on the pretext that they were turning it down in the interests of the agriculturist. One of the Punjab members in the Central Assembly who belongs to the National Congress Party, has moved a similar amendment, no doubt inspired, that Lancashire should be forced to take at least 10 lakhs of bales, knowing full well that this was impracticable at the present stage. We want to increase our exports in order to raise the prices and also to stimulate the increase of long staple cotton. When the Lancashire delegation came here they refused to bind themselves to even 300,000 bales, and now my friend wants Lancashire to take 10 millions. If Lancashire should be forced to take 10 millions....

Diwan Chaman Lall : One million.

Premier : I am sorry—one million. If Lancashire had been willing to take one million, there would have been no dispute, and we would have been only too happy. But why did they not say that they expected Lancashire to take more than what was stipulated in the agreement ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : They said so.

Premier : They said all kinds of impossible things. That is my point that every possible ruse was tried to torpedo that agreement. Why ? Because it was sought to elbow out the small quantity of Lancashire goods which constitute only 12½ per cent. of the total textiles consumed in the country so that the indigenous multi-millionaire millowners should grow fatter.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Try every ruse. Is it a crime if Great Britain is asked to take more cotton ?

Premier : Certainly not. But is this the way to secure an increase ? (*Interruptions*). So far as my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall is concerned, I am perfectly willing to give way to him, but I hope the other members will not make any further interruptions. I respectfully suggest, Sir, that I should be allowed to finish my speech. If they do not want me to continue, I am willing to sit down. But I do not wish to be interrupted like this.

I repeat, Sir, that they tried every possible ruse to torpedo the agreement. My friends opposite say that we should not accept twelve annas. Why ? Is it because if we accept twelve annas the mill industry will have to forego a small portion of their large profits ? They want us to press for full sixteen annas, hoping that we might be taken in by this ruse. They want us to cry for the moon. They know that Great Britain has already conceded a great deal and would not go any further. We are not fools to be taken in by that ruse. How is it that my friends opposite have suddenly become such enthusiastic champions of the cause of the peasant that they should try to out-Herod Herod ? When we who represent the agriculturists say that we are for the present content with an off-take of 600,000 bales, why should they worry and press for one million ? When the representatives of the agriculturists are prepared to accept the arrangement

regarding the increased off-take proposed in the agreement, why should the representatives of the multi-millionaire mill-owners cavil at it? Perhaps lubricants which turn the wheels of textile industry are responsible for this sudden acceleration of exaggerated sympathy for the poor peasant. My friends ought to know by now that they cannot thus throw dust in the eyes of everybody.

This agreement may or may not be ratified. I earnestly hope for the sake of our own province and the country that it will be passed. Unfortunately the signs are not propitious and I am afraid that it is likely to be torpedoed, because at the moment in the Central Assembly the Party in opposition, which is the party in power, is working hand in glove with the multi-millionaire mill-owners who want to torpedo this agreement. If they succeed in throwing it out then all that I can say is that their action will constitute the greatest betrayal of the interest of the poor and middle classes ever recorded in the history of this country.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Ask Mr. Jinnah to get it passed.

Premier : I wish he had the necessary majority behind him.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : He holds the balance of power. But Mr. Jinnah will not support this agreement.

Premier : So far as we are concerned, we have done our best and are doing our best to support this agreement which, as I have said, is in the interest of India and is a great improvement over the previous agreement. It is conceded by everybody including the multi-millionaire mill magnates and the Congress opposition that it is a great improvement upon the previous agreement. To this I would add that it is an agreement which is obviously and demonstrably in the interest of the agriculturists. If it is torpedoed, it will be no fault of this Government or the Punjab representatives on the Advisory Committee. It will be no fault of the Central Government either, because there we have a stalwart Punjabi in the person of Sir Zafrullah Khan who is mainly responsible for securing such valuable concessions and attractive terms for his country which far exceed the expectations of everybody. There were a large number of experts and influential interests arrayed on the other side and Sir Zafrullah Khan fought them almost single-handed and has come out of the affray with flying colours. So if this agreement is thrown out, it will not be through any fault of those who have the real interests of the poor agriculturists and the masses at heart, but on account of the machinations of mill-owners, the multi-millionaire millowners and their paid agents, whether inside the legislature or outside. As I have said, it is our duty to enter a strong protest and caveat against the attitude which the Congress Party has adopted against this agreement in the Central Assembly. So far as we are concerned we have done our best and will continue to do our best to get whatever it is possible to secure for the agriculturists and other deserving classes by pressing on the Government of India the necessity for affording them relief in every possible direction, and I can assure the House that we would not relax our efforts and would even redouble them to save these classes from exploitation by their capitalist adversaries. (*Prolonged cheers*).

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): A short while ago the honourable member representing the European community said that it served no useful purpose either to minimise what your opponents had been doing here or to exaggerate what had been done by your friends in other provinces. Comparisons are always odious and I wish I could have avoided all comparisons entirely, but some times these comparisons are forced upon us. When references are frequently made by the members of the Opposition to what has been done in other provinces, we have willy-nilly to reply to their criticism some times by counter-comparisons. Not many days ago an honourable member of the Opposition suggested that in the Bombay province a provision of 29 lakhs had been made under the head 'Industries' and that it represented a big jump from 13 lakhs to 29 lakhs. Now on examination of the figures it was found that the actual budget provision for Industries in Bombay was in the neighbourhood of only 15 lakhs. Only yesterday the mover of this cut suggested that in the United Provinces a budgetary provision of 80 lakhs had been made under Agriculture. So far as the actual figure is concerned, it is correct. But, I am afraid, he has placed a very wrong interpretation on this figure. If we examine the various items composing this figure, we shall find that half of this amount is represented by a provision for rural uplift special schemes and under these schemes the members will be surprised to find that there is only one item of the value of Rs. 2,000 which can properly fall under Agriculture as we understand the term here. All the other items are industrial, or educational or medical or something else than agricultural in their character. I will draw the attention of the honourable members only to a few of these items.

Items 6 and 7 ..		.. Water supply in rural areas ..	Rs. 2,11,920
[This item ought to fall under Public Health.]			
Item 8 ..	..	.. Water supply for scheduled classes.	Rs. 30,000
Item 9 ..	..	.. Grant to rural libraries ..	43,000
Item 12 ..	..	.. Grant to districts for adult education.	1,60,000
Item 17 ..	..	.. Grant for cottage industries ..	2,42,208
Item 20 ..	..	.. Guarantee of dividends to provincial co-operative bank.	50,000
Item 22 ..	..	.. Grant for visual education ..	94,080
Item 24 ..	..	.. Grant-in-aid to libraries ..	30,000
Item 15 ..	..	.. Grant for the encouragement of fruit planting and vegetable cultivation in rural areas.	2,000

This last is the only item which can be considered to be for the benefit of agriculturists. All the other items which I have enumerated should have come under heads other than agriculture; and yet the interpretation that was placed by my honourable friends on the budget provision under Agriculture in the United Provinces was that that province was providing 80 lakhs of rupees for Agriculture. After this preliminary observation with regard to the manner in which some friends have fallen into error, I would come to the subject of Agriculture proper.

Some constructive suggestions were made by various members, the honourable mover of the cut himself being responsible for most of them. I will take those suggestions one by one. The first suggestion was that this Government should do something to augment

the income of the poor agriculturists by means other than those of agriculture. Agriculture by itself can never be adequate to safeguard the economic interests of the agriculturists nor can it bring any substantial prosperity to those classes. Therefore he suggested that we should industrialise the province thoroughly. Here again I may be allowed to suggest that the subject of industries cannot properly be discussed under Agriculture. But I agree with my honourable friend that one of the best remedies for the ills to which agriculturists are subject is to industrialise the province thoroughly, and I assure the House that so far as it lies in my power and in the power of the Government of which I am a member we will do our best to promote the interests of industries and to do all we can to industrialise the province at a quick pace.

The second suggestion that was made was that we should also promote some industries subsidiary to agriculture in order to supplement the poor income which the agriculturists now derive from their ancestral profession. This suggestion, again, is a very good one and is quite welcome to me. We shall continue to do what we have been doing in the past and will also quicken the pace in this particular direction. But there are certain things which are probably not known to the honourable mover of the cut and perhaps to some other honourable members also. Therefore I will just draw their attention to a few subsidiary industries upon which emphasis has been laid by the Department of Agriculture. These industries are, first, bee-keeping. This industry can easily be undertaken by agriculturists in certain parts of the province and the Department of Agriculture has devoted special attention to the industry in those parts. Those who have been to the Kangra district will have noticed that there are two bee-keeping farms in that district, one at Nagrota and the other somewhere in the Kulu Valley. The next industry, poultry farming, has also been encouraged by the department and although I confess that the progress in this direction has not been as satisfactory as one could have wished, yet it cannot be said that the department has ignored poultry farming. Next comes fruit culture. This is an industry to which a good deal of attention was devoted by various honourable members. Quite a good deal of ill-informed criticism was offered against the Government to the effect that nothing very much was being done. Here again I submit that although I should like to do a good deal more than has so far been done, yet I warn the members of the House against the uncharitable assertion that nothing has been done in this direction. I will just enumerate a few of the activities for which the department is responsible and which, if continued, will result in a good deal of additional income to the agricultural classes. Now, for the supply of reliable nursery plants we have established farms at a number of places, for instance, there is one farm at Lyallpur, another at Montgomery, a third at Muzaffargarh, a fourth at Multan, two more at Jullundur and Gurdaspur. Perhaps many honourable members are not acquainted with the existence of these farms. But this is not all. We have lately established a farm of 25 acres at Palampur which will serve as a nursery for cold region fruit plants. Another farm for fruit culture has been established at Rakh Gandala. This farm has an area of 75 acres and will be run by the District Board of Jhelum under the supervision and guidance of the Department of Agriculture. A portion of the area will be reserved for starting nursery of reliable plants. Again, in order to

[Minister for Development.]

encourage fruit culture, shows are held in various parts of the province. For instance, at Simla, Murree, Rawalpindi, Multan, Lahore and Jullundur, annual fruit shows are held. Then again we have established a canning hall in the Lyallpur College. Fresh machinery has been set up in order to give practical training to our own students as well as those who come from outside the province in the art of fruit preservation with the result that several people have set up businesses of a flourishing character in three or four towns in the Punjab. Again, cold storage experiments have been undertaken at Lyallpur. The results so far attained cannot be regarded as conclusive, but appear to give a fair promise of success. The number of nursery plants supplied to the inhabitants of the province was only 20,000 in 1936-37. This number has now mounted to over 50,000. Lastly, there is a Joint Fruit Development Board with a very energetic and vigorous Secretary and very influential members serving on it. I am sure that with the establishment of this Board the province will make satisfactory progress in this line. So far as Government is concerned it has been able to provide for Rs. 2,500 even in a period of the acutest possible financial stringency. This will indicate the solicitude of the Department of Agriculture and of the Government to promote the interests of fruit culture.

Now, I must refer to another suggestion which was made by the honourable mover of the cut and repeated by two or three other members of the Opposition. They suggested the reduction of land revenue and water rates on the one hand and the payment of bonuses and subsidies to agriculturists on the other. I shall take these two suggestions together and analyse their financial effects. Our income from land revenue and water rates is approximately ten crores. What reduction do you suggest? I think those who advocate the reduction of land revenue and water rates regard a 25 per cent reduction as a very moderate and reasonable demand. Shall we proceed on the basis of a 25 per cent cut in land revenue and water rates? The result will be that we shall be losing $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores every year. I shall say absolutely nothing at the present moment about the merits of the proposed reduction in water rates and land revenue. But let us see what the effect of this reduction will be on the revenues of the province. We shall lose $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores. Our present income is $11\frac{1}{2}$ crores. Subtracting these $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores from $11\frac{1}{2}$ crores we are left with only 9 crores.

Now let us come to the question of bonuses and subsidies. What bonus, what subsidy will my honourable friends propose? The average annual area under wheat crop is 95 lakh acres and the annual outturn of wheat in the Punjab has been estimated at 3 million tons. This means approximately 8 crores of maunds. Now what is the subsidy which my friends propose? My friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, quoted my view as expressed in the Abiana Committee's Report and stated that at one time I regarded a price of Rs. 2-8-0 per maund as marking the danger point. I still adhere to that view. Any price below Rs. 2-8-0 is in the danger zone. Perfectly true. Our prices during the last two years have ranged round about Rs. 2, either annas 2 or 3 below Rs. 2 or annas 2 or annas 8 above Rs. 2. What subsidy would honourable members belonging to the Opposition propose? Shall we place it at Re. 1 per maund, because that will take us out of the danger zone? If we propose a bonus of Re. 1 per maund, it will mean 8 crores of

rupees. If we place it at even annas 8 a maund, it will mean 4 crores of rupees on wheat alone. Now let us come to another important crop of the province, namely, cotton. The area under cotton is in the neighbourhood of 8 million acres and at a moderate average yield my estimate is that every year the Punjab is producing 2 crores of maunds of cotton. What bonus will my friends suggest? I think at one time a leading member of the Opposition suggested that the price of *kapas* should be fixed at Rs. 8 per maund. Now the prices have been, so far as *desi* cotton is concerned, in the neighbourhood of Rs. 4—sometimes a few annas above Rs. 4 and sometimes a few annas below Rs. 4. In the case of American cotton, the prices have ranged round the figure of Rs. 6, either a few annas less or a few annas more. Shall we accept Rs. 2 per maund as a reasonable bounty? What will the result be? Another four crores of rupees. So on these two crops alone you will have to spend on your bonus a huge amount of Rs. 8 crores a year. With reduction in land revenue and water-rates we are left with only 9 crores of income. With a balance of just one crore how are you going to run this Government, how are you going to provide for courts, how are you going to provide for the police, for education, for public health, for medical relief, for veterinary services and so on? Our present resources are just sufficient to maintain the existing services. It does not matter if you get 20 lakhs more in one year or 20 lakhs less in another year. The fact remains that the present income is fully committed to the maintenance of the existing services. You have no margin to fall back upon either for reduction of land taxes or for bounties. If you give a bonus of 8 crores of rupees to two crops alone, what have you in hand to run this Government with? And if you allow a bonus in the case of cotton and wheat, why not in the case of sugarcane, why not in the case of *bajra*, why not in the case of *jowar*, why not in the case of gram? I am afraid my friends prefer to dwell in the clouds. They fight shy of this firm earth. Let us take things as they are and not indulge in illusions, however fascinating. I would like very much to have tons of money to spend here, tons of money to spend there, tons of money to put into the pockets of agriculturists as well as into the pockets of the poor shopkeepers. But where is the money? My friends have never taken the trouble to suggest as to where this money is to come from. Some members went to the length of suggesting that there was absolutely no scope for further taxation on any class of people in the Punjab. If we were to accept this verdict, then we should have only one crore left with us for maintaining the existing services and for running the administration of this province. It is ridiculous—ridiculous in the extreme. My friends ought, as reasonable men, to take a more realistic view of things than that.

Now another suggestion which was made by the honourable mover of the cut was that we ought to do something in order to secure fairer prices, better prices, to the agriculturist for his agricultural produce. He was perfectly right. I agree with him fully and wholeheartedly. We ought to do something to secure better prices, fairer prices, for our agricultural produce. Have we made no attempt in this direction? Let me remind honourable members that only last January we passed a Marketing Bill which, I am sure, will add something to the income of the poor agriculturist. But what was the attitude of the party which has come out with all this

[Minister for Development.]

idle criticism when that Bill was under discussion in this House? In the first instance it was one of neutrality. Later on it changed to one of out and out opposition. And yet my friends have the hardihood to suggest that this Government should do something to secure fairer prices for the agriculturist. Why did they fail to do their duty when the test came? Sir, this is what we could have done. This is what we have attempted and this is what we have secured, in spite of the opposition of the classes which owe allegiance to a party which claims to be a well-wisher of the poor. (*Applause.*)

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : The only party which is the real well-wisher.

Minister for Development : The Honourable Premier has already stated what has been done in the way of securing the imposition of import duty on foreign wheat and foreign cotton. I will not go over that ground again.

Another suggestion which was made by the honourable mover of the cut was that we should introduce a system of co-operative farming. Let me inform my friend that the Co-operative Department tried once but had to give up the experiment. The reason was that the Punjabi character is so full of individualism that the Punjabi zamindar will do nothing to submerge his individuality into anything. He is too individualistic to take kindly to the idea of co-operative farming. He must have his own separate field. He must have his own separate pair of bullocks. He must till his own field. He must not allow anybody else to enter it. He will not enter into a partnership for the purpose of cultivation with anybody else. With these individualistic tendencies of the zamindar the Co-operative Department had to give up the idea of co-operative farming. I wish the experiment had not failed. But unfortunately it had. If possible I will make a start over again, but I fear very much that the experiment, even if revived, is not likely to succeed. I hope my honourable friends will render all the co-operation of which they are capable in making the experiment successful if it is decided to revive it.

The honourable mover of the cut further suggested that there should be a collectivisation of farming. He seems to have imported that idea from Russia. I believe that he himself told us—or was it somebody else—that the idea had come from Russia. I do not understand fully the implications of collectivisation of farming, but I believe one of the incidents of collectivisation of farming will be abrogation of private property in land. And if I am right that this will be one of the implications of collectivisation, then I feel sure, I am absolutely sure, that the Punjab peasant is not going to tolerate any such thing; he is not going to allow himself to be deprived of his right of ownership of land—a right which gives him a sense of dignity, a right which is responsible for his high sense of self-respect, (*Sardar Partap Singh :* Let there be a co-operative farming then.) a right which gives him a sense of superior social status. Therefore if my interpretation of the term is correct and abrogation of the right of ownership in land is one of the incidents, then the Punjab peasant is not going to allow himself to be deprived of that right.

Now, Sir, he made another suggestion, very useful suggestion this time—I am grateful to him for the suggestion—that we should undertake legislation for the eradication of harmful weeds, such as *pohli*, and that we should entrust the work to the panchayats. We are going to have a Panchayat Bill soon before the House. I hope the House will pass it as quickly as possible. When panchayats contemplated under this Bill have been established, we want to make the fullest possible use of these panchayats in promoting the welfare of the agriculturists, and I can assure my honourable friend that the destruction of harmful weeds, like *pohli*, will be one of the subjects which will be made over to these panchayats to guide and supervise. Of course the panchayats cannot themselves destroy weeds, but they can supervise and guide the destruction of these weeds.

Yet another suggestion made by the honourable mover of the cut was that we have a very inadequate staff, that we have only 146 mukkadams and 88 agricultural assistants for our field work. The number of villages in this province is over 37,000 and each mukkadam has over 250 villages to supervise and each agricultural assistant has over 450 villages to supervise. According to him this staff is hopelessly inadequate. I agree with the honourable mover to a very large extent. I do not call it hopelessly inadequate, but I certainly admit that the staff is anything but adequate. He said that, as in the United Provinces, we ought to have groups of six or seven villages placed under the charge of one mukkadam. Now let us examine the financial implications of this suggestion. If we were to have one mukkadam for every group of six or seven villages, the number of extra mukkadams needed would be 6,000, no less than 6,000. At Rs. 25 a month, 6,000 mukkadams will cost the province every year full 18 lakhs in only one subordinate cadre of one small department. And if there is to be such an increase in the number of mukkadams, is there any reason why there should not be a corresponding increase in the number of agricultural assistants and why there should not be a corresponding increase in the number of extra assistant directors of agriculture who are necessary to supervise the work of the subordinate field staff? Now this is with regard to one department alone. But suppose you were—and you cannot reasonably refuse—to extend the same principle to other departments. Everybody is crying for compulsory primary education—it is a very laudable object—and you will require an army of teachers. If you pay them even at an average rate of Rs. 20 a month, under one head alone, that is, of teachers in charge of primary schools, probably the expenditure would be a whole crore, in fact, my colleague on my right suggests, two crores. Now, I feel amazed that, while my honourable friends of the Opposition suggest that we should reduce the water rate, we should reduce land revenue, we should do away with *chaukidara* and *malba* and contend that there is no scope for further taxation anywhere in the province, they have at the same time the temerity to suggest such a huge amount of additional expenditure under one minor head alone. Whom do these worthy gentlemen seek to delude? Whom do they seek to befool? Let me assure them that they are not befooling anybody but themselves. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now let me come to Sardar Santokh Singh. He made two remarks to which I should also like to reply. He said that loans under the State

[Minister for Development.]

Aid to Industries Act were being advanced on the basis of political considerations. Let me assure my honourable friend that his apprehensions are entirely unfounded. Loans up to a limit of five thousand are made by the Director of Industries himself. As a member of a permanent service and as a thoroughly honest man, he cannot be expected to take political considerations into account in deciding the grant of these loans. Loans above five thousand rupees have to go before an Advisory Board and are granted in accordance with the advice of this board. Therefore there is no room whatsoever for political considerations being taken into account in the making of these loans. His second remark was to the effect that the Punjab Government should approach the Government of India with a view to getting a reduction of railway freight. Now that was a very good suggestion. But my honourable friend may rest assured that the suggestion has not come to my notice for the first time. The idea occurred to the Government long, long ago. We are collecting relevant material in order to make out as strong a case as possible. When we have collected sufficient material and are convinced that we have a strong case, then not a moment will be lost in making a strong representation to the Government of India on the subject.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Cannot the paid agents of the British Imperialism compel the Government of India to do this ?

Minister : Who are these paid agents ? Whom do you describe as paid agents ?

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Punjab Government.

Minister : The Punjab Government is no more the paid agent of British Imperialism than the most honest man in existence in the country. On the other hand some of the honourable members of the Opposition may be the paid agents of Indian capitalism. (*Hear, hear.*) We are the representatives of the poor people. We are here to promote the interests of the poor according to our own light.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Paid agents of British Imperialism.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the honourable members not to interrupt any more, nor should insinuations be made.

Minister : The honourable Leader of the Opposition thinks that as he is in the habit of receiving mandates from the high command, and which mandates he thinks he is bound to obey, the Punjab Government also receives mandates from some other quarter. (*Interruption.*) Let me assure my friend that we do not receive any mandates from anywhere else. (*An honourable member :* Question.) My friend will query anything and everything. He cannot help his nature.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the Honourable Minister to change the tone of his speech. I have asked the Leader of the Opposition and other members not to interrupt or make any remarks. So, I make the same request to the Honourable Minister.

Minister : Unless I am out of order, I should be given an opportunity to proceed in my own way.

Mr. Speaker : By all means, but please do not create heat.

Minister : Heat is life. In the absence of heat life becomes extinct.

Mr. Speaker : But burning heat also makes life extinct. (*Laughter*).

Minister : I am only replying to the criticism of the Opposition. So let me proceed. The honourable Leader of the Opposition suggested that we were in the habit of receiving mandates from British Imperialism and that we obey those mandates. I have repudiated that charge. I have done nothing more.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I never said so.

Minister : 'Paid Agents of British Imperialism'. What does that mean? It means nothing else than this that we are agents of a higher authority and we are bound to obey any mandate that we may receive.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Put any interpretation that you like.

Minister : I contend that they are the paid agents of Indian capitalism. They are in the habit of receiving commands from another quarter and those commands they are bound to obey. They have been obeying those commands. Can they deny this?

I may now state certain facts which ought to be sufficient to convince any reasonable man that the Punjab Government has been doing all that it can to promote the interests of agriculturists. I will just relate those facts in bare outline without dilating upon each item. Take the case of cotton. My honourable friend, who represents the Khanewal constituency, gave facts and figures to show that under one crop of cotton alone the province had gained to the extent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores. There are several improved varieties of cotton which did not exist before, and which are being grown in ever increasing quantities and are bringing a huge amount of money to the cultivators. Even apart from the varieties which he mentioned, I may draw the attention of the honourable members to some other varieties. Those varieties are L.S.S. and a cross between Mollisoni and a Chinese variety, which cross is known as the jubilee cotton. There is yet another improved variety of indigenous cotton of Multan which is known as Sanguineum. All these varieties give a higher yield. In the case of the Jubilee cotton it has been found that not only does it give a higher yield but it also gives a longer staple than the indigenous cotton with which the Chinese variety was crossed.

Coming to wheat, the first improved variety to be introduced in the province was Punjab 11. Later on it was replaced by 8A. Within the last two or three years 8A has been largely replaced by C518 and C591. Both these varieties give a higher yield and have a better milling quality. Yet another improved variety is now under trial, namely, 409. It is being tried and it is expected that this variety will suit the North-Western portion of the province better than 518, 591 or 8A. In the case of barley, we have developed two or three new varieties. Barley from Bewari in the Gurgaon district, and barley from Kangra district has been found to be richest in its malting and brewing qualities, although it is suggested that it is unattractive in appearance. It is less attractive than certain

[Minister for Development.]

other varieties, but so far as brewing and malting qualities are concerned, it easily beats the rest. In the case of gram, we have been able to evolve a variety of gram which is immune from the attack of gram blight. This variety is known as 8F. My friends probably do not know what havoc was wrought by gram blight in certain districts, such as Mianwali and Attock. Many thousands of acres of gram used to be destroyed by this disease from year to year. This variety is immune from the attack of gram blight and next year we shall be in a position to put on the markets 40,000 maunds of seeds of this improved variety.

Then take the case of rice. We have been able to evolve several strains which are far superior to the old varieties and which bring higher price than the older varieties. My information is that at Kala Shah Kaku the Department of Agriculture has been able to evolve a variety which will produce two crops of rice every year. If that experiment succeeds beyond all doubt and we are in a position to put that seed on the market, an infinite amount of good would be done to agriculturists. Even millets, that is, maize, *bajra* and *jawar*, have not been neglected. We have been able to improve the varieties of all these crops. *Sarson* and *toria* also have been improved very considerably. Valuable experiments are in progress at Lyallpur, Gurdaspur and Ludhiana and we are now in possession of improved seeds which will give us a better yield and the oil contents of which will be richer. This should help my friends to realize the amount of good that the department has been doing. Let us take the case of groundnuts. About ten years ago, the area under groundnuts was below 100 acres. Now this area has jumped up to 67,000 acres and the tract of the province which produced nothing but moth, is producing groundnuts at an average of about 8 or 10 maunds

6 P.M.

per acre.

Now in the field of vegetables we have been able to improve a variety of indigenous potato. We can produce it in the Kangra district and are able to supply the seed to the rest of the province at half the cost which we used to incur on the import of seed from Bihar. Then you may take the case of fodders. We have been able to acclimatize successfully the elephant grass, guinea grass, rhodes grass, and last but not least berseem, a most excellent fodder which will supply green feed right up to the middle of May when you can expect to have *chari* available.

Now let me come to milk supply. The honourable mover of the cut was pleased to state that the Punjab Government was doing nothing to increase the supply of milk in the province. My honourable friend had not probably studied the report of the department. Let me give a few facts which will enable members of the House to realize what we have done in the way of increasing milk supply in the province. We started a herd at Lyallpur in 1914-15. At that time the average yield per cow was 5.65 pounds. In 1936-37 the average yield per cow rose to 18.95 pounds, (*hear, hear*)—more than three times. Now my honourable friend who moved the cut was perhaps also unaware of the fact that we have started many milk recording societies in the province. We have a farm of 40,000 acres at Hissar which is devoted solely to the evolving of better strains of cattle both in respect of draught qualities and in respect of milking qualities. Again,

sir, we have no less than 20,000 acres of the best colony land under grants which have been given on cattle breeding conditions. On all these farms careful milk records are maintained. All these farms which are at Jehangirabad, Qadirabad, Allahdadpur, Bahadurnagar, and Montgomery are, under the rules framed by the department, compelled to maintain records of milk yield. If you study the milk records maintained at these farms, you will be surprised to find that the average has gone up by 2.0 per cent in many cases. There was another friend, equally ignorant of the activities of the department, who suggested that nothing was being done in the way of improving the breed of buffaloes. He was wrong. We have started a special farm for the improvement of the breed. We have more than 4,000 acres of colony land given to a grantee on conditions of cattle breeding. That farm is meant only for the improvement of the breed of buffaloes.

Now, sir, with regard to Veterinary hospitals which are maintained for the treatment of live stock, I need not say anything because I have spoken of these hospitals so many times that I should not like to bore honourable members of the House with a repetition of the same facts over and over again. However, one fact will bear repetition. Frequent attempts are made to institute comparisons between the Congress provinces and the Punjab and the comparisons, so far as my friends on the Opposition benches are concerned, are always to the detriment of the Punjab Government. In the province across the Jumna there is a budget provision of only Rs. 5,44,000 for all the sections of the Veterinary Department. In the Punjab the budget provision for breeding operations alone is 5,39,000. (*Hear, hear*). We are making grants to district boards to the tune of Rs. 60,000 or Rs. 70,000 a year for the improvement of cattle. We hold frequent cattle shows in various parts of the province. And does the honourable mover of the out realize what has been the result of these activities? An All-India cattle show was held the other day at Delhi. The House will be pleased to learn that 90 per cent of the first prizes at the exhibition came to the Punjab. (*Applause*). The best animal of the show came from the Punjab—a buffalo for which the Raja of Dhar offered Rs. 750 and the owner refused to part with it. Then the best cow bull came from the Punjab. The best buffalo bull came from the Punjab and the best brood mare came from the Punjab. My honourable friend has not cared to ascertain the full extent of what the Punjab Government has been doing to improve live stock. We have been improving not only cows and buffaloes but have also been improving the breed of horses, donkeys and camels and sheep and goats. (*Laughter*).

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Yes, you should be improving donkeys. (*Laughter*).

Minister : However, there are certain animals which we want to improve but cannot. (*Laughter*). The honourable member representing north-western urban Muhammadan constituency is trying to make his presence felt by remarks which he considers to be humorous and witty.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : You cannot do anything even to improve donkeys.

Minister : He says we cannot do anything to improve certain animals. I think he is right. We cannot improve certain incorrigible breeds.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order, no remarks.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : He is trying to be personal and I have to reply. The tail of a lion is better than the head of a donkey.

Minister : I think 90 per cent of the breeds yield to the treatment which we apply to them ; only 10 per cent of the breeds do not respond to our treatment. (Laughter).

Now let me quote concrete and definite instances. Take sheep. We have been able to evolve a very good strain of sheep at Hissar which are now on the market. They yield more wool and a wool of better quality. Then, Sir, we have been able to evolve a very superior strain of goats. That breed is known as Jumnapari. From the very name of 'Jumnapari' the honourable members will be able to understand that this breed came from somewhere across the Jumna. In its original home this animal has deteriorated. But in the province of its adoption, it has improved wonderfully. It is not confined to the south-eastern districts of the Punjab. I came across very fine specimen of this breed in Gujranwala, in Gurdaspur, in Sialkot and I think also in Gujrat. The Jumnapari breed is the best goat breed which we can have in this country. Further, we desire to introduce another superior breed of goats, that is, Angora goats. An officer has been deputed specially to go to South Africa to study the problem on the spot. It is expected that Angora goats can be introduced into this country and can be acclimatized. If that breed also is found to prosper in our province, we shall be able to add appreciably to the income of our poor agricultural classes.

A suggestion was also made by a couple of critics that large areas were going out of cultivation on account of the action of *thur* and the Punjab Government had failed miserably to reclaim *thur* lands. I am free to admit that we cannot claim to have been able to discover any effective remedy. Yet I am in a position to say that we have found out a remedy, which is a sure remedy, but unfortunately a remedy which is very expensive. It involves prohibitive expense and, therefore, we cannot make use of that remedy. However, gradually and steadily we seem to be walking along a path which in the end is bound to lead to success even in that direction. Here in this field, we are not the only ones who have failed to discover an economic remedy. The same is the case in the United Provinces. My honourable friends are not, perhaps, unaware of the fact that millions of acres of good cultivable land have gone out of cultivation even in the United Provinces, and although the complexion of Government in that province is one to which at least the honourable members of the Opposition cannot take any objection, yet even there the Government of the day has failed to discover any effective remedy. Further, while we have been carrying on research at least at two places, that is, at Lyallpur and Lahore, for a number of years, the United Provinces Government has, only a few months ago, appointed a committee to go into the question of *thur* reclamation. That committee has not yet been able to submit its report. That committee may succeed or may not succeed. We wish the committee all success. I hope and pray that the efforts of this committee will succeed because if they succeed in discovering a remedy, that remedy will be

available, not only to the United Provinces, but to all the provinces in the country. Therefore, sir, while I admit that we have not been able to discover an effective and economic remedy for *this*, other governments also have failed so far to make any progress in this direction. If any Government succeeds, it will certainly be deserving of our praise and gratitude.

Now, sir, another reference, I should say a very uncharitable reference, was made to the embezzlement of Rs. 20,000 by some clerk, perhaps 10 years ago. The clerk who embezzled the money was employed in the Department of Agriculture. He probably bolted. I am not sure about the facts but my information is that he bolted. So nothing could be done. If we had been able to catch him and had failed to put him into court or had not punished him departmentally, then, of course, somebody would have been to blame. But this did not happen under the present Government. We cannot accept responsibility for the shortcomings and sins of the previous Government. If there was any shortcoming at all, the shortcoming concerned the previous Government. But in the circumstances of the case, there is no question of shortcoming even on the part of the previous Government. The man had run away, was not traceable anywhere and there the matter ended. (*An honourable member*: Has he come back again after running away?) To my knowledge he has not returned. If I had come to know that he had returned to a known place in this province or in this country, I would have set the police after him.

I will make just one short reference to one more point. The reference will be short because it relates to a subject which personally I do not consider relevant to the demand under discussion. I advert to it because the subject was introduced by at least two members of the Opposition. That subject related to the tenants of certain colony areas. Our critics suggested that large numbers of tenants in colony areas were suffering grievous wrongs and this Government had failed to redress those wrongs. Now, Sir, I am acquainted with only one group of tenants who had been served with notices of ejectment by certain lease-holders. Some of them saw me also. I asked them to see the Honourable Minister for Revenue. I also undertook to convey their message to the Honourable Minister for Revenue. I do not know whether those zamindars saw the Honourable Minister for Revenue or not, but I conveyed to him the purport of their complaint. He took very speedy action, with the result that practically all notices of ejectment, which had been served on those tenants, were withdrawn. (*Hear, hear.*) That is one thing.

The other reference was to certain *jathas* of *kisans*, who had taken the trouble of coming to Lahore, and wanted to see the Premier. At least that was what I understood from the speech of one of the members. He had stated that *jathas* of *kisans* had been coming to Lahore, offering themselves for arrest and wanting to see the Honourable the Premier. He complained that it was a strange sort of a Premier who, being a zamindar himself, refused to see the representatives of those *kisans*. My friends seem to be under a serious misapprehension. The Honourable the Premier never refused to receive a deputation of those *kisans*. He agreed to see them and hear their grievances and then come to suitable conclusions provided the deputation consisted of the *kisans* of the Lahore district.

An Honourable Member : Why did he not allow Yog Raj ?

Minister : If my honourable friends will allow me to proceed, I will give them all the facts as I know them. Unfortunately I have not, within the last three or four days, been able to see the Premier or discuss the matter with him, but even the accounts which have appeared in the press—and all the members of this House know that the press is by no means friendly to the Premier or to his Party—even the accounts in the press admit that the Honourable Premier offered to receive a deputation of *kisans* provided that the *kisans* were really *kisans*. (*Uproar*.)

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Are you a *kisan* ? Is the Premier a *kisan* ? (*Shouts of order, order*.) You are paid agents of British Imperialism. (*Uproar*.)

Minister : You are paid agents of Indian capitalism. (*Uproar*.)

Mr. Speaker : Only one member should speak at a time. I am sorry I cannot allow any interruptions.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : May I just say one word ? The conduct of the Honourable Minister reminds me of—what should I say—a very ignorant woman flinging her abuse on her neighbour across the lane.

(*At this stage several members stood up and started speaking simultaneously*).

Mr. Speaker : If any gentleman stands up again and begins to speak without being called by me I may take action against him.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : I was speaking to you.

Mr. Speaker : I did not permit the honourable member. Without my permission no member can speak. If an honourable member wishes to ask a question or desires to correct a mistake or error or wants to make or offer a personal explanation, he can do so only with the permission of the Chair, but not otherwise.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : I want to make a correction in the Honourable Minister's speech.

Mr. Speaker : If he gives way. Will the Honourable Minister for Development please wind up his speech ?

Minister : I am now winding it up. I was saying, sir, that the reports in the press were to the effect that the Honourable Premier was prepared to receive a deputation of the representatives of *kisans* provided the representatives were *kisans* and belonged to the district to which their grievances related. That offer still stands.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Is Mr. Manohar Lal a *kisan* ?

Mr. Speaker : I give the honourable member this last warning. If he again stands up and begins to speak without my calling him, I shall have to proceed against him according to rules.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Did the Honourable Premier instruct his police to beat an honourable member of this House when he went to watch the demonstration of the *kisans* ? (*Cries of shame, shame*.)

Mr. Speaker : Is not the honourable member speaking on hearsay ?

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : Mr. Speaker, I can speak on the matter. I want to speak on a point of privilege. (*Cries of order, order.*)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. Let the question be first answered by the Honourable Premier. Then the honourable member can have his say.

Premier : I am very sorry indeed that my honourable friends should have thought of making such uncharitable insinuations. There is not the slightest truth in these insinuations and I strongly repudiate them. I am sorry to say that my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition should have made such remarks. He has had the audacity to say.....

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : If such are the facts on which the Honourable Premier bases his statements usually, I am afraid, I have no great respect for his truth. (*Cries of withdraw, withdraw.*)

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member cannot attack the conduct of the Premier in the way he has done.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : He has questioned my conduct. He said my statement is absolutely incorrect, and that he does not believe it.

Mr. Speaker : A question was put to him and he has answered it.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : I want to raise a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker : That the honourable member wants to raise a point of privilege, is a different matter. A question was asked and the Premier has answered it.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : I get up to tell the House that I am the person concerned and being the person concerned I can tell the truth.

Premier : The question put by my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition was..... (*Shouts of order, order.*)

Mr. Speaker : A question was put and it has been answered. The Premier says he never encouraged anybody. What is the honourable member's point of privilege?

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : That a member of this House was insulted by the police—

Mr. Speaker : Where and when?

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : I went to Shahalmi Gate to see the arrests being made of the *kisan jatha*. I had been previously informed that the police had been arresting people who had nothing to do with the *jatha*. When I saw that innocent people were being arrested and beaten, I approached the police officer, and asked him not to beat people who had nothing to do with the demonstration. On that he told me to 'shut up.' I said that nobody could be a witness to that *zulum* and remain silent. I pointed out that those people had nothing to do with the *jatha*. He said that if I did not "shut up", he would arrest me. I again protested and that officer gave me two or three blows. I told him that I was a member of the Assembly, and he said : "To hell with the Assembly."

Mr. Speaker : If there is authority for the facts stated constituting a breach of privilege, I shall take up the matter to-morrow.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : If after visiting....

Mr. Speaker : Under the Government of India Act, all members of this House have certain privileges in this House or outside when they are deputed by this House. But as private gentlemen they have no privileges. I have not studied the point, but if there is any rule under which the honourable member is protected, I shall be only too glad to take up the matter to-morrow.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : If after visiting the spot and when returning to this Assembly a person attacks me like this and threatens to arrest me, is it not a matter that the Assembly should take note of?

Mr. Speaker : The parliamentary practice is that when a member is attending Parliament he is exempt from arrest in civil cases, but not in criminal ones. But we have got no such practice. However, the honourable member may bring up the matter before the Assembly to-morrow with authority, if any, in his favour.

The question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 39, Noes 94.

AYES.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Duni Chand, Lala.
Duni Chand, Mrs.
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harjab Singh, Sardar.
Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishan Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lal Singh, Sardar.

Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Satya Pal, Dr.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sita Ram, Lala.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
Sudarshan, Seth.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).

Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Afzaal Ali Hasnie, Sayed.

Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Ajmad Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
 Balwant Singh, Sardar.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Dina Nath, Captain.
 Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
 Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieut. Bhai.
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Few, Mr. E.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
 Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Jafar Ali Khan, M.
 Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.
 Jagjit Singh, Man, Sardar.
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Nawabzada Major.
 Kishan Das, Seth.

Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr. Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
 Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.
 Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.
 Muzaffer Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Roberts, Sir William.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.

Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honour-
able Major Sir.

Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.

Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.

Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian.

Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.

Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honour-
able Dr. Sir.

Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.

Tara Singh, Sardar.

Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,20,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Agriculture.

The motion was carried.

At this stage Pir Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah, M.L.A., who had been acquitted by the High Court of a charge of murder, entered the Chamber amidst prolonged applause and shouts of "Pir Lal Badshah zindabad" and "down with the Unionist Government," from the Opposition benches.

HOURS OF SITTING.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (Leader of the Opposition) : Sir, I beg to move :—

That the Assembly do meet on Wednesday the 29th instant at 12 noon and the Speaker shall adjourn it at 4-30 P.M. on that day without question put.

Premier : I have no objection whatever to accommodate my honourable friend.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Wednesday, 29th March, 1989.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 1st PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 29th March, 1939.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the Clock.
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Maqbool Mahmood : I also rise to a point of order, but perhaps my honourable friend may state his point of order first.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I refer you to rule 28 which reads—

"If a question for oral answer is not reached within the time available for questions on any one day, such question or questions as are left over shall be carried on to the next day and be taken up before the questions put down on the list for that day."

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please state his point of order?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My point of order is that a supplementary question is a question for oral answer. It is nowhere stated that the supplementary questions are not questions for oral answer. I was asking supplementary questions yesterday when the question hour expired. I am therefore entitled to carry on my supplementary questions to-day.

Mr. Speaker : The original question of which the honourable member had given notice was asked and answered yesterday. It is true that the question time ended and, therefore, the honourable member could not ask some supplementary questions; but the practice in this House has been, as I stated yesterday, that such supplementary questions as could not be asked owing to the expiry of the question hour, could not be asked the next day. This is the old practice, but if the House decides otherwise I shall be only too glad to allow supplementary questions to be carried on to the next day.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : It is not a question of old practice; it is a question of interpretation of rules.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member refer to rules 23 and 26? If he expects oral answers to his supplementary questions, he should mark them with stars. The question is that when question time is over and some supplementary questions still remain to be asked, can they be asked the next day?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Such questions ought to be allowed. It is a matter of some importance and there is nothing in the rules against supplementary questions being carried on to the next day.

Mr. Speaker : But there is nothing in favour as well ; while the past practice, as already stated, is against.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I do not know what the past practice has been. I really cannot recollect whether any such question arose before or not, but the test is not whether there is anything in favour of the question being continued but the question is whether he is debarred by any rule from putting his questions. There is nothing to debar him from putting his questions on the following day.

Mr. Speaker : But it is the supplementary question and not the original question which was asked and answered yesterday.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : The original question continues when the supplementary questions are going on. It cannot be said that the original question has been disposed of.

Mr. Speaker : Yes. It may be so argued.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I am glad you agree. So the question really continues.

Mr. Speaker : If the House agrees to put an end to the old practice.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : If that is the practice, I will ask you to put an end to it.

Mr. Speaker : I will collect the sense of the House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I say one word ?

Mr. Speaker : Further discussion is unnecessary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I may point out that once supplementary questions were allowed to be asked on the next day when the Deputy Speaker was in the chair.

Mr. Speaker : Now I will collect the sense of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that in future, if supplementary questions are not finished within question hour on the day on which original question was asked, they may be allowed to be asked the next day ?

(The House unanimously signified its willingness to allow such questions to be asked on the next day.)

The decision of the House shall be followed in future ; but I will not give it retrospective effect.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : *Parnala vohin ka vohin.*

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : The other day you were pleased to make an appeal to both sides of the House that they should avoid making any offensive or unparliamentary reference to each other and both sides.... *(Interruption.)* I am raising a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may raise the point of order after the question hour is over.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : There is no question of retrospective effect because you are not going to make a rule. You have not made a new rule. This question is automatically before the House. There is no question of retrospective effect. It does not arise.

Mr. Speaker : The ruling which I gave yesterday was based on the old practice and I stick to it. That is all.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : You said again to-day that you would be in the hands of the House and the House has said that if there was any old practice it should be abrogated.

Mr. Speaker : One or two supplementary questions and answers thereto will not bring down heaven on earth.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Nor would it do any damage.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Now that you are pleased to hold that we can put supplementary questions, may I ask one question? The question is very, very important. It is practically left unanswered.

Mr. Speaker : Has the Government any objection?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : We have no objection.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Is it not a point of order?

Mr. Speaker : This relates to questions and we are discussing it during the question hour. If they spend the whole question hour in this discussion, let them do so. (*laughter.*)

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I would refer to part (a) of my question. My question was with respect to the completion of the survey and not with respect to the completion of this scheme. Therefore, I would ask the honourable member to enlighten me with respect to the completion of the survey and the expenses incurred on the survey. That was my question.

Minister for Revenue : That reply has already been given.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I will refer the Honourable Minister to the answer.

Parliamentary Secretary : May I ask the honourable member to repeat the question?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My supplementary question was whether the survey of that dam had been completed and, if so, what are the expenses incurred thereon so far? This was my question but the answer given is with respect to the scheme.

Parliamentary Secretary : As I have already replied, the whole matter is under consideration and the Government have not arrived at any decision. Unless they arrive at a decision, how can I answer a supplementary question at this moment?

Pandit Muni Lal Kalra : Were any precautions taken by the survey party to see that no damage was caused to the property involved in the operations?

Parliamentary Secretary : Every possible precaution was taken and the Government are satisfied that no undue damage was caused.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalra : Is the Government aware that damage was caused to the property of which survey was made?

Parliamentary Secretary : No.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since when has this survey been in hand ?

Parliamentary Secretary : You should give notice if you want to know the exact date.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Since when has this survey work been taken in hand approximately ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : How much expenditure has been incurred on the survey work ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government has not yet arrived at the conclusion as to what the expenditure is ?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is the survey work finished ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not yet wholly completed.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Have these expenses been included in the budget ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member has a copy of the budget with him and he can consult it.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I want to know as to how much has been spent ; the supplementary budget does not give this information.

Parliamentary Secretary : I do not know what is meant by ' supplementary budget.'

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : The expenses of the Bhakra Dam Scheme and this scheme are put together. I know what the total expenditure on both is, but I do not know how much has been spent on each scheme separately.

Parliamentary Secretary : I assure my honourable friend that when the Government knows what the total expenditure is, I will let him know.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I have already sent a notice of a question asking why the Government has not prepared a separate estimate.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is the Government aware that a number of trees was removed during survey operations and that damage was actually caused to the proprietors of that *ilaga* ?

Minister for Revenue : If any such damage, as is alleged, is proved, compensation for that will certainly be given.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is the Honourable Minister aware that representations were made to the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, to that effect ?

Parliamentary Secretary : May I submit that this question does not arise out of the original question ?

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

SUPPLY OF WATER FOR GARDENS.

***4493. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that double the quantity of water is supplied for irrigation of the areas under old gardens in Ganji Bar and that the areas under new gardens in that Bar are not supplied the same quantity of water ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that land revenue and water rates are charged at double the rate from the owners of the old as well as new gardens in Ganji Bar ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes.

(b) No. Gardens already receiving extra supply are assessed at the ordinary rate of Rs. 5-8-0 per acre in each harvest, and the same will be charged on the new orchards.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Has the Honourable Minister received any representation from the Punjab Fruit Development Committee ?

Minister : I have received a deputation of the fruit growers.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is the Government aware that the supply of water to gardens is inadequate and therefore the production and development of fruit is suffering heavily ?

Minister : The question has been looked into and is being looked into constantly. We are considering the question of supply of extra water, if necessary.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : By what time will the Government be in a position to supply adequate water for that purpose ?

Minister : I am afraid I am not able to satisfy the curiosity of my honourable friend opposite.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : It is not curiosity but anxiety. May I know whether the Agricultural Department or other departments are taking concerted action in that connection ?

Minister : I am responsible so far as the supply of water is concerned. You can put the other question to my friend on my right.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that while double the quantity of water is supplied to gardens the Government gets three times profit ?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the Government prepared to give financial help for the promotion of fruit industry in the shape of supplying plants and preservation arrangements ?

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : May I ask whether the Government has also under consideration the question of reduction of revenue so far as the gardens are concerned ?

Minister : I do not think any such question has arisen that on one side we should give double or treble the quantity of water and on the other reduce the *abiana*.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : The question is, should not the Government charge one-half the revenue, charged from crops, which grow twice a year ?

FAILURE OF CROPS IN TAHSIL GARHSHANKAR.

***4495. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to the failure of rains this year the *rabi* crops in the Hoshiarpur district in general and in village Harwal in tahsil Garhshankar in particular, have totally failed, and further on account of the dearth of fodder the condition of the cattle has become pitiable and that the zamindars of this district in general and of village Harwal in particular are unable to pay land revenue and other such dues ; if so, whether and when Government intends to afford relief to the zamindars of district Hoshiarpur in general and of village Harwal in particular ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : It is regretted that a definite reply to this question cannot be given until the result of *girdawari* is known. Information from local officers is awaited.

MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM AGRICULTURISTS IN THE SUPERIOR
SUBORDINATE GRADES EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LABORATORY.

***3836. Sardar Muhammad Hussain :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number and qualifications of Muslim and non-Muslim agriculturists in the superior subordinate grade employed in the Industrial Research Laboratory as well as of the non-agriculturists employed in the same cadre ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : In view of the communal implications of the question, I regret that the information desired by the honourable member cannot be supplied.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES IN PUNJAB.

***4015. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of factories in the Punjab inspected by the Inspectors of Industries during the last two years ;
- (b) whether any action was taken against the owners of any factory on the reports of the Inspectors, and, if so, what, and if no action was taken, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether there are any factories in the Punjab which have never been inspected so far, if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) when the B. C. G. A. Factory at Khanewal was inspected last and by whom ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member in due course.

REPORT OF THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT FOREST COMMISSION.

***4099. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state when he will be able to place the report of the Punjab Government Forest Commission before the Assembly for the purpose of inviting discussion and suggestions thereon ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Copies of the report with the decisions of Government thereon have been supplied to members. The honourable member can draw attention to any particular point in the report during the discussions on the Budget.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if it is the intention of the Government to place the report before the Assembly?

Minister : The report has already been supplied to each individual member of this House.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether Government is not going to put the report as a whole before the Assembly?

Minister : It is not needed.

LOWERING OF RATE OF AUDIT FEES CHARGED FROM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

***4229. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether he has considered the question of lowering the rates of audit fees charged by the Punjab Co-operative Union from the Co-operative Societies in the Punjab; if so, the decision he has arrived at?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : *First part.*—No. The matter is entirely within the discretion of the Punjab Co-operative Union, which fixes the rate. But Government has proposed an increased grant in the budget for 1939-40 which, if approved by the Assembly, will strengthen the financial position of the Union.

Second part.—Does not arise.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Is Government aware of the fact that there is a general complaint against the excessive rate of audit fees by the co-operative department?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may move a resolution.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : May I know at what rate the audit fee has increased during the last 10 years?

Minister : Without notice I cannot answer that question.

AUDIT FEES CHARGED FROM VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

***4230. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the rate of audit fees charged in 1938 on profit per cent from the village co-operative societies by the Punjab Co-operative Union, Lahore;

(b) the total amount collected as audit fees during the year 1938, by the said Union?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Ten per cent on net profit subject to a minimum of Rs. 10, except in the case of Cattle

[Minister for Development.]

Breeding and Land Revenue Redemption Societies. Cattle Breeding Societies are charged one-fourth of the commission on sale, while Land Revenue Redemption Societies pay at the rate of 1 per cent on the net profit subject to a minimum of Re. 1 after 5 years.

(b) The information asked for is not ready.

**SUB-INSPECTORS EMPLOYED BY PUNJAB CO-OPERATIVE UNION,
LAHORE.**

***4232. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state community-wise, the total number of sub-inspectors employed at the present time by the Punjab Co-operative Union, Lahore ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Government¹ do not maintain any record of the employees of the Punjab Co-operative Union which is a non-official body.

DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD, SHAKARGARH.

***4236. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the date on which the Debt Conciliation Board of tahsil Shakargarh, district Gurdaspur, was constituted ;
- (b) the members then appointed and their qualifications ;
- (c) whether any change has been made in the personnel of that Board recently ; if so, why ?
- (d) the qualifications of members of the present Board ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) The 10th December, 1937.

(b) *Chairman.*—Mian Amar Singh, retired Income Tax Officer.

Members.—1. Chaudhri Sultan Ali, Honorary Magistrate, Zaildar of Gumtala, tahsil Shakargarh.

2. Lala Ram Chand Mahajan of Mallah, Member, District Board.

(c) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—Since the work of the Board was not satisfactory.

(d) The Chairman and one of the members are zaildars while the third member is a graduate of the Punjab University.

DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD IN JULLUNDUR TAHSIL.

***4237. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) since when the Debt Conciliation Board of the Jullundur tahsil is working ;

¹This answer was laid on the table.

- (b) the amount of debts settled by the said Board ;
- (c) the number of applications still pending before the Board ;
- (d) the amount involved in the pending applications ;
- (e) the amount of money which the members and the clerical or menial staff working under the Board has so far drawn in the form of salaries and allowances ;
- (f) the number of sittings of the Board, since its establishment, each month ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) 4th October, 1938.

(b)	Rs. 27,879.				
(c)	469.				
(d)	Rs. 8,68,034-4-2.				
(e)	Rs. 2,730-6-0.				
(f)	October, 1938	..	..	..	24
	November, 1938	..	..	..	23
	December, 1938	..	..	..	20
	January, 1939	..	..	..	24
	February, 1st to 25th, 1939	..	..	..	20
				Total	.. 111

RURAL UPLIFT WORK IN RAWALPINDI TAHSIL.

***4339. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the date from which intensive rural uplift work was started in the Rawalpindi tahsil under the Government's new scheme ;
- (b) the number of new roads, if any, that have been constructed under the aforesaid scheme in the said area ;
- (c) the number of dispensaries, if any, opened under the new scheme and the water supply work, if any, so far undertaken in the said area ;
- (d) if the reply to (c) above be in the negative, the reasons for Government's failure to give relief in respect of water supply or medical aid ;
- (e) whether the member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly representing the constituency in which the above-mentioned intensive work of rural uplift is being carried on is consulted by the local authorities ; and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) First April, 1938

(b) Three ;

(c) *First part.*—None ;

Second part.—Work for the improved water supply has been undertaken in nine villages ;

(d) According to the approved programme no new dispensary was opened, but the officers in charge of the existing rural dispensaries visit four selected key villages per week in order to make closer contact with the people and render such medical aid as may be possible ;

(e) The honourable member is reported to have been kept in touch with the construction of the village roads. If he has any suggestion to make in this or any other relevant connection to the local authorities, it will doubtless be carefully considered.

OPENING OF A VETERINARY HOSPITAL AND CIVIL DISPENSARY IN
VILLAGE PARJIAN.

***4423. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in reply to the address presented to him by the Dehat Sudhar League on his recent visit to village Parjian in Nakodar tahsil of Jullundur district, in which a request was made for the establishment of a veterinary as well as a civil dispensary in the village, the Honourable Minister promised to do something in the matter ; if so, the steps taken so far to fulfil that promise ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : The opening of Veterinary Hospitals rests with District Boards as these institutions are financed out of their funds. The Civil Veterinary Department has already suggested to the District Board of Jullundur the opening of an outlying dispensary at this place. If this has not been done probably the reason is that the District Board does not consider it necessary to open an outlying dispensary here as Parjian village is only at a distance of 5 or 6 miles from the Veterinary Hospital at Shahkote and only two miles from the outlying dispensary at Danewal.

As regards the Civil Dispensary the attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to starred Assembly question 3015¹ of 1938.

DYING OF CATTLE IN THE PUNJAB ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES.

***4426. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cattle in the Punjab die every year of infectious diseases ;

(b) whether the Government have employed vaccinators in this connexion, if so, what is their total strength and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) According to the report submitted by patwaris 81,644 cattle died during the year 1937-38. This works out to below .2 per cent on the total number of 15,840,501 of bovines as recorded in the Punjab Livestock Census Report for 1935. This mortality cannot be regarded as excessive.

(b) No vaccinators have been employed in the Civil Veterinary Department, Punjab. The work of vaccination, etc., falls within the ordinary duties of Veterinary Assistants and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Their sanctioned strength is 415. During the year 1937-38, 1,473,404 vaccinations and inoculations were performed by the subordinate veterinary staff against various contagious diseases.

EXPENDITURE ON BROADCASTING IN RURAL UPLIFT WORK.

***4448. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Punjab Government on introducing radio broadcasting in the rural uplift work in the financial year 1938-39.

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Out of the sum of Rs. 8,422, allotted under the Punjab Rural Broadcasting Scheme financed out of first Government of India grant for Rural Uplift for the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 7,471 has been spent up to 28th February, 1939, and the balance is likely to be spent during the current month.

EXPENDITURE ON AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN THE PROVINCE.

***4450. Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Punjab Government on the agricultural farms in the Province during the financial year 1938-39 ;

(b) the total income from these agricultural farms to the Punjab Government during the same year ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : The financial year 1938-39 not having concluded as yet, figures of expenditure on, and income from, the agricultural farms for the full year cannot be supplied. The figures up to the end of January, 1939, i.e., for ten months of the year are, however, available, and are as follows :—

				Rs.
(a) Expenditure	..	..	..	1,41,254
(b) Income	..	..	..	1,06,822

VACANCIES FILLED IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

***4457. Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of vacancies filled during the last financial year in the Agricultural Department ;

[Lala Harnam Das.]

(b) the number of vacancies out of the above offered to candidates belonging to the scheduled castes; if none was offered to them, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) 476.

(b) 20 vacancies were filled by members of scheduled castes.

Lala Harnam Das : Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister some time ago stated to me that some proportion had been fixed for the Achhuts?

Sardar Mula Singh : When does the Government propose to fix a proportion for the depressed classes?

Minister : Perhaps never, who knows.

Lala Harnam Das : Has some ratio been already fixed for the Jats?

Lala Duni Chand : What I understand from the Honourable Minister is that when any vacancy in any department under him arises, then it is ordered by him to be distributed caste-wise. Am I right?

Minister : Not caste-wise, but it is desired that out of the vacancies to be filled so many will go to Muslims, so many will go to Hindus, so many will go to Sikhs and so many will go to depressed classes.

Lala Duni Chand : What are the main classifications into which the distribution is directed?

Minister : I have given that classification.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : What about the agriculturists and non-agriculturists?

Minister : Out of the Hindus' share I set apart certain amount for statutory agriculturists and a certain amount for scheduled caste people.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Is not this distribution between castes?

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if within the scope of this classification any share goes to those who belong to urban population?

Minister : Yes.

Sardar Mula Singh : Have they been appointed to any responsible posts or merely to serve as coolies?

Minister : If the honourable member means by responsible post, the post of Director of Agriculture, then I admit I have not appointed any of them to this post.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Honourable Minister observe any definite principle at the time of making these appointments?

Minister : The proportions laid down depend upon the already existing state of affairs in a particular department.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But what proportions of different communities are kept in view or are proposed to be observed in the future?

Minister : We have fixed 50 per cent for the Muslims, 20 per cent for the Sikhs and 30 for the Hindus and others.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What ratio is fixed for the Harijans?

Minister : No proportion has so far been fixed for them in any department, because I feel that if a ratio is fixed, they stand to lose.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : What is the proportion fixed for agriculturists out of the share of the Hindus?

Minister : I have already stated that no permanent proportion has been fixed, but only when vacancies occur, various shares are reserved for various communities.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : What does the Honourable Minister mean by 'communities'—Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs or the Jats and non-Jats?

Minister : Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : My honourable friend was pleased to say a short while ago that he had fixed certain proportion for the agriculturists out of the share of the Hindus, I only want to know what is that proportion?

Minister : Out of Hindus' share a certain number of posts are reserved for Hindu agriculturists.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I am asking what exactly the number is when you say that so many are reserved for this class and so many for others?

Minister : This proportion depends upon the peculiar circumstances of each case. If a certain community is already represented in a fair measure no proportions are fixed and heads of departments fill the posts in the ordinary way. However, if there are marked inequalities, then some posts are definitely reserved for a certain community and some for others.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Does the Honourable Minister follow any principle when giving a share to the agriculturists out of the share of the Hindus or does he follow his will? What principle, if any, does he follow?

Minister : No uniform rule is applicable to all the departments under me. There are some departments in which agriculturists predominate, while in others they are under-represented and the deficiency has got to be made up.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : For instance?

Minister : For instance, in the Co-operative Department about 90 per cent posts are already held by zamindars while in others they are only 10 per cent. So where they are only 10 per cent we reserve, out of 4 Hindu seats, 2 for zamindars, one for Achhuts and one for non-agriculturists.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the Honourable Minister has invented any principle with regard to the distribution of loaves and fishes since he has come into power in order to satisfy his conscience?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The question put by my honourable friend was whether there was any principle which was being adopted and followed by the Honourable Minister or not or whether it was just a principle of

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

jobbery. My honourable friend said that there was no principle. If there is no principle then it is the principle of jobbery that is adopted by him. Therefore, this question certainly arises out of the answer given by my honourable friend.

Mr. Speaker : I heard the question. It was an inference. So, I disallowed it.

(At this stage Lala Harnam Das stood up to put a supplementary question.)

Mr. Speaker : No more supplementary questions.

Lala Harnam Das : The required information is not given.

Mr. Speaker : I am not going to allow any more supplementary questions. This is entirely within my discretion. The remaining questions on the list are more important than supplementary questions.

Lala Harnam Das : The information which we desire is not forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member got up three times. He should have put that question then.

Lala Harnam Das : What is the proportion of representation fixed for the depressed classes in this particular department?

Minister : No specific proportion has been fixed. Whenever there are some vacancies to be filled I issue instructions to the officers concerned as to the share of each community.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

***4482. Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether any scholarships or loans are proposed to be awarded in the current year for scientific, industrial and agricultural education to certain students of this province in England or other European countries; if so, the terms of such scholarships and the nature of the loans proposed to be advanced?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : There are no proposals for award of scholarships for scientific and agricultural education. Four scholarships for industrial education—two tenable for three years and the other two, Silver Jubilee Scholarships, tenable for one year—have been granted with effect from 1939. One of the Silver Jubilee scholarships is tenable in Japan; while all the other three scholarships are tenable in Britain.

Copies of rules¹ regarding—

- (a) the award of financial assistance by the Punjab Government for technical training abroad; and
 - (b) Silver Jubilee Scholarships,
- are placed on the table.

¹Kept in the Assembly Library.

No further scholarships are proposed to be granted during the year.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad: May I know if these scholarships have been awarded or are still to be awarded?

Minister: The scholarships which were due to be awarded have already been awarded.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad: Does the Honourable Minister intend to award any other scholarship out of these four?

Minister: Not during this year.

METAL WORKS INSTITUTE, AMBALA CITY.

***4485. Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) when the Metal Works Institute, Ambala City, was established;
- (b) the annual expenditure incurred on it by the Government during the last three years;
- (c) the pay paid to the teachers;
- (d) other expenses including purchase of machinery, etc., since its establishment;
- (e) the number of students who have qualified from the aforesaid institute since its establishment;
- (f) any other useful purpose served by this institute;
- (g) the income derived from the sale or manufacture of articles etc., prepared by the abovementioned institute since its establishment?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: (a) 1st April, 1930.

(b)

Rs.

1935-36	..	..	24,384
1936-37	..	..	29,652
1937-38	..	..	27,170

(c)

Rs.

1935-36	..	..	8,521
1936-37	..	..	9,718
1937-38	..	..	9,854

[Minister for Development.]

(d)

			Rs.	
1929-30	..	..	1,350	The Institute started with effect from the 1st April, 1930, but staff was appointed earlier to make preliminary arrangements.
1930-31	..	..	6,811	
1931-32	..	..	5,478	
1932-33	..	..	10,819	
1933-34	..	..	10,621	
1934-35	..	..	19,316	
1935-36	..	..	15,222	
1936-37	..	..	19,269	
1937-38	..	..	16,627	

(e)

1931-32	..	..	2	Industrial Final Examination.
1932-33	..	..	4	
1933-34	..	..	12	
1934-35	..	..	11	
1935-36	..	..	13	
1936-37	..	..	16	Apprenticeship Certificate Examination.
			7	Diploma Examination.
1937-38	..	..	15	Diploma Examination.
			13	Apprenticeship Certificate Examination.
Total	..	..	93	

(f) Apart from the normal work of teaching, much useful experimental work is done at the Institute.

(g)

			Rs.
1930-31	..	..	38
1931-32	..	..	111
1932-33	..	..	281
1933-34	..	..	506
1934-35	..	..	499
1935-36	..	..	418
1936-37	..	..	360
1937-38	..	..	1,692
Total	..	..	3,895

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD, HOSHIARPUR.

*4534. **Sardar Hari Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Debt Conciliation Board has recently been established at Hoshiarpur and that its jurisdiction has been restricted to the Dasuya tahsil; if so, the reasons why Garhshankar and Una tahsils of the district have not been included in the jurisdiction of the said Debt Conciliation Board?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—The policy of Government is to limit the jurisdiction of a new board to a single tahsil to begin with, and then to extend its jurisdiction to the remaining tahsils of the district when it has finished dealing with the debts of that tahsil. It is, however, pointed out that a Board for the Garhshankar tahsil was set up in September, 1935, and closed down in December, 1937, when it had exhausted its usefulness.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

***4085. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a batch of Assistant Superintendents of Jails was first appointed in 1932 and that excepting a few of them who were promoted from the old Assistant Jailors' cadre, the batch underwent a prescribed course of training and passed the departmental examination held in May, 1932, on which a gradation list was prepared according to the merit as disclosed by the examination which gradation remained in force in 1932-33 and 1934 ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that another batch of Assistant Superintendents of Jails was appointed in 1934 and that commenced early after their appointment as such a new gradation list was compiled and published in July, 1934, amalgamating the two batches without keeping in view the service, experience and efficiency of the first batch of Assistant Superintendents of Jails ;
- (c) whether further it is a fact that this amalgamation has resulted in the supersession of a number of Assistant Superintendents of Jails some of whom had six, seven and even more years of service and further in the reversion to candidature of some others who are senior in service to those who have been retained in permanent service ;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the Assistant Superintendents of Jails superseded or reverted had a uniform good record of service ;
- (e) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, the special reasons or circumstances under which this amalgamation took place and senior men were allowed to be superseded by their juniors ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The honourable member's question is based on a misconception of the position and at the risk of being tedious I will give the facts in some detail.

2. In 1929 it was decided to abolish the old cadre of Assistant Jailors and replace them by a cadre of Assistant Superintendents who were generally to be persons of a better type, perform more responsible duties and to be better paid. Largely for financial reasons the transition was gradual. The new cadre of Assistant Superintendents was chosen from two sources :—

- (a) old permanent Assistant Jailors ; and

[Minister for Finance.]

- (b) direct candidates, amongst whom were classed a number of old Assistant Jailor candidates, some of whom in 1933 were actually officiating as Assistant Superintendents or Assistant Jailors with or without Government approval.

3. In May 1933 Government approved of a list of 25 candidates amongst whom were 12 persons who had already been trained as Assistant Jailors (*not* as Assistant Superintendents) and who were *at that time* officiating as Assistant Jailors. These facts were known to Government but in order to preserve absolute discretion in ultimate selection for permanent posts irrespective of length of officiating service or date of training it was specifically laid down, "that the candidates have not been arranged in order of merit and they will be selected for permanent appointment to the Department mainly on their record whilst under training or in officiating appointments."

4. In addition I may point out that every candidate at the time of undergoing training was informed that training constituted no claim whatever to eventual appointment to the service. It is thus absolutely clear that as far as the 25 candidates selected in 1933 are concerned Government have not bound themselves in any way whatsoever; either to furnish them with permanent posts or to select them in any particular order of seniority, though they have laid down that in giving permanent appointments to selected candidates the chief considerations will be the records of these candidates whilst under training and in officiating positions. I cannot admit that the 12 candidates trained as Assistant Jailors in 1932 or before are on that ground—or on the ground that they were allowed, following correspondence with the Accountant-General to draw the pay of officiating Assistant Superintendents from the 1st April 1933—entitled to any priority over the candidates trained after 1932. This does not mean that, other things being equal, Government will not consider length of service in making permanent appointments; but this of itself carries no right to priority of treatment. I may incidentally mention that there are still a number of candidates senior to the batch selected in May 1933 who have not yet been made permanent. The question of making any of the May 1933 batch permanent has not yet arisen.

5. When the list of 25 approved candidates was received by the Inspector-General of Prisons, it is quite clear that for practical purposes he had to maintain a list of candidates in some order for the purpose of offering them officiating appointments. Accordingly he prepared lists, which may be described as lists of provisional seniority for his purposes, of these candidates in July 1933 in February 1934 (after the untrained candidates had received their training) and early in 1938 when he was in a position to judge the merits of all the candidates on their records. In making these provisional lists the Inspector-General was guided by the following considerations:—

Family services, educational qualifications, previous Government service, Military or University Training Corps service, Jail service, official reports, physique and personality.

Though these lists have been incorporated in the printed gradation list I must point out that at the most this can be considered a provisional list giving the Inspector-General's views of the merits of respective candidates. It bears no relation to the gradation list of Assistant Superintendents in permanent service whose position is in a fixed order of seniority. It is an obvious administrative convenience that these provisional lists should be printed in the gradation list ; but I may assure the honourable member that when the question of permanent promotion arises Government, while preserving its undoubted right of selection, will pay due attention to the length of previous officiating service and where other qualifications and claims are equal, preference will be given to those candidates who have officiated or been trained before others.

6. It will be clear from what I have said above that no question of amalgamation of two batches of candidates arises. The candidates to whom honourable member referred were approved by Government in May 1933 in one single batch and it was specifically said at the time that no order of merit had been laid down ; although it was fully known that some were trained and had already officiated as Assistant Jailors while others were untrained and had not so officiated.

Mr. Speaker : In view of such a long answer, the Honourable Minister would have been well advised to place it on the table.

Minister : The question was put in the last session and a large number of supplementary questions were also put, and I thought it advisable to attempt a comprehensive answer.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether not only in the case of promotion but also in the case of reversion, the length of service will be taken into consideration ?

Minister : I think every relevant fact by which the prospects of any candidate is likely to be affected will be taken into consideration.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The point is that the question of promotion may not arise within ten years, but the question of reversion may. Will the Honourable Minister take the length of service into consideration when the question of reversion is considered ?

Minister : I shall have all these facts in view when the question of reversion is considered.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether it is not a fact that in the so-called gradation list, the name of one candidate who was appointed on 7th June, 1935, also appeared in the gradation list which was prepared in 1934 ? *(Laughter.)*

Minister : That may be, but I require specific notice of that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I invite the Honourable Minister's attention to the fact that the statement made by him is not quite correct, perhaps quite inadvertently ? May I ask him whether it is correct that the gradation list subsequently prepared in 1934 had affected the position of those twelve candidates who were appointed in May 1933 ?

Minister : I do not think that I have anything to add to this elaborate answer, but if any further enquiries are intended I shall be perfectly willing to make them on a specific notice.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know if the candidates subsequently selected for the post of Assistant Superintendents will not work to the detriment of those who had been selected previously.

Minister : I hope not.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it that there is no definite gradation list, but one will actually be prepared later on and will be based on the length of service and seniority of men in service ?

Minister : I may state that the Inspector-General of Prisons in order to give effect to certain important considerations, that is in order to place particular persons in a particular order of seniority or otherwise has a list with him. That is the whole position. I do not think honourable members need be exercised themselves that it is intended to do injustice to any one or to supersede any one nor even to revert any one. That is not our intention.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I take it then that while preparing the list for the purpose of promotion or reversion he will keep in view the length of service and seniority of the twelve men who were originally appointed in 1933 ?

Minister : All I can say is that I personally discussed this matter elaborately with the Inspector-General of Prisons and I have satisfied myself.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is the Honourable Minister prepared to discuss the matter with the members of the Opposition and then satisfy himself ?

Minister : I have answered the question in full detail and I have done so with the utmost straightforwardness.

Diwan Chaman Lall : In view of the fact that the Opposition is not satisfied with the lengthy answer given by the Honourable Minister, will he be prepared while considering the question of promotion or reversion to consider the question of seniority also ?

Minister : I am prepared to consider any case of injustice that may be brought to my notice.

RETURN OF BOOKS SUPPLIED TO COMRADE GURMUKH SINGH.

***4110. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether those of the books which were supplied from outside to Comrade Gurmukh Singh, conspiracy case prisoner, now confined in Central Jail, Multan, and to which the said Comrade Gurmukh Singh was not considered entitled under the jail rules, have since been returned to the sender and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Six books were sent by the Dwarka Das Library to prisoner Gurmukh Singh. Of these four were prohibited from entering India and were confiscated by the District Magistrate of Multan under section 8, read with section 167 (8) and section 182

of the Indian Sea Customs Act. The remaining two books were forwarded to the Dwarka Das Library, after prisoner Gurmukh Singh returned them.

INDIANS IN LAWRENCE COLLEGE, GHORAGALI.

***4203. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any proportion of the Indians is fixed for admission into the Lawrence College, Ghoragali (Murree) in the Rawalpindi district ; if so, the number of Indian students studying in the college at present ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the restrictions placed on the admission into the college are considered to be severe and undesirable by the Indian public ; if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ;
- (c) the exact amount of expenditure that the Government is incurring on the college ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) The honourable member is referred to Article 36 (c) (i) of the Punjab European Education Code, 7th edition. This rule is followed at the Lawrence College, Ghoragali, also. The number of Indian students studying at the college at present is 84.

(b) Government is not aware of any such feeling among the Indian public.

(c) The net expenditure from the provincial revenues during the year 1987-88 was Rs. 1,80,830-18-0.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : Is the Honourable Minister prepared to enquire about the feelings of the Indian public ?

Minister : A very fine question indeed !

Sardar Lal Singh : Will the Honourable Minister please say whether the percentage of Indian students admitted to European schools now is the same as it used to be under the previous Government ?

Minister : I think the honourable member must give me notice about any particular date under the previous Government about which the enquiry is to be made.

MAGISTRACY IN THE PUNJAB.

***4241. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government has considered over the long standing general complaint that the magistracy in the Punjab is working under the undue influence of the Police Department ;
- (b) what steps the Government propose to take in order to do away with this undue influence in the interest of justice and good government ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Government are not aware of any such general complaint, and there is certainly no basis for it.

(b) Does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know on what source of information the Honourable Minister has based his reply that the police has no influence over the magistracy ?

Minister : It is the result of such enquiries as I can possibly make in matters of this kind.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Honourable Minister ever made any secret or personal inquiry from some magistrates to satisfy himself on the point ?

Minister : I do not follow the honourable member's point. Why should any secret enquiry be made ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the fact that there is an impression in the public mind that the magistracy is under the thumb of the police, has the Honourable Minister ever taken the trouble to make secret enquiries to satisfy himself in regard to this impression ?

Minister : I have made no secret enquiry from any magistrate.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Is it a fact that the promotion of magistrates is made on the recommendation of the police officers ?

Minister : How does that question arise ?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Police reports on the work of the magistracy ?

Minister : How does that question arise ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The fact is that the superintendents of police make reports on the work of the magistrates. I want to know whether this fact alone is not enough to give the police an indirect influence over the magistrates.

Minister : That is an argument which I am not prepared to endorse in any single particular.

Lala Duni Chand : What has been the experience of the Honourable Minister as a practising lawyer with regard to this question ?

Minister : No experience whatsoever.

Lala Duni Chand : May I know whether the Government has ever considered that so long as the separation of judicial from the executive functions does not take place this influence will not go ?

Minister : What a big wheel to kill a small butterfly !

Sardar Lal Singh : Is the Honourable Minister in a position to deny that there is widespread impression that the magistracy is under the thumb of the police ?

Minister : I am not a witness in the dock.

Munshi Hari Lal : Is it not a fact that the work of the magistracy is commented upon by the police ?

Minister : I have not seen any such report.

Lala Duni Chand : Does the Government receive every year a report from the police with regard to magistrates ?

Minister : How does that question arise ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the complaints about the police exerting undue influence over the magistracy, has the Government ever considered the desirability of separating the judiciary from the executive as the United Provinces Government intends to do ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether the promotion of magistrates depends upon the number of convictions in cases challaned by the police ?

Minister : That is not a question which I can answer. But I should say no.

Sardar Rur Singh : Is the Government prepared to institute an enquiry to find out whether the superintendents of police really make reports about the work of the magistrates and whether on account of this fact the magistrates cannot exercise their independent judgment ?

Lala Duni Chand : May I know why the Honourable Minister denies what everybody else in the Punjab believes to be true ? (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few minutes ago the Secretary supplied me with a copy of the Reporter's version of yesterday's proceedings. From 1 P.M. that I discover that the incident of yesterday was based on some misunderstanding. It is clear from the Reporter's version that throughout I was under the misapprehension that the Honourable Premier was denying the fact that I had been badly treated by the police outside the Shahalmi Gate. I thought, as I had repeatedly said yesterday, that he had questioned my conduct and had said that my statement was incorrect. It is clear that I was under that misapprehension. Now I discover from this Reporter's version that the Premier was denying the insinuation which, he thought, had been made against him—the insinuation that I was treated badly under his instructions. As is clear I did not mean to say that the Honourable Premier had instructed the police to treat me like that. What I was saying was that I had been actually badly treated and that the Honourable Premier, if he was denying that fact, was not telling the truth. If that is not so, I certainly did not mean it.

Mr. Speaker : Then withdraw the statement made under a misapprehension.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : If the Reporter's version is correct that the Honourable Premier was not denying the truth of my statement, I had nothing to say against him.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has become aware of the misapprehension. There is no question of 'ifs' and 'buts'. He should in fairness to himself and the House withdraw his statement.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : Yes, certainly, provided the fact tallies with the Reporter's version.

USE OF UNPARLIAMENTARY EXPRESSIONS.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) : On a point of order, Sir. The other day you were pleased to make an appeal to both sides of the House that they should desist from using any expressions which may be offensive to other members or unparliamentary and an offer of co-operation was made from both sides as it should have been. But yesterday when an honourable member of this House came back to this House, whom we are glad to find in his seat to-day, some members of the Opposition shouted "Unionist Party *Murdabad*." I wish to bring that to your notice and I want your ruling whether the insinuation implied in that shout and the words used are such as are becoming of a responsible Opposition of this House and what steps you would take to discourage a repetition of such things.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member who used those words will stand up, I hope, and admit like a gentleman that he used them.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : On a point of order. Are we to understand that the words uttered, as alleged by the Parliamentary Secretary, by some member are unparliamentary. Is that your ruling?

Mr. Speaker : Without deciding whether they are parliamentary or unparliamentary, I say that they are far from dignified.

Premier : If the Opposition say that nobody used that expression, there is an end of the matter.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : I said it. There is no question of denying. And if it is not unconstitutional or unparliamentary there is no question of withdrawing.

Mr. Speaker : I will consider the matter and re-open it, if necessary.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) : I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,00,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,00,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Land Revenue.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I gave notice of a privilege motion.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may read it.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : On a point of order. The demand has been moved by the Honourable Finance Minister and it has been proposed from the chair. Can this motion be made now?

Mr. Speaker : A privilege motion can be moved at any stage and at any time.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : " Suddenly arising."

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE MOTION.

MOLESTATION OF A MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I move a privilege motion to the effect that a breach of privilege was committed yesterday, the 28th of March, 1939, in so far as one Chaudhri Ram Singh alleged to be a sub-inspector of police, assaulted, threatened to arrest, and thereby molested an honourable member of this House, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din who in pursuance of his duties as a member of this House on learning that the Police were alleged to be indulging in excesses against *kisan* demonstrators, was deputed by the Opposition to make an investigation for the purpose of laying the true facts before this House, and further that in so far as this matter concerns the privileges not only enjoyed by the honourable member in question but also by the House that a Committee may be appointed by the Honourable Speaker to consider this matter and report to this House at the earliest.

Mr. Speaker : I want to hear the honourable member only on one point. Was the honourable member there as a member of this House? If he was not, then the motion is out of order. *Prima facie* my opinion is that he was not there as a member of this House. He was there in his private capacity and if on that point the honourable member satisfies me, I will allow the motion, otherwise not.

Diwan Chaman Lall : With great respect to you I will only attempt to confine my remarks to the important point that has been mentioned by you, but in replying to that important point I crave your indulgence in stating two points of view in reference to this matter. In connection with what we understand from our experience of what is happening in the House of Commons, my assertion is this that there is a certain privilege attached to an honourable member of that House and that privilege amongst others is that a member must be free from molestation. In reference to this matter I refer you to Medley's English Constitutional History, page 279, which the Honourable Finance Minister knows inside out. This constitutional authority lays down that from the time of Henry VIII it has been the custom at the commencement of every Parliament for the Speaker to demand from the Crown on behalf of the Commons, a confirmation of the ancient and undoubted rights and privileges that the persons of the members—and I want my honourable friend also to remember that not only the persons of the members but the servants of these members also—are free from arrest and molestation. Now the question is not about arrest, because it was a threat to arrest; the question is purely and simply of molestation. Not only is this privilege claimed in respect of a member of this House, in respect of the duties that he may be performing as a member of the House inside the House, but equally in respect of any duties that he may be performing outside the House. But it goes even beyond that and attaches to a person that has nothing to do with the House but is merely attached to a member of the House. The privilege extended.

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

even to that particular individual. In the House of Commons only recently a matter of privilege arose in a case which is known as the Sandys case and there, Mr. Speaker, you will find in column 1915 of Parliamentary Debates, 1937-38, volume 337, where Mr. Sandys got up and raised this matter and this is what he said—

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recollect that on Monday last in a statement which I made in the House I drew your attention to a request which had been made to me by the Attorney General to disclose the source of certain information which I had communicated to the Secretary of State for War.”

Nothing that had arisen on the floor of the House, nothing that was connected with the House itself. All that had happened was this that this particular gentleman, Mr. Sandys, had communicated certain information to the Secretary of State for War and in referring to that communication he was summoned by a committee set up by the Government for the purposes of examining him in order to find out from him the source of his information.

Mr. Speaker : Was the committee set up by the House ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : No. That had nothing whatever to do with the House. It was only to find out the source of his information and thereby attempt to intimidate or to molest this particular honourable member of the House. He says :

Since then there has been a further development in this matter which makes it necessary for me again to seek your guidance.

That is to say a second breach of privilege is alleged by this honourable member to have been committed. What follows ?

A military court of enquiry has been set up for the purpose of investigating.

This is a very important matter. Not again, may I submit, a military court of enquiry set up by the House, but by the Government or the department.

In my capacity of an officer of the Territorial Army.

And I want to draw your pointed attention to this that he is not alleging that he is called upon to give evidence in his capacity as a member of the House of Commons, but that he is being called upon to give evidence before this committee as a member of the Territorial Army.

“ In my capacity of an officer of the Territorial Army, I have received orders to appear in uniform before this court on Monday morning for the purpose of giving evidence.” The question is how far it is permissible to compel a member of Parliament to divulge the source of information he has obtained in the discharge of his parliamentary duties.

Mr. Speaker : That is the crux of the matter.

Premier : *Hear, hear.*

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend says ‘hear, hear’. “ In the discharge of his parliamentary duties.” He was discharging his parliamentary duties by communicating a certain matter to the Secretary of State for War in exactly the same manner in which my honourable friend here was discharging his duty in getting information which he would have communicated to the House. I go beyond that though my honourable friend’s position was very much more important than the position taken by Mr. Sandys. Mr. Sandys was merely communicating what information

he had or intended to communicate whatever information he had to a departmental head and my honourable friend intended to communicate the information to the full House here by way probably of an adjournment motion.

The question as to how far it is permissible to compel a member of Parliament to divulge the sources of information used by him in the discharge of his parliamentary duties, is in the process of being considered by this House. In these circumstances, I submit to you, Sir, that it is a gross breach of the privilege of this House that I should be summoned to give evidence before this military tribunal.

My second point is this that all that you have to be convinced of at the present moment is that a *prima facie* case has been made out of a breach of privilege and I submit that when a distinction has been drawn between the Sandys case and this case, you should keep in view the fact that in both these instances the allegation is that as a consequence of his being a member of parliament he has a right to do a particular thing to lay certain facts either before the head of a department or to lay those facts before the House itself and if he is prevented from doing that or if he is intimidated in the course of doing that or if he is being insulted or molested, then I submit a breach of privilege has been committed. In respect of this matter there can be no doubt that the question of molestation arose out of what happened yesterday to my honourable friend. May I also draw your attention to the fact that it is an ancient custom of the House of Commons that no member of the House of Commons shall be impleaded, vexed or troubled by any man, the actual phraseology is 'impleaded, vexed or troubled by no man' and this statutory privilege arose in the year 1463 that 'no member shall be impleaded, vexed nor troubled by no man' and I submit that when my honourable friend is investigating a matter which he intends to lay before the House and about which a report has been made to him that certain illegalities are being committed and he investigates them with the purpose of laying them before the House and he is assaulted and troubled and vexed or molested, then a breach of privilege has been actually committed. The fact of an assault on a member is in itself a breach of privilege and I submit that the assault need not take place within the precincts of the House, it may take place anywhere where the honourable member happens to be if he is engaged, according to his own statement, in making an investigation for the purpose of this House and the assault is a commission of a breach of privilege against this House or against that member. It is a well-known procedure which May's Parliamentary Practice lays down on page 83. There you will find that assaults, insults, libels upon members are all matters which entail breaches of privilege of the honourable member in question and of the House as a whole. Is it a fact or is it not a fact that an assault was committed upon my honourable friend? It is an unchallenged fact up to the moment. We have my honourable friend's own statement and we have that statement which is so far unchallenged. I therefore submit that my honourable friend has made out a case, a *prima facie* case, of breach of privilege in respect of the assault that was committed upon him. It is a very great contempt of the dignity of this House that such matters should take place and that honourable members should be intimidated by policemen high or low in discharge of their own duties. These duties, I submit, may not be within the precincts of this chamber or in reference to any committee but merely in reference to the collection of any material which the honourable member wishes to place before the House. But

[Diwan Chaman Lall.]

since a *prima facie* case has been made out, you will be pleased to refer this matter to a committee to discover whether a breach has been or has not been committed. The ordinary procedure under the law would have been for my honourable friends, following the procedure laid down in the Government of India Act, to set up a committee of privileges. No such committee has been set up. Ordinarily, if a committee of this nature had been in being, then this matter would certainly have been referred by you, Mr. Speaker, to the Committee of Privileges. But since there is no committee of privileges to deal with this matter, I submit that the only way of dealing with this matter satisfactorily is to follow the procedure of the House of Commons and refer this matter to a committee, set up for this purpose, to decide whether a breach of privilege has or has not been committed. (Cheers.)

Mr. Speaker : If the honourable member's request is that the Committee of Privileges be appointed only to report whether there is a breach of privilege in this case and whether Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din went there as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and was molested as such, I will ask the occupants of Government benches to say what they have to say. But if the honourable member wishes other matters to be gone into, then—

Diwan Chaman Lall : You will notice that I have not raised any other matter.

Mr. Speaker : Molestation and other matters will not be gone into.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is a matter of breach of privilege.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to hear one gentleman from the Government side before giving my ruling.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I submit that so far as this House is concerned, the question of privilege is governed by a specific statutory provision under the Government of India Act and I beg to invite your attention to sub-section (2) of section 71. That sub-section states—

In other respects the privileges of members of a Chamber of a Provincial Legislature shall be such as may from time to time be defined by Act of the Provincial Legislature, and, until so defined, shall be such as were immediately before the commencement of this Part of this Act enjoyed by members of the Legislative Council of the Province.

I submit that so far as the specific instance cited by my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall is concerned, I am not, at this stage, going into the merits whether that instance was justified or not. I have my full sympathy as to its factum, otherwise I am not entering into it at this stage. If it is true, as alleged, that without justification my honourable friend was beaten in a particular manner, he has my full sympathy in my personal capacity, but if the facts alleged are proved to be otherwise, I am sure that fair-minded members of the Opposition would equally desire that they should be fair to both sides. What we are concerned with at this stage is whether the instance cited is privilege of the House or not. I submit that it was for the honourable mover, who moved this motion, to state as to which particular law, enacted by the Parliament or by this Legislature, or any particular privilege attaching to the members of this House as members of the Assembly, has been breached. Unless that is done, I submit that

It is out of order. My second submission is that he has referred to the famous case of Sandys. In that particular case what actually happened was that an honourable member there was being forcibly called, under compulsion of law, to go out to a tribunal and declare certain facts which had come to his knowledge during the course of his duties as a member of the House. In this particular case it is not alleged that it is part of the duty of any member of this House, on that or this side, to go and interfere in matters outside. There may be excesses or not but if we find excesses it is our duty to bring those excesses to the notice of the authorities to be redressed but surely it does not give us any right, as members of this House, to go and interfere in any matter which is considered to be an excess. Apart from that I submit that the main question is whether it is a question of privilege or not. In a matter of this nature it obviously does not, by any stretch of imagination, come within the privilege or duties of the member and it will be unnecessarily stretching your discretion and not exercising it if you hold that this matter should be referred to a committee.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I say one word ?

Mr. Speaker : I have heard both sides of the House and will now give my ruling. The honourable Diwan Chaman Lall referred to page 87 of May's Parliamentary Practice. I would now like to read some lines from that page and the following page which will go a long way to show that nothing can be called a breach of privilege unless the member concerned was acting as a member of the House or was being treated as a member of the House and not otherwise.

In the Commons, on the 12th April, 1733, and 1st June, 1780, it was resolved that it was a high infringement of the privilege of the House, a crime and misdemeanour, to assault, insult, or menace any member of the House, in his coming or going from the House, or upon the account of his behaviour in Parliament; or to endeavour to compel members by force to declare themselves in favour of or against any proposition then depending, or expected to be brought before the House. In numerous instances, both before and after these resolutions, persons assaulting, challenging, threatening or otherwise molesting members on account of their conduct in Parliament, have been committed or otherwise punished by the House.

I would further refer to Anson's book, page 187. It is still more clear. There it is stated :—

The offences for which punishment is inflicted may be generally described as disrespect to any member of the House *as such* by a person not being a member.

If he went there as a member of this House and was mal-treated there as a member of this House, then the question of privilege might arise. From the authority, which the honourable Diwan Chaman Lall has quoted, it is perfectly clear that Mr. Sandys was being asked or compelled to disclose certain things which had come to his knowledge as a member of Parliament and certainly it was his privilege not to disclose them. As just quoted from May and Anson, if a member of Parliament is expected to divulge anything which he has come to know as a member of the House, or if he is compelled to vote for or against a certain matter pending in the House, or if he is molested for having given his vote for or against a certain motion, which the assaulter did not wish him to do, and if he is then attacked as a member, and not otherwise, then and then alone will there be a breach of privilege. It is quite clear in the case now before the House that Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, under the law in force, did not go there as a member of this

[Mr. Speaker.]

House. He was not deputed by this House and, therefore, there is no breach of privilege. It is alleged that he was deputed by his party. But I am not aware of any law or rule under which his party could depute him to act as an M. L. A. If he was deputed by his party without authority of the House there was no breach of privilege. So, I rule the motion to be out of order. (*Hear, hear.*)

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I gave notice of an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker : Sardar Hari Singh and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition have given notice of an adjournment motion about this very matter. Probably the honourable members remember that at the commencement of this session I had to deal with a large number of adjournment motions and what I said was that under the rules it was in my power to give consent to such motions being taken up on the budget days and I decided that during the course of the budget I will not give my consent to such motions being taken up. Only one day remains and if such a motion is admissible, it can be moved the day after to-morrow.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Can there be any exception on any important or urgent point ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether if a motion is moved day after to-morrow, the question of urgency would be waived ?

Mr. Speaker : That point will be decided when the question arises. I will do my best to accommodate the Opposition but I cannot make a definite promise to-day.

Diwan Chaman Lall : That is exactly the difficulty we are in.

Mr. Speaker : Do not be afraid of any difficulty. (*Interruptions.*)

Diwan Chaman Lall : Will you waive the question of urgency or not ?

Mr. Speaker : All I can say to-day is that I will consider the matter very sympathetically ; but I cannot give a definite promise to-day.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I raise another point of order ? I think there has been some confusion in regard to the admission of these motions. As far as the House of Commons procedure is concerned, during the course of budget discussion all such matters can be discussed but we here cannot discuss these matters during the budget discussion. Only two days are reserved for General Administration. None of these adjournment motions which relate to important, urgent matters of public interest can possibly be discussed during the days when the budget is being discussed. Therefore the question cannot be decided according to the House of Commons procedure. All we can do is to request you to waive the question of urgency in reference to the motions which may be brought up later on. I hope you will comply with our request.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot say more than I have already done.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I beg to submit one thing more regarding this matter. You have yourself just now remarked that if there were special

cases you will give special treatment. My submission is that it is an important case. I know you will say that Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din was beaten as an ordinary person. It does not mean that he was not a member of the Assembly. He may not be working there as a member of the Assembly but he was a member of the Assembly. As such the matter should be considered as an important one. I know he was there as an ordinary citizen but when a member of the House is beaten the matter becomes much more important. Therefore it is a much more important matter and you should make an exception.

Mr. Speaker : I have not less sympathy with and regard for Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din than any other member of this House has, but the law is law. I will apply the same law in all cases. I think if I make an exception to-day, I shall be asked to make another exception to-morrow.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You will be giving your ruling to-morrow.

Mr. Speaker : Day after to-morrow if any motions are given notice of.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my honourable friends opposite whether they would have any objection to your waiving the question of urgency? If they have no objection I take it that you will have no objection to the waiving of the point of urgency.

Mr. Speaker : I have already said enough. The Assembly will now proceed to discuss the demand for grant for Land Revenue.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I have got three cut motions in my name, viz., Nos. 7, 8 and 9, all of which relate to *chahi* rates. They may be discussed together but voted upon separately. If you permit me I may move them together.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : Sir, there is a convention that the Opposition would select one cut of a general nature and will have a general discussion on the department concerned. I would like to know whether it is now intended to break that convention.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : This is in accordance with their decision, I may tell you.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I move amendments Nos. 7, 8 and 9?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member cannot move three motions at a time.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, I beg to move motion No. 7.

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : Sir, before the honourable member moves his cut motion No. 7, I beg to object to it on two grounds. First, I beg to invite your attention to the proceedings of this House on 1st July, 1938, where the House passed a resolution with regard to the abolition of *chahi* rates. The original resolution was—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to abolish the *chahi* rates forthwith."

But the House passed the resolution in an amended form as follows :—

This Assembly recommends to the Government that along with the consideration of the recommendations of the Darling Committee and Sources of Revenue Committee, they should take up the question of the abolition of the *chahi* rates particularly so far as they are applicable to the small cultivators in the Province who till lands themselves."

[**Mir Maqbool Mahmood.**]

That decision was taken up on the 1st of July, 1938. I beg further to invite your attention to Rule 68 (2) (v) where it is stated—

A member while speaking shall not speak against or reflect on any determination of the Assembly except when he is moving to rescind the same.

And in this connection I beg to invite your attention also to page 318 of May's Parliamentary Practice. There you will find—

The objection to the practice of referring to past debates apply with greater force to reflections upon votes of the House, unless made for the purpose of justifying a motion that the vote be rescinded. Those reflections not only revive discussion upon questions already decided but are wholly irregular, inasmuch as the member is himself included in, and bound by, a vote agreed to by majority.

Now, Sir, this is my first point.

The second point that I wish to submit is that the Darling Committee's report has been submitted and is now under consideration as has been announced on the floor of the House and its recommendations have got to be before the House and the House will be competent to express its opinion on the question of the *chahi* rates also. So, I submit that that would be the proper occasion to consider that question.

My third submission is that under the Punjab Land Revenue Act the time of assessment has been fixed for a certain number of years. If my honourable friend wants that the rate should be changed, then it would involve a change of that legislation. Therefore, such a question cannot be raised on a cut motion.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : As regards the first point, I would submit that the period of six months has passed and I think that the House might have changed its opinion. I would, therefore, like to put the motion and take the vote of the House and know what they have to say to-day.

As regards the second point, the Darling Committee's report has been before the Government for over a year now and they have not taken any action. There was no use discussing the budget because the Darling Committee's report was there and it would veto all the cuts like that. But I would like to discuss a small matter through this cut and should be allowed to do so.

The third point does not arise.

Mr. Speaker : It is very important.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The third point is that law should be changed before we move any cut motion. If so, we can never raise the question of settlement, we can never raise the question of land revenue, we can never raise the question of the *chahi* rates and we can never raise the question of *abiana*. That would be an impossible position.

Mr. Speaker : I think the honourable member said that it was not within six months. Will he please refer me to authority, if there is any ?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : My honourable friend said that that resolution was moved on 1st July, 1938.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Is it not for the objector to cite an authority debarring my honourable friend from moving his motion ?

Mr. Speaker : It is for the gentleman who relies upon six months to quote his authority.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I may invite your attention to Rule 125 of our Rules of Procedure, about a resolution. I think there is no other rule. It fully covers all matters with regard to a resolution and, therefore, I think, there was no need to frame any other rule.

Mian Abdul Aziz : On a point of order. The objection has been taken by my learned friend that this motion cannot be moved. I want to know on what rule he relies.

Mr. Speaker : He has quoted the rule.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I might not have heard it. May I now ask him to read out the rule ? The one he has mentioned does not apply.

Mr. Speaker : He referred to rule 68 (2) (v), which says—

“ A member while speaking shall not speak against or reflect on any determination of the Assembly except when he is moving to rescind the same.”

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : This cut motion is intended to rescind that decision and unless there is an express bar to this cut motion being moved I think the honourable member has every right to move it. What is the object ? His object is not simply to hear his own voice or make his voice heard by the members of the House. He is presumed to know what the decision was in July, 1938 and knowing what that decision was, he has given notice of this cut motion. He cannot have any object other than rescinding the decision which was arrived at by this House in July, 1938. There can possibly be no other object. The object of the honourable mover, I presume, is to go behind the decision arrived at by this House in July, 1938.

Mr. Speaker : Does the honourable member know the decision ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It has been read out by the honourable Parliamentary Secretary. I know that a resolution was moved and that resolution was amended to the effect—I cannot reproduce the exact words—but to the effect that the House should wait and when the Darling, Committee's report is considered, then this matter would be considered with special application to those agriculturists or landowners who till the soil with their own hands. That was the decision arrived at in July, 1938. Now, 9 months have passed since then and the honourable mover thinks that the Government has slept over that decision and that it has not considered Darling Committee's report and he does not know when that report would be considered or whether it would be considered at all. The Government has given no indication as to when that report would be considered. But apart from that, the honourable member has every right to presume that, as for 9 months nothing has been done, probably nothing would be done in the near future and, therefore, the decision arrived at by this House in July, 1938, really is of no consequence. Therefore, he is anxious to have it rescinded. I submit that he has every right to approach this honourable House with the request, in the form of a cut motion, to revise its decision which was arrived at in July, 1938, and the Rule, which the honourable Parliamentary Secretary has quoted, does not in so many terms debar the honourable member from moving this cut motion. His object obviously is to have that old decision reconsidered, and if possible, rescinded.

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

It is not covered by this Rule. I do not know why the honourable Parliamentary Secretary has relied upon this Rule. The Rule simply says—

A member while speaking shall not speak against or reflect on any determination of the Assembly except when he is moving to rescind the same.

As I understand this Rule, it means that when an honourable member is speaking on a particular motion, he would not cast any reflection on the decision of this House because that would be disrespectful to the House. But it does not debar him from taking that very subject and moving the House to reconsider it. That is the object of this rule. You will see that all the prohibitions contained in this rule are intended to provide against contumacy or disrespect against certain persons and this sub-rule is *ejusdem generis* with other provisions of the rule. The Rule says that a member while speaking shall not—

- (i) reflect upon His Majesty the King-Emperor.....
- (ii) reflect upon the Governor-General.....
- (iii) utter treasonable or defamatory words or make use of offensive expressions ;
- (iv) refer to a matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending ;
- (v) speak against or reflect on any determination of the Assembly except when he is moving to rescind the same.

He must not show any disrespect against the decision of this House unless the very object is that that decision should be modified, and that is the only object with which this cut has been moved. I would, therefore, respectfully submit that there was absolutely no force in the Parliamentary Secretary's reliance on this particular rule, whatever else he may say against the eligibility of this motion.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE.

Reduction of chahi rates.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) :
Sir I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 41,400 on account of Total Charges of Administration (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

Let me point out at the very outset that the condition of the zamindars is going from bad to worse day by day and this is mainly due to the enormous amount of the *chahi* rates which the poor zamindars have to pay to the Government. All lands where the zamindars have sunk wells and which were previously regarded as *barani* lands, are now subjected to the *chahi* rates. The poor people after spending large sums of money and a good deal of labour sunk wells in their lands so that they should irrigate their arid and water-less lands. When they sank their wells the Government did not lend them even a single pie by way of help. But as soon as they have sunk their wells and irrigated their lands and begun to earn something in return for their money and labour, the Government jumps into the field. In fact it is

telling the poor zamindars that by digging and sinking the wells they have done a great wrong to themselves by increasing their produce and that they should pay extra share to the Government from that produce as well. While previously they paid only 12 annas per acre, now they should pay one and a half rupee for it. This is what the Government does by acting on the principle that those people who have improved their lands and have increased their output, should be entitled to charge revenue for improvements which a zamindar effects in his own lands with the sweat of his brow? What right have they to realize revenue for the improvements which a zamindar effects by spending money and by putting in hard work? Is this the welfare of the country? Are they entitled to call themselves well-wishers of the zamindars? Do they think that these *chahi* rates are in any way justified?

Further, many a time this question has been discussed threadbare on the floor of the House. I am fully aware of the fact that the Honourable Minister of Development when he was only a member, urged in many resolutions that *chahi* rate should not be imposed on the poor zamindars and in fact he demanded from the Government that at least some reduction should be effected in this respect. Further, I may submit that this very question was discussed over and over again and many resolutions were passed and many times those resolutions were changed as well. My honourable friend from Amritsar has just now quoted a resolution. That resolution has been passed under this Ministry, I would therefore like to know now what is the attitude of our Government. The honourable members over there have many times publicly declared that so long as the Darling Committee's report is not considered no decisions can be arrived at and they cannot do any thing. It behoves my friends to think out a plan and also see whether any reductions can be effected in the *chahi* rates. The honourable members are fully aware of the fact that not only a few days or months but full two years have passed and we are still waiting for the publication of that report. The same old *chahi* rates are being realised and the same rates of land revenue are being assessed. So far nothing tangible has been done in order to lighten the burden of the poor zamindars. The report of the Darling Committee has reached the Government long ago and my honourable friends over there are keeping it under lock and key. They have not thought it fit to consider the report. Now when the report has reached the Government a very relevant question can be addressed to my honourable friends, that is, whether they would give effect to the recommendations of the Darling Committee in respect of *chahi* rates. Generally they give a very unsatisfactory and evasive reply. Why should they give a satisfactory answer? It is not perhaps an opportune time. When the next election draws near they will take up the report and take some action to be able to say to the electorates and tell them that shortly they will decide the matter and so they should vote for them.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should not impute motives to other honourable members.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I am not imputing any motives to anybody but I am telling the house what is likely to happen. If my honourable friends wish to know the conditions under which the zamindars are living

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

they should turn to page 23 of the Honourable Finance Member's speech. In it he says—

Mr. John Megaw speaking recently in London on the pressure of population in India drew attention to the alarming fact that over half the Indian people, at least in the rural areas, fall below a minimum standard of nutrition even on the frugal scale of a warm oriental country, and he stressed the need of improvement in economic output in default of which the increasing pressure of population is likely still further to depress the average standard of life.

I would like to explain and translate this passage for the information of the honourable members who are not sufficiently acquainted with the English language. When Sir John Megaw came to India he studied the question of the pressure of population in India. When he went back to London he delivered a speech in which he mentioned about the increase of population in India and about other questions that came into the forefront with the increase of population. He drew the attention of the public to the alarming fact, and what was the alarming fact, that over half the population of the Indian people, at least in the rural areas, fall below the minimum standard of nutrition even on the frugal scale of a warm oriental country, and he stressed the need of improvement in economic output in default of which the increasing pressure of population is likely still further to depress the average standard of life. What did he say? He said that the zamindars should have enough to live.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : These things have a direct bearing on the subject. It was also pointed out that the economic output of the zamindars should be increased. What is this economic output? The produce that a zamindar obtains from his crops is called the economic output. But in this connection I may submit that if the poor zamindars try to increase their economic output by sinking a well, Government comes forward and assesses *chahi* rates on their lands. This in my opinion is a positive discouragement. (*An honourable member*): Very far fetched). If you sink a well you are only trying to increase your economic output.

Now, Sir, the fact stated in this sentence is really alarming and the zamindar should pay particular attention to it. It tells us that "over half the Indian people, at least in the rural areas, fall below a minimum standard of nutrition even on the frugal scale of a warm oriental country."

Mr. Speaker : Does the Honourable member wish to discuss motions 8 and 9 with 7?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I have no objection.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : They will be put to vote separately.

Mr. Speaker : Very well.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.*)

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Now, Sir, I beg to move the other two cut motions....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member need not move the cuts. He can only discuss them.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Now, Sir John Megaw has drawn a true picture of our rural life and though the honourable Minister of Finance has included these remarks in his budget speech, still the fact remains that the Government is not prepared to allow us to increase our income by sinking wells. It will at once put on our necks its *chahi* rates.

Then again we are told that "he stressed the need of improvement in economic output in default of which the increasing pressure of population is likely still further to depress the average standard of life." I hope the honourable members now realise the gravity of the situation visualised in this sentence. It means that when the population increases the land which supports one hundred persons at present will have to support two hundred with the result that our standard of living will be lowered very much. And you know, Sir, that this is not a fantastic or even too pessimistic a view of things because the population of India is increasing by leaps and bounds. It is, therefore, not proper and just on the part of the Government to tax our additional income which is solely the result of our own enterprise.

Now, Sir, the honourable members sitting to my right, who are not in their seats just at present, will perhaps make it a grievance that I have demanded only a ten per cent. reduction in land revenue. They may say that they cannot be satisfied with anything less than a 50 per cent. reduction. But I know that the administration of the province has also to be run and, therefore, we should not make such proposals as would make it impossible for the Government to run. I do not want to embarrass the Government. It is possible to achieve their ideal in five years' time and in ten years' time you can do away with land revenue altogether. This is not mere tall talk. I can achieve this ideal in ten years or at the latest in fifteen years. But I am sure that the present Government will never try to rid the zamindars of this burden. Now what is my demand? A reduction of ten per cent. only. If you receive Rs. 2,70,00,000 as land revenue ten per cent. will mean only 27 lakhs of rupees. You will admit, Sir, that a loss of Rs. 27 lakhs will not mean bankruptcy for the Government, for having spent Rs. 48,000 on the Canal Act Committee the Honourable Premier declared that when it would be a question of relief to the zamindars he would be prepared to spend even 48 lakhs, not to speak of 48 thousands. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali will remember that boast of the Premier. I had not then given notice of this cut motion. It was after that declaration I gave notice of this motion to be able to test the *bona fides* of the Premier and his Government. My demand is not for a reduction of 48 lakhs but of Rs. 27,00,000 only.

As regards the question as to where this money is to come from, I would like to deal with it later on. First, let me draw your attention to the plight of the zamindars. I have with me this book which is a publication of the Board of Economic Inquiry. It is an annual publication and I have the latest available publication with me—this is of 1935-36. This Board is functioning under the presidentship of the Financial Commissioner who is considered to be an expert on these matters and before whom even the Honourable Minister of Revenue has some times to bow his head. I wish to draw your attention to a table in this booklet in which the prices prevalent between 1905-06 and 1910-11 have been taken to be one hundred and made a basis to show the rise and fall in prices in later years. Now you

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

have two crops as your mainstay, so far as land revenue is concerned. They are cotton and wheat. The former is a *cash* crop. As regards the latter, we keep some of our wheat for the use of our families and the remainder is sold to pay the land revenue.

Let us, first of all, take the figures pertaining to the prices of wheat. In 1928-29, the index number of wheat was 146 and after 10 years that is in 1937-38 it became 75, that is to say, the price of wheat had fallen by 49 per cent. Again, the index number of *Desi* cotton in 1927-28 was 154 but after 10 years, *i.e.*, in 1937-38 it has become 71 only. It shows that the price of cotton has fallen by 54 per cent. Similarly, index No. 10 of American cotton which was 200 in 1927-28 had come down to 80 after 10 years, which means that the price of the American cotton has fallen by 58 per cent. Similarly, Sir, the prices of gram, *toria* and sugarcane can be compared. All these facts and figures will prove that the prices of the agricultural commodities in general have fallen by at least 50 per cent. during the course of the last 10 years.

Besides, I want to quote from another book compiled by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research—Cost of Production of wheat, cotton and sugarcane, etc., While making this research, which was long overdue, little did the Government realise that the illiterate zamindar will take advantage of their compilation. The Government perhaps thought that these simple folks would not be able to compare the cost of production with the Government charges that are imposed on the matured area. As the cotton committee of Bombay had a share in the concern, the Government had to carry out this experiment and publish its results. I was a member of that Committee and in each session I kept on pressing for its publication lest they should suppress it. We, the poverty stricken zamindars, can in the light of these figures see for ourselves what the cost of production is and what the Government demands from us. I will draw the attention of the House to a few figures from this book. According to it the cost of raising one acre of wheat in 1933-34-35 and 36 was Rs. 43-2-1 and the cost of maturing one acre of *kapas* (American as well as *Desi*) was Rs. 28-12-0. Again, the cost of producing one maund of wheat was Rs. 2-1-10 while that of *kapas* was Rs. 4-12-4. Now let us consider dispassionately whether Government does or does not exclude this cost from the gross income of the zamindars. It shows that our Government makes very heavy demands from the poor zamindars who cannot make both ends meet. The Honourable Finance Minister declared with pride that he had set apart a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs to establish the Special Development Fund in 1937-38 when surplus accrued. But it is a pity that he did not realise that the first and foremost thing which the poor agriculturists wanted was bread and not development. The surplus in the last year's budget ought to have been spent on reducing the burden of land revenue. But the Government has wasted it on creating new departments and appointing their millionaire favourites to new jobs. The time has come when the Government should realise that just as they have a deficit budget, similarly the poverty stricken peasants have their deficit budgets. Their total income which used to run into billions has been reduced to millions now. The individual zamindars do not have even enough to eat. The

first care of the Government should be to provide food to these starving millions. A poor agriculturist who tills 3 or 4 acres of land has to support a family of 10 members and can ill-afford to do that. I have personally seen several such zamindars as were not left with even a single grain after paying the Government dues, although the Government claims that they take only 25 per cent. of the income of a peasant. If the zamindar delays payment, the lambardar maltreats him and sends him to the judicial lock-up. Many an honourable zamindar has to suffer this indignity. He generally parts with the last penny that he possesses in order to fill the coffers of the Government. But the Government often misuses that money which the poor zamindars pay after selling their whole produce. Now that the Government itself is faced with a deficit it should turn its attention towards the starving peasants to whom the profession of agriculture has become a losing concern. The Ministry should not dole away money to their supporters by employing them or their relatives in new departments. That money should be utilised in reducing the burden of zamindars.

Now let me reply to the argument of those who will say that a reduction of 10 per cent. would not be helpful to the zamindars. Suppose a man has to pay Rs. 10 as land revenue and the Government remits one rupee out of this amount. That zamindar will feed his family by the help of this one rupee for several days, may be for a month. Would it not be a great help to a starving zamindar?

I may here remove a misunderstanding. Let not the House think that I want a remission for the big land owners like myself. Far from it. I will be glad if the Government alleviates the burden of the poor agriculturists and does not grant remission to big land owners. I have already shown from a book that the cost of production is very high and the average zamindar has to sell the whole of his agricultural produce in order to pay off the land revenue. The Government does not allow him even the cost of production, and yet it has the courage to hold that it charges only one-fourth of the net assets. In the Act of 1928, the Government claimed one-fourth but now the sliding scale system has been introduced. In spite of what it alleges the Government succeeds in obtaining the whole of the produce of the agriculturists when prices are low. I can prove this. A zamindar of Lyallpur, Syed Karim Hussain, owned a large area of land along with his brothers. He cultivated it and after sowing and guarding his fields, he had to make a present of them to the Government in return for land revenue. "Here is my crop" he said, "recover your land revenue by selling the whole of it." He knew full well that the Government demand could not be satisfied even by the whole crop instead of one-fourth and therefore he made this offer. In this way he proved that the Government did not take only one-fourth but the whole of the net assets of a zamindar. He repeated this experiment five times. What he actually did was that he asked the Government to take possession of the crops then standing in his five squares of land in lieu of the land revenue which was assessed at seven or eight hundred rupees. He told them that he would not have anything to do with the crop although he cultivated, irrigated and laboured on the land for days and nights. Thereupon the Government got the crops attached five or six times and took possession of them. But in spite of that the

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

Government demand could not be satisfied and an amount of 625 rupees was shown to be still outstanding. This is what has been done in the case of the gentleman referred to above. In this case can you say that you have taken only 25 per cent. and not 50 per cent. or 75 per cent. or for the matter of that cent. per cent? It is therefore obvious that the law as it stands now is defective. Under the present circumstances the zamindar cannot save anything.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : I have no intention of interrupting my honourable friend, but with your permission I would like to ask him to give the name of the person and the district he belongs.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, I referred to the person by name twice or thrice. But it appears that Raja Sahib was absent-minded. The name of that gentleman is Syed Karam Hussain Shah. If you start from Chak Jhumra Railway Station towards Chiniot you will find at a distance of about six miles on your left the land belonging to the said Syed Karam Hussain Shah and his brother Syed Shabbir Hussain. They are well-known sufedposhes of the place. And for his information I may also state that the said gentleman is also the President of the Zamindara League at Lyallpur. Now, Sir, I would like to invite your attention to the sliding scale system of land revenue.

Minister for Revenue : Is my honourable friend discussing the whole policy of revenue administration or is he talking about *chahi* rates and ten per cent. reduction of land revenue?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is speaking on all three motions, Nos. 7, 8, 9 and he is only speaking about other things incidentally. The honourable member may go on with his speech.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Now the Honourable Premier has come in and he is an expert in revenue matters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should go on with his speech.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, I stated that the Honourable Premier understands the sliding scale very well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should only refer to it incidentally.

Premier : May I submit that the honourable member may be allowed the latitude to explain it fully and not incidentally, because I shall be glad to know how far the honourable member knows and understands the sliding scale?

Mian Abdul Aziz : If there is any mistake the honourable member may explain.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : If you like me to leave this topic, I am prepared to do so in order to save the time of the House. Such level

of prices has been assumed that this sliding scale can never be useful to the zamindars. According to rules such prices should be assumed as are likely to obtain during the coming years. I hope those of my friends who have been Settlement Officers or Assistant Settlement Officers would bear me out that previously only five years were used to be taken into account. But this time the prices obtaining during the past twenty years have been taken into consideration. Obviously the object was to get the benefit of the prices obtaining during the past war period. I assure the honourable members of the House that even if war breaks out it will not continue as long as five years, as happened on the previous occasion and those peak prices would never recur. If you exclude the prices obtaining during the ten years that is from 1919 to 1929 your commutation prices will go down to half of what you have calculated. As an instance on the point I would quote the case of Lyallpur district. It is shown in the records that Government cannot charge more than one-fourth of the net asset, but in actual practice they are charging much more than that. I would not talk of the index number though I wish to do so. I will say only this much that the method of preparing index number is very much defective. Now what has been done in the Lyallpur district is going to be done in the whole province. No doubt on records you will be shown as paying no more than one-fourth of the net assets but the sliding scale might well be likened to clearance sales effected during the Christmas days when you read posters hanging against the walls of the city that such and such articles are going to be sold on concession rates. They know that many people usually come to Lahore from the mufassil during the Christmas Week and, therefore, they announce their clearance sales at that time. What do they do in actual practice? An article which is really worth one rupee is priced at Re. 1-8-0 and its clearance price is fixed at Re. 1-2-0. That is exactly what our Government does. At the time of every settlement they find out some pretext to increase the land revenue. May I ask whether they have ever reduced land revenue in any part of the province? Let them come forward and quote a single instance of land revenue being reduced at the time of a settlement. Zamindars want justice and fair—play only. I am not making an impossible demand.

Now I turn to the Honourable Premier's sliding scale. Let us take the example of the Lyallpur district in the matter of index numbers. There the price of wheat is 60 annas per maund, of cotton 200 and of *gur* it is 88. These prices are linked to the land revenue which shows an increase of 25 per cent. What we want is that the last land revenue may be taken as maximum and remissions may be granted when there is a fall in prices. But what is happening in the Lahore district is enough to show that even a reasonable request like this is not going to be acceded to. The Government has not got full knowledge of the miserable plight and the difficulties of the zamindars. The expected income that they have shown in the budget is not going to be realised. I assure them that their high hopes are going to be rudely disappointed. They may not be willing to see eye to eye with me just at present but when after two years they prepare the appropriation accounts they will realise that their budget estimates were awfully wide of the mark. The zamindars and their families have to go without proper food so that they may be able to pay Government

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

dues. The Government should, therefore, desist from making their position desperate. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that in my district many lamboardars were sent to lock-up and the treatment they received was much worse than that meted out to prisoners in the hay day of civil disobedience movement. And all this because people could not get any money to pay land revenue. Let the Government understand once for all that the payment of these dues is a matter of honour with the zamindars. If at any time they do not pay land revenue it means that they cannot get money for the purpose, and that they cannot make both ends meet. It is, therefore, the imperative duty of the Government to give relief at such a time and not to make them desperate by its callous and repressive treatment. I shudder to think of the day when your exactions and extortions will have compelled us to refuse payment of Government dues and to have recourse to civil disobedience. Let us try to ward off such a day. Before you make a demand on the zamindar see that he is not being starved. I do not want you not to realize Government dues. If people can pay, realise them by all means. When and where the zamindars are getting good prices for their produce and living in affluence you are welcome to apply to them your sliding scale and even to increase your demands. But you should also be ready to forego at least a part of your dues when zamindars are in distress. Then again, you may refuse to grant any remission to big landlords but you simply must divert your attention towards the plight of small zamindars and their famished families. For God's sake do not try to put us off with the Darling Committee's report and other such committees but do something substantial to relieve our district.

Moreover, whatever relief you want to give must be given without the least delay. Our need for relief is very urgent. It is just possible that war may break out in the near future and consequently the prices of agricultural produce may rise. Then we will not require any relief from you. Nor shall we demand it. It is not correct to say that the fall in prices does not effect our income to the extent of rendering us unable to pay Government dues. If you think you cannot agree with me in this then I make you an offer to base your assessment and index number on our next profits. That is the only equitable and just method of assessment. By means of a comparison of the present prices with those prevalent in 1928-29, I have shown that during the last decade they have fallen to the extent of 50 per cent. If we take the prices in 1928-29 as representing one hundred then the prices in 1935-36 were 53. It is just possible that they may have now risen to 55 but they are certainly not more than that.

Then as regards the question as to where this money is to come from, I must submit that where there is a will there is a way. The trouble with our Government is that there is no will and therefore it cannot find a way. I hold in my hand the report of the Retrenchment Committee of 1931. At that time you were in the Opposition and you asserted with all the force at your command that the administration of the province could be run with two crores less income. I do not remember the pages just now but you have given elaborate details of the economy that could be effected in

the various departments. When you were of the opinion that the administration could be run efficiently with 2 crores less income why not do it? If you look at the budget memorandum you will find that in 1930-31 the income was ten crores while the expenditure amounted to 10 crores and 98 lakhs. Again in the year 1932-33 the income was Rs. 9,87,00,000 and the Government managed to reduce the expenditure to Rs. 9,91,00,000. I know it was not your Government and the credit rightly should be given to someone else. Again, I cannot say as to who enjoyed greater powers, you or the previous governments. But one thing is certain. You must reduce your expenditure as much as you can without impairing the efficiency of the administration. It is your duty to relieve the distress of the poor zamindars instead of enriching the sons of millionaires by granting them highly lucrative jobs. Government should reduce the expenditure so that if the total income of the province comes to Rs. 11,67,00,000, as it is at present, and the expenditure reduced to ten crores of rupees, the surplus amount should be utilised to give relief to the poor zamindars. But the case with this Government is quite the reverse. Last year there was a saving of Rs. 55 lakhs but they have spent it all by creating a special development fund. It was the duty of the Government to see that if there was any surplus money that should have been spent for giving relief to the poor. I do not wish to go into details of such savings, but I want to point out, if your first retrenchment committee has not done anything, what will the second retrenchment committee do and what recommendations will it make? Even if that retrenchment committee makes any recommendation, and your attitude remains what it is at present, then none but only God can save the poor zamindars from ruin. Therefore it behoves my honourable friends over there that if the retrenchment committee has made any recommendations they should try to give effect to them. I know that they would regard all these things as mere talk and nothing more but I would ask them to think dispassionately over the matter.

Besides, I may submit if it is necessary that the Government should keep Financial Commissioners, why not keep only two? If they keep two Commissioners the expenditure of the Government would be reduced. In this connection I may state that day before yesterday an honourable member tabled a question asking whether the Government was going to appoint two more Financial Commissioners in the Punjab. The answer was "no." I know that the question in the above-mentioned form was wrong and the answer was right. But if the question had been put in this form, whether the Government was giving the pay of financial commissioner to four officers in the Punjab, I think that in that case the Government could not have answered in the negative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, I am telling my friends the way in which they can effect economies and I was urging this point that if they effect only a few savings that will bring in Rs. 27 lakhs. Even the previous Government, which were not regarded as the zamindars' own government and as well-wishers of the zamindars, reduced their expenditure in two years from Rs. 10,98,00,000 to Rs. 9,91,00,000. If it was possible for them to

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

reduce their expenditure, will it not be possible to reduce it by 27 lakhs of rupees now. If you permit me I will further discuss this point, but if you object to it then I will leave it here and proceed further.

Now Sir, if we refer to the report of the Retrenchment Committee we would find that it is stated therein that number of Chief Engineers who are working in the Punjab is much too large a number and the fact of the matter is that the province does not require the services of so many Chief Engineers at one and the same time. Once an honourable member inquired whether at present three Chief Engineers were working in the Punjab and three were on leave. That question showed that at that time 6 persons were drawing the pay of Chief Engineers in the Punjab. When they retire they will have pensions according to the pay that they have drawn. But the Honourable the Finance Minister has not paid any attention to this matter, nor has he made any provision in the budget.

Now without referring to report of the Retrenchment Committee, I may submit that it is stated in it that the number of Commissioners working at present is very large and it could be reduced. It may be that they might have recommended that the posts of Chief Engineers and many other high officers under the Government could very easily be retrenched. It is recommended that instead of five Commissioners only three carry on the work of the administration. I may submit that if the Government have a will to change the methods that have been so far pursued, they can do so very easily. It is a decided fact that where there is a will there is a way too. But on the other hand if the Government is desirous of maintaining these officers in fact they can do so. I may tell them that if they continue to pursue such methods expenditure will increase and deficit budgets will be the order of the day. If by retaining these top heavy posts my honourable friends wish to proclaim to the world that they have a deficit budget they can do so. But those who know the real conditions realize full well that this is a hoax that is being played by my friends in order to tell the zamindars that as there is a deficit budget they cannot help them. I may tell them that such like things will not any more put dust in our eyes. If they have any real sympathy for the zamindar they should reduce the expenditure of the Government from one to two crores and I know that they can do it. And when they have reduced their expenditure they can give relief to the poor and thus can lighten their burden. I may also tell you that reduction in the expenditure will not in any way tell upon the administration of the province. A reduction of 10 per cent will not in any way affect adversely the efficiency of the services. I am definitely of the opinion that even 25 per cent reductions can be effected without impairing the efficiency of the Government Departments. On the other hand, along with effecting reductions the efficiency of the services can be increased. I, therefore, submit that the Government can easily reduce the expenditure to be able to give relief of 27 lakhs.

Besides, there are other expenses that are a sort of burden on the poor zamindar. There are *lambardari* dues and *malba* fund. The poor zamindar has to contribute to all these dues. Some one has placed the *Daily Partab* on my seat and here in this paper I find that the Ruler of Kapurthala,

State has issued a notification regarding *malba*. It is stated therein that henceforth *malba* will not be realized from the zamindars. (*Honourable members*: It is not correct; you may kindly read the paper.) The '*ilan*' is as follows:—

کیور تہلہ میں ملکہ ٹیکس کی وصولی

مہاراجہ صاحب کا اعلان

کیور تہلہ 27 مارچ — مہاراجہ کیور تہلہ نے ملکہ ٹیکس کی وصولی اور

خرچ کے متعلق مدرجہ ذیل اعلان کیا ہے

ریوم سنہ 1937ء سے ملکہ ٹیکس کا وہ حصہ جو نمبردار دیہاتی مقاصد کے

لئے زمین کے مالک کے ساتھ وصول کیا جاتا ہے وصول نہیں لیا جائیگا۔ ماہ

ٹیکس کا باقی حصہ روات عام کے کاموں کے لئے دیہاتی شفا خانوں و ٹیولری

ہسپتالوں اور دیہات سدھار وغیرہ پر خرچ کیا جائیگا۔

I submit that we are already incurring such expenditure on the beneficent departments and if we refuse to pay these dues or ask anybody not to pay these dues we would be sent to jail. I stand corrected to that extent but my point is that even States are more progressive than our Government. There are many dues that are unjust and a zamindar can ill-afford to pay them or refuse.

Again some one has referred to the question of the salaries of the Ministers. In this connection I wish to point out that my honourable friends are also drawing Rs. 22½ per day allowance. It behoves them first that they should reduce their allowances and then I would ask the Ministers to reduce their salaries. (*Honourable members from the Opposition*: We are prepared to reduce our daily allowances.) What I am urging is that by effecting reductions in offices, salaries and allowances some relief should be given to the poor zamindar, who by the falling of the prices of the agricultural products is literally on the verge of starvation. It would be well for my friends that they should keep the poor zamindar alive so that he should be able to pay revenues to the Government again. It is not fair that you should squeeze out everything from him and thus kill him outright. Let the goose that lays the golden eggs for you live.

Now I would like to say a few words as regards the *rabi* crop of 1939. I have received a registered letter signed by several *lambardars* from Chak No. 320-G.B., District Lyallpur. It is stated therein that the condition of the poor zamindar is worsening day by day. I will read out the relevant sentences. But before I do so I wish to point out that leaving aside the recent hailstorms, the clouds which we see spreading over the sky these days are very dangerous for the zamindars. My friends should remember that these clouds will belie their budget estimates and the loss that the zamindars will suffer on account of these clouds and rain will not be recuperated at all. They say even if it rains gold, the loss would not be made

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

good. Taking into consideration all these things you should try your utmost to keep alive the zamindar by giving him relief. I was submitting that I have received a registered letter and it is as follows :—

اور پیشتر فصل خریف میں فصل کیاس کو پہل بالکل تم لگا ہے او . فصل
نہود تم بالکل مارا گیا اور فصل کدیم کو بھی نقصان ہو رہا ہے ۔
دستخط

غلام مصطیٰ نمبر ۱۱۱ وغیرہ وغیرہ

نشان انور تھا عمر الدین

I may submit that as regards gram, my honourable friends are fully aware of the fact that lightning totally destroyed the gram crops. Where previously the crops yielded 10 maunds after the lightning they yield even less than four maunds. The recent lightning has seriously affected gram crop. It looks as if God has become angry with the Government of the Punjab. When He sees that a certain Government is treating his people in a bad manner, He sends His elements so that the Government should come to its senses, and begin to treat its subjects fairly. It will be well for my friends to take a lesson and they should try to lessen some of the burdens of the zamindars. I have not made any big demand and it would be only fair and just to reduce land revenue by ten per cent each year. The Government is so top heavy that it never considers itself able to remit anything. May I ask wherefrom you have managed Rs. 1,85,000 within two years for famine? You can certainly manage 27 lakhs easily if you care to. Famine too is due to your *bad amali*. If you agree to a reduction of Rs. 27,00,000 in land revenue it is just possible that famine may leave the province for good and the prices may rise too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I request the honourable member not to use offensive expressions.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a point of order. What is that offensive expression to which the Deputy Speaker has objected? The amenities of the debate demand that an honourable member should not be ordinarily stopped from continuing his speech merely because something is not probably understood by the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I have simply made a request, so that unnecessary heat may not be generated.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is an unfounded request. It is the privilege of honourable members to ask you to point out if there is any particular offensive expression that my honourable friend has used. I say that he has not used any such expression.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : "*Bad Amali*" is an offensive expression. I have simply made a request to the honourable member not to use that offensive expression.

Diwan Chaman Lall : All that the Deputy Speaker can object to is an unparliamentary expression. If there is any, you are well within your right to do so. Beyond that there is no duty cast upon the Deputy Speaker to call an honourable member to order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I have every right to make such a request.

Diwan Chaman Lall : None outside the law.

Premier : Order, order.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What is that order for, may I ask my honourable friend ?

Premier : You cannot talk to the Deputy Speaker in that tone.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You cannot talk to me like that.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Then Sir, we demand remission only when there is an abnormal fall in prices. Again our request is only for a 10 per cent reduction so that you cannot have any justification to object to this reasonable demand. But I know that you will object even to this demand. It has become almost a habit with you. You have declared in conferences as well as your own Unionist Party's manifesto that you will reduce land revenue and *abiana*. That is your solemn promise with the zamindar. I would, therefore, request my zamindar friends to come forward to redeem the pledges and promises given to their voters. I am not asking them to resort to civil disobedience or have a recourse to the cult of the bomb and revolver. I request them only to prove their sympathies with the zamindars by voting for their cause. Let them record their votes for 25 per cent reduction in *chahi* rates and 10 per cent reduction in land revenue. With these words, Sir, I move all the three motions standing against my name and request you to kindly put them to the vote of the House separately.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan (*Urdu*) : Sir, I had no intention of participating in the debate to-day as I know that the Honourable Minister for Revenue was going to give a detailed exposition of this subject. But now after hearing the speech of my honourable friend opposite in which he has dwelt upon the sliding scale system I would like to make it clear to the House in a few words as to what this system means and why it is going to be introduced.

Had the sliding scale system been what has been described by the honourable member in his speech I feel no hesitation in submitting that I would have been the first to denounce it. But I assure him that the description which he has given of the system is far from being true. I have reasons to believe that he is not sufficiently acquainted with the ins and outs of the system. He himself once admitted outside the House that this system is very complicated and full of pitfalls for the uninitiated and this shows his inability to understand it. The point at issue at present is whether the new system is more beneficial to the agriculturists of the Punjab or the old system of assessment, so in order to clarify the issues I would try to throw some light on the subject. This system is not at all so intricate and complicated as it is supposed to be. At first I was under the impression that Mian Muhammad Nurullah understood the system perfectly well. But after hearing him I feel constrained to say that either my honourable friend opposite has not himself understood the working of the system or he could not explain it to the House. However, I would like to hold the latter view.

Before explaining the sliding scale system I would like to say a few words with regard to the old system of assessment. Previously at the time

[Premier.]

of settlement the settlement officer was expected to take into account the rise and fall in the prices of agricultural produce for the last 20 or 30 years, and to see as to what would be the trend of prices in the future. And taking into account the fluctuation in the prices an average was struck generally known as the commutation price. And thus the whole assessment was based on this commutation price. I am sure the whole House would bear me out that this system with its stationary assessment had its own defects. So far as the striking of the commutation price is concerned the old and the new systems are one and the same thing. They differ from each other only when the question of the sliding scale comes in which means that the land revenue should rise only with a rise in prices and *vice versa*.

At the time of the Great War my honourable friend opposite was considered to be a big landlord but now he is not as big as he used to be.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is it because he has now seceded from the Unionist Party ?

Premier : No, it is because the area of his land has been reduced considerably.

He knows that the immediate effect of the Great War was that India experienced a sudden rise in the prices of agricultural produce. The price of cotton rose as high as 25 or 26 rupees per maund. Similarly wheat sold at 10 to 11 rupees per maund. And it would not be less interesting if I say that even *bajra* which is produced in my poor *barani* district experienced an unimaginable rise in its price, i.e., it rose to 12 rupees per maund. Thus the zamindar began to roll in wealth. But his palmy days were of short duration. The prices fell and that too all of a sudden. The economic depression of an alarming nature set in. And had there been no sliding scale system prevalent in Lyallpur the zamindars of that district, I am sure, would have experienced financial embarrassment of an unprecedented magnitude.

When the economic depression set in, we introduced the sliding scale system in the Lower Bari Doab as an experimental measure. The only object in view was to see as

3 P.M.

to how far it provided any facility to the agriculturists. The Government was glad to find that after two or three harvests, the system proved a success there and later on the Government extended the system to the Lyallpur district. Now I may describe in plain words what the effect of this new method is. The assessment of land revenue depends on three factors, the area, the produce and the price. If the area of a land is one acre and its produce is 8 maunds, we multiply the area by the produce, that is 1×8 equals 8. Again we multiply the product by the commutation price. Suppose the commutation price is Rs. 2 only. The total product would be 8 into 2, that is 16. Out of this sum of 16, the Government only claims Rs. 4. Under the sliding scale system, the first two factors—area and the produce—remain the same but the price factor is allowed to vary so that if the prices fall, the land revenue would be reduced. Previously this was not allowed in any settlement. The prices once fixed during a settlement were allowed to rule the land revenue demand, till the next settlement, that is, for forty years. If the Lyallpur district had not been

offered the benefits of the sliding scale system, it would have had to pay more than a crore as land revenue every year. But now the amount of land revenue varies with the rise and fall of the prices. Another note worthy fact in this connection is that a maximum limit has been fixed beyond which the Government cannot charge any amount. If the prices fall, a corresponding reduction in the Government demand would be made. I will explain my point by a concrete example. According to the old system of assessment, the Lyallpur district would have paid Rs. 50,13,682 for the rabi crop of 1938. But under the new system it had to pay Rs. 36,83,758 only, that is, Rs. 13,29,924 less. (4 voices: Excluding *kharaba*?) The honourable member ought to know that the rules for granting *kharaba* are the same under both the systems. Again, for *kharif* 1938, the demand under the old system would have been Rs. 35,81,590 but under the new system it was only Rs. 20,32,170. Here again, the zamindars gained to the tune of Rs. 15,49,420. In all the zamindars of the Lyallpur district have gained about 90 lakhs under the sliding scale system during one year only. I will accept the word of the zamindars of that district if they deny the truth of this statement.

Now I may inform the House as to what is the real cause of the complaint which some of my honourable friends are making. Under the classification of the soil, the Settlement Officer classifies the soil into three grades, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. I am afraid the land owned by some of my honourable friends who are grumbling, has been placed under a different category from the one they would have liked, but they should seek consolation in the fact that the land of some other zamindars which was previously classified as first or second class has now been classified as third grade. It is a pity the honourable member representing Lyallpur is not present here, otherwise he would have grasped the true significance of the sliding scale system to-day.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Are these the actual figures? Did you according to the new system collect Rs. 36,83,000 in 1938, or did you only impose that amount?

Premier: The amount was imposed.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: What I mean to say is that in the case of the old system, you might be including the money which you allowed in *kharaba* and other remissions. Have you deducted from old system the money which you allowed for *kharaba* as well? These are not included now. But according to the old system that may be so.

Premier: My honourable friend should know that the *kharaba* remissions are the same now as they were before.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi: Previously the Government could charge 50 per cent and now it claims 25 per cent only. As a result of this, land revenue demand of the Government should have become half as much as it previously claimed, but the figures quoted by the Honourable Premier do not show that result. How is it?

Premier: I hope my honourable friend would excuse me if I say that notwithstanding his education, he has committed a mistake which even an illiterate zamindar would not have committed. In this connection I

[Premier.]

am reminded of the story of a fabulous person commonly known in the country-side as Lal Bhujakkar. It is said that once a goat put its head into a *gahi* (a receptacle in which grain is stored). There was no grain in it and the goat could not take its head out of it. The people assembled there sent for Lal Bhujakkar. He came and asked for a sword. On being supplied with one, he cut off the head of the goat with one stroke. But the head still remained inside. On being asked as to how the head could be taken out Lal Bhujakkar got hold of a spade and broke the receptacle and took out the head. Having done this he remarked that the foolish people had troubled him for such a small thing (*laughter*). If my friends over there had cared to look at the figures they would have found that this Government or even their predecessors had never taken 50 per cent of the net assets. It seems that my friends have studied the book written by Professor Brij Narain on the subject and got confused. I may tell them that they cannot understand this problem without the help of Professor Brij Narain himself or of a tiller of the soil.

Sardar Partab Singh : I want to put two questions to the Honourable Premier with a view to putting our doubts at rest. My first question is, whether the Government while giving remissions of land revenue according to the sliding scale take into consideration the cost of cultivation which a zamindar has to incur and which does not fall proportionately to the fall of the prices. If not, is the Government aware by ignoring this that it takes away not only $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the profit, but the whole profit as well as the actual income of the peasants? My second question is, why have the Government not fixed, say in Lyallpur district, the amount of last revenue as the maximum limit which the Government will take under the commutation prices and give remissions with the fall of the prices accordingly? Instead the Government has increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ th the land revenue of the last settlement and has fixed it as the maximum limit under the sliding scale and the remissions are made on the basis of that. No doubt even under this arrangement there are remissions, (*Hear, hear from the Treasury benches*), but they do not go to the limit which is due to the peasants and hence they suffer just as there was no sliding scale.

Premier : Sir, the question raised by my friend Sardar Partab Singh is one which should be clearly understood. My friend must have taken the hint from Professor Brij Narain's publication. So far as the question of agricultural implements is concerned, the position is the same to-day as it was before. If my friend wants to contend that to-day the zamindar requires a larger number of agricultural implements than before, I am not prepared to join issues with him. As a matter of fact, the question of implements is a common factor so far as both the sliding scale system of land revenue and the previous settlements are concerned.

As my honourable friend has stated, there is a limit of 25 per cent of net assets fixed in the Lyallpur district. Under the sliding scale system the zamindars benefit both ways. If there is a rise in prices beyond the level of prices fixed, the zamindar will not have to pay anything, but if the prices go down, he will get a proportionate reduction in land revenue. My honourable friend had admitted that the zamindar will gain by this system. I have

already shown by quoting figures that the zamindars of the Lyallpur district have gained to the extent of Rs. 80 lakhs under the sliding scale system. My friend the mover is not in his seat now. He is perhaps resting after having made a lengthy speech. He said that to his knowledge the Government had not reduced the land revenue in any of the settlements undertaken by them. Had the terms of the previous settlement still obtained in the Lyallpur district, the zamindars there will have to pay Rs. 80 lakhs more. I ask the honourable mover if this is not reduction, what else is it? Before making that statement the honourable mover should have looked to his own district and seen as to what had been done there in this connection. As a matter of fact, the sliding scale system is intended to relieve the zamindar of his distress by effecting reduction in land revenue. I am sure that the zamindars of the Lahore district would gain as much as the zamindars of the Lyallpur district have gained by the introduction of the sliding scale. I hope my friends belonging to the Lahore district will have now seen the point and will not agree with the honourable mover of the cut motion now before the House.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Because you have increased land revenue from 10 to 75 per cent.

Premier : My friend's view is absolutely erroneous. Seventy-five per cent increase in land revenue is an impossibility. This cannot take place in any of the assessment circles because under the rules a settlement officer is not authorised to recommend increase in land revenue beyond four annas in the rupee.

The settlement operations are afoot in the Lahore district, and we are going to introduce the sliding scale here also. Although agricultural prices have gone down considerably yet this fall is not felt as intensely in the Lahore district as it is being felt elsewhere. But this does not mean that we should charge comparatively more land revenue from the zamindars of this district. As I have already stated the maximum rate of land revenue under the sliding scale system has been fixed at 25 per cent of the net assets and this maximum will not be allowed to be exceeded. It does not mean however that we would always charge one-fourth of the total asset as land revenue. It is not impossible that this maximum rate of revenue would never be required to be paid. My Government is always prepared to take into account the hardships and difficulties of the zamindars while assessing land revenue. Here in the Lahore district there are several villages where *thur* and waterlogging have done a great harm to agriculture, and the Government has received a number of complaints to this effect. I have great pleasure in saying that my officers have very sympathetically gone into every individual complaint. We are always prepared to redress every legitimate grievance, no matter from which side of the House it may emanate. Every honourable member is expected to do his duty by his voters, but in this connection I would like to say that my honourable friend Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan has done his duty in a very remarkable manner. I admit that he has worried the Honourable Minister for Revenue and myself by always bringing in complaints with regard to his constituency. He further brought such complaints to the notice of the officers concerned, who I am sure tried their best to redress his every legitimate

[Premier.]

grievance. Similarly he took great pains in explaining the sliding scale system to his constituents. I hope that every honourable member would take a leaf out of his book and try to explain this system to his electors; but not in a way as my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has done. He said that in a certain *ilaga* 75 per cent. of the total assets was charged as land revenue as a result of this sliding scale system. I repudiate this charge in the strongest possible terms and challenge him to establish the validity of his statement. If he can prove that in a certain village the scale has been fixed at 75 per cent. of the total assets, I assure the House that I shall at once reduce to it the extent of 25 per cent. without consulting the settlement officer concerned. (*Cheers.*)

Again, my honourable friend Mian Nurullah complained that the recommendations made in the Darling Committee report have not been carried into effect by the Government so far. I am prepared to admit that unlike him I am not an expert in land revenue matters but I think he cannot deny the fact that it is not an easy job to come to a final decision about such complicated problems in such a short space of time. I think leading lawyers like my honourable friend opposite would bear me out that revenue cases are often replete with complications.

Mian Abdul Aziz : But my activities are confined only to criminal cases.

Premier : Yes, Sir, I would say that his activities are confined to criminal cases both inside as well as outside the House. (*Laughter.*)

Mian Abdul Aziz : Only according to the view of the Unionist Party.

Premier : Sir, my submission is that when my socialist friends, like Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, visit any village they take particular care to avoid saying that landed property should be nationalised and handed over to the State. If ever they try to utter such things in the presence of villagers they would, I am sure, be turned out of the village lock stock and barrel. And so they try to hoodwink the rural population by persuading them to demand 50 per cent reduction in the land revenue and water rate. But when they have the courage to speak out their mind and give expression to their innermost thoughts in the presence of villagers they will be obliged to join hands with me.

My honourable friend opposite asked me as to why I have not taken speedy action in respect of the recommendations made in the Darling Committee's report, especially when they concerned the entire agriculturist community of the Punjab. My friend is undoubtedly a hotspur and he is in the habit of taking hasty decisions in every matter. The other day I made it clear to him that such hot hurry on his part would do him no good. We also intend to benefit the petty landholders. We are not afraid of anybody. Wherever we go we frankly and openly express our desire to this effect. We feel it our first and foremost duty to ameliorate the condition of the petty holders. But it is my considered opinion that hurried amelioration as desired by them would not have any lasting effect on the economic condition of the province. If we really mean to help the petty peasant proprietor we will have to make a steady and gradual advance towards

our cherished goal. My friend opposite is a Bachelor of Commerce and I am sure he has calculated the extent of relief per head in case his motion is accepted by the House. And if he has not made any such calculation as yet let me tell him that by granting a remission of 10 per cent in the land revenue the benefit accruing to each agriculturist would be one pice per mensem.

Lala Harnam Das : And still the Government is not prepared to give concession of one pice per head.

Premier : Would a concession of one pice per head per mensem be enough to raise the standard of living of any agriculturalist? Would a concession of one pice give him any relief at all? The only way of giving him any relief is to spend more and more for the general good of the rural population. As regards the proposal to abolish the posts of Commissioners I submit that we have recently passed some Bills into law which I am sure would considerably improve the lot of the small landholders. Under these Acts, Sir, appellate powers have been delegated to the Commissioners who are expected to deal with voluminous work in the near future. And probably we will have to increase the number of these Commissioners in view of this heavy rush of work. They will have to decide about the ownership of lands worth 20 crores of rupees. These Acts are going to bring about a very healthy change in the economic condition of the agriculturists of our province. This is the real way of giving relief to the poor agriculturists and not the one which has been suggested by my honourable friend opposite. I again say, with all the emphasis at my command, that a relief worth one pice per mensem would not improve the lot of the agriculturists. At present all our energies are centred on the question of ameliorating the condition of the petty landholders.

Now, I revert, to the remarks made by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah. He was pleased to advise the Government, that it should rush through the work of amelioration. This haste is due to the fact that he has recently joined hands with the Opposition although he has not openly joined the Congress party for reasons best known to him. At present he is vacillating between the two extremes and trying to adopt a *via media*. A similar precipitous friend of the Honourable Premier of Madras on a certain occasion urged him to take a hasty step in a certain direction. And I would like to read out the wise and sagacious reply that was given by my confrere in Madras to his unwise friend.

Munshi Hari Lal : Is the Honourable Premier aware that the land revenue policy in the Madras province is quite different from what it is here? In Madras it is *ryotwari* while in the Punjab it is *zamindari* system.

Premier : I am quite prepared to accept that, because I know that the land revenue policy in the Punjab is far superior to the policy elsewhere. I accept my honourable friend's contention. But please let me proceed.

Munshi Hari Lal : Conditions there are different.

Mt. Deputy Speaker : I would request the honourable member not to interrupt the Honourable Premier. If a question is to be put, let the honourable member rise in his place and then put the question.

Premier : I agree that it is different there and I also concede that the conditions there are much worse.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : The land tenure there is quite different from what it is here.

Premier : If the conditions there are different and worse, and they cry for immediate action, then my point becomes even stronger. This is what my confrere in Madras said.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : On a point of personal explanation. I said that the land tenure there is quite different.

Premier : My honourable friend says that the tenure system there is quite different. I dare say that it is different. Does that satisfy my honourable friend ?

The Madras Premier says—

I say that this land revenue policy is not in good order ; but that thing has not been in good order for 150 years, perhaps more ; if I should be fair and just to the British Government, I might even extend the period. I might mention that this thing that has not been in good order for so many years, surely cannot be put in order by a band of amateurs, who have taken charge under a very terrible system of democracy, which does not give the expert Government the country deserves and which has put us in charge of administration all too unready and all too unprepared for the task.

This is his apologia. I should concede that.
He further says :—

We must take time ; I am not ashamed to take time ; and I have said so already in my speech that this is a very difficult problem, that we find it very difficult to solve it, that we find it very difficult to cut off from the past and that we find circumstances extremely unhelpful in order to make any immediate change that would be workable as well as just. Therefore, Sir, I am not ashamed and I have no explanation to give for the delay except setting out the facts as I have just now done.

I can do no better than make a present of these remarks to my honourable friend. But if you will allow me, I shall crave the indulgence of the House to read just one more remark especially from the speech of the Revenue Minister of Madras. He says during his speech on the same discussion :

The Government here have been trying to educate the people at large, and also other gentlemen who perhaps do not know about it, that they should be prepared for taxes, and even heavy taxes, when the occasion comes. Without realizing that, simply to go on harping from morning to morning, from hour to hour, whenever any Bill comes, or any measure comes,, is meaningless.

This is what he said. He further went on to state :—

If everything is reduced, what will be left for you to do here ?

And I make present of these remarks also to my honourable friends who try to make out a point with regard to delay in giving effect to the recommendations of the Darling Committee's Report. The report my honourable friend and colleague on my right informs me was received on the 16th of December and Government has not had time to look at it, because we have been almost in perpetual session since November last and my honourable friends must concede that after all we cannot stretch 24 hours into 48. We have more or less to concentrate our work within these 24 hours.

and to attend to other things in connection with the work of the Assembly which in itself is sufficient to keep a person occupied throughout the day, but we have got to do our ordinary work also at the same time. So my honourable friend will concede that we have not had time enough even to read through the report, much less to go through it very carefully.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact that the report was signed in May last ?

Premier : The report was received by Government in December.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Was it signed in May last ?

Premier : I do not know. I did receive a copy of the report, as a matter of fact my honourable colleague sent me a copy but I confess that I have not been able to go through it and I have not had time to even read it through, much less to read it carefully. (Urdu) : In the end I wish to point out as I have done several times before that my honourable friends opposite should always keep in view the welfare of the province as a whole more than anything else. There is no denying the fact that we belong to different political parties and as such our views are at variance with one another. But it behoves my friends that they should, regardless of the party they belong to and whether they are agriculturists or non-agriculturists keep one thing in view, viz., how one can best exert oneself for the common good of all. I, therefore, appeal to all my friends whether they are sitting on this or that side of the House that we should with one mind try to ameliorate the condition of the poor whether they are agriculturists or non-agriculturists. We should join our heads together and devise ways and means to help the poor and down-trodden people of this province. But at the same time while striving to help the poor we should see that the administration of the province does not suffer a set-back.

Besides, I may tell my honourable friends that our expenditure is increasing daily and one of these days we shall have to reduce our salaries. I can say about myself that I can reduce my own salary, because I am in a position to have my *dal roti* and I can make both ends meet. Sometimes we hear rumours to the effect that there are going to be 12 or 24 ministers and 48 parliamentary secretaries in this province and that if a single member joins the party he will be offered the post of a parliamentary secretary and if he has some following in the House he would be offered a ministership. In this connection I may submit that only a Governor having no grain of common sense can agree to such an arrangement. In short we do hear some such rumours, but I would like to request my honourable friends that where the welfare of the poor zamindars or labourers is involved we should forget our party differences and put our heads together to find out the best way in which we can be of help to the poor. If we do that we would have at least the satisfaction of having done our duty and in that case we can look for heavenly reward.

(*Rao Pohop Singh was then called on to speak.*)

Honourable Members : Question may now be put.

Lala Duni Chand : I rise to a point of order. When the Chair sees that there is a strong desire in the House that the question be now put,

[Lala Duni Chand.]

is it proper in that case for the chair to allow any other member to speak? It appears that the entire House is in favour of closure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : There have been only two or three speeches so far and I must give time to those members who want to speak.

Rao Pohop Singh (East Punjab, Landholders) (*Urdu*): Sir, in this province the people whom we on this side call zamindars are only *kisans* for my honourable friends opposite have to eke out a living by the sweat, of their brow, and their meagre earnings provide sustenance for large families. Besides supporting their families they have to pay to the Government a good bit of their income by way of land revenue and other such dues. Now you will remember, Sir, that previously the Government used to charge land revenue to the extent of eight annas for every rupee of the zamindars' net profits but our kind and considerate Government has reduced its share to four annas per rupee. When the zamindars knew nothing beyond tilling the land the people who were the advisers of the then Government got the zamindar taxed at the rate of eight annas per rupee of his net profits but kept their own income to the extent of Rs. 2,000 absolutely free from any tax. Now may I ask, Sir, whether it was not the height of injustice to tax every pie of poor zamindar's income while the income of those who make their piles sitting comfortably under the fans was left untouched to the extent of Rs. 2,000? And above that the tax was four pies in a rupee. These people have been taking advantage of their influence with the Government for such a long time but now that the zamindar has come at the helm of affairs they have begun to raise a hue and cry.

As regards Government dues, I am free to admit that we zamindars do want a reduction in them. We say with all the force at our command that *chahi* rates cannot be justified in any way. (*Hear, hear*). We spend money and sink wells to increase our income. Then what right has the Government to impose *chahi* rates on that score? But I would submit, Sir, that when the zamindar members moved a resolution for reduction in land revenue the other side opposed it tooth and nail. Now they have asked the honourable member who has recently joined their ranks to make a demand for a reduction by 10 per cent. They ought to have demanded its total remission, but for obvious reasons they have been content to make a demand for a 10 per cent reduction. I would draw your attention to the fact that the Government has reduced its share of land revenue from eight to four annas per rupee. They did not appreciate this reduction by 25 per cent but have on the other hand made a zamindar to move for reduction by 10 per cent only. Whenever, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and Sir Chhotu Ram moved any resolution to reduce land revenue charges on small landholders these people at once came forward with the plea that the land belonged to the Government and, therefore, the Government should not forego its income from land revenue. They have always meted out similar treatment to the zamindars. Let me give you an instance by way of illustration. You know that the zamindars of the Punjab are indebted to the tune of Rs. 2,00,00,00,000 on which the annual interest will amount to twenty-four crores at the rate of one per cent and forty-eight crores at two per cent. When the Government brought forward measures to relieve them of this huge burden, the members on the

side opposed them vehemently. Now when the time has come for demanding relief for these debt ridden zamindars my honourable friends opposite have proposed only ten per cent reduction which will give only eight annas relief to a zamindar paying Rs. five annually. Not only that. They have gone so far as to demand 10 per cent reduction in the amount of Rs. 2,70,00,000 instead of demanding it in the actual sum which amounts to Rs. 4,70,00,000. Then again if in order to increase the income of zamindar the Government tries to ensure just prices of his produce by means of a legislative measure they at once raise a hue and cry and threaten to approach the Governor-General or the Federal Court. But now that this cut motion has been merely moved to embarrass the Government they are all solicitous for the welfare of the zamindars. If you were to ask them how this deficiency in the income is to be made up and how the administration of the province is to run they would go even so far as to suggest a reduction in the expenditure on development schemes. Let me warn them that such a step will surely prove suicidal so far as the development of the province is concerned.

I believe in all round help of the zamindars and would uphold the cause of general development. Let the work of Special Fund also go on. Otherwise if that is stopped, the mere remission of 10 per cent in the land revenue would not go a long way to help the poor agriculturists. It will be extremely meagre and inadequate. The Honourable Premier was right when he said that one rupee to each individual would not afford much relief to a peasant.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Sir, I crave your indulgence for a minute to make one constructive suggestion. As a matter of fact our party believe in doing things and not in vain propaganda. At this stage I want to quote from a speech of the Honourable Premier of Madras. In this speech he has enunciated a principle which the Unionist Party has already marked as its own. The quotation runs as under:—

There was no use of duping the poorest man and robbing him of his money. It was their declared policy to shift the burden of taxation from the village to the town, and the Government had no alternative but to put the burden on the traders and others who could bear it.

The Premier incidentally referred to the difficulty of reducing the expenditure on the services, as they were protected by the Government of India Act. The Premier characterized this as a "a violent coercion against reform" and added—

This coercion of high expenditure and heavy taxation on the poorest cannot be upheld by any non-violent Government. The only non-violent approach to the problem, said the Premier, was firstly to tax themselves heavily and undergo all sacrifices until moral pressure was brought to bear upon the authorities and the heavy cost of administration was reduced. With this object in view the Premier declared they were going to levy new taxes in spite of the terrible opposition and they were prepared to court unpopularity and even prepared to be turned out—*(Tribune, dated March 18, 1939).*

I have quoted the view of an eminent Congress leader to support the suggestion that we should make bold to levy taxation on the people of the towns. We would not be able to pull on without that. At present we recover about 4½ crores as land revenue and another 4½ crores as water

[Rao Pohop Singh.]

rate and a lot as excise and stamp duties. When we collect 10½ crores from the poor villagers, there is no reason why the rich dwellers of the towns should be left out. They roll in gold while the villagers are underfed and ill-clothed. (*Loud cheers*). My honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal for whom I have the greatest respect, observed that Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram sitting beside Honourable Lala Manohar Lal (*laughter*) had indicated by raising four fingers that four crores would be realized from the dwellers of the cities (I meant Mr. and not Lala) and that the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal should leave the Treasury benches and come to their side as he should not be a party to tax town people. It is very strange that Congressmen like him who claim to enhance the prestige of their party, conveniently ignored to obey the instructions of the High Command to support the Unionists in the passage of the agrarian laws. They on receiving the instructions of the Congress High Command remained neutral for some time but when the town folk told them that they would not vote for them next time, they loved to remain in their seats too much and disregarding the instructions of the High Command opposed the Marketing Bill tooth and nail. The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal has acted just as Honourable Mr. Acharya does in Madras and there is no reason for him to feel ashamed by sitting with Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram. The conduct of those sittings on the Opposition benches is on the other hand detrimental to the Congress prestige. They have exhibited themselves in naked form as rank supporters of capitalists.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : I rise to a point of order. I have listened with patience to what the honourable member was speaking. Now he has referred again to the Congress politics and the politics of my party. Whatever the politics be, whether they are liked or disliked, I want your ruling whether a reference can be made to them time after time and whether we will be permitted to make a reference to other parties which have no connection with this subject.

Mr. Speaker : It is my considered opinion that all such references should be avoided, as they always result in unpleasantness.

Rao Pohop Singh : Well, Sir, if my patriot friends take it ill, I will not refer to their politics. All I wanted to say was that the Government should impose some taxation on the urban classes. (*Begum Rashida Latif Baji :* Even on the poor citizens?) Not at all. I really mean to tax the rich people of the towns. (*Interruption*). The Unionist Party stands for justice and equity. It will never tax the poor section of the population. The poor people are poor whether they are in the cities or in the villages. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr. Speaker : No interruption please.

Rao Pohop Singh : It has been said that 90 per cent of the rural people depend upon agriculture while I think they are 85 per cent. I would submit that those who have no means of livelihood should not be taxed. The matter now before the House is all important. The report of the Darling Committee is almost ready and is coming up shortly. There is still another committee, I mean, the Retrenchment and Resources Committee who are about to finish their

work. We should not press for the report of the former committee to be placed before the House to-day. We should wait till the Retrenchment and Resources Committee finish their work and submit their report. We will then be in a position to know where we stand and how much we have got to relieve the zamindar of his distress. Before that if anything is done it would surely prove most detrimental to the interests of the zamindars and the reduction of burden will simply be nominal. (*Hear, hear*). At this stage it would be most inadvisable on the part of my friends on this side of the House to press for a reduction of 5 or 10 per cent. in land revenue or water or *chaki* rates. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Finance Minister to what is being done in Bombay. There a house tax is levied upon the people. Why not impose a similar tax on the people here? In Madras when Sri Rajagopalachariar proposed to shift the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the rural people to those of the urban people, a great hue and cry was raised by the capitalists against this suggestion. In the United Provinces when an employment tax was proposed the Congress majority vehemently opposed it and held out a threat to the sponsors of the tax that they would take up the matter to the Federal Court. (*Hear, hear from the Treasury benches*). I would submit that you must tax urban people and that you should sponsor an employment tax on high salaries. In Madras when Sri Rajagopalachariar proposed relaxation in the case of the rural people, he was threatened that if he did not refrain from doing that he would be pulled down. Here Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan has been made the target of severe criticism because he sponsored a few agrarian laws. This is the mentality of the Congress people. Let me say something about retrenchment provided I am not pulled up by you for irrelevancy.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Sir, he is not speaking to the motion and is whiling away the time of the House.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : On a point of order. I must draw your attention to the remark made by the honourable member over there saying that the member in possession of the House is whiling away the time of the House and that he is not speaking to the motion.

Rao Pohop Singh : It has been said that I am whiling away the time of the House. I am not fond of speaking too much. Before I close my remarks I would like to say that I am strongly opposed to each of the three cut motions because they seek to embarrass the Government without serving in any way the interests of the zamindars, the proposed relief is extremely meagre and inadequate and would bring no substantial relief to the heavily burdened zamindars. Unless the funds are available, you cannot reduce the land revenue or water or *chaki* rates to give a substantial relief. Besides I would appeal to the socialists who have joined the Congress party that since real socialism lies in the uplift of the poor, they should come forward and compel the Congressites as well to promote the cause of the poor and give an undertaking that they will help the Government in sponsoring taxation measures on those that have escaped taxation up till now. Let them co-operate with this party, the Unionist Government, whenever they seek to legislate for the welfare of the poor and needy. Your co-operation is most valuable and will be appreciated very much.

[Rao Pohop Singh.]

If my honourable friends opposite are actually in sympathy with the poor zamindars of the Punjab they had better join hands with us and support the present zamindara Government. With their help and support the amelioration of the condition of our agriculturists would become a matter of a few days. To-day the poor and destitute zamindar is running the whole administration of the Punjab but the pot-bellied capitalists are vehemently opposing the Bills which have been passed by this benign Government with the express purpose of benefiting the petty landholders of the province. If the honourable members of the Opposition have real love and sympathy with the tiller of the soil they should boldly come forward and endeavour to stop this hubbub against such beneficial and useful Bills. On the one hand, they urge upon the Government to reduce the land revenue and water rate, but, on the other, they are not prepared to allow the Government to levy any tax upon the rich urban people in order to make up the deficiency in the budget. The figures under the Medical head as given in the budget show that the proportion of expenditure on the urban hospitals comes to 12 annas per head, whereas the expenditure on the rural dispensaries is no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ anna per capita. If I were to propose to the Government that the expenditure intended to be incurred on the rural dispensaries should be as big as that on the urban hospitals, and that for this object in view the Government should levy a new tax on these capitalists, they would, I am sure, accuse me of misguiding the Premier and the Minister for Development and request you to turn me out of the Chamber. (Laughter). We would not urge upon the Government the advisability of curtailing the expenditure intended to be incurred on the urban population. And in this connection we would neither approach the Federal Court nor represent to the Secretary of State for India as some honourable members opposite tried to threaten the Government during the last session of the Assembly. I fail to understand the mentality of the Opposition. The Government had passed a Bill with a view to helping the agriculturists in getting reasonable prices for their agricultural produce. But since this Act intends to stop the malpractices and nefarious activities of dishonest *arhties*, my honourable friends opposite persuaded the money-lenders not to advance loans to the zamindars. They were under the impression that without getting any financial help from the money-lenders the agriculturists would not be able to pay land revenue to the Government, and in this way the work of the latter would considerably suffer. But they do not realize that the policy of cutting one's nose to spite one's face does not behove a race of shrewed businessmen. It is neither wise nor desirable on their part to ruin their own business simply to cause financial embarrassments to the Government. If such self-sacrificing members were to come to this side of the House, I think the financial burden of the agriculturists can be lightened in a few days.

This is not the stage when you should press this motion. On the other hand, the Government should be given an opportunity for fearlessly putting into effect the recommendations of the Retrenchment and Resources Committee, so that they should at least make savings and levy new taxes up to four crores. When this money comes into their hands they would be in a position to spend it on the poor people. But in my opinion

it would serve no useful purpose if my honourable friend presses his motion to division.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was lost.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the honourable member from Lyallpur has moved two cut motions, one about the *chahi* rates and the other about the land revenue. So far I have not been able to understand why he felt it necessary to move two separate cut motions about the *chahi* rates and land revenue. The method of assessing *chahi* rates and the land revenue is one and the same, i.e., the Government takes only $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the net assets. I think he is labouring under a misunderstanding that in *chahi* areas the share of Government fixed is generally more than that of land revenue. If he is of this opinion, I think he is totally in the dark and in fact he does not know the real facts. When land revenue is assessed on *chahi* lands all the expenses incurred on the working of wells are subtracted. Besides, the owner of the well is given *patta raiti*, that is according to the conditions of the area in which the well is sunk, the zamindar is granted remission of *chahi* revenues from 20 to 40 years as the case may be. It is a sort of concession and according to the condition of the land it varies from 20 to 40 years. In this connection I may submit that since times immemorial the governments that were established in India have regarded it as their right to take a share of the produce of the land as land revenue from the owners of the soil.

But the British Government in the Punjab resolved to charge 50 per cent. of the net assets as land revenue. In 1928 the Unionist Party urged upon the Government to effect a further reduction in the land revenue and so it was legislated that only 25 per cent. of the net assets should be charged.

My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has remarked in the course of his speech that in 1932-33 the Government was able to run its administration efficiently even after effecting a considerable reduction in the total expenditure. I have just gone through the memorandum presented by the Financial Secretary to the Punjab Government, and this shows that the reduction was made by retrenching expenditure intended to be incurred on beneficent departments. However, I may submit, Sir, that this was done at a time when the bureaucratic Government was in power which could afford to make such a retrenchment in the allotment of the beneficent departments, but now under the popular ministry such a reduction in the expenditure on the beneficent departments is tantamount to self-destruction pure and simple, as any decrease in the amount earmarked for the nation building activities would have an adverse effect on the general development of the country. If we spend less on hospitals, schools, etc., we are sure to lower the earning capacity of an individual Punjabi. Being a representative of a rural constituency, I am very much desirous for the reduction of land revenue, but the question to be considered is how to do it.

[K. S. Chaudhri Pir Muhammad.]

A reference just made to the speech of the Honourable Premier of Madras shows that it is impossible at this time to grant substantial reduction of land revenue without taxing the rich dwellers of the cities.

I may be permitted to observe that the Honourable Premier has already declared that the Government is considering the question of affording relief to the poor agriculturists by reducing their land revenue and I am sure the Unionist Government will do it. However, I must point out that if huge reductions in land revenue are made without first having levied a fresh taxation on the richer classes, the administration will be adversely affected. My honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh declared the other day on the floor of this House that the condition of the poverty-stricken zamindar was pitiable indeed. But may I point out to him that the resolution which the committee of the non-agriculturists of which the honourable member was himself a member, has passed, aims at doing the greatest possible harm to the poor agriculturists. Is this the sort of sympathy which he has with them? My honourable friend has been blowing hot and cold at the same time. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: What is the harm in that resolution? It will enable you to withhold the payment of land revenue.) I have had the privilege of being a class-fellow of the learned Dr. Sahib. He says that there is no harm in that resolution. But I may inform him that we are not going to be frightened by his threats. We will never go to his door in a begging mood even if we have to starve ourselves to death.

Mr. Speaker: Please do not be personal.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad: Sir, Dr. Gokul Chand Narang the other day said in this House—

Sir Sikander has unduly encouraged the villagers by telling them that they were the real masters of the country.

I say that there is nothing wrong in that, as the Honourable the Premier has done the right thing, in letting the people know what they are in reality. We are grateful to him for having awakened the political consciousness of the agriculturists. Let my learned friend, Sir Gokul Chand Narang, know that we are no longer as backward now as he thinks us. Now we have among us such eminent persons of whom any class may be proud, as Sir Zafrullah Khan besides a host of other educated persons.

In the end, Sir, I may be permitted to observe that unless fresh sources of revenue are tapped, the reduction in the land revenue is not a practicable and wise step to follow.

With these words, Sir, I strongly oppose the cut motion now under discussion.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That the item of Rs. 41,400 on account of Total Charges of Administration (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Assembly divided: Ayes 53, Noes 79.

AYES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.
 Abdul Rab, Mian.
 Ajit Singh, Sardar.
 Balbir Singh, Rao Bahadur Cap-
 tain Rao.
 Balwant Singh, Sardar.
 Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
 Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
 Bbim Sen Sachar, Lala.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.
 Chanan Singh, Sardar.
 Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
 Duni Chand, Lala.
 Duni Chand, Mrs.
 Faqir Chaud, Chaudhri.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
 Hari Lal, Munshi.
 Hari Singh, Sardar.
 Harjab Singh, Sardar.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Kabul Singh, Master.
 Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
 Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
 Kartar Singh, Sardar.

Kishan Singh, Sardar.
 Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
 Lal Singh, Sardar.
 Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
 Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
 Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
 Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
 Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jee-
 lani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur Mr.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
 Partab Singh, Sardar.
 Prem Singh, Mahant.
 Rur Singh, Sardar.
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
 Satya Pal, Dr.
 Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
 Sita Ram, Lala.
 Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
 Sudarshan, Seth.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
 Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdas-
 pur).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
 Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.
 Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan
 Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Baha-
 dur Nawab Malik.
 Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable
 Chaudhri, Sir.

Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Dina Nath, Captain.
 Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major
 Raja.
 Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieut.
 Bhai.
 Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Baha-
 dur Maulvi.
 Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Baha-
 dur.
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.

Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Sahib
Sardar.
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
Hans Raj, Bhagat.
Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
Indar Singh, Sardar.
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The
Honourable Nawabzada Major.
Kishan Das, Seth.
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
Magbool Mahmood, Mir.
Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan
Bahadur Raja.
Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib
Shaikh.
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawab
zada.
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani,
Khan Bahadur Sardar.
Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon,
Nawab Malik Sir.
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari,
Nawab Sir.
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major
Sardar.
Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chau-
dhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan
Sahib Chaudhri.

Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sar-
dar.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur
Captain Malik.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur
Nawab.
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant
Sardar.
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib
Mian.
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chau-
dhri.
Pohop Singh, Rao.
Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib
Chaudhri.
Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honour-
able Major, Sir.
Singha, Diwan Bahadur, S. P.
Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honour-
able Dr. Sir.
Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
Tara Singh, Sardar.
Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur
Sardar.

QUESTION HOUR.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Sir, I beg to move—

That the question hour be dispensed with to-morrow.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, 30th March, 1939.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 30th March, 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now resume discussion of the demand for grant for Land Revenue.

Mian Nurullah : I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 41,400 on account of Total Charges of Administration (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the item of Rs. 41,400 on account of Total Charges of Administration (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Assembly divided :—

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a point of order. I understand that a great deal of coercion is being employed in attempting to force an honourable member to vote when he does not desire to exercise his vote.

Mr. Speaker : No coercion should be used.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Not even aggressive persuasion.

Mr. Speaker : Persuasion only is permissible.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 42, Noes 74.

AYES.

Abdul Rab, Mian.
Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Duni Chand, Lala.
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harjab Singh, Sardar.

Harnam Das, Lala.
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kirshna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lal Singh, Sardar.
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.

Mula Singh, Sardar.
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.

Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Satya Pal, Dr.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
Sudarshan, Seth.
Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Afzaali Hasnie, Sayed.
Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.
Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
Fateh Jeng Singh, 2nd-Lieutenant Bhai.
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
Few, Mr. E.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
Hans Raj, Bhagat.
Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
Indar Singh, Sardar.
Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
Khizar Hyat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Nawabzada Major.
Kishan Das, Seth.

Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gur-chani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.
Muhammad Husain, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar.
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jee-lani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.
Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Pohar Singh, Rao.
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.

Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.

Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.

Sardar Muhammad Hussain (Chunian, Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*):
 Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 6,61,200 on account of Survey and Settlement Parties (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this cut motion is to discuss the high rate of assessment of land revenue in the Lahore district and tahsil Chunian and to urge reduction in land revenue.

Sir, the rate of land revenue as assessed in the tahsils of Lahore and Chunian has recently been announced by the Government. We were under the impression that some reduction would be effected in the present rate but contrary to our expectations the Government has considerably enhanced it. This increase in the rate of land revenue has given rise to a great agitation amongst the poor kisans of the district. At present the situation has taken such a turn that *jathas* of these kisans have begun to pour into the city. It would not be, I am sure, out of place to submit here that highly improper and indecent treatment is being meted out to the members of these *jathas*. It is a matter of regret that instead of giving them a patient hearing the Government has posted police pickets in order to crush this movement. Not only that. A deputation sought an interview on their behalf, but the Government have been evading to grant it under various pleas and pretexts. These poor agitators are being subjected to various hardships, so much so that the honourable members of this House who went to see their demonstrations with their own eyes were insulted and molested by the police.

Sir, the Government has, I am sure, resorted to the sliding scale system with a view to enhance the rate of land revenue. We find a good many defects in this system. In reply to the notices that were served on the kisans of the Lahore district, we have made all such defects known to the settlement officer. The maximum limit of the net profit as determined by the Government is not based upon justice and fairness. It seems either the Government is not aware of the extent of net profit that is usually accruing to our poor kisans or it has been purposely concealing the real facts from the public. Anyhow the extent of the profit as determined is absolutely untrue and incorrect. It has been held by every fair-minded person that at the time of assessing the net profit accruing to the tillers of the soil, the Government should deduct the cost of production out of the total produce. Here I would like to suggest that the Government would be well-advised to appoint an independent committee for assessing the net profit of the kisans. In this way the former would, I am sure, be able to know as to how much these kisans are raising as net profit out of their agricultural profession.

[Sardar Muhammad Husain.]

The other thing which I like to point out to the House is that where the Government hopes to make money it generally consults the books written on the subject of settlement, but when it apprehends some loss it totally neglects them. For instance, in his Manual of Settlement, Mr. Douie says that if on account of some special reasons the agricultural prices have experienced any extraordinary rise such a rise should not be taken into account at the time of the next settlement. Sir, you are quite aware of the fact that the prices of agricultural produce rose very high after the Great War. It was, therefore, incumbent upon the Government not to take these high prices into account at the time of the present settlement. Although the Government has totally neglected this principle yet it has acted upon another one, laid down by the same authority, under which the Government expects to gain something. According to the second principle the commutation of the produce and matured area can be effected for a period of 5 years instead of 20 years. That is what the Government has actually done in the case of the Kasur tahsil where it has effected the commutation of the produce and the matured area for a period of 5 years, i.e., from 1930-31 to 1934-35.

Minister for Revenue : May I point out that Kasur tahsil is not under discussion ?

Sardar Muhammad Husain : Please read the list of business for to-day. Kasur tahsil is situated in the Lahore district. (Laughter.) Sir, I was submitting that in tahsil Kasur five years, that is from 1930-31 to 1934-35, were taken into consideration for determining the rate of assessment and the year 1932-33 was excluded only because the matured area in this particular year was found to be less by 18 per cent. than the average matured area in any of the last twenty years in the whole tahsil. I adduce an extract from the report of the Settlement Officer, Lahore, to prove my contention.

”بنا بریں ہماری تجویز ہے کہ تحصیل لاہور اور جوناپور کے لئے پانچ سال سنہ ۳۱-۱۹۳۰ء لغایت سنہ ۳۵-۱۹۳۴ء کے لئے جائیں اور تحصیل قصور کے لئے بھی یہی عمر لیا جائے۔ لیکن ان میں سے سال ۳۳-۱۹۳۲ء خارج کیا جائے۔ تحصیل قصور میں سال سنہ ۳۳-۱۹۳۲ء کے خارج کوئے بی خامیوں وجہ یہ ہے۔ کیونکہ یہ سال اس تعداد میں خامی طور پر خراب تھا اور اس سال رقبہ پختہ شدہ کی مقدار اس تحصیل میں گذشتہ ۲۰ سال کے پختہ شدہ رقبہ کی اوسط سے ۱۸ فیصدی کم تھی۔“

It will not therefore be out of place to say that wherever Government consider that they stand to gain by applying the rules laid in the Settlement Manual, they act upon them. But when they find that the application of these rules will redound to the benefit of zamindars, they ignore them. (Hear, hear.) Besides, it has been argued by Government that fall in prices will result in a proportionate reduction in the land revenue. I may however submit that while determining the index number the percentage of the produce per acre and the average matured area will remain the same as was decided upon at the time of settlement. Then it is a fact, and the

report of the Settlement Officer also bears out, that the fertility of land on account of constant use, is deteriorating day by day and this is bound to result in a decrease of produce. When this is the state of affairs I may point out that the sliding scale system will have absolutely no effect on the reduced yield of produce. That is, even if a remission is granted on account of fall in prices, it will counterbalance the reduction in the yield of produce. Hence the sliding scale system will not prove beneficial to the zamindars. I may also make it clear that I have communicated my views to the Settlement Officer, Lahore, with regard to these matters. Again, the Settlement Officer, Lahore, has remarked in his report that zamindars will be entitled to remissions only if the market prices fall by 27 per cent below the prices decided upon at the time of settlement; otherwise they cannot claim any remission. This too goes to show that the sliding scale system of land revenue cannot stand the zamindars in good stead.

Now I pass on to another point. When our Ministers go on tours, they cry themselves hoarse that the interests of the zamindars are safe in their hands as theirs is the government of zamindars. My submission is that if they are really the well-wishers of the zamindars, why do they not exempt the small holders from the payment of land revenue? It is sheer inequity that in cities no tax is levied on incomes which are less than one thousand rupees per annum. On the contrary, a poor zamindar earning Rs. 10 per mensem is assessed land revenue to the extent of 25 per cent. I am therefore of the opinion that total remission should be granted to those small holders whose incomes do not go beyond Rs. 120 a year. As regards the big zamindars, equity and justice demand that their incomes should be assessed on income-tax basis. Again, the Unionist Party is never tired of proclaiming from the house tops that they are the custodians of the rights of the zamindars who should always cast votes in their favour. But when we bring forward any proposal for effecting reduction in the land revenue, they keep mum and pay no heed to it. In this connection I am reminded of a saying in Punjabi which aptly applies to the attitude they have adopted.

انچار دا کھا سر عتق پر نانا اوتی دا اوتی

I am therefore of the view that although the Unionist Government have delayed the enactment of ameliorative measures in regard to other spheres of the province, they should waste no time in exempting the small holders from the land revenue. It is more than two years since they came to power. But it is a thousand pities that nothing worth the name has been achieved here, while the Congress-governed provinces have stolen a march over us in this connection. I am reminded of a story which amply explains the attitude of our Government. There was a person who was very keen on becoming a *hakim*. He went to the clinic of a physician to achieve his object. Incidentally on his arrival, a camel was brought there for treatment. The camel was in acute trouble as a melon had stuck in his gullet. The physician diagnosed the trouble. He at once placed a slab under the gullet and struck with a stone from above. Consequently the melon broke and the camel was relieved of the pain. Now this fellow was closely watching the treatment. He thought that it was an efficacious treatment for goitre. When he began to practice *hikmat*, a patient

• [Sardar Muhammad Husain.]

suffering from goitre was brought before him. He lost no time in placing a stone below the goitre and striking hard from above. The result was that instead of the disease being cured, the patient expired. (*Laughter.*)

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Whatever the honourable member has said, strictly applies to the Congress provinces.

Sardar Muhammad Husain : Absolutely not. I say without any fear of contradiction that Congressmen are the old and revered servants of the country and the nation. They have suffered untold privations and hardships for the sake of teeming millions of their country. They cheerfully courted arrests on their account. May I know as to how many ministers and honourable members on the ministerial benches, who profess to be the sole representatives and well-wishers of the zamindars, went behind the bars in the cause of their country and nation. I think none has done so even for once. (*Hear, hear.*) It has been said on the floor of this House that in the Central Provinces, which is one of the Congress provinces, when a mob made for the Assembly Chamber to stage a demonstration in front of it, the Premier of that province did not think it fit to sit tight in his bungalow considering the point whether he should grant them an interview or not. Moreover, when a deputation on their behalf sought an interview he did not at all object to its personnel. Not only that. He himself came out of his office to meet a mammoth gathering comprised of no less than 40 thousand kisans. After giving them a patient hearing he assured them to the effect that their legitimate grievances would definitely be redressed. (*Hear, hear.*) I do not intend to make any complaint against the local officers; rather I would say that even the Settlement Officer of our district is prepared to hear the grievances of the poor zamindars, and he may be a well-wisher of the kisans but the trouble is that being a servant of this Government he cannot go beyond the principles laid down by it.

Sir, my honourable friend Nawabzada Muzaffar Ali Khan who is also representing the rural population of the Lahore district has given notice of a cut motion too. I would request him that if he regards himself to be a true well-wisher of the poor zamindars of his district he should better vote in favour of my motion. Should he fail to do so, the public would be justified in concluding that he did not possess any genuine love and sympathy for the zamindars, and that he had tabled his motion simply to hoodwink the public. I would also request the honourable members of the House to show their practical sympathy for the cause of those unfortunate people who have come to Lahore for placing their grievances before the higher authorities, otherwise they would be held responsible for criminal negligence in the discharge of their moral duty. In this connexion I would like to draw your attention to certain sentences in a speech which the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram made on the 10th March during the Budget Session of 1936. He says—

“I do not think the shearer will find a flock of meeker sheep. But let not the shearer take off the skin with the wool He has to pay water-rates, he has to pay land revenue, he has to pay *malikana*, he has to pay acreage rates, he has to pay local cesses and local rates. The total of all these dues comes to a figure which leaves hardly any margin for even a bare sustenance to the cultivator.”

Let me now inform the Honourable Chaudhri Sahib that these poor zamindars are still paying the same acreage and the same rate of land revenue. It is therefore incumbent on him to urge upon his Government the advisability of reducing the rate of land revenue. He should not object to my motion simply because it has been moved by a member who has recently seceded from his party. Now if his professions of sympathy for the zamindars were true he would certainly give a practical shape to them by advising his Government to effect a substantial reduction in the land revenue of the Lahore district.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved is—

That the item of Rs. 6,61,200 on account of Survey and Settlement Parties (voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my speech during the last budget session I said that we the zamindars were apprehensive that the new settlement was nothing more than an excuse to enhance the land revenue demand. At that time the reply given to me was that the settlement report of the Lahore district was not ready and hence our apprehensions were not only premature but were entirely without justification. Since then our fears have been realized. I have been approaching the Honourable Premier and other officials concerned and they have assured me that the introduction of the sliding scale system with the principle of remission will in all probability result not in an immediate increase in the demand but possibly in a reduction. I agree, Sir, the sliding scale system is intricate and we will have to wait and see how it affects the individual zamindar before reaching a final conclusion. After I sent in my cut motion, the Honourable Premier was kind enough to discuss the whole matter with me and showed me by facts and figures that the increase is going to be, if at all, only about one anna in a rupee in some of the places, and, further, that there were 200 to 300 villages where there was going to be positive reduction. (*An honourable member*: How much?) I have no figures with me, but I accept the word of the Premier. I told the Honourable Premier that it was immaterial to us whether there was a sliding scale, or whether there was a fixed scale; what was important was that there should be no increase in the demand because we are not in a position to pay more than what we have been paying in the past. We are only able to make the two ends meet with great difficulty. It is now a well-known fact that land is not a paying proposition and there are very few people who are going to regard it as an investment. But to zamindars it is their only means of subsistence and if these overhead charges are going to be high then what is going to be the result? We will have to part with our goods and chattel and possibly our land itself. The ensuing result will be chaos in the province.

My other submission, which I made during the last budget session and I make it again with all the force at my command, is that the Government must wait for the Darling Committee's report. May be that the Darling Committee formulate something new which may perhaps help the zamindars. But we may be one of those unfortunate ones who have got nothing out of it, just because the Darling Committee's report was considered too late for us. We were very pleased to hear the Honourable Premier state that

[Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash.]

the report was under consideration and it would be issued very shortly after due consideration. Another point that has been made is that zamindars can always put in objections. But what does actually happen? What happens is that we take so much trouble to put in our objections in the hope that they will be heard, but I fear this is nothing more than a farce. What happens is that we come from far away places all the way to Lahore after spending eight to twelve annas on *tum tums* and then engage a lawyer on Rs. 5 to 10 and put in objections in the Commissioner's office, but that is the last we hear of them. This is my personal experience that many people from my constituency came and I asked them to prepare the objections and submit them. After that they have been coming to me to find out what has been the outcome. Thereupon I have gone to the Commissioner's office and been able to find out nothing. These poor zamindars put in these objections in the hope that their grievances will be heard, but I am afraid nothing is done about it.

At the present moment it is no good my waxing eloquent on the condition of the zamindar. We all know that their condition is precarious. Government being a zamindar Government is alive to this fact and is doing its level best to meet every new situation that arises, but for the Opposition to come up and say that the Government is doing nothing is a false accusation. Government is doing all that is possible. I wonder what they would have done had they been sitting on the Government benches. It is easy being irresponsible and shouting at the Government, but it requires time and money to do things. It is very easy to say, give up 25 per cent of land revenue. But wherefrom is the money to come to run the administration? I am glad to say that the report of the Retrenchment Committee, of which I have the honour to be a member, is deliberating over these affairs and I am sure that when our report is out, the Government will be able to give relief to the zamindars by virtue of the new sources of revenue that are proper to tap.

My honourable friend Sardar Muhammad Husain said that if I am a well-wisher of the zamindars, I should vote with the Opposition. Let me assure him, that through supporting the Government I have done much more for the zamindars than the honourable member can ever hope to do. As the Honourable Premier said himself I have been keeping the interests of the zamindar in mind. I have frequently approached him and always found him sympathetic towards zamindars' interests. (*Interruptions.*) As far as the Lahore district is concerned, there is going to be plenty of remission and I am assured that we will have to pay no more than what we have been paying in the past, while the prices of the crops remain as they are to-day. After this undertaking has been given by Government I do not feel any need to say anything. Let me add that the Government is doing all it can for the good of the zamindar and that we zamindars are absolutely satisfied. We shall always be with them so long as they have the interests of the zamindar at heart. The Government is with us, the zamindars, and not out for mere cheap propaganda and popularity.

Sardar Muhammad Husain: May I ask the honourable member one question? Does he accept the land revenue of the Lahore district?

Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash : If you try to understand the sliding scale, you will find that it is not *barha hua muamla*.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : To-day is the last day for discussing the Land Revenue demand and many members are anxious to have their say. The convention hitherto has been to give an opportunity to all members to say something. Therefore I suggest that some time limit should be fixed.

Mr. Speaker : If the honourable member makes a motion to that effect and the House agrees, I shall be glad to fix duration of speeches.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) : It may look rather strange that I of all persons should get up and speak on this cut motion. My justification for getting up and supporting the cut moved by my honourable friend Sardar Muhammad Husain is two-fold. I have been told—and I shall be speaking subject to correction—that as the result of the recent settlement in this district of Lahore there has been an enhancement in the land revenue assessment from 30 to 50 per cent. I shall feel very grateful if when his time comes, the Honourable Minister or someone on his behalf makes the position clear. But if there is any truth in the information which has been conveyed to me with respect to the scale of enhancement I think that it should be the duty of every member of this House, whether he is a zamindar or a non-zamindar, to support the motion of Sardar Muhammad Husain. I personally feel that I would have failed in my duty if as a representative of the Lahore district I had kept quiet on this very important question. In this House I represent both the agriculturists and non-agriculturists and I had the support of both of them at the time of the election, and I consider it my duty to give what little help I can to all sections of the population and I feel that even if the statement of Sardar Muzaffar Khan that the increase according to the information given to him by the Honourable Premier would not be more than one anna in the rupee is correct, I would submit that even that increase, considering the present circumstances of the poor zamindars would not be justified.

I do not know if these honourable gentlemen have ever taken the trouble of going through the Budget estimates or even through the Memorandum but if they have they would have seen, and if they do not know they would be surprised to learn from me, that since 1921-22 there has been an enormous increase in the land revenue which has been taken out of the pockets of these gentlemen.

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : But what about the area sown ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I am coming to that. In 1921 the total land revenue was Rs. 2,21,00,000 and the revenue which is estimated to be realized this year stands at Rs. 2,77,00,000, an increase of 56 lakhs. This is only under the head land revenue not excluding indirect credits to irrigation. Take the second head, land revenue credited to irrigation. It was Rs. 1,58,00,000 in 1921-22 and it would be Rs. 1,86,00,000 this year, an increase of 28 lakhs. Then the revenue under the third head excluding credits from land revenue was Rs. 1,75,00,000 in 1921-22 and this year it would be Rs. 2,74,00,000, that is, an increase of 99 lakhs. If these honourable members were wide awake and not sleeping over their rights and

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

interests, they would have risen in rebellion against the Government on account of such enormous exactions that are made from them. The total of these figures comes to Rs. 1,83,00,000. The sum total of land revenue under all these three heads in 1921-22 was Rs. 5,54,00,000 and what these honourable members are going to pay this year will be Rs. 7,37,00,000. (Punjabi) I was saying that if our zamindar brethren were wide awake and not sleeping over their rights and interests, they would have seriously objected to the enormous exactions made by Government since 1921. I have already shown by quoting figures that the Government have raised the land revenue, etc., to be realized from them to the extent of one crore and eighty-three lakhs of rupees. I ask my zamindar friends if they have ever given a serious thought to it.

Nawab Malik Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon : The area under cultivation might have gone up during the past 17 years.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Nawab Sahib has made a remark and I would like to deal with it just now. He says that the area under cultivation might have since increased. So far no one has thrown light on the point. But if during the past 15 or 16 years the area under cultivation has really increased by 35 or 40 per cent., no doubt there would be some force in the argument advanced by Nawab Sahib. And if there has been no such increase in the area under cultivation, I feel inclined to say that he was only trying to be true to his salt and has made the remark in order to justify the action of the Government. He has been a Deputy Commissioner and a Commissioner and it is possible that his information may be correct. However, I would request the Honourable Minister to state the extent to which area under cultivation has increased since 1921.

Let me now invite your attention to another aspect of the question under consideration. In 1921-22 the prices of wheat and cotton were very high. It was the boom period, not of course in the Persian sense of the word that applies to the present time (*Laughter*). In those days wheat was sold at Rs. 7 or Rs. 8. (*A voice from Ministerial Benches : Ten rupees.*) Yes, at ten rupees a maund. If one acre yielded two *manis* or 16 maunds of wheat, the zamindar used to get 160 rupees. If from this sum 5 rupees were to be deducted on account of land revenue, his net income remained as high as 155 rupees. But now, Sir, when wheat sells at Rs. 2-4-0 or at the most at Rs. 2-8-0, one gets only 40 rupees for 16 maunds of wheat. If the wheat is of inferior quality he would hardly get Rs. 32 for 16 maunds. Previously the zamindar used to get 155 rupees and now for the same quantity of his produce he gets only Rs. 32. I doubt very much that even the present rates will continue for long. It is possible that the price of wheat may go down to Re. 1½ or Re. 1¼ per maund. Some time back this was the price of wheat and I will not wonder if the same price recurs to-morrow. You suspect our intentions and do not take us as your friends, but in the words of Sheikh Saadi you should accept good advice even if it is written on a wall. I ask my friends if it is a fact or not that the Government have made exactions to the extent of Rs. 1,83,00,000. If *batai* system had been in vogue, it would have made little difference because the Government would have taken land revenue in kind. Under cash system Government, was taking in 1921-22, practically half a maund out of sixteen

maunds of wheat. But now they are taking four times of that, that is two maunds out of 16 maunds because to pay the same Rs. 5 the zamindar has now to part with two maunds of wheat. If the *batai* system were in vogue here the zamindars would not have felt the burden of Government dues so much. But they have to pay these dues in good cash money. In the Moghul period and the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh the Government dues were paid in kind. If the yield from a certain tract of land came up to a certain minimum, Government took its prescribed share, but if it fell below the estimated minimum then nothing was taken. But now you have to pay a fixed amount and that too in hard cash. And what is more, even if your harvest is estimated to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 25 per cent. of the ordinary yield you are allowed no *kharaba*. This is the plight of the zamindar in this province.

My honourable friend Sardar Muhammad Husain has remarked that the yield from the land has considerably decreased. I am not a jat or a cultivator myself but I know something about land and its cultivation. My zamindar friends are naturally in a better position to say whether the fertility of the land has increased or decreased, but I am of the opinion that it has decreased and I hope my friends will agree with me. Now, it is for Sir Malcolm Darling and other officers to make any authoritative pronouncement as to the extent of this decrease, but even if it is only 10 per cent. the output of an acre yielding 16 maunds must have decreased by 1.6 maunds. Thus the present position is that while the land revenue has not been reduced by a single pie, your output has decreased by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds, per acre. Now even at the rate of Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ per maund, the price of $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds, will amount to Rs. 3-12-0. This added to Rs. 5 which you have to pay as land revenue raises your liability in this direction to Rs. 8-12-0 per acre, while the price has fallen from Rs. 160 to Rs. 40 or Rs. 32. Then what is the justification for increasing land revenue? Now, the reasons for increase in land revenue that can occur to a layman are, first, that the land in question was lying fallow and now it has been brought under cultivation on account of canal water having been made available, and secondly, that there has been a steady increase in prices of agricultural produce and they are still on the increase. But what justification is there for an increase in land revenue when the lands are already canal irrigated, when the prices have gone down and when even the yield from land is decreasing? I fail to understand how my friend Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan has been induced to accept this increase without a murmur. The Honourable the Premier must have said to him in his usual way: "Look here, my dear, let us increase the land revenue in your district for the time being and we will give remissions if and when it is necessary to do so." This is just like saying: "Let us give you a good thrashing and then we shall be quite prepared to attend to your injuries." My reply is that we do not want their dressing and fomentation, only let them leave us alone and abstain from inflicting injuries.

Let me make it perfectly clear that the grievances of the zamindars of the Lahore district are genuine and deserve immediate attention on the part of the Government. The kisan demonstrators sitting before the Shahalami and Mori Gates who are not allowed to come near the Assembly

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

Chamber are not lunatics let loose from the Mental Hospital. It is the harvesting time, the recent showers have made it possible to plough lands for growing sugarcane and the zamindars' hands are quite full. If in spite of all that they leave their work and come to Lahore to be mercilessly beaten along with onlookers by the police, it means that the present settlement operations are really going to put them to great hardships. But what is the treatment meted out to them by the Government? The Premier says that he will receive their deputation only if it consists of A and B, and that he is not prepared to grant an interview to any deputation in which C is included. But why be so touchy? Why not allow them to present their grievances through their accredited leaders? Let the Premier not be misled by names. If a certain person is called Yog Raj he is not necessarily a *bania*.

Premier : Is he then a Jat?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He is a Saini of the Hoshiarpur district.

Premier : There you are.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : May I know what is meant by this remark? Is it denied that Sainis of the Hoshiarpur district are agriculturists? After all what does he mean? Let me tell him that if there were even two Saini members in this House, his attitude would have been absolutely different. And what does he say about Tahl Singh? Will he inquire from the Honourable Minister of Finance whether he is or is not a Jat? May I ask why you insist on their exclusion? What is their fault? Just now my honourable friend Sardar Muhammad Husain has told us what the Central Provinces Premier did in similar circumstances. Instead of waiting for a deputation of the demonstrators he went to them himself and heard their complaints. But here they sit tight in their bungalows and order the demonstrators to send a deputation consisting of such men only as may be to the liking of the Government. It was the duty of the Premier to go to these people accompanied by the Ministers concerned and Financial Commissioners to hear their grievances. That is the way to make these people feel that you have any real sympathy with them. It is all very well to harangue on your solicitude for the welfare of zamindars in meetings of credulous villagers arranged by tahsildars, but their representatives in this House cannot be taken in so easily. In spite of what my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali may say about them, they are wise enough to understand what is what. The attitude of the Government towards this motion will show to them how much sympathy it has for zamindars. For the present they are not moving any cuts that may be embarrassing to the Government, but this state of affairs cannot last long. Three or four cuts like the one under discussion will open their eyes and then they will see their benign Government in its true colours. I do not know what attitude the Government is going to adopt with regard to this motion but if acting on

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we were to judge its fate by what has happened in the case of Mian Muhammad Nurullah's motion for ten per cent. reduction then it is sure to be rejected. Again, Sir, apart from the difficulties confronting the zamindars,

of which I have already made a mention, I may submit that the zamindars are really not in a position to pay their dues in respect of land revenue as assessed at present. The reasons are not far to seek. The prices of agricultural produce have gone down abnormally. Land has been rendered less productive as fertility has weakened owing to constant use and consequently the yield has decreased considerably. But to crown all, the credit of the zamindar has been immensely hampered. The facilities which he used to enjoy in the payment of land revenue and other dues before the enactment of agrarian laws, have ceased to exist. If the Government had made arrangements to provide the zamindars with facilities of credit, so that they could pay off Government dues with little difficulty, there might have been some justification for the Government in enacting those laws. But what is the present state of affairs? The zamindar is in a miserable plight. All avenues of credit have been closed to him. He has no means to pay the Government demands which hang over his head like the sword of Damocles. The Government is adamant in its demands and threatens to attach his livestock in case he fails to square his accounts. But he expresses his inability to do so. Then Government asks him to sell gold ornaments of his wife or children, if any, so that the Exchequer of the province may not suffer. He replies writhingly that as of late the prices had fallen very low, he had already sold them in order to pay off the land revenue, etc. When further pressed by the Government he says in utter distress and disgust that he has no other source to tap for procuring money, except by committing burglaries and dacoities. If the Government is prepared to exonerate him from the commission of these crimes, he will unhesitatingly take a plunge into them. Incidentally, Sir, I may point out that in our province crime is alarmingly on the increase. I cannot say at whose instance these crimes are being committed. This should be put a stop to with a firm hand. The facts point out the direction the wind is blowing and one can easily gauge the distress in which the zamindar unfortunately for no fault of his, finds himself to-day.

Besides, yesterday my honourable friend Chaudhri Pir Muhammad, whom I could not hear in full and in whom I have the privilege of having an old class fellow, was pleased to remark that the zamindar would prefer death and annihilation rather than seek assistance of Sir Gokul Chand Narang or people of his ilk. I was simply surprised to hear this remark which smacked of nothing but anger. But my submission is that we never put pressure on zamindars or make entreaties to them to come and seek our help. We rather think, nay, pray that they should flourish and prosper. We are of the opinion that if they thrive and are out of the morass of penury, they will certainly begin to have a regard for us. I can assure my zamindar friends that we harbour no ill-will against them. It is a caucus of a few persons who have deliberately thrown an apple of discord among us. It is my firm conviction that in the happiness and prosperity of the poor zamindar lies our happiness and prosperity. If he is impecunious, the *bania*, the vakil, the doctor and the Government itself would die of starvation. (*Hear, hear and laughter.*) It is deplorable that the present Government is creating bad blood by putting one class against another. Furthermore, the present Government is never tired of proclaiming itself to be the government of zamindars. Let it, for a moment, be granted that it is a

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

zamindar government. May I know if the people at the helm of affairs are aware of the meaning of the word "zamindar"? If they do not, let them understand it by perusing this little book by Professor Brij Narain. Now my honourable friends over there smile and console themselves by saying that the author of this book is a non-agriculturist. But I may submit that if the Government consisted of poor zamindars, you would not have opposed a cut motion like the one now before the House. In that case you would rather have moved such like cut motions yourself. I cannot help saying that the present Government is an oligarchy of aristocratic zamindars rolling in wealth. Its supporters, too, are men of property. I challenge any honourable member from the ministerial benches to stand up if he has ever touched a plough or has ever attempted to earn his livelihood by tilling the soil.

(At this stage four honourable members from the ministerial benches got up and made interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Well, Sir, one honourable member from among those who got up just now, is a Risaldar Major; another is a Zaildar and Honorary Magistrate, the other one is a big landlord of Montgomery owning thousands of acres of land. Can anybody expect that they ever ploughed the land to earn their livelihood? Even if it be granted that they did so, I can assure the House, that they employed themselves in ploughing the land, not because they wanted to earn their living but because they wanted to take a digestive course. *(Laughter.)* They are the persons who devour the whole quantity of milk given by a buffalo. If at all they touch a plough, it is because they want this quantity of milk to get assimilated into their bodies. *(Laughter.)*

An honourable member : The honourable member has made a wrong statement. We ourselves till the land for the sake of work and not for the sake of pleasure.

Mr. Speaker : Order! order! The honourable member had no business, without the permission of the Chair, to stand up and begin a speech. This should not be repeated.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Sir, I am glad that you have pointed out the irregularity to the honourable member who interrupted me. But this interruption has stood me in good stead. It has added strength to my argument that I was advancing. Even if it be taken for granted that they worked on the land to eke out their living, the number of such honourable members is negligibly small. This proves my contention that this Government is a coterie of aristocrats. They do not form a House of Commons, but a House of Lords. If they want to know as to who form the real House of Commons, it is these representatives of the poor, who are occupying the Opposition benches and whose hearts alone bleed for the small zamindars. Our Ministers cannot realize the miserable plight of the zamindars as they have never suffered the pangs of hunger and starvation. Then at a time when the rate of wheat has fallen from peak price of Rs. 10 per maund to Rs. 2½ a maund, our Honourable Premier consoles them that they should not be afraid of an enhancement of an anna per rupee in the land revenue.

Strictly speaking, Sir, it is extremely difficult for the zamindars to pay land revenue at the present rate of assessment and to pay it at an increased rate is simply out of question.

The money-lenders are not prepared to help zamindars in paying land revenue and other Government dues. Let the Government throw them in jails if it can. I declare here with the fullest sense of responsibility that they are not bound to help the Government in realizing its dues from the zamindars. On the contrary, they will not be to blame if they try to create a deadlock and bring the machinery of the present administration to a stand still. The Government has tried its level best to ruin their business. It has given them no quarter and now it should expect none. But let me tell my zamindar friends that they have no cause to grumble at this attitude on the part of money-lenders. Their agitation is directed not against the zamindars but this Government. If you cannot get money to pay land revenue, etc., tell the Government that you are quite prepared to pay land revenue but you have no money. Ask the Premier and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to come with their donkeys (*Laughter*) and take away wheat and cotton in lieu of cash for land revenue. You will be well within your rights to say so.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should not be personal.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Very well, Sir. I do realize that it is not the Ministers who go to collect Government dues. I would, therefore, substitute revenue officers for the Premier and the Honourable Chaudhri Sahib. Well, whenever a revenue officer comes to you tell him that you have got no money and that the *bania* is not prepared to lend you any. Tell them also the real cause of this attitude on the part of the *bania*. He was always prepared to give you a loan when you required it, but now he says that he is not able to continue the practice because the Government has made it absolutely impossible for him to recover his loans.

Thus, Sir, if the money-lenders refuse to advance loans to zamindars, it is not due to any enmity with the latter. It is only a protest against the policy of the Government which is ruining their business. Anybody would do the same under such circumstances. Suppose I go to my friend Nawab Muzaffar Khan and ask him for a loan. Now, if he knows that in the case of default on my part he cannot attach my land, my bullocks, my trees or any other effects and that there is no way to recover his money, then he may give me 10 or 12 rupees by way of charity or as friendly help but he cannot be expected to advance to me a loan of, say, Rs. 1,000. Only the other day I read in the newspapers that a zamindar went to a money-lender and asked for a loan of Rs. 10 only but the money-lender refused to advance a single pie. Now this man had heard of Mahatama Gandhi's *satyagraha* and he decided to make use of this weapon against the money-lender. The money-lender, poor fellow, thinking that this state of affairs would bring a bad name to him gave the man 10 rupees saying that he could return the money if and when he was in a position to do so. (*A voice :* For how much was he made to execute a promissory note?) There was no promissory note in this case. But even if there had been, what then? You may execute a bond or a promissory note for a thousand rupees but what benefit can the money-lender derive out of it when you are not prepared to pay a single pie and when you have made it impossible for him to recover

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

his money? (*Hear, hear.*) There are already so many bonds and promissory notes lying with the money-lenders. What use can they make of them? Let me make you an offer. If you are prepared to pay eight annas or even four annas in the rupee I undertake to make almost all the money-lenders agree to the bargain. Are you prepared to accept that offer?

Now, Sir, if the Government really meant well by the zamindars it should have followed the example set by the Bhavnagar State instead of spoiling the credit of our peasantry. There the State Government started negotiations with the money-lenders and the latter agreed to accept 8 or 4 or in some cases 3 annas in the rupee. Then all the debts were paid off by the State and now they will be realized from the zamindars by easy instalments in fifty years or so.

Mr. Speaker : I request the honourable member to confine his remarks to the motion under discussion.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : The zamindars of Lahore are no exception to the general rule. The Government should have known that the zamindars of all the tahsils of this district are not in a position to bear any enhancement in land revenue. There are many reasons for this state of affairs but I submit, Sir, that even if these zamindars are over loyal and have the will to pay they cannot give a practical shape to their loyalty because the Government itself has destroyed their credit. If the Government does not want zamindars to borrow money from money-lenders, let it open credit banks or make some other arrangements. The other day the Premier was pleased to declare that 97 per cent of the credit advanced to zamindars comes from the money-lenders. Now, Sir, it is just possible that the conditions in the Lahore district may be a little better than those prevalent in Mianwali, Muzaffargarh or Dera Ghazi Khan, but it is a fact that the zamindars of this district are not much better off and that this proportion applies to them equally well. Thus so long as you do not make any arrangements for the 97 per cent credit you cannot expect the zamindars to pay your dues. The money-lenders have decided to withdraw their support to the Government in this respect and you cannot blame them for that. They are prepared to help their zamindar brethren in cases of illness or if money is required to purchase bullocks or for other agricultural operations, but they are not prepared to enrich the coffers of the Government with their money. And, Sir, they know what they are doing. They have no sympathy with this Government and, as I have already stated, no blame attaches to them for this attitude. The Government has to thank itself for this state of affairs.

We have lost all faith in the Government. However, if the Honourable Premier declares on the floor of the House that the rate of assessment in the Lahore district will not be increased, I will accept his word.

What happened in Amritsar is still fresh in our memories. The poor kisans protested against the enhanced rates of assessment. They sent *jathas*, waited upon the Deputy Commissioner, sent telegraphic messages to the higher authorities and were subjected to a *lathi* charge by the police. But with what result? The authorities were not moved to pity. At last the heart of the Honourable Minister for Revenue melted at the sufferings

of his own district and the only thing that he could do was to have the imposition of the new rates postponed for five years. After that period the Government will review the whole position and see if the rates of assessment should be decreased or not. The least that I can, therefore, expect for the district of Lahore is that here too the same policy should be adopted, that is, if the rates proposed by the settlement authorities are really higher than the previous ones, the Government should postpone the new rates for five years. After the expiry of that period if the conditions of the agriculturists remain as bad as they are at present or if they get worse, the Government should bury the Settlement Report of the Lahore district for ever.

With these words, Sir, I strongly support the cut motion that is now under discussion.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*) : Sir, several of my honourable friends on the opposite benches have repeated the suggestion time and again that we on this side of the House are not the true well-wishers of the poverty-stricken agriculturists of the province, and that they should not expect any good thing from us. This charge has more than once been already replied to. But to-day an answer is again called for. I propose to take up the challenge. But before doing that I would like to assure the Honourable House that no responsible member of the Unionist Party has ever uttered a word which could be construed to mean that the heavy burden of the agriculturists should not be relieved. On the other hand, it is our definite policy to try to remove slowly and steadily all undue burdens on the zamindars. We are sure of attaining our objective in the end, perhaps sooner than many people imagine. But there are certain conditions which must be fulfilled if the task is to be accomplished. In the meantime let nobody think that we have not been able to achieve much so far. The heaviest burden is the burden of debt under which the poor zamindars have been groaning for generations all over the Punjab right from Muzaffargarh to Kangra and from Rawalpindi to Gurgaon. The land revenue amounts roughly to Rs. 4 crores while interest alone on debt amounts to Rs. 24 crores. We have already done a good deal to relieve this burden. (*Hear, hear.*) The zamindars themselves will bear testimony to this fact while our non-zamindar opponents will hardly venture to say that we have not done so.

My honourable friend, the representative of Sheikhupura, Gujranwala and Lahore (General) constituency, has been pleased to observe that the money-lenders were no longer prepared to give loans to the agriculturists because they did not expect any repayment of their debts from the zamindars. If that has come to pass, will not my honourable friend regard it as conclusive proof of the fact that the poor zamindars have now been liberated from the clutches of the money-lenders? Does not this mean the economic salvation of the poor classes? (*Loud cheers.*)

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : If you are prepared to repay four annas in the rupee, I take it upon myself to liquidate all the debts of the zamindars.

Minister : I am quite prepared to agree to this proposal if the honourable member succeeds in inducing those money-lenders to refund something who after having received hundreds of rupees for a single rupee

Minister.]

still maintain a debit balance against the zamindars. (*Loud cheers.*) Let my honourable friend receive a rupee for every rupee and not four annas as he says, provided he accepts my proposal. When the Unionist Party saw that the money-lenders, even after having realized thousands for every hundred rupees they originally lent, were still claiming several thousands more, they felt it their duty to relieve the poor zamindars and were compelled to pass such legislation as would cut asunder the bonds of slavery under which the zamindars were held by the money-lenders. I am surprised to learn from the honourable representative of Lahore-cum-Sheikhupura that we are not the well-wishers of the zamindars. If we are not their well-wishers, who else on earth is? Does the honourable member himself claim to be a helper of the poor agriculturists? When we introduced the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Bill in the old Council it was no other than the honourable member himself who opposed it tooth and nail. Was he helping the zamindars thereby?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Sir, may I reply to this?

Minister : We have been steadily scaling down the burden of the agriculturists. The next legislative measure to achieve this object was the Punjab Debtors' Protection Bill. That Bill was likewise opposed from the beginning to the end by certain honourable members who now appear in the garb of the true well-wishers of the zamindars. More recently we brought forward another measure, the Registration of Money-lenders' Bill. Who were the sponsors of this beneficial measure, occupants of these benches or of those?

Munshi Hari Lal : On a point of order. Is the honourable member speaking to the motion?

Sardar Lal Singh : How often have these arguments been advanced in this House?

Minister : Sir, I only wish to refute the allegation that we are not the well-wishers of the agriculturists as the honourable members opposite would have the world believe.

The press gives prominence to what happens here. I, therefore, seek your indulgence to permit me to reply to the criticism of our opponents. Then, Sir, the Punjab Marketing Bill received no better treatment at the hands of the Opposition which now pretends to champion the cause of the zamindars. Again, when the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Bill was introduced the honourable members over there, the so-called friends of the zamindars, vehemently opposed it. Lastly, another Bill was introduced which related to *benami* transactions—transactions which involved evasion of the law, evasion of common morality which were against justice, equity and good conscience. But even that measure was strongly opposed by these new friends of agricultural classes.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : On a point of order. If the honourable Chaudhri Sahib and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang combined want to keep us away, then it is very unfair. You should protect us from both of them.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : On a point of order. You stopped me and I stopped ; otherwise I would have shown that we opposed all those Bills in the interest of poor zamindars.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is a sound and able lawyer. What the honourable member said was that when the Government collects revenue, the *sahukar* will not lend money.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I was not at all irrelevant.

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

Minister : Sir, I wanted to be brief and would have finished by now but for the persistent interruptions made by the honourable members over there. I was saying that we introduced a measure for abrogating transactions which amounted to theft against law, theft against morality, a sin against society.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : On a point of order. The Honourable Minister has no right to call the whole community, which differs from him in political principles, as thieves and so on. We call you thieves because you got money and then refused to pay.

Minister : I never called anybody as a thief. I merely stated that the transactions amounted to theft morally, legally and socially and were sins against God.

Sardar Mula Singh : The Honourable Chaudhri Sahib has remarked that we sin against God. I strongly protest against this remark.

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a point of order. I take it that we are discussing now a cut regarding the assessment in the Lahore district on the Land Revenue demand. I take it that we are not discussing the measures which my honourable friend is now mentioning before the House. (*An honourable member :* He is giving a reply.) I am not concerned with any reply to the arguments of my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. All that I am concerned with is this whether my honourable friend is in order or whether he is relevant in discussing what he is discussing now ?

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister is replying to the arguments advanced by the honourable Dr. Narang. I ask him to be relevant.

Lala Duni Chand : On a point of order. The Honourable Minister for Development has been pleased to criticize and libel certain community....

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Lala Duni Chand : Supposing I say that there is another community—

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. I cannot allow the honourable member to make a speech.

Lala Duni Chand : Without hearing me—

Mr. Speaker : No. After hearing the sentence which the honourable member spoke.

Lala Duni Chand : Sir, allow me to utter another sentence.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a speech.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : On a point of order. You were pleased to say that I referred to those things and therefore the Honourable Minister was replying. You remember that all I said was that the credit was being restricted and that there should be no increment in the revenue and incidentally I said how the credit was restricted. I did not discuss it in detail. So he cannot discuss that thing.

Mr. Speaker : He has only incidentally referred to it.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : On a point of order, sir. I want to submit that when Dr. Sir Narang was making a speech, no one from this side interrupted him. Is it not shameful on the part of the honourable members opposite to interrupt the Honourable Minister so often?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

2nd- Lieut. Bhai Fatehjang Singh : On a point of order. My honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang while raising his point of order clearly remarked and pointed to this side of the House, 'You are thieves.' To this I take strong exception and I ask him to withdraw those words.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I never said that.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I draw your attention to the expression used by my honourable friend over there? There were many expressions used, but I would draw your pointed attention to one expression used by him, which I submit is unparliamentary. The words used by him were '*Unko sharm nahin ati.*' The word 'shame' itself has been held by you to be unparliamentary. So it is an unparliamentary expression. I would ask you to request my honourable friend to withdraw that expression and not to allow the use of such expressions in future.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : If any member on this side of the House behaves just as our friends over there have behaved, I would never hesitate to make a similar remark.

Mr. Speaker : Please withdraw the remark and finish.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I withdrew it.

Minister : Well sir, I take leave of the point which led to so many interruptions. There are still some matters which require mention. It appears that the honourable member representing Sheikhpura, Gujranwala and Lahore is not aware of full facts. He said that zamindars were not wise and that if they had been they would have all supported the cut motion moved by Sardar Muhammad Husain.

The honourable members opposite do not realize that a large proportion of zamindars have now shaken off the effects of the anæsthetic and opiates which capitalists had been administering to them so consistently and systematically. They are now sufficiently wide awake to distinguish between friend and foe. They can understand whether a particular motion has been put forward with a view to giving them some relief or is only intended to serve some other purpose. Those who read newspapers are aware of the fact that lately there has sprung up a class of people who have decided to concentrate all their activities on one object, viz., crippling

the financial resources of Government. The zamindars have begun to view with suspicion every motion moved by these people lest there should be some ulterior motive at the bottom of an otherwise inoffensive or outwardly useful motion. They have now come to know that this new group will support any proposal that is likely to deplete the exchequer or to weaken the position of the Government. We are not unaware of the fact that some of our zamindar brethren who are still under the influence of opiates are sometimes taken in by the wording of certain motions. Some of them support these motions by word and vote. But let them understand that if the zamindar is relieved of any part of his burden he will be relieved by the efforts of the members on this side and not by those of Dr. Narang and his friends.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He is again trying to be personal.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister should not be personal.

Minister : Then it has been said that in 1921 wheat, cotton, gur, etc., were fetching much better prices than to-day and yet the burden of land revenue is the same to-day even if it has not been increased slightly. But may I remind my honourable friends that the land revenue paid in 1921 was assessed as long ago as the year 1906 or 1908? Nay, in some cases it had been assessed in 1898. The prices in the above-mentioned years were the same as they are to-day, in many cases even lower, and the land revenue paid in 1921 had been assessed on the basis of those prices. Do my honourable friends know in how many districts new settlement has taken place after 1921 and in how many cases land revenue has been enhanced or reduced? Let them take it from me that in three or four cases not only has the land revenue not been increased but it has been actually reduced substantially. Sir, my honourable colleague, the Minister of Revenue, held out an assurance in 1921 or 1922 that if any change to the advantage of the land-owner was made in the system of land revenue the districts where settlement had already taken place between the date of the assurance and the date of the change would not be deprived of the benefit of the change. The House will be pleased to hear that effect was given to this assurance in the case of four or five districts.

Now I draw your attention to the lesson which we can learn from the drop in the local rate in Lyallpur. It has actually decreased from 17 to 11 lakhs and the District Board is experiencing great difficulty in the matter of maintaining educational institutions as well as roads, etc. May I ask my honourable friends how the local rate could decrease without there being a decrease in land revenue? (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the standard of life to-day is the same as in 1906 and whether other necessities of life have not increased? I want to be enlightened on that point. Moreover, he should discuss Lahore. He is discussing Lyallpur.

Diwan Chaman Lall : He is utterly irrelevant. He does not seem to know his own subject. We are not discussing Lyallpur; we are discussing Lahore.

Minister : They have been discussing the whole of the province on this motion. I did not object. But now that I have made only a reference to the Lyallpur district to illustrate a point they have raised a hue and cry. Anyway, sir, I was submitting that the Lyallpur district has derived a great benefit from the introduction of the sliding scale.

Sir, my honourable friends over there have expressed doubts in regard to the correctness of my statement. But I can assert with the fullest confidence that the people of that district are fully aware of the amount of reduction that has been effected in the local rates as well as in the land revenue. This admission was definitely made by the District Board in the address presented to the Premier last September when the Board referred to a reduction in their income from local rate as a result of the introduction of the sliding scale. The same system will be introduced in Lahore. Some of my honourable friends have sought to decry the system without understanding it. I may assure them that the effect of the sliding scale will prove as beneficial to the Lahore district as it has been in the case of Lyallpur. I may also point out to the honourable members that when this system was introduced in Lyallpur, the zamindars were nervous lest it should affect them adversely but now they have realized that their apprehensions were unfounded. The zamindars of the Lahore district are also entertaining similar fears now. I may assure them that this system is certainly advantageous to them and in course of time they will realize its advantages as their brethren in Lyallpur have done.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

They should not be afraid of a conventional enhancement of an anna or two pice per rupee in the assessment of land revenue. It will not prove detrimental to their interests. As the honourable members are aware of the fact the principal merit of the sliding scale lies in the rate of taxation varying with variation in prices. If the prices of agricultural produce fall, land revenue will decrease proportionately. Again, the maximum limit up to which the land revenue can be assessed under the system, has been fixed. But there is no end to the minimum or the lower limit.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I do not want to interrupt the honourable member, but the discussion can be cut short if he tells us that there is not going to be any increase under the new settlement.

Premier : It depends upon prices.

Minister : If the prices rise to the level which prevailed in the year 1926-27, then certainly the amount of land revenue assessed will be enhanced, and it is only fair that it should. But there is no limit to the reduction of land revenue if the prices fall while there is a limit beyond which assessment cannot go whatever the pitch of rise in prices.

A reference has been made by an honourable member to the kisan demonstration in Lahore. It has been alleged that whereas the Premiers in Congress-governed provinces readily received deputations of the peasants, the Honourable Premier of our province refused to permit the deputation

of kisans of Lahore to wait upon him. This statement is absolutely false. As I stated yesterday or day before yesterday, the Honourable Premier never refused to receive a deputation. But the difficulty is that the peasants insisted on being led by those who mislead them and exploit them for their own ends.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Name them. It is false.

Premier : Not false.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : If there is any mis-statement, the Honourable Minister may be corrected at a later stage.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Is there no collective responsibility in the Cabinet?

Minister : Truth is always unpalatable to my friend. He has not the courage to face facts. The false reports that have come to the notice of my honourable friends were published in newspapers which have been bitterly opposed to the Government. The fact is that the Honourable Premier is always prepared to give a patient hearing to the grievances of the peasants. (*Interruptions.*) Sir, if at every step I am going to be interrupted, it will be impossible for me to proceed with my speech. (*Interruptions.*) My friends are very restive. They have not the courage to face the music, which they themselves have provoked. However, as I do not want to give them an excuse for adopting more obstructive tactics in connection with the business of the House, I resume my seat.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Sardar Sampuran Singh (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the motion now before the House is of great importance. But there is one thing with regard to this which depresses my heart very much. It is the Government claim of having done a lot for the amelioration of the zamindars. They are feeling justified in enhancing the incidence of taxation in the case of zamindars of Lahore district. It is a thousand pities that despite the fact that many honourable members who have been returned to this House by the zamindars of the province have lodged their vehement protest against this increase in the land revenue, their cry has proved to be a cry in the wilderness. The Government has turned a deaf ear to their requests. In this connection I am reminded of a Punjabi proverb which aptly applies to the attitude adopted by our Government :—

دھوپ دا ماريا جيو پھندا اے پر پاني د ماريا نہيں جیوند

i.e., a plant scorched by sun can be revived by water, but a plant killed by water can never be revived. The majority of our Ministers are zamindars. They have been brought up in rural environments. In fact they are kith and kin of the zamindars. They are fully aware of the miserable plight of the tillers of the soil. But it is a matter of great regret that all our entreaties have fallen flat on them. All our efforts to convince them that an increase in the land revenue will prove detrimental to the best interests of the zamindars, have proved futile.

[Sardar Sampuran Singh.]

The Honourable Minister preceding me admitted that financially the zamindars are in straitened circumstances. If it is a fact, then may I know whether there is any justification for enhancing the land revenue of the Lahore district by 25 per cent?

Sir, the kisans of Lahore district held peaceful demonstrations with a view to place their grievances before the Government. They had come to ask for bread but they were given a stone instead. They were mal-treated and incarcerated. They were not allowed to wait upon the Premier because the latter could not brook a person of another district to lead their deputation. To crown it all, the people who sympathized with them were also maltreated. May I know if Government has laid down a policy that a kisan from another district cannot represent the Lahore kisans for the purpose of waiting on the Premier? If that is so, then it can just as well be asserted that none of the ministers represents the kisans of Lahore and for the matter of that Government have no right to enhance the land revenue.

My honourable friend, Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan, has remarked that he had been able to obtain many facilities from Government for the zamindars of Lahore. When we asked him as to what the nature of those facilities was, we were surprised to discover his ignorance on the subject. He informed us that he had been given to understand by the Premier that the new settlement was not going to increase the incidence of taxation if the rates of produce do not rise. If he had cared to study the subject, he should have known this went without saying and did not require any grant of facility from the Government. This was quite evident even from the Government *communiqué* which it published in connection with the new settlement of Lahore. The rates prevailing in the market did not permit enhancement in the revenue.

Now I would like to state certain salient points which govern and should govern the assessment of land revenue. The first point is that the land belongs to the zamindars.

Premier : Ask Sardar Sohan Singh Josh as to what he says in the matter?

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : I definitely share his views.

Premier : Then it means that the land does not belong to the State.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I may tell the Honourable Premier that I hold my own views and I have nothing to do with the views of other people. I am bound neither by the views of Sardar Sohan Singh Josh nor by those of the Honourable Premier.

I was submitting, sir, that the land belongs to the zamindar, and I advance several arguments in favour of my assertion. First, the price of the land is paid by the zamindar. Secondly, it has been a time-honoured practice in the country that he who first tilled the land became its ruler. Thirdly, I would like to quote Mr. Baden-Powell who is a great authority on the Indian land revenue system. He is the only man who has written standard books on this subject. He holds that the land belongs to the

zamindar and not to the Government. When we admit this point, its natural conclusion is that the land revenue is a tax and not a rent. Here again I would like to quote Mr. Baden-Powell who says.....

Mr. Speaker : I wish to know how that is relevant.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : That is the foundation on which I want to build my argument relating to net assets.

Mr. Speaker : Is not that theory universally admitted ?

Sardar Sampuran Singh : If it is admitted that land revenue is a tax and not a rent, I develop my argument on this basis. It has been admitted on all hands that before levying any tax the chief point which deserves the attention of the Government is whether the prospective taxpayer would be able to pay it. All the authorities on the subject hold that the State is not justified in levying any tax on a person who finds it impossible to pay it. My contention is that when the Government charges the zamindars 25 per cent of their net assets as land revenue, why do they not tax other people at the same rate ? It is rank injustice that people like doctors, lawyers, ministers, extra assistant commissioners, etc., are not made to pay 25 per cent of their income by way of tax although they can afford to do so, though every poor zamindar is expected to pay land revenue to that extent irrespective of the idea whether he is able to do so or not. It is the bounden duty of the Government which calls itself a *zamindara* government to lighten the burden of the poor zamindars and reduce the rate of their land revenue. If they are afraid that any reduction in their income would make it impossible for them to run the administration effectively, I would suggest that they should tax themselves and other highly placed people in the same way and make up such deficiency in the income. If the Ministers are not prepared to do this I think it is not proper on their part to say that their's is a *zamindara* government. I would request them not to make such a mis-statement inside as well as outside the House. I would like to point out to you, sir, that the peasants are not deriving any profit out of the profession of agriculture. The imposition of land revenue is only justifiable when we see that some profit is accruing to the zamindar. In this connection I would like to quote Mr. Baden-Powell who says—

Land revenue operates as a tax on agricultural income—a contribution to the State of the profits on land cultivation just as the income-tax is a contribution out of proceeds of other industries and occupation.

Here I request you to mark the word "profit." He says that the zamindar makes contribution to the State out of his profit in the form of land revenue. In other words, if he does not raise any profit the Government should not call upon him to pay anything towards the land revenue. It goes without saying that agriculture is no longer a profitable profession and I challenge the Government to disprove this assertion. If it could refute my argument, it is free to charge the land revenue from the zamindar. During the last Simla session of the Assembly the Honourable Minister for Revenue one day remarked that the settlement officers usually deduct the cost of production out of the total production in order to ascertain the net profit. On this I think either the Honourable Minister does not know the correct procedure in this respect or it is another instance of

جسٹ کھپسا ہے خدا نون لے کے چور

[Sardar Sampuran Singh.]

Our main object is that the Government does not deduct the cost of production while ascertaining the net profit. The Honourable Minister should know that although the zamindar spends money on cattle, labour, costly seed and manure, yet no compensation is given to him under the prevailing system for most of these things. Such expenses incurred by him are never taken into account while assessing the land revenue. I do not propose to go into details but anyhow I would like to draw your attention to the statistics compiled by Professor Brij Narain which were originally prepared by the Board of Economic Enquiry and so their authenticity cannot be questioned.

The very name of Professor Brij Narain is a red rag to my honourable friend, the Prime Minister. He smiles and laughs scornfully whenever the name of this eminent economist is mentioned. May I inform the Honourable Prime Minister that the learned professor has started classes to educate peasants on the subject of revenue and I am sure in a short period of two years these pupils of the professor will make it difficult for the Government to realize these exorbitant amounts from the agriculturists.

The chief point to be observed when assessing land revenue is that the zamindars should be allowed a certain margin of profit for their livelihood and this can only be done by deducting the cost of production and labour involved, from the gross income of the agriculturists. But I am very sorry to observe that the method employed by the Unionist Government to calculate the net assets of the agriculturists is rotten to the core. It suffers from various defects. The fundamental mistake made by our Government in regard to this is that they hold the net assets of a zamindar to be identical with the rent which a big landowner charges from his tenants. They base their calculation on the rent recoverable by a landlord from his poor tenants.

Now this method is open to several objections. In the first place, the Government should know that if landlords oppress their tenants and receive rents at exorbitant rates, the Government should not follow suit. The poor peasant proprietors are as much the humble subjects of the Government as any landlord in the country. Their relations are direct with the Government and by the parity of reasoning the Government should assess the income of peasant proprietors directly and not indirectly by basing it on the share which a landlord takes from his tenants. The landlords sometimes leave no margin for the poor tenants. Do the Government also propose to charge 100 per cent land revenue on the income of the peasant proprietors? Why should the Government take shelter behind the atrocious treatment of the landlords towards their poverty-stricken tenants? There is no reason for the Government to take shelter behind the landlord, rather they should base their assessment of peasant proprietor's land on the profit which he makes from the land. The Government desires to take a lion's share in the spoils of the landlords. That is very unfair to the peasants.

It would be interesting to note that this indirect method of calculating the net assets was not in vogue before 1914. It was in 1928 when the Land Revenue Act was amended that the old and direct method of calculating the net assets was abandoned and the landlord's rent was taken to be net assets of a self-cultivating person. It is a pity that it has often

been wrongly said that this was done by the help of a select committee in which the zamindar members and members of the Unionist Party predominated.

Premier : The new definition was supported by the opposite camp.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : It is wrong. A lie is being told from the opposite benches.

Premier : It is not a lie at all.

Mr. Speaker : That word the honourable member is not right in using.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I did not use it with reference to any body, all the same I withdraw it.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He is referring to the opposite benches and not to the members. (*Laughter.*)

Sardar Sampuran Singh : It was ridiculous to think that the zamindars did this great harm to the people by introducing this prejudicial change in the procedure of assessment. The Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram was also a member of this select committee. The following gentlemen were its members :—

Sir Fazl-i-Husain, Sir G. deMontmorency, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Currie, Sayed Mohammad Hussain, Rana Firoz-ud-Din, Sardar Ujjal Singh, Sardar Labh Singh, Raja Narendra Nath and Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

Out of the last six members who were non-official members, only Raja Narendra Nath supported this definition while the rest all opposed it. Sir Chhotu Ram remarked in his minute of dissent attached to the report of the select committee :—

“ That the definition of net asset as the net assets of the landlord, while it safeguarded the interests of the rent receiving class of landlords, certainly did not do justice to the case of self-cultivating landowners. The real fact is that the tenant does not get anything like the share to which he is entitled as a result of the labour and expense which he incurs in cultivation. . . . ”

Sir, I was submitting that the method of determining the net assets is erroneous. The zamindar Government, if it is true to its name, would do well to rectify this error without delay. In this connexion let me quote the opinion of Sayed Muhammad Hussain who while supporting the amendment said :—

Provision should be made for the labour of the people being taken into consideration in the matter of assessment. I can say on my personal authority that these people who are poor zamindars are not getting even one anna per day for the labour.

Then again Sardar Ujjal Singh in his minute of dissent said :—

In the case of land owning farmer, the net assets should be determined after deducting the ordinary expenses of cultivation and the value of labour of the farmer and his whole family expended on the holding.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din also expressed a similar view. If the Government were to say that the decision was arrived at by a select committee mostly consisting of zamindar members of the Council, I would submit that this statement would be incorrect inasmuch as almost all zamindar members of the select committee were opposed to the principle now governing net assets.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I was trying to show that so far as the small holders are concerned, the assessment of land revenue is not made with due regard to the circumstances in which they are placed. There are about 1,920,000 peasant proprietors as against 175,000 big land-holders in the Punjab. Whatever has been done or is being done is done in the interest of the latter, though as a matter of right the former should be afforded relief even if the latter are helped incidentally thereby. Before I finish with this point, I would like to invite your attention to the recommendation of the Indian Taxation Inquiry Committee of 1924-25 which runs as follows :—

“What the Committee would recommend is that for the future the basis of the settlement should be annual value, by which term they mean the gross produce less cost of production, including the value of the labour actually expended by the farmer and his family on the holding, and the return for enterprise, and that the functions of the Settlement Officer be limited to the ascertainment of this value on a uniform basis under such conditions as might be most appropriate in each province.”

If Government could see their way to agree to one thing, I will be satisfied and will have no difference with them, and that is this that the cost of production including the value of the labour put in by the farmer and his family should be excluded when determining net assets. If that is agreed to, I will have no quarrel with the Government. In good old days one had nothing to spend on labour. It could be had free of cost. But you cannot say that the same is the case to-day. One has to spend money on labour. Now it has great value. The good old days are gone :

“When Adam delved and Eve span
Who was then the gentleman ? ”

Now I would like to make one or two observations with regard to the sliding scale system of land revenue. The other day the Honourable Premier exultantly remarked that the zamindars have gained much by the introduction of the sliding scale.

I do not exactly remember whether at that time the Honourable Premier was a member of the Cabinet or not. However, it is a fact that the Government decided to reduce the land revenue of the Lyallpur district by 24 or 25 lakhs of rupees.

Premier : Yes, by sliding scale.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : No, Sir. The introduction of the sliding scale had not been conceived then.

Premier : I am afraid my honourable friend is misinformed. The Government actually introduced the sliding scale in the Lower Bari Doab Colony and so it is not correct to say that it had not been conceived.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I still hold that at that time the Government did not intend to introduce the sliding scale at all. I am free to admit that it decided to reduce the land revenue by 24 or 25 lakhs. Now the prices have suddenly gone down so much that wheat is selling at Re. 1-14-0 per maund in the country side and 4-F and L.S.S. cotton,—the pride of our Honourable Ministers for Revenue and Development—is

being sold at a rate little higher than that of the *desi*, the difference being of about four annas per maund. This shows that although the prices have considerably fallen, yet the land revenue instead of being reduced has been increased even under the sliding scale system in Lyallpur district. When the settlement operations in the Lyallpur district were afoot, Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency, the then Governor of the Punjab, personally told me and was also pleased to give assurance on the occasion of a cattle fair at Lyallpur that the rate of land revenue would be decreased under the new assessment because the agricultural prices had gone down considerably. But now instead of decreasing it by 25 or 26 lakhs, as was promised, it has been increased by 36 lakhs. It was not politic on the part of the Government to go back upon its sacred promises.

Mr. Speaker : I request the honourable member to wind up his speech.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : Sir, I was explaining the implications of the sliding scale system. In this connection I feel pained to find that Government have gone back on the solemn pledge given by the Government of India by a resolution in 1902. I may be permitted to quote an extract from a Government publication entitled "Indian Land Revenue Policy" to prove my contention. On page 26 of the said book it is stated as follows :—

"Formerly the basis of assessment was the anticipated average yield of the land during the coming period of settlement. Now it is the actual yield at the time of assessment, so that the landowner enjoys to the full any new advantages that may accrue either from his own outlay or from outside circumstances, in the interval before the next revision is made. Assessment upon actual, as distinct from prospective, assets has thus become a cardinal principle of the land revenue policy of Government."

In other words, the substance of the pledge given by the Government of India in 1902 was to the effect that henceforward the rates of assessment would be fixed with due regard to the conditions prevailing at the time, and the conditions that are likely to come into existence in future, would not be taken into consideration. But look to the Lahore district where the price of wheat is taken to be 55 annas, that is three rupees and seven annas per maund for the purpose of assessment, while in fact wheat is being sold at the rate of Re. 1-14-0 in villages. Is this assessment on prospective prices not going back upon the Government of India's promise?

Besides, the conditions have radically changed. The prices obtaining in the market during the post-war years do not exist now. The world has made tremendous strides towards the development of agriculture. Millions of acres of land have come under cultivation. Modern and up-to-date machinery and agricultural implements are being applied to enhance the productivity of the land. Consequently, every country has become self-efficient and self-contained. This state of affairs has affected us adversely. Great difficulty is being experienced in the export of our raw produce specially wheat and cotton.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of order, sir. The Director of Information Bureau instead of taking his seat in the official gallery, is sitting in the Press gallery. Is he entitled to take his seat there?

Mr. Speaker : This is not a point of order.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Sir, I was going to submit that this Government has transgressed the solemn pledge given by the Government of India. It is a pity that they are not amenable to reason. They have treated this resolution like a scrap of paper as did Germany who during the Great War threw overboard the solemn pledges given by her to other nations.

I may be permitted to submit that as a rule the prices obtaining during the past few years are taken to be the basis of the land revenue assessment, but in the case of Lahore settlement the peak prices prevailing during the post-war period have also been taken into consideration which is wrong. In reference to the sliding scale the next submission that I would like to make is that when prices go down the cost of production does not decrease proportionately. The honourable members opposite will remember that I have taken the point from Professor Brij Narain's book. When prices go down the cost of production does not fall in the same proportion. Therefore the formula which takes account of the rise and fall in the prices of agricultural commodities without taking the accurate cost of production into account cannot do justice to the people.

I would like to make another submission ; it would really be regarded a grand gesture of good-will on the part of the Government if they exempt small holdings from land revenue and set an example in the case of zamindars of Lahore district. Poor zamindars who own 10 to 12 acres of land and are unable to pay the land revenue should be totally exempted from its payment. I appeal to the Government that they should take into consideration the miserable plight of the zamindars and the pangs of hunger and starvation which they are undergoing owing to an abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural produce. I am not asking them to do any favour. I seek only what they are doing for other professions. If they exempt the income of Rs. 2,000 to urban people, why should not they even do so much for the agriculturists? Now I should like to say a few words about *malba*.

Premier: The question of *malba* is purely a village affair. It has nothing to do with the settlement and is therefore not the concern of the settlement authorities. I would, therefore, request the honourable member to leave this alone and wind up his speech because there is only a short time left for me to say a few things in connection with the matter now before the House.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : If the Government is prepared to leave the *malba* question to be settled by the zamindars themselves I pass on to another matter. But I must allude to the remission of *malba* in Kapurthala State, about which a great confusion was created in the House the other day. The collection of *malba* has been discontinued in the Kapurthala State. This *malba* is not different from our *malba* which is usually kept with the village lambardars. When an Indian State has taken such a salutary step for its abolition then what prevents the Government to do the same thing here?

With regard to the *chahi* rates I would like to read a few lines from the same resolution of the Government of India which I have referred to before.

The principle of exempting from assessments such improvements as have been made by private enterprise, though it finds no place in the traditions of the past, has been accepted by the British Government, and is provided for by definite rules culminating, in the case of the Bombay Presidency, in legal enactments which secure to the cultivator in perpetuity the whole of the profit arising not only from such irrigation works as private wells or tanks, but from the minor improvements which would count for an increase in assessment under a system of reclassification of the soil.

The reclassification of the soil which we have made in the Punjab only recently should have observed the spirit of this resolution, which was done several years ago in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. If these provinces have accepted the principle that any improvement which has been made by private enterprise should be exempted from the assessment then why does this Government not abolish *chahi* rate in this province ?

Now I would like to say a few words with regard to the Darling Committee's Report. It is highly regrettable that when a question was put to the Honourable Premier as to whether it was a fact that this report was signed in May last he pleaded ignorance.

Mr. Speaker : What has that to do with this motion ?

Sardar Sampuran Singh : That has to do something. They are shutting their eyes to that report. My information is, though I am subject to correction, that in the Darling Committee's Report a recommendation has been made to the effect that no land revenue should be charged from the petty holders. The committee has clearly defined a petty land-holder therein. It is highly undesirable on the part of the Government to assess any revenue on an uneconomic holding. My submission in this connexion is that if any recommendation of the kind has been made therein, the Government would be well-advised not to assess any land revenue on small holdings during the present land settlement operations going on in the Lahore district.

I submit, sir, that the committee has defined the net asset. In this connexion I am glad to say that the committee has accepted our views and recommended that net profit should be ascertained after deducting the cost of production which includes peasants' wages out of the total production. But it is a matter of regret that the Government is not prepared to publish this very important report as yet. It is neither wise nor desirable on the part of the Government to sleep over a report for a period of more or less a year.

Now, Sir, to put the whole thing in a nut-shell, I submit that if the present Government is really a *zamindara* government and if its professions of sympathy with the poor zamindars are true, it should issue instructions to its officers that while assessing the land revenue, they should always deduct the cost of production which should include the agriculturist's wages out of the total production for ascertaining the net assets. It should issue orders forthwith for the total abolition of *chahi* rate. It should accord the same treatment to the petty holders as it metes out to the people of other walks of life and exempts them from the land revenue.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (*Urdu*) : Sir, my honourable friend representing the Lyallpur West (Sikh) Rural constituency has taken about an hour in criticizing the policy of the Government in regard to the assessment of land revenue, while I have been left with only a few minutes in which I have to reply to his criticism. But I am confident that I shall be able satisfactorily to refute his arguments even within this short time, because it is not the duration of the speech that matters, it is the points you can make in it.

You will remember, sir, that I explained yesterday, the implications of the sliding scale system and the effect of the commutation prices. I also explained that the incidence per acre has decreased in the Lyallpur district due to the introduction of the sliding scale system. Now when that system is introduced in the Lahore district as well, the incidence per acre will decrease here in the same way. The upper limit will be fixed and the Government will never charge more than the maximum so fixed. But I may inform the House that even at present the rate of assessment in Lahore is less than in other districts such as Lyallpur, Sheikhpura and Gujranwala. Nonetheless a remission of 2 annas per rupee will be granted in this district. Only in one assessment circle will there be an increase from 15 annas 4 pies to 15 annas 8 pies. However, there will be an increase in the land revenue only if the prices go up. The rates of assessment in the Lahore district will be lower as compared with those proposed for the Amritsar district. I may further assure my brethren of the Lahore district that they will not be singled out for any extraordinary treatment as distinguished from other districts.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Why cannot you tell us in so many words that there will be no increase in the land revenue of the Lahore district ?

Premier : There will be no increase if prices do not rise. However if the prices fall, the land revenue will be reduced. That is all I can say (*Interruption.*) The time at my disposal is too short to brook any interruptions. I hope the honourable members will allow me to proceed with my speech uninterrupted.

I am tempted to reply to the suggestion that the Unionist Party could not think of the sliding scale system earlier and that perhaps others had stolen a march over us. I repel the suggestion, and would remind my honourable friends opposite that I was the Revenue Member at the time this system was being evolved. It was during my time that the sliding scale system was tried in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony and what is more, it was I who wrote the note in which it was sought to suggest ways and means of affording relief to the zamindars of the Lyallpur district. Ultimately the world has seen that the people of Lyallpur have benefited to the extent of Rs. 36 lakhs during the last year. Does it lie in the mouth of any gentleman to suggest that we have not tried to fulfil our promises ?

I had many other things to say, but in view of the shortness of time at my disposal I will cut short my speech. My honourable friend was pleased to challenge us to prove if any profit has accrued to the agriculturists. Obviously his knowledge was based on the study of Professor Brij Narain's

pamphlet. But I would recommend him a more extensive study of the subject, so that he may discover for himself that nowhere in the world agriculture is a commercial proposition. It is only a mode of living.

Another charge laid against us was that we had supported the view that the zamindars were not the masters of the soil and that the land revenue was a rent and not a tax. I would, on the other hand, assert that the members of their camp supported that view in the inquiry committee and not the Unionist Party. In fact we strongly repudiated the suggestion in 1928 and prevailed upon the Government to hold that the zamindars were the masters of the soil and it will remain with them for ever. Nobody can dispossess them of their ancestral lands. However, if anyone makes efforts to that effect, it will result in blood-shed. (*Loud cheers.*) (*An honourable member :* But all the same their lands will be attached in lieu of land revenue.)

One word more and I have done. My honourable friends opposite have argued that the Government should not make distinction between Tom, Dick and Harry when they combine to sponsor the cause of the kisans in the Lahore district. May I inform them that among the men arrested in Lahore no less than 50 belonged to Hoshiarpur, Jullundur or Lahore City.

If outsiders fan the fire of agitation, Government is bound to take action.

5 P.M.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the item of Rs. 6,81,200 on account of Survey and Settlement Parties (Voted) be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 44, Noes 86.

AYES.

Abdul Rab, Mian.
Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chanan Singh, Sardar.
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
Duni Chand, Lala.
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Hari Singh, Sardar.
Harjab Singh, Sardar.
Harnam Das, Lala.
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
Kabul Singh, Master.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.

Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishan Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lal Singh, Sardar.
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
Mala Singh, Sardar.
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.

Satya Pal, Dr.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.

Sudarshan, Seth.
Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Afzalali Hasnie, Sayed.
Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
Balwant Singh, Sardar.
Barkat Ali, Malik.
Bhagwant Singh, Rai.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieutenant Bhai.
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
Few, Mr. E.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
Hans Raj, Bhagat.
Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
Indar Singh, Sardar.

Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Nawabzada Major.
Kishan Das, Seth.
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib-Shaikh.
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.
Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar.
Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.
Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib Mian.
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Pohop Singh, Rao.

Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Biasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
Sikander-Hyat Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.

Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian.
Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
Tara Singh, Sardar.
Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44, 00,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Land Revenue.

The motion was carried.

PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,54,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Provincial Excise.

The Assembly divided : Ayes, 89, Nos. 42.

AYES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.
Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Ashiq Hussain, Captain.
Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Mian.
Balwant Singh, Sardar.
Barkat Ali, Malik.
Bhagwant Singh, Rai.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.

Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Faqr Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
Fateh Jang Singh, 2nd-Lieutenant Bhai.
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
Few, Mr. E.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
Hans Raj, Bhagat.
Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
Indar Singh, Sardar.
Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.

Jagjit Singh, Man, Sardar.
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The
 Honourable Nawabzada Major.
 Kishan Dass, Seth.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Mubarak Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan
 Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib
 Shaikh.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan,
 Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gur-
 chani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
 Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon,
 Nawab Malik, Sir.
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan, Leghari
 Nawab Sir.
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major
 Sardar.
 Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani,
 Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan
 Bahadur Khan.
 Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan
 Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sar-
 dar.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur
 Captain Malik.

Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant
 Sardar.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Sahib
 Mian.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chan-
 dhri.
 Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chau-
 dhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Thakur.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chau-
 dhri.
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib
 Rai.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honour-
 able Major Sir.
 Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
 Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
 Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Sunder Singh Majithia, The Honour-
 able Dr. Sir.
 Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sar-
 dar.
 Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj,
 Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.
 Abdul Rab, Mian.
 Ajit Singh, Sardar.
 Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.
 Chanan Singh, Sardar.
 Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
 Duni Chand, Lala.
 Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.

Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
 Hari Lal, Munshi.
 Hari Singh, Sardar.
 Harjab Singh, Sardar.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Kabul Singh, Master.
 Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
 Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.

Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Kishan Singh, Sardar.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lal Singh, Sardar.
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.
Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
Mula Singh, Sardar.
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.

Partab Singh, Sardar.
Prem Singh, Mahant.
Rur Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sar-
dar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Satya Pal, Dr.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
Sudarshan, Seth.

STAMPS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Stamps.

The motion was carried.

FORESTS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,82,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Forests.

The motion was carried.

REGISTRATION.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Registration.

The motion was carried.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation and Other Taxes and Duties.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (WORKS).

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 70,52,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Irrigation (Works).

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,35,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Irrigation Establishment Charges.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (CAPITAL).

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 79,26,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Irrigation (Capital).

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,47,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Administration of Justice.

The motion was carried.

POLICE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,38,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Police.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 91, Noes 44.

AYES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.	Balwant Singh, Sardar.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.	Barkat Ali, Malik.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).	Bhagwant Singh, Rai.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).	Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.	Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
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 dur.
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri
 Ghulam Samad, Khawaja.
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 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
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 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
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 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib
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 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
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 Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon,
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 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan, Leghari,
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 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major
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 Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani,
 Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.

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 Khan Bahadur Khan.
 Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
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 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash Sardar.
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 Captain Malik.
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 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
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 Sardar.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
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 dhri.
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 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honour-
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 Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka, Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
 Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sar-
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Abdul Aziz, Mian.
 Abdul Rab, Mian.
 Ajit Singh, Sardar.

Bhagat-Ram Choda, Lala.
 Bham Sen Sachar, Lala.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.

Chanan Singh, Sardar.
 Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.
 Duni Chand, Lala.
 Duni Chand, Mrs.
 Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.
 Hari Lal, Munshi.
 Hari Singh, Sardar.
 Harjab Singh, Sardar.
 Harnam Dass, Lala.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Kabul Singh, Master.
 Kapoor Singh, Sardar.
 Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
 Kartar Singh, Sardar.
 Kishan Singh, Sardar.
 Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
 Lal Singh, Sardar.
 Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.

Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.
 Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
 Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.
 Partab Singh, Sardar.
 Prem Singh, Mahant.
 Rur Singh, Sardar.
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sar-
 dar.
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
 Satya Pal, Dr.
 Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.
 Sudarshan, Seth.
 Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,84,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN).

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,07,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Education (European and Anglo-Indian).

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,57,42,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian).

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,65,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Public Health.

The motion was carried.

VETERINARY.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,64,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Veterinary.

The motion was carried.

CO-OPERATION.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,99,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Co-operation.

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,46,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Industries.

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Industrial Capital Expenditure.

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,23,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Civil Works.

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS AND ROADS) ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,13,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of charges on Public Works Department—Buildings and Roads Establishment.

The motion was carried.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—WORKING EXPENSES.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,24,750 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Hydro-Electric Schemes—Working Expenses.

The motion was carried.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,61,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Hydro-Electric Establishment Charges.

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS—CAPITAL.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,53,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Civil Works—Capital.

The motion was carried.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,22,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Hydro-Electric Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

The motion was carried.

FAMINE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,23,750 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Famine.

The motion was carried.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 153,75,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

The motion was carried.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,91,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure.

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,96,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,48,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Miscellaneous.

The motion was carried.

ADVANCES REPAYABLE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,78,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Advances Repayable.

The motion was carried.

LOANS AND ADVANCES.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1940, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing interest.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p.m. on Friday, 31st March, 1939.

PRINTED BY
THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB.
112 PLA-520-23.7.38-SGPP Lahore.

INDEX.

Vol. VIII.

PAGES.	PAGES.
A	
ABDUL AZIZ, MIAN—	
Budget, General discussion of, .. 173—79	
Budget motion <i>re</i> , General policy of Jail Administration .. 571—73	
ABDUL GHAFAR KHAN, KHAN—	
Question <i>re</i> delay in deciding question of giving B class to, of Ambala .. 334	
ABDUL HAFEEZ, DR.—	
Question <i>re</i> , .. 68	
ABDUL HAYE, THE HONOURABLE, MIAN (EDUCATION MINISTER)—	
Budget, General discussion .. 196—200	
Budget motion <i>re</i> —	
Recruitment to Medical Service, .. 631-32	
Working of Medical Department .. 714—26	
Objectionable Expression, withdrawal of, .. 758, 759	
ABDUL KARIM, CHAUDHRI—	
Question <i>re</i> , Removal of, from Presidentship of Municipal Committee, Zira .. 483	
ABDUL RAB, MIAN—	
Budget, General discussion .. 192—96	
Seat, allotment of .. 35	
ABIANA—	
Question <i>re</i> —	
Agitation against rates of, in Canal irrigated area of Palwal .. 744	
In village Jallowal .. 811	
ACHUTS—	
Question <i>re</i> —	
Districts where, are allowed to use public wells .. 393	
Interference by Zamindars with the right of, to use village well of Manana, district Karnal .. 395	
Objection to cremation of an, .. 737	
Steps to give adequate representation to, in Government services .. 124	
Total number of, in Agricultural Department .. 263	
Facilities for, prisoners in Jails .. 333	
ACREAGE RATE—	
Question <i>re</i> on the land situated in Pakpattan tahsil .. 134	
ACT—	
Question <i>re</i> rules framed under the Registration of Money Lenders .. 608	
See Canal Act Committee	
	ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS—
	Question <i>re</i> —
	In seven villages of district Gurdaspur .. 738
	Removal of, at Chuhar Chak, District Ferozepore .. 729
	ADJOURNMENT—
	Question <i>re</i> , of a meeting of the Gujranwala Municipal Committee .. 473
	ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS—
	Admissibility of, during budget session .. 82—84
	Moving of, during Budget discussions .. 689
	ADMINISTRATION—
	Budget motion <i>re</i> general policy of, .. 370—388 419—62
	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—
	Demand for Grant .. 973
	Supplementary demand for, .. 315
	ADMISSION—
	Question <i>re</i> , of students of unrecognized schools into recognized schools .. 17
	ADVANCES REPAYABLE—
	Demands for Grants .. 983
	ADVOCATE-GENERAL—
	Question <i>re</i> Assistant to, .. 739
	AGITATION—
	Question <i>re</i> , against rates of Abiana in canal irrigated area of Palwal .. 744
	AGRICULTURE—
	Demands for Grants .. 760—96, 833—876
	Question <i>re</i> —
	Deputy Director and Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture .. 414, 416
	Villages selected in Ludhiana district for instructing zamindars in modern methods of, .. 264
	AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT—
	Budget motion <i>re</i> administration of, .. 760—96, 833—876
	Question <i>re</i> distribution of literature by, .. 273
	AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—
	Question <i>re</i> scholarships for scientific, industrial and, .. 890
	AGRICULTURAL FARMS—
	Question <i>re</i> expenditure on, .. 887

	PAGES.		PAGES.
AGRICULTURISTS—		APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS—	
Question re—		Presentation of, ..	19
Adequate representation for		ARRESTS—	
the Muslims and, in the Uni-		Question re unlicensed, recovered	
versity Laboratories ..	524	by police ..	67
Definition of, for recruitment in		ARREARS—	
services ..	74	Question re, of taccavi loans in	
AGRIC—		District Ludhiana ..	126
Question re Exemption of, of Roh-		ARREST—	
tak district from the operation		Question re—	
of Criminal Tribes Act ..	390	Applications for warrants of, ..	339
AIDED COLLEGES—		Of Sardar Kartar Singh and	
Question re particulars about cer-		Sardar Gurbachan Singh,	
tain private and, in the Punjab	15	President and Vice-President	
AIDED HIGH SCHOOLS—		of the Kisan Conference held	
Question re Government and, in		at Lyallpur ..	57
Hoshiarpur district ..	602	ASSEMBLY—	
AIDED SCHOOLS—		Adjournment of, ..	18
Question re ..	601	Hours of sitting of ..	689, 876
Grant to, in Ambala Division	4	ASSESSMENT—	
AJIT SINGH, SARDAR—		Budget motion re. of land revenue	
Bhakra Dam Scheme ..	300	in Lahore district ..	943—75
Budget motion re—		ASSESSORS—	
Grievances of Under-trial		Question re and scheduled castes	333, 824
prisoners ..	492—94	ASSISTANT—	
Release of Sardar Teja Singh,		Question re, to Advocate-General,	
Swatantra ..	494, 495	Punjab ..	739
AKBAR ALI, PIR—		ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS—	
Budget, General discussion ..	105—112	Question re Circular Prohibiting	
ALLOWANCES—		the appointment of Non-Agri-	
Question re reduction of, of the		culturists as, ..	526
Lahore Municipal employees ..	419	ASSISTANT SECRETARY, (FINANCE	
AMBALA CITY—		DEPARTMENT)—	
Question re meters on house con-		Question re Telephone for the, ..	341
nections for water supply in,	3	ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS—	
AMBALA DIVISION—		Question re inspectors, sub-inspec-	
Question re—		tors and, recruited in 1938 ..	832
Names of accepted candidates		ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS—	
and new entrants taken in		Question re of Jails ..	893
services in, ..	744	ATA MOHAMMAD, JAN—	
Relief granted to, ..	130	Question re maltreatment of, by	
Transfer of, to Delhi or the		Rawalpindi Police ..	69
United Provinces ..	56	ATA ULLAH SHAH BUEHABI, MAU-	
AMENDMENT(S)—		LANA—	
Question re Notification of, in		Question re entry of, into Gur-	
bye-laws of District Board,		daspur District ..	683
Lyallpur ..	398	AUCTION—	
AMJAD ALI SHAH, SYED—		Question re, of trees on Grand	
Bill. Motor Spirit and Lubricants		Trunk Road, Amritsar to Lahore	409
(Taxation of Sales). Circulation		AUDIT FEES—	
for eliciting public opinion ..	43-44	Question re lowering of the rate	
APPLICATION(S)—		of, charged from Co-operative	
Question re—		Societies ..	883
For warrants of arrest ..	339	AZAN—	
Of Sardar Gurdial Singh Gill,		Question re calling of, at Raja	
J. V. ..	189	Jang ..	56
Refusal by Deputy Commis-		B	
sioner, Rohtak, to entertain,		BALDEV SINGH, DR.—	
for Departmental action ..	684	Question re, Assistant Surgeon	
APPOINTMENT(S)—		of Rupar ..	527
Question re—		BANK—	
Dismissal and, of officials of		Question re and Consolidation Sub-	
Small Town Committee,		Inspectors ..	1
Jhajjar ..	464	BEGAR—	
Made and extensions and pro-		Question re, exacted from Saqqas	
motions given by Minister for		of Beri ..	744
Development ..	321		
Of Secretary of Jullundur Dis-			
trict Board ..	481		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
BETT-ILAQ—		BUDGET—	
Question re facilities for Medical Treatment in, of Jullundur district ..	412	General discussion ..	84—139, 147—182, 190—248, 19
BELA SINGH—		Presentation ..	
Question re murder of, Zaildār of village Jian ..	54	BUDGET MOTION—	
BHAGAT RAM CHODA, LALA—		Re—	
Bill. Motor spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Circulation for eliciting public opinion ..	42	Administration of Agriculture Department ..	760—96, 833—876
BHAGAT RAM SHARMA, PANDIT—		Assessment of land revenue in Lahore district ..	943—75
Bhakra Dam Scheme ..	307—308	Bhakra Dam Scheme ..	305—15
Carrying forward to next day of supplementary questions and answers ..	877	Canal Act Committee ..	288—303
BHAGAT SINGH CONSPIRACY CASE—		Decrease of Crimes ..	491—92
Question re Mr. Kishori Lal, a prisoner in the, ..	345	Economic and social conditions of scheduled castes ..	351—369
BHAG SINGH, DR.—		General policy of Government ..	370—388, 419—62
Question re, socialist worker of Amritsar ..	737	General policy of Jail Administration ..	495—515, 556—86
BHAKRA DAM SCHEME—		Grant of rewards ..	283—85
Budget motion re ..	305—15	Grievances of under-trial prisoners ..	492—94
Question re, and irrigation of Ambala Division ..	745	Licences to electrical contractors ..	287—88
BHARAULI—		Recruitment to Medical Service ..	626—36
Question re High School in, Ilaga of Simla district ..	527	Reduction of chahi rates ..	910—40
BHARAULI TARSIL—		Reduction of Chahi Rates. Point of order re the admissibility of, ..	907—10
Question re failure of Kharif and Rabi crops in, district Simla ..	131	Release of Sardar Teja Singh Swatantra ..	494—96
BHIM SEN SACHAR, LALA—		Working of Medical Department ..	637—65, 690—728
Budget motion re, general policy of Jail Administration ..	504—09	BUDHA SINGH—	
BHOOSA—		Question re release of, and others ..	344
Question re import of, in Rohtak district ..	755	BUND—	
BILL—		Question re compensation to zamindars for the construction of a, (Dam) in Nakahar Khad ..	809
Question re Punjab Postponement of Debt Realization, ..	348	BURUWALI—	
See Legislative Assembly (offices) Bill.		Question re digging of a pond at, as a famine work ..	130
See Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales) Bill ..		BYE-LAWS—	
BINDA SARAN, RAI BAHADUR—		Question re notification of amendments in, of District Board, Lyallpur ..	398
Budget, General discussion ..	112—14		
BLACK LIST—			
Question re contractors placed on, in Grey Canal Department, Ferozepore ..	745		
BOOKS—			
Question re return of, supplied to Comrade Gurmukh Singh ..	596		
BORING OPERATIONS—			
Question re in village Dhok Mangtal ..	607		
BRIDGE—			
Question re—			
On Lower Sohag Canal ..	803		
Foot, over Upper Bari Doab Canal near Nanu Nangal ..	751		
Over Dek near Qila Sobha Singh in Sialkot district ..	747		
BROAD CASTING—			
Question re expenditure on, in Rural Uplift Work ..	887		
		C	
		CANALS—	
		Question re persons employed for Grey, ..	128
		CANAL ACT COMMITTEE—	
		Budget motion re ..	288—303
		CANAL DEPARTMENT—	
		Question re Overseers in, ..	814
		CANAL WATER—	
		Question re, for grantees of the new colony and zamindars of the Old Colony ..	135
		CANDIDATES—	
		Question re names of accepted, and new entrants taken in service in Ambala Division ..	744

PAGES.	PAGES.
CARNIVALS—	CHAUKIDARS—
Question re, in Ambala Cantonment and City	Question re representation for reduction in the number of village, in Village Hadalon in Hoshiarpur district
743	81
CATTLE—	CHEMICAL EXAMINER—
Question re death of, in the Punjab on account of infectious diseases	Question re training to police officers by, Lahore
886	121
CENTRAL MODEL HIGH SCHOOL—	CHHOTU RAM, THE HONOURABLE CHAUDHRI SIR, (DEVELOPMENT MINISTER)—
Question re teaching staff in, Lahore	Budget, general discussion
537	209—211
CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE—	Budget motion re—
Question re appointment of two clerks in the offices of, Lahore, and Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi Division	Administration of Agriculture Department
534	860—72
CHAHI RATES—	General policy of Government Land Revenue Assessment in Lahore district
Budget motion re—	967—63
Point of order re the admissibility of,	CHOMA SAIDAN SHAH—
907—10	Question re objectionable articles on, affairs
Reduction of,	17
910—40	CHRISTIANS—
Question re charged from the agriculturists of Majithia	Question re representation of Indian, in Police Department
797	346
CHAK No. 67/12-L.—	CIRCULAR—
Question re—	Question re prohibiting the appointment of Non-Agriculturists as Assistant District Inspectors
Representations by grantees of, tahsil and district Montgomery	526
Water supply for irrigation in, tahsil and district Montgomery	CIVIL CASES—
133	Question re Criminal or, of Co-operative Societies in courts of Rawalpindi district
CHALLANS—	320
Question re Motor traffic, and the amount of fine realized by Courts	CIVIL DISPENSARY—
826	Question re opening of a veterinary hospital and, in village Parjhan
CHAMAN LALL, DIWAN—	886
Adjournment motions—	CIVIL SECRETARIAT—
Admissibility of, during budget session	Question re, Lahore
82, 83	184
Moving of, during Budget session	CIVIL STATION (LAHORE)—
689	Question re revision in the schedules of minimum areas for houses in,
Appropriation accounts, Report on, discussion of	480
19	CIVIL WORKS—
Bill. Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales), Circulation for eliciting public opinion thereon	Demand for Grant
36—39	981
Budget motion re. General Policy of Government	Supplementary demand for,
370-88, 420—36	316
Point of order re—	CIVIL WORKS—CAPITAL—
Conversation of members with occupants of galleries	Demand for Grant
792	982
Demands for grants, arrangements of, for discussion	CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN—
350	Question re encouragement of, in Lahore
Privilege, breach of, motion re, molestation of a member of the Assembly	467, 519
901—04	CLERICAL CADRE—
Seating arrangements, making of,	Question re communal representation among police,
147	735
CHAPRASIS—	CLERKS—
Question re—	Question re—
Muslims, in the Excise Department, Lahore	Appointment of two, in the offices of Central Training College, Lahore, and Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi Division
334	534
Tipping of, of officers	In office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar district
80	279
	CLOSURE—
	Question re—
	Compensation to the zamindars of ilaqa Pattoki due to the, of Upper Bari Doab
	124
	Representation re, of Kassi Minors
	128

	PAGES.		PAGES.
COLLEGES—		CONVICTION(S)—	
Question re—		Question re in connection with	
In Lahore	536	Multan Riots	79
Statement re certain, ..	146	CO-OPERATION—	
Strikes in Government and		Demand for grant	961
aided schools, and, ..	600	CO-OPERATIVE BANKS—	
COLONY—		Question re debts due to, ..	323
Question re Lower Bari Doab		CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—	
Canal,	348	Question re—	
COMMITTEE(S)—		And Co-operative Unionism in	
Canal Act,	288—303	the Punjab	320
Question re—		C. and D. class,	320
Unemployment,	332	Criminal or Civil cases of, Courts	
Unemployment and Retrench-		of Rawalpindi district	320
ment,	277	Liquidation of,	321
COMMUNAL MATTERS—		Lowering of the rate of audit	
Question re answering of Un-		fees charged from,	883
starred Questions on, ..	616	CO-OPERATIVE UNION(S)—	
COMMUNAL RIOTS—		Question re, and Co-operative So-	
Question re loss suffered by people		cieties in the Punjab	320
due to, in Multan	79	COPYISTS—	
COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS—		Question re remuneration to, in	
Demands for grants	982	the Punjab	339
COMPARTMENT SYSTEM—		CORRUPTION—	
Question re, for plucked candidates		Question re complaints of, against	
in University Examinations ..	11	police officers in Ludhiana dis-	
COMPENSATION—		trict	51
Question re—		COURT—	
Notice for, by grantees of Chak		Question re opening of a, of an	
No. 67/12-L.	746	Honorary Magistrate at Ani,	
To Zamindars for the construc-		district Kangra	343
tion of a Bund (Dam) in		COW SLAUGHTER—	
Nakhar Khad	809	Question re, in Basti Multan Sahib,	
COMPLAINT(S)—		district Jullundur	121
Question re—		CREMATIONS—	
Against a patwari at Jandiala		Question re, objection to, of an	
Against patwari by residents of		Achhut	737
villages Himmatpura and		CRIMES—	
Damkar	754	Budget motion re decrease of, ..	491-92
Against the highhandedness of		Question re, increase in, in Lud-	
the President of Municipal		hiana district	49
Committee, Rewari	467	CRIMINAL—	
By Ram Sarup and Ram Par-		Question re or Civil cases of Co-	
shad, orderlies, against Latif		operative Societies in courts of	
Shah, junior Sub-Judge ..	183	Rawalpindi district	320
Of corruption against the Police		CRIMINAL LAW—	
Officers in Ludhiana district	51	Question re prosecutions under,	
CONSOLIDATIONS—		in the Punjab	49
Question re, Bank and, Sub-Ins-		CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT—	
pectors	1	Question re exemption of Ahiris	
CONSOLIDATIONS OF HOLDINGS—		of Rohtak district from the	
Question re, in Ludhiana district	830	operation of,	390
CONSTABLES—		CROPS—	
Question re—		Question re—	
Police, sent to Phillaur for		Damage to, by hailstorm ..	688
training in Lower and Upper		Failure of, in Tahsil Garhahan-	
classes	53	kar	882
Transfer of police, from Jul-		CROWN LANDS—	
lundur district	735	Question re, in Nili and Ganji	
CONTRACTORS—		Bars	800
Licences to electrical,	287-88		
Question re—			
Of Sirhind Canal	750		
Put on black lists in Grey Canal			
Department, Ferozepore ..	745		
CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION WORKS—			
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—			
Supplementary demand for, ..	315		

D

DACOTIES—	
Question re—	
In Tahsil Kharar	757
Number of murders, and com-	
munal riots in the Punjab ..	59

	PAGES.		PAGES.
DAMAGE—		DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—<i>contd.</i>	
Question <i>re</i> —		General Administration ..	348,
To Crops by hailstorm ..	698	361—88,	
To crops by the over-flooding		419—62.	
of River Ravi in Amritsar			
district ..	831	Hydro-Electric Establishment	
To Rabi crops by hailstorms		charges ..	982
in Gurgaon district ..	814	Hydro-Electric Scheme—	
DARLING COMMITTEE'S REPORT—		Capital Expenditure ..	982
Question <i>re</i> , ..	798	Working Expenses ..	981
DAULATANA—		Industrial Capital Expenditure ..	981
Question <i>re</i> preferential treat-		Industries ..	981
ment to land of, in Nili Bar ..	254	Irrigation (Capital)—	978
DEARTH—		Irrigation Establishment Charges	978
Question <i>re</i> , of drinking water in		Irrigation (Works) ..	977
Thasil Garshankar ..	528	Jails and Convict Settlements ..	491—515,
DEATHS—		556—96,	
Question <i>re</i> —		Land Revenue ..	900,
Due to famine in Hissar dis-		910—40,	
trict ..	816	941—75.	
Due to starvation ..	732	Loans and Advances ..	983
DEBTS—		Medical ..	626—65,
Question <i>re</i> due to Co-operative		690—728.	
Banks ..	323	Miscellaneous ..	983
DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD—		Police ..	978—80
Question <i>re</i> —		Public Health ..	980
Dipalpur Tahsil, in Montgo-		Public Works Department (Build-	
mery district ..	273	ings and Roads) Establishment	981
Establishment of, Hoshiarpur		Registration ..	977
Number of members appointed		Scientific and Miscellaneous De-	
to, ..	272	partments ..	980
Shakargarh ..	894	Stamps ..	977
DECREES—		Stationery and Printing ..	982
Question <i>re</i> —		Superannuation Allowances and	
Acreage of land sold and auc-		Pensions ..	982
tioned in execution of, ..	745	Taxes and Duties ..	977
Amount realized by execution		Veterinary ..	981
of, ..	340	DEMONSTRATOR—	
Land given on mustajri in exe-		Question <i>re</i> appointment of a	
cution of, ..	745	Non-Punjabi, in the Physical	
DEFENCE WITNESSES—		Chemistry in the University	
Question <i>re</i> terrifying of, by		Chemical Laboratories ..	525
Police in Fatehwal case ..	623	DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL—	
DEFINITION—		Question <i>re</i> grant-in-aid to, in the	
Question <i>re</i> of agriculturists for		Punjab ..	185
recruitment in services ..	74	DEPARTMENTS—	
DEK INUNDATION—		Question <i>re</i> various, of Lahore	
Question <i>re</i> remission of revenue		Municipality and Officers in-	
each year owing to stoppage of,		charge of the ..	399
in Sialkot district ..	136	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION—	
DEK NULLAH—		Question <i>re</i> refusal by Deputy	
Question <i>re</i> bridge over, near Qila		Commissioner, Rohtak, to en-	
Sobha Singh ..	747	tertain application for, ..	684
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—		DEPARTMENTAL GRADE EXAMINA-	
Administration of Justice ..	978	TIONS—	
Advances Repayable ..	983	Question <i>re</i> for women Sub-Assis-	
Agriculture ..	760—96,	tant Surgeons ..	545
833—76.		DEPRESSED CLASSES—	
Civil Works ..	981	Question <i>re</i> relief for, in Hissar	
Civil Works—Capital ..	982	district ..	123
Commuted value of Pensions ..	982	DEPUTY COMMISSIONER—	
Co-operation ..	981	Question <i>re</i> , Amritsar's letter to	
Education ..	980	Municipal Committee, Amritsar	474
Education (European and Anglo-		DEPUTY DIRECTOR(S)—	
Indian) ..	980	Question <i>re</i> and Extra Assistant	
Exercise—Provincial ..	975—77	Directors of Agriculture ..	414, 416
Famine ..	982	DHARBANDHU GUPTA, LALA—	
Forests ..	977	Budget motion <i>re</i> , working of	
		Medical Department ..	637—46

	PAGES.		PAGES.
DEVELOPMENT—		DUNI CHAND, LALA—	
Question re scheme for physical and cultural, ..	602	Adjournment motions, Admissibility of, during budget session ..	82, 83, 84
DEV RAJ SETHI, MR.—		Budget motion re, recruitment to Medical Service ..	626—28, 636
Budget, General discussion ..	99—105	Canal Act Committee ..	295—97
DIARIES—		Rewards, grant of ..	284, 285
Question re Police, about Magistrates ..	624	DUNI CHAND, MRS.—	
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS—		Budget, general discussion ..	206—09
Question re Staff taken up to Simla by the, ..	541	Budget motion re—	
DISMISSAL—		General policy of Jail Administration ..	378—81
Question re, and appointment of officials of Small Town Committee, Jhajjar ..	464	Working of Medical Department ..	690—92
DISPENSARY(IES)—		E	
Question re—		EDUCATION—	
Usefulness of Women Sub-Assistant Surgeons holding independent charge of, ..	546	Demand for Grant ..	980
Opening of a Civil, in Parjain village ..	886	Question re scheme for overhauling Primary and Secondary System of, ..	526
DISTRIBUTION—		EDUCATION (EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN)—	
Question re representation by Munshi and others for proper, of the Western Jumna Canal ..	186	Demand for Grant ..	980
DISTRICT BOARD—		EJECTMENT NOTICES—	
Question re—		Question re—	
Appointment of Secretary of Jullundur, ..	481	Issued by Revenue Officers in all the tahsils of Multan district ..	809
Construction of roads by Jullundur, ..	483	Served on tenants of Nili Bar and Ganji Bar Colonies ..	815
Elections of, Hoshiarpur ..	409	ELECTION(S)—	
Election of Rohtak, ..	485	Question re Candidates disqualified for not sending returns of, expenses in Punjab Legislative Assembly ..	673
Imposition of tax on Kamins by, Montgomery ..	402	Question re—	
Imposition of tax on sheep by, Montgomery ..	401	Inquiry into the, of Vice-President, Small Town Committee, Jhajjar ..	464
Notification of amendments in Bye-Laws of, Lyalpur ..	398	Of District Board, Hoshiarpur ..	409
Rejection of nomination papers for, Hoshiarpur ..	483	Of Fazilka Municipal Committee ..	487
Representation of Muslims in, Jullundur ..	183, 413	Of the Rohtak District Board ..	485
Representation of non-agriculturists in, in Ambala Division ..	12	Set aside by Election Tribunals ..	676
Sub-Assistant Surgeons, in the service of Multan, ..	601	ELECTION EXPENSES—	
Unions of, employees in the Province ..	517	Question re, returns of, in Punjab Legislative Assembly Elections ..	672
DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS—		ELECTION PETITION—	
Question re medium of instruction in, in Lahore and Amritsar ..	529	Question re, against a member of Kaithal Municipal Committee ..	4
DONSON, MR. B. H.—		ELECTION TRIBUNALS—	
Question re extension given to, Financial Commissioner ..	736	Question re elections set aside by, ..	676
DRAINAGE SCHEME—		ELECTORAL CIRCLES—	
Question re levy of House-tax to meet the expenses of, Lahore, ..	476	Question re, of the Rohtak District Board ..	345
DRINKING WATER—		ELECTORATES—	
Question re death of, in Tahsil Garbhankar ..	528	Question re Municipal Committees with joint and separate, ..	517
		ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS—	
		Licences to, ..	287-88
		ELECTRIC ENGINEER—	
		Question re qualifications, of Mr. Sibon, ..	463

	PAGES.		PAGES.
ELECTRIC RATES—		EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR—	
Question re meter rent and, of Ambala Electric Supply Corporation	14	Question re Deputy Director and, of Agriculture	414, 416
ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION—		F	
Question re meter rent and electric rates of,	14		
ELECTRIC SYSTEM—		FACILITY(IES)—	
Question re and Municipal Committees of Pindigheb and Isakhel	478	Question re—	
EMBEZZLEMENT(S)—		For medical treatment in Beit Ilaga of Jullundur district ..	412
Question re—		To J. V. trained teachers to appear at the Senior Vernacular Examination ..	15
In Public Health Department, Jullundur	599	FACTORIES—	
Of Municipal Funds, Sadhora	465	Question re—	
EMERSON COLLEGE—		Inspection of, in the Punjab ..	982
Question re Multan and teaching of Punjabi	186	Inspection of Iron Steel Mills in Badami Bagh by the Chief Inspector of Factories ..	552
EMPLOYEE(S)—		FAILURE—	
Question re—		Question re, of crops in Tahsil Garhehankar	882
Grant of rewards to, of the Haveli Project	808	FAMINE—	
Of Lahore Municipality drawing Rs. 100 or above as salaries	399	Demand for Grant	982
ENCOURAGEMENT—		Question re—	
Question re, of clean up campaign in Lahore	467	Deaths due to, in Hissar district	816
ENTERTAINMENT(S)—		In Hissar and the harijans of surrounding area	136
Question re, acceptance of, by Government Officers on tours ..	12	Supplementary demand for ..	315, 316
EXCISE—		FAMINE CONDITIONS—	
Supplementary demand re ..	283—285	Question re, in certain villages in Ludhiana district	141
EXCISE DEPARTMENT—		FAMINE RELIEF—	
Question re Muslim chaprasis in, ..	334	Question re, given to scheduled castes in Hissar district ..	819
EXCISE-PROVINCIAL—		FAMINE WORK—	
Demand for Grant	975—77	Question re digging of a pond at Burewala as a,	130
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS—		FATEHJANG SINGH, 2ND LIEUTENANT, BHAI—	
Question re posting of,	672	Budget, general discussion of, ..	169—73
EXEMPTION—		FATEH KHAN, KHAN SAHIB RAJA—	
Question re of Aheris of Rohtak district from the operation of Criminal Tribes Act	390	Budget motion re. General Policy of Jail Administration ..	509-10
EXPENDITURE—		FATEHWAL CASE—	
Supplementary Statement of, authenticated by Governor ..	624—26	Question re	740
EXPULSION—		Question re terrifying of defence witnesses by the Police in, ..	623
Question re, of two students from Intermediate College, Rohtak ..	600	FATEHWAL MURDER CASE—	
EXTENSION(S)—		Question re expenditure on, ..	188
Question re—		FEE(S)—	
Appointments made and, and promotions given by Minister for Development	321	Question re amount of, realized by the Government under the Punjab Motor Rules, 1931 ..	826
Grant of, to Mr. J. W. Thomas, Principal, Hailey College of Commerce	346	FEMALE EDUCATION—	
In Services	731	Question re, in Lahore	535
To Mr. B. H. Dobson, Financial Commissioner	736	FINE—	
EXTERNEES—		Question re motor traffic challans and the amount of, realized by courts	826
Question re internees and, in the Punjab	678	FIRE ARMS—	
EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER-SHIP—		Question re, etc., captured by police	62
Question re recruitment for, and Tehsildarship for Nakodar and Phillaur Tehsils	676		

PAGES.	PAGES.
FIRST AID—	GOP! CHAND BHARGAVA DE.—
Question re—	Bhekra Dam Scheme .. 310-11
Instructions in, to Police Officers .. 624	Bill Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales). Circulation for eliciting public opinion thereon .. 39-40
Percentage of students trained in, .. 13	Budget, general discussion .. 211-21
FODDER—	Budget motion re—
Question re representation for free supply of, by zamindars of village Rupowal, Tahsil Phillaur .. 127	General policy of Jail administration .. 591-94
FOOT-BRIDGE—	Working of Medical department .. 696-714
Question re, over Upper Bari Doab Canal near Nanu Nangal .. 751	Hours of sitting of the Assembly .. 376
FORESTS—	Question Hour omission of, on Budget day .. 18
Demands for Grants .. 977	Seating arrangements, making of, .. 147
Supplementary demand re, .. 287	GOVERNMENT COLLEGE—
FOREST COMMISSION	Question re—
Question re report of the Punjab Government .. 882	Reprimanding of students by the Principal of, for Women, Laylpur .. 527
FOREST COMMITTEE—	Teaching staff in, Lahore .. 604
Question re action taken on recommendations of the, .. 822	GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS—
G	Question re representation of scheduled castes in various, .. 280
GANJI BAE—	GOVERNMENT OFFICERS—
Question re crown lands in Nili Bar and, .. 800	Question re acceptance of entertainments by, on tour .. 12
GARDENS—	GRADUATES—
Question re supply of water for, .. 881	Question re register of, in Science and Art .. 526
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—	GRANT—
Demands for grants .. 348, 351—388, 419-62, 315	Question re, to aided schools in Ambala division .. 4
Supplementary demand for grant .. 315	GRANTEES—
GHULAM MOHY-UD-DIN, KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI—	Question re notice for compensation by, of Chak No. 67/12-L... Of Chak No. 67/12-L., tahsil and district Montgomery .. 746
Budget motion re recruitment to medical service .. 634-36	GRANTS-IN-AID—
GHULAM SAMAD, KHAWAJA—	Question re—
Budget motion re recruitment to medical service .. 628-31	Reduced, to schools .. 11
GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOLS—	To denominational schools in the Punjab .. 185
Question re administration of, .. 597	GREY CANALS—
GOKUL CHAND NARANG, DR. SIR—	Question re—
Adjournment motions. Admissibility of, during budget session .. 83	Jalsa Bachh and superintendent, .. 130
Budget motion re—	Persons employed in, .. 128
Land revenue assessment in Lahore district .. 949-57	Superintendent of, Ferozepore .. 131
Recruitment to medical service .. 632-34	GREY CANAL DEPARTMENT—
Carrying forward to next day of supplementary questions and answers .. 877-78	Question re contractors put on black lists in, Ferozepore .. 745
GOLDSMITH(S)—	GRIEVANCES—
Question re professional tax imposed on, by Municipal Committee, Sadhaura .. 396	Question re—
GOPAL DAS, RAI BAHADUR LALA—	Removal of, of tenants of Nili Bar Colony .. 254
Budget, general discussion, .. 159-62	Representations for the redress of, received by Honourable Ministers .. 186
GOPAL SINGH, SARDAR—	GUN LICENSE(S)—
Budget motion re economic and social conditions of scheduled castes .. 362-68	Question re—
GOP! CHAND BHARGAVA, DR.—	Holders of, in Rawalpindi district .. 31
Adjournment motion admissibility of, during budget session .. 83	In Multan district .. 323
	GURBACHAN SINGH—
	Question re arrest of, Vice President of the Kisan Conference held at Lyallpur .. 57

PAGES.	PAGES.
GURBACHAN SINGH, SARDAR SAHIB Sardar—	HOURS OF SITTING—
Budget, general discussion of, .. 114—16	Fixation of, .. 18
GURDIAL SINGH GILL, SARDAR—	Of the Assembly .. 233, 876
Question re application of, .. 189	HOUSES—
GURMUKH SINGH COMRADE—	Question re revision in the schedule
Question re return of books supplied to, .. 896	of minimum areas for, in
H	
HAILSTORM—	Lahore Civil Station .. 480
Question re damage to rabi crops	HOUSE-TAX—
by, in Gurgaon district .. 814	Question re—
HARLIANS—	In Lahore .. 406
Question re—	Levy of, to meet the expenses
Famine in Hissar and, of the	of Lahore Drainage Scheme .. 476
surrounding areas .. 136	HYDRO-ELECTRIC ESTABLISHMENT
Suspension of professional tax	CHARGES—
on, in Rohtak district .. 489	Demand for Grant .. 982
HARI SINGH, SARDAR—	HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—CAPITAL
Adjournment motions, moving of,	EXPENDITURE—
during Budget discussions .. 689	Demand for Grant .. 982
Budget motion re administration	HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—
of Agriculture Department .. 760—78	Supplementary demand for Capital
Canal Act Committee— .. 293—95	Outlay on, .. 316
HAENAM DAS, LALA—	HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—WORK-
Budget motion re—	ING EXPENSES—
Decrease of crimes .. 491-92	Demand for Grant .. 981
Economic and social conditions	Supplementary demand for, .. 315
of scheduled castes .. 351—56	I
HARNAM SINGH, COMRADE—	ILLITERACY—
Question re internment of, .. 56	Question re removal of, from rural
HAVELI PROJECT—	areas in Punjab .. 530
Question re grant of rewards to	IMPERIAL SERVICE—
employees of, .. 808	Question re salaries paid to officers
HEREDITARY TENANTS—	of, .. 389
Question re memorial from, of	IMPROVEMENT TRUST, LAHORE—
tahsil Una .. 809	Question re—
HIGHHANDEDNESS—	Loans to, .. 476
Question re complaint against,	Villages brought under the
of President of Municipal Com-	jurisdiction of, .. 475
mittee, Rewari .. 467	Town Planning Schemes by, .. 474
HIGH SCHOOL(S)—	INDIANS—
Question re—	Question re, in Lawrence College,
In Bharauli Ilaga of Simla	Ghooragali .. 397
district .. 527	I.C.S. OFFICERS—
Government and aided, in Hosh-	Question re—
iarpur district .. 602	Transfer of, from Executive
HINDU SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS—	to Judicial Branch .. 80
Question re, .. 548	And P.C.S. officers as District
HOLDINGS—	and Sessions Judges .. 616
Question re consolidation of, in	INDEPENDENCE DAY—
Ludhiana district .. 830	Question re resolution of Tarn
HOLIDAY—	Tarn Municipal Committee, re
Question re resolution of Tarn	holiday to be observed on, .. 473
Tarn Municipal Committee re,	INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—
to be observed on Independence	Demand for Grant .. 981
Day .. 473	INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION—
HONORARY MAGISTRATE(S)—	Question re scholarships for, ..
Question re—	INDUSTRIAL INVESTIGATORS—
In Montgomery district .. 390	Question re, .. 267
Opening of a court of, at Ani,	INDUSTRIAL LOANS—
district Kangra .. 343	Question re, given in Ambala
HOSPITAL—	Division .. 269
Question re—	INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH LABORA-
Veterinary, at Kasowal .. 347	TORY—
Veterinary, in village Parjjan .. 886	Question re Muslim and non-Mus-
	lim Agriculturists in the superior
	and subordinate grades em-
	ployed in the, .. 882

PAGES.	PAGES.
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS—	IRRIGATION—contd.
Question re—	Question re—
Prospects of vernacular teachers	Water supply for, in Chak No.
in,	67/12-L, tahsil, and district
Spring and summer vacation	Montgomery
in,	133
INDUSTRIES—	IRRIGATION (CAPITAL)—
Demand for Grant	Demand for Grant
981	978
Question re—	IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT CHA—
Development of, in the provin-	8
ce	IRGS—
325	Demand for Grant ..
Promoting supplementary, in	Supplementary demand re. ..
Simla district	238—315
271	IRRIGATION (WORKS)—
INFECTIOUS DISEASES—	Demand for Grant ..
Question re death of cattle in the	977
Punjab on account of,	ISLAMIA HIGH SCHOOL—
886	Question re arrest of persons in
INQUIRY—	connection with, Rawalpindi
Question re—	incident
Against the tahsildars at Jhajjar	667
into the election of Vice-Presi-	
dent, Small Town Committee,	
Jhajjar	
464	J
INSPECTING STAFF—	JAGJIT SINGH BEDI Tikka—
Question re untrained,	Budget, general discussion of, ..
547	182
INSPECTION—	JAGJIT SINGH MANN, SARDAR—
Question re—	Budget, general discussion of, ..
Of Factories in the Punjab ..	98-99
Of Police stations by Superin-	Budget motion re administration
tendent of Police and Deputy	of Agricultural Department ..
Superintendent of Police,	838-39
Ludhiana, and their travelling	JAG PARVESH—
allowance	Question re application by, Ma-
618	naging Director of "Monday
INSPECTORS—	Morning" Limited ..
Question re, recruited in 1938 ..	70
932	JAILS—
INSTRUCTIONS—	Question re—
Question re—	Assistant Superintendent of, ..
Medium of, in District Board	893
Schools in Lahore and Amrit-	Facilities for Aohlut prisoner in,
sar	333
Regarding communitywise re-	JAIL ADMINISTRATION—
cruitment to services ..	Budget motion re general policy
611	of, ..
INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE—	495—515,
Question re expulsion of two stu-	556—56.
dents from, Rohtak ..	JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS—
600	Demands for Grants ..
INTERMENT—	491—515
Question re—	556—56
Of Comrade Harnam Singh ..	JALPAT BRAHMIN—
56	Question re declaration of, of
Of Mr. Tehal Singh of Bhagali	Nakolar Tahsil as agricultur-
under the Criminal Law	ists ..
Amendment Act ..	752
688	JALSA BAOHH—
INTERNES—	Question re, and Superintendent,
Question re, and externees in the	Grey Canals ..
Punjab ..	130
678	JAWAYA—
INUNDATION—	Question re application of, in
Question re, of land in village	tahsil Pakpattan, regarding
Jhamlayra ..	Kharaba and the action taken
753	on it ..
INVESTIGATION—	282
Question re, of cases by the City	JUGAL KISHORE, CHAUDHRI—
Inspector of Police, Ludhiana,	Budget motion re economic and
under his jurisdiction ..	social conditions of scheduled
608	castes ..
IRREGULARITIES—	356—59
Question re, committed by Muni-	Seating arrangements, marking of,
cipal Committee, Gujrat ..	147
488	JUNIOR CONSTABLES—
IRRIGATION—	Question re promotion of two, in
Question re—	Karnal district police ..
Supply of water for, of land in	3
Mauza Moolo Chak in Gujran-	JUNIOR VERNACULAR CLASSES—
wala district ..	Question re admission of scheduled
800	castes students to junior ver-
	nacular and senior vernacular
	classes in Ambala division ..
	846

	PAGES.		PAGES.
JUNIOR VERNACULAR TEACHERS—		KISAN CONFERENCE—	
Question re facility to junior vernacular trained teachers to appear on the senior vernacular examination ..	15	Question re arrest of Sardar Kartar Singh and Sardar Gurbachan Singh, President and Vice-President of the, held at Lyallpur ..	57
JURISDICTION—		KISHORI LAL, MR.—	
Question re villages brought under, of Lahore Improvement Trust ..	475	Question re, a prisoner in the Bhagat Singh Conspiracy Case ..	345
K		KRISHNA GOPAL DUTT, CHAUDHRI—	
KABUL SINGH, MASTER—		Budget, general discussion ..	84—94
Budget motion re general policy of jail administration ..	559—66		248
KALA SINGH—		Budget motion re working of Medical Department ..	650—58.
Question re—		L	
Death of, ..	621	LAHORE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN—	
KAMINS—		Question re—	
Question re imposition of tax on, by District Board, Montgomery ..	402	Muslim Lady as teacher in, ..	607
KANAHYA LAL—		Teachers in, ..	537
Question re complaint by, of village Pughthala against payment of land revenue ..	16	LAL SINGH, SARDAR—	
KANUNGOS—		Budget motion re administration of Agriculture Department ..	842—51
Question re, in the Punjab ..	256	LAND—	
KAPOOR SINGH, SARDAR—		Question re—	
Bill, Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales). Circulation for eliciting public opinion thereon ..	42—43	Acreage of, sold and auctioned in execution of decrees ..	745
KARTAR SINGH, CHAUDHRI—		Area of, at Ludhiana, called 'Rakh' ..	409
Budget motion re general policy of jail administration ..	510—15	Given on mustajri in execution of decrees ..	745
KARTAR SINGH, GILL—		Grant of, in Rakh Sarai Amanat Khan on temporary cultivation ..	799
Question re, of village Barki Gill, district Amritsar ..	54	Preferential treatment to Daulatana's, in Nili Bar ..	254
KARTAR SINGH, SARDAR—		LAND REVENUE—	
Question re arrest of, President of the Kisan Conference held at Lyallpur ..	57	Budget motion re assessment of, in Lahore district ..	943—75
KASSI MINOR—		Demands for Grants ..	900
Question re representation regarding the closing of, ..	128		910—40,
KHARABA—			941—75..
Question re application of Jawaya in tahsil Pakpattan, regarding, and the action taken on it ..	262	Question re—	
KHARIF—		Collection of, in Ludhiana district ..	145
Question re failure of, and Rabi crops in tahsil Bharauti, district Simla ..	131	Complaint by Kanaya Lal of village Pughthala against payment of, ..	16
KHARIF CROP—		Fixed for Nammal and Thammawali Zails of Mianwali district ..	255
Question re, ..	802	Highest figure of rate of, in Hoshiarpur district ..	511
Question re—		Maurausi owners of land in tahsil Gujrat and payment of, ..	815
Failure of, and rabi crop in Kangra district ..	807	Remission and suspension of, in Ambala district ..	132
Remission of land revenue on, of 1938, in Pakpattan tahsil ..	746	Remission of, in Jullundur district ..	261
KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, THE HON'BLE NAWABZADA MAJOR MALIK (MINISTER FOR P. W. D.)		Remission of, for failure of crops in Ferozepore district ..	804
Budget, general discussion ..	203—06	Remission of, in Amritsar district ..	798
Licences to electrical contractors ..	288	Remission of, in Nili Bar Colony ..	807
KIDNAPPING CASES—			
Question re, ..	737		

PAGES.		PAGES.
	LAND REVENUE—<i>contd.</i>	
	Question re—	
	Representation for remission of, by people of Mahilpur ..	620
	Representation for remission of, in tahsil Sargodha ..	812
	LAND REVENUE INQUIRY COMMITTEE—	
	Question re report of, ..	261
	LATIF SHAH, SUB-JUDGE—	
	Question re complaints by Ram Sarup and Ram Parshad, orders against, ..	183
	LAWRENCE COLLEGE—	
	Question re Indians in, Ghoragali ..	897
	LEASE—	
	Question re, of Palla Pond area in Nili Bar Colony ..	249
	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (OFFICERS)	
	BILL—	
	Select Committee Report, presentation of, ..	47
	LETTERS—	
	Question re, in Kulu Sub-Division ..	542
	LICENCE(S)—	
	Question re—	
	Holders of gun, in Rawalpindi district ..	319
	Gun, in Multan district ..	323
	To electrical contractors. ..	287-38
	LIQUIDATION—	
	Question re, of co-operative societies ..	321
	LIQUOR SHOP—	
	Question re—	
	Country, in Mozang ..	340
	Removal of, at Mandi Kaleki ..	390
	LITERATURE—	
	Question re distribution of, by Agriculture Department ..	273
	LOANS—	
	Question re—	
	Given, in Ambala Division to promote industry ..	269
	To Lahore Improvement Trust ..	476
	LOANS AND ADVANCES—	
	Demands for Grants ..	983
	LORRY DRIVERS—	
	Question re offences committed by, ..	488
	LOSS—	
	Question re, suffered by people due to communal riots in Multan ..	79
	LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL—	
	Question re, Colony ..	348
	LOWER SOHAG CANAL—	
	Question re bridge on, ..	803
	M	
	MAGISTRACY—	
	Question re, in the Punjab ..	897
	MAGISTRATES—	
	Question re—	
	Police Diaries about, ..	624
	Posted in their home districts. ..	668
	MAHARAJ SWAMI—	
	Question re declaration of the birthday of Shri Maharaj, as a public holiday ..	741
	MAHATAM TRIBE—	
	Question re, in Montgomery district ..	817
	MAJITHA—	
	Question re chahi rate charged from agriculturists of, ..	797
	MARHAN SINGH—	
	Question re petition from one, of Mohalla Rangpura, Gujrat ..	735
	MALABIA—	
	Question re, in Hissar district ..	601
	MALKANA—	
	Question re, ..	267
	MANGO GARDENS—	
	Question re area under, in Hoshiarpur district ..	811
	MANOHAR LAL, HON'BLE MR.—	
	Appropriation accounts, presentation of, ..	19
	Bill, Motor Spirit and Lubricants (Taxation of Sales)—	
	Presentation of Select Committee's Report ..	750
	Reference to Select Committee ..	34-5
	Budget, general discussion ..	236-47
	Budget, presentation, ..	19-34
	Budget motion re—	
	General policy of jail administration ..	581-91
	Grievances of under-trial prisoners ..	494
	Release of Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter ..	494, 495
	Supplementary estimates, presentation of, ..	19, 34
	Rewards, grant of, ..	285
	Supplementary statement of expenditure authenticated by Governor ..	624-26
	MAQBOOL MAHMOOD, MIE—	
	Budget motion re general policy of Jail Administration ..	656-58
	Privilege, breach of, motion re—	
	Molestation of a member of the Assembly ..	904-05
	MAUBUSI OWNERS—	
	Question re, of land in tahsil Gujrat and payment of land revenue ..	815
	MAYO COMMUNITY—	
	Question re representation of the, in the Punjab police ..	68
	MEDICAL—	
	Demands for Grants ..	626-65, 690-728
	Supplementary demands ..	315
	MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—	
	Budget motion re working of, ..	637-65, 690-728
	Question re improvements concerning the Women's section of the, ..	544
	MEDICAL SERVICE—	
	Budget motion re recruitment to, ..	626-36

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MEDICAL TREATMENT—		MUHAMMAD IFTIKHAR-UD-DEN,	
Question re facilities for, in Beit		MIAN—	
Ilaga of Jullundur district ..	412	Statements, withdrawal of, re	
MEETING—		the treatment by police of, ..	899-900
Question re adjournment of a,		MUHAMMAD NURULLAH, MIAN—	
of the Gujranwala Municipal		Budget, general discussion ..	95-98,
Committee ..	473		248
MEHAR SHAH, NAWAB, SIR—		Budget motion re reduction of	
Question re grant of squares of		chahi rates ..	910-23
land to, ..	139	Canal Act Committee ..	288-93
MEMORIAL—		Licenses to electrical contractors	287
Question re, from the hereditary		Point of order re—	
tenants of tahsil Una ..	809	Demands for grants, arrange-	
METAL WORKS INSTITUTE—		ment of, for discussion ..	349
Question re, Ambala City ..	891	Discussion of budget motions	419
METER RENT—		Non-official business ..	189
Question re, and electric rates of		MUHAMMAD YUSUF KHAN, KHAN—	
Ambala Electric Supply Cor-		Budget motion re working of	
poration ..	14	Medical Department ..	646-48
METERS—		MUKAND LAL PURI, RAI BAHADUR	
Question re, on house connections		MR.—	
for water supply in Ambala		Bill, Motor Spirit and Lubricants	
city ..	3	(Taxation of Sales), Circula-	
MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION—		tion for eliciting public opinion	40-42
Question re free, of sputa of		Point of order re demands for	
tubercular patients, ..	11	grants, arrangement of, for	
MILLS—		discussion ..	349, 350
Question re—		MULA SINGH, SARDAR—	
Inspection of iron steel, in		Budget motion re economic and	
Badami Bagh by the Chief		social conditions of scheduled	
Inspector of Factories ..	552	castes ..	359-62
Iron steel, in Badami Bagh,		MULTAN RIOTS—	
Lahore ..	549	Question re convictions in connec-	
MINIMUM AREAS—		tion with, ..	79
Question re revision in the sche-		MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE(S)—	
dules of, for houses in Lahore		Question re—	
Civil Station ..	480	Adjournment of a meeting	
MISCELLANEOUS—		of the Gujranwala ..	473
Demand for Grant ..	983	And notified Area Committee	
Supplementary demands for, ..	316	at Gujrat ..	188, 830
MOTOR SPIRIT AND LUBRICANTS		Complaint against the high-	
(TAXATION OF SALES) BILL—		handedness of the President,	
Presentation of Select Commit-		Rewari, ..	467
tee's Report ..	759	Declaration of sweepers of, as	
Reference to Select Committee		whole-time and permanent	
and circulation for eliciting		servants ..	466
public opinion ..	34-47	Deputy Commissioner, Amrit-	
MOTOR TRAFFIC—		sar's letter to, Amritsar ..	474
Question re, challans and the		Electric petition against a mem-	
amount of fine realised by the		ber of Kaithal, ..	4
courts ..	826	Election to, Fazilka ..	487
MUHAFTZ—		Elective system and, of Pindi	
Question re, employed by Small		gheb and Isakhel ..	478
Town Committee, Jhajjar ..	464	Gujranwala ..	471
MUHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN, KHAN		Introduction of separate elec-	
BAHADUR RAJA—		torates in, Hodal ..	548
Budget motion re general policy		Irregularities committed by,	
of Jail Administration ..	501-04	Gujrat ..	488
MUHAMMAD HASSAN, CHAUDHRI—		Lahore, ..	478
Budget, general discussion, ..	116-19,	Removal of Chaudhri Abdul	
	147-54.	Karim from Presidentship of,	
Budget motion re—		Zira ..	483
Working of Medical Depart-		Resolution of Tarn Taran, re	
ment ..	637	holiday to be observed on In-	
MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SARDAR—		dependence Day ..	473
Land revenue assessment in			
Lahore district ..	943-47		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
OFFICER(S)—		POHOP SINGH. RAO—	
Question re—		Bhakra Dam Scheme ..	309-10
Salaries paid to Imperial Ser-	389	Budget motion re reduction of	
vice, ..		chahi rates ..	932-37
Various departments of Lahore		POINT OF ORDER—	
Municipality and, incharge of	399	Re carrying forward to next day	
them ..		of supplementary questions and	
OFFICIAL(S)—		answers ..	877-78
Question re dismissal and appoint-		Re conversation of members with	
ment of, of Small Town Com-		the occupants of galleries ..	792
mittee, Jhajjar ..	464	Re demands for grants, arrange-	
OFFICIAL RECEIVERS—		ment of, for discussion ..	349-50
Question re representation of Mus-		Re discussion of budget motions ..	419
lims among, and public prose-		Re non-official business ..	189-90
cutors ..	14	Re withdrawal of an objectionable	
OLD COLONY—		remark by proxy ..	759
Question re canal water for the		POLICE—	
grantees of the new Colony and		Demand for Grant ..	978-80
the Zamindars of the, ..	135	Question re—	
OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES—		Enrolment of scheduled caste	
Supplementary demand re, ..	287-88	constables and Head Con-	
OVERSEERS—		stables in the, ..	69
Question re, in canal department	814	Investigation of cases by the	
		City Inspector of Police,	
P		Ludhiana, under his jurisd-	
		iction ..	608
PALLA POND AREA—		Representation of Indian Chris-	
Question re lease of, in Nili Bar		tians in, Department ..	346
Colony ..	249	Representation of Muslims of	
PANCHAYAT OFFICERS—		Ambala Division amongst	
Question re appointment of, ..	410	Deputy Superintendents of,	
PANJOTRA—		Inspector and Sub-Inspectors	
Question re, for collection of		of, ..	555
revenue for poppy in Hoshiar-		Supplementary demand for, ..	315
pur district ..	344	POLICE CLERICAL CADRE—	
PATWARI(S)—		Question re communal representa-	
Question re—		tion among, ..	735
Complaint against a, at Jan-		POLICE DEPARTMENT—	
diala ..	253	Question re—	
Complaint against, of villages		Recruitment in, from Nakodar	
Himmatpura and Damkar ..	754	and Phillaur tahsils ..	676
Complaint against, of village		Representation of scheduled	
Sandhwan, district Jullundur	749	castes in the, ..	554
Percentage of Sikhs among, in		POLICE FORCES—	
Jhang district ..	830	Question re recruitment for Ludh-	
Representation of scheduled		iana ..	619
caste among, in Amritsar		POLICE OFFICERS—	
district ..	279	Question re first aid instructions	
Revenue, in the Punjab ..	256	to, ..	624
PENALTY—		POLICE OFFICIALS—	
Question re, charged by the Dipal-		Question re dismissed, in Ludh-	
pur Canal authorities from the		iana ..	609
Zamindars of village Angiwal ..	127	POLICE POSTS—	
PENSIONS—		Question re—	
Question re, withheld ..	743	Permanent, at Raja Jang	
PETITION—		Establishment of, at Chima	
Question re, from one Makhan		Khurd and other places in	
Singh of Mohalla Rangpura,		Gurdaspur district ..	81
Gujrat ..	735	POLICE STATIONS—	
PETITION-WRITERS—		Question re inspection of, by	
Question re rent charged from, ..	339	Superintendent of Police and	
PHOTOGRAPHY—		Deputy Superintendent of Police	
Question re, for police officers ..	667	Ludhiana, and their travelling	
PIR MUHAMMAD, KHAN SAHIB		allowance ..	618
CHAUDHRI—		POLLING STATION—	
Budget motion re reduction of		Question re, at Jahan Khelan ..	411
Chahi rates ..	937-38		

PAGES.	PAGES.
POND—	PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION—
Question re digging of a, at Buru- wali as a famine work ..	Question re, for the salary of Punjabi teacher for the school at Domeli ..
130	15
POPPY—	PUBLIC HEALTH—
Question re Panjotra for collection of revenue, for, in Hoshiarpur district ..	Demand for Grant ..
344	980
PRESIDENT—	Question re embezzlements in, Equipment Department, Jul- lundur ..
Question re complaint against the highbandedness of, of Muni- cipal Committee, Rewari ..	Supplementary demand for, ..
467	599 316
PRESIDENTSHIP—	PUBLIC HOLIDAY—
Question re removal of Chaudhri Abdul Karim from, of Muni- cipal Committee, Zira ..	Question re declaration of the birthday of Shri Maharaj Maha- bir Swami as a, ..
483	741
PRINCIPAL—	PUBLIC MEETINGS—
Question re reprimanding of stu- dents by, of Government College for Women, Lyallpur ..	Question re travelling allowance drawn by Minister for Develop- ment and Director of Agricul- ture and participation of latter in, addressed by the former ..
527	338
PRISONERS—	PUBLIC PROSECUTORS—
Budget motion re grievances of under-trial, ..	Question re, ..
492—94	341
Question re—	Question re representation of Mus- lims among official receivers and, ..
Facilities for Achhut, in Jails. .	14
Health of Bhai Sucha Singh, Conspiracy Case, ..	389
Terrorists, in the Punjab ..	393
393	PUBLIC WELLS—
PRIVATE AND AIDED COLLEGES—	Question re districts where Achhuts are allowed to use, ..
Question re particulars about cer- tain, in the Punjab ..	393
15	PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BUILD- ING AND ROADS) ESTABLISHMENT—
PRIVILEGE, BREACH OF—	Demand for Grant ..
Motion re molestation of a member of the Assembly ..	981
901—06	PUNITIVE POLICE—
PROFESSIONAL TAX—	Question re, in village Chima Khudian ..
Question re—	66
Imposed on goldsmiths by Municipal Committee, Sada- aura ..	PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS—
396	Question re annual costs of, quar- tered in Lahore and other divi- sions ..
Suspension of, on Harijans in Rohtak district ..	186
489	PUNJAB CO-OPERATIVE UNION—
PROMOTION(S)—	Question re Sub-Inspectors em- ployed by Lahore ..
Question re—	384
Of two junior constables in Karnal district police ..	PUNJAB MOTOR RULES, 1931—
3	Question re amount of fees realized by the Government under the, ..
Given by Minister for Develop- ment ..	826
321	PUNJAB MOTOR UNION—
PROPORTIONS—	Question re complaints by, against Sub-Inspector of Police, Man- wan ..
Question re for recruitment of various communities in services ..	78
70	PUNJAB POSTPONEMENT OF DEBT REALIZATION BILL—
PROSECUTIONS—	Question re, ..
Question re, under the Criminal Law in the Punjab ..	343
49	PUNJAB SECRETARIAT—
P.C.S.—	Question re vacancies in the, for members of the scheduled castes ..
Question re—	742
Officers as District and Sessions Judges ..	PUNJABI—
616	Question, re Emerson College, Multan and teaching of, ..
Representation of scheduled castes in, (Executive Branch) ..	186
278	PUNJABI TEACHER—
P.E.S. OFFICERS—	Question re public contribution for the salary of, for the school at Domeli ..
Question re supersession of, ..	16
528	
PROVINCIAL EXCISE—	
Supplementary demands for, ..	
316	
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—	
Question re, ..	
392	

	PAGES.
Q	
QANUNGOS—	
Question re, in Rohtak district ..	3
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—	
Carrying forward to next day of supplementary, ..	824, 877-78.
ABDUL RAB, MIAN—	
Question re—	
Appointment of Secretary of Jullundur District Board..	481
Construction of Roads by Jullundur District Board..	483
Crown lands in Nili and Ganji Bars ..	800
Debt Conciliation Board in Jullundur Tahsil ..	884
Facilities for medical treatment in Beit Ilaga of Jullundur district ..	412
Khanif Crop ..	802
Loss due to inundation of Sutlej River ..	802
Move to Simla of the Registrar of Office of Director of Public Instruction, Punjab ..	80
Opening of a Veterinary Hospital and Civil Dispensary at village Parjian ..	886
Prospects of vernacular teachers in Industrial Schools ..	276
Public Accounts Committee ..	392
Public Prosecutors ..	341
Recruitment for Extra Assistant Commissionership and Tahsildarship from Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils ..	677
Recruitment in Police Department from Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils ..	676
Remission in Land Revenue in Jullundur district ..	261
Removal of Chaudhri Abdul Karim from Presidentship of Municipal Committee, Zira ..	483
Report of Land Revenue Inquiry Committee ..	261
Representation of Muslims among official receivers and public prosecutors ..	14
Representation of Muslims in District Board, Jullundur ..	183
Rural Dispensaries at Shahkot and Shankar ..	412
Spring and summer vacation in Industrial Schools ..	276
Staff taken up to Simla by the Director of Public Instruction ..	541
Teachers in Lahore College for Women ..	537

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— **CONTINUED—**

ABDUL RAB, MIAN—concl'd.

Question re—

Teaching staff in Central Model High School, Lahore	537
Telephone for the Assistant Secretary, Finance Department ..	341
Transfer of Police Constables from Jullundur district ..	735
Unemployment and Retrenchment Committees ..	277

ABDUL RAHIM, CHAUDHRI—

Question re—

Damage to rabi crops by Hailstorm in Gurgaon district ..	814
Representation of Mayo Community in the Punjab Police ..	68

AJIT SINGH, SARDAR—

Question re—

Emerson College, Multan, and teaching of Panjabi ..	186
Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony ..	348
Punjab Postponement of Debt Realization Bill ..	348
Remission of Land Revenue in Nili Bar Colony ..	807
Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the service of Multan District Board ..	601
Supply of water for gardens..	881
Veterinary Hospital at Kasso-wal ..	347

ALI AKBAR, CHAUDHRI—

Question re foot bridge over Upper Bari Doab Canal near Nann-Nangal ..	751
--	-----

BARKAT ALI, MALIK—

Question re—

Election of Fazilka Municipal Committee ..	487
Embezzlements in Public Health Equipment Department, Jullundur ..	599
Extensions in Services ..	731
Grant-in-aid to denominational schools in the Punjab ..	185
Irregularities committed by the Municipal Committee, Gujrat ..	488
Non-Muslims Officers posted to Talagang and Pindigheb ..	185
Permanent police post at Raja Jang ..	741
Representation of Muslims in District Board, Jullundur ..	413

	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—	
BHAGAT RAM SHARMA, PANDIT—	
Question re—	
Auction of trees of Grand	
Trunk Road, Amritsar to	
Lahore ..	409
Failure of kharif and rabi	
crops in Kangra district ..	807
Nakehr Khad Bund scheme	822
Supersession of certain P. E. S.	
Officers ..	528
BHAGWANT SINGH, RAI—	
Question re—	
Lepers in Kulu Sub-Division	542
Opening of a court of an	
Honorary Magistrate at	
Ani, District Kangra ..	343
Rural Reconstruction in Kulu	
Sub-Division ..	317, 318
BHIM SEN SACHAR, LALA—	
Question re—	
Election System and Muni-	
cipal Committees of Pindi-	
gheb and Isakhel ..	478
Revision in the Schedules of	
minimum areas for houses	
in Lahore Civil Station ..	480
Seduction of boys in schools	
by teachers ..	825
DESHBANDHU GUPTA, LALA—	
Question re—	
Acceptance of entertainments	
by Government Officers on	
tour ..	12
Contractors of Sirhind Canal	750
Declaration of the birthday	
of Shri Maharaj Mahabir	
Swami as a public holiday	741
Declaration of the Scheduled	
castes as agriculturists ..	747
Deterioration of productivity	
of soil in the Punjab ..	274
Election petition against a	
member of Kaithal Muni-	
cipal Committee ..	4
Enrolment of Scheduled Caste	
Constables and Head Con-	
stables in the police ..	69
Free Microscopical examina-	
tion of sputa of tubercular	
patients ..	11
Grant to aided schools in	
Ambala Division ..	4
Enquiry against Sub-Inspec-	
tor, Pundri ..	78
Lease of Palla Pond area in	
Nili Bar Colony ..	249
Meter rent and electric rates	
of Ambala Electric Supply	
Corporation ..	14
Percentage of students trained	
in First Aid ..	13
Preferential treatment to	
Daulatana's land in Nili	
Bar ..	254

	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—	
DESHBANDHU GUPTA, LALA—concl'd.	
Question re—	
Reduced grants-in-aid to	
schools ..	11
Reduction of water supply in	
Montgomery Circle of the	
Nili Bar Colony ..	249
Representation of Non-Agri-	
culturists to District Boards	
in Ambala Division ..	12
Statement regarding certain	
colleges ..	146
Sub-Assistant Surgeons serv-	
ing in various hospitals in	
the Punjab ..	184
System of compartment for	
plucked candidates in	
University Examinations ..	11
Tipping of chaprasis of	
officers ..	80
DUNI CHAND, LALA—	
Question re—	
Arrest of Sardar Kartar Singh,	
President and Sardar Gur-	
bachan Singh, Vice-Presi-	
dent of the Kisan Confer-	
ence held at Lyallpur ..	57
Bhakra Dam Scheme and	
irrigation of Ambala Divi-	
sion ..	745
Complaint against the High-	
handedness of the President	
of Municipal Committee,	
Rewari ..	467
Delay in deciding question of	
giving 'B' class to Khan	
Abdul Ghaffar Khan of	
Ambala ..	334
Dr. Baldev Singh, Assistant	
Surgeon of Rupar ..	527
Embezzlement of Municipal	
Funds, Sadhora ..	465
Failure of kharif and rabi	
crops in Tahsil Bharauli,	
District Simla ..	131
High School in Bharauli	
Haga of Simla district ..	527
I. C. S. and P. C. S. Officers	
as District and Sessions	
Judges ..	616
Loans given in Ambala Divi-	
sion to promote industry ..	269
Nomad and Grazing Odes ..	332
Professional tax imposed on	
goldsmiths by Municipal	
Committee, Sadhaura ..	396
Promoting Supplementary	
Industries in Simla dis-	
trict ..	271
Prosecutions under Criminal	
Law in the Punjab ..	49
Register of Graduates in	
Science and Art ..	526

	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—	
DUNI CHAND, LALA—concl'd.	
Question re—	
Remission and suspension of land revenue in Ambala district ..	132
Remission of Government dues in five tahsils of Ambala district ..	748
Remuneration to the copyists in the Punjab ..	339
Report of the Punjab Govern- ment Forest Commission ..	882
Representations for the redress of grievances re- ceived by Honourable Ministers ..	186
Rules framed under the Re- gistration of Money Lenders' Act ..	608
Rules framed under the Resti- tution of Mortgaged Lands Act ..	122
Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar	608
Theft cases in Mubarikpur, District Ambala ..	548
Untraced Murders ..	49
DUNI CHAND, MRS.—	
Question re—	
Carnivals in Ambala Canton- ment and City ..	743
Clean-up campaign in Lahore ..	467, 519
Colleges in Lahore ..	536
Deaths due to starvation ..	732
Female Education in Lahore ..	535
Primary, Secondary and High Schools for Girls in Lahore ..	535
Suicides ..	731
FAQIR CHAND, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re—	
Assessors from scheduled castes ..	333
Districts where Achhuts are allowed to use public wells ..	393
Facilities for Achhut prisoners in jails ..	333
Famine in Hissar and the Harijans of surrounding area ..	136
Interference by the zamindars with the right of Achhuts to use the village well of Manana, District Karnal ..	395
Objection to cremation of an Achhut ..	737
Relief for depressed classes in Hissar district ..	123
Steps to give adequate repre- sentation to Achhuts in Government Service ..	124
Total number of Achhuts in the Agricultural Depart- ment ..	263

	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—	
FAZAL ALI KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR NAWAR CHAUDHRI—	
Question re—	
Deputy Directors and Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture ..	414, 415
Loan of the Services of Muqad- dams ..	415
Municipal and notified area committees at Gujrat ..	830
FAZAL DIN, KHAN SAHIB CHAU- DHRI—	
Question re Damage to crops by the overflowing of River Ravi in Amritsar district ..	831
GHULAM SAMAD, KHAWAJA—	
Question re—	
Agitation against rates of abiana in canal irrigated area of Palwal ..	744
Answering of Unstarred Ques- tions on communal matters	616
Bank and Consolidation Sub- Inspectors ..	1
Begar exacted from Saqqas of Beri ..	744
Calling of 'Azan' at Raja Jang ..	56
Circular prohibiting the appointment of Non-Agri- culturists as Assistant District Inspectors ..	526
Digging of a pond at Burn- wali as a famine work ..	130
Dismissal and appointment of officials of Small Town Committee, Jhajjar ..	464
Dismissed Police Officials in Ludhiana district ..	609
Grant of relief to people of Ambala district ..	255
Hindu Scholarship Holders ..	548
Inquiry into the Election of Vice-President, Small Town Committee, Jhajjar ..	464
Instructions regarding com- munity-wise recruitment to services ..	611
Introduction of separate elec- torate in Municipal Com- mittee, Hodal ..	548
Introduction of Wardha Scheme in Punjab ..	3
Metal Works Institute, Am- bala City ..	891
Meters on house connections for water supply in Ambala City ..	3
Muhafiz employed by Small Town Committee, Jhajjar ..	464
Names of accepted candidates and new entrants taken in service in Ambala Divi- sion ..	744
Objectionable articles on Choha Saidan Shah affairs ..	57

PAGES.	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—
GHULAM SAMAD, KHAWAJA—<i>concl.</i>	GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA, DR.—
Question re—	Question re—
Promotion of two junior constables in Karnal District Police .. 3	Application by Mr. Jag Farvesh, Managing Director, Monday Morning, Limited .. 170
Relief granted to Ambala Division .. 130	Application of Sardar Gurdial Singh Gill, J. V. .. 189
Rent charged from petition-writers .. 339	Arrest of persons in connection with Islamia High School, Rawalpindi, incident .. 667
Scheme for overhauling Primary and Secondary System of Education .. 326	Assistant Superintendents of Jails .. 823
Scholarships for Scientific, Industrial and Agricultural Education .. 890	Death of Kala Singh .. 621
Sinking tube-wells .. 267	Dearth of drinking water in Tahsil Garhshankar .. 528
Transfer of Ambala Division to Delhi or United Provinces .. 56	Debt Conciliation Board, Shakargarh .. 884
GIRDHARI DASS, MAHANT—	Inspection of factories in the Punjab .. 882
Question re bridge on Lower Sohag Canal .. 803	Mahtam Tribe in Montgomery district .. 817
GOKUL CHAND NARANG, DR. SIR—	Maltreatment of Ata Muhammad Jan by Rawalpindi Police .. 69
Question re—	Representation for remission of land revenue in tahsil Sargodha .. 812
Assistant to Advocate-General, Punjab .. 739	Representation from Hindustan Scout Association, Amritsar .. 598
Dacoities in Tahsil Kharar .. 767	Representation from subtenants of Tahsil Khanewal .. 757
Departmental Grade Examinations for Women Sub-Assistant Surgeons .. 545	Reprimanding of students by the Principal of Government College for Women, Lyallpur .. 527
Fatehwal Case .. 740	Return of books supplied to Comrade Gurmukh Singh .. 896
Grant of land in Rakh Sarai Amanat Khan on temporary cultivation .. 799	Terrifying of the defence witnesses by the Police in Fatehwal Case .. 623
Improvements concerning the women's section of the Medical Department .. 544	HANS RAJ, BHAGAT—
Petition from one Makhan Singh of Mohalla Rangpura, Gujrat .. 735	Question re—
Removal of liquor shop at Mandi Kaleki .. 390	Admission for scheduled castes in Normal Schools .. 279
Supply of water for irrigation of land in Mauza Moolo Chak in Gujranwala district .. 800	Applications by scheduled castes for Revenue Patwarship in Sialkot district .. 812
Sweepers employed by municipal committees .. 523	Assessors and scheduled castes .. 824
Usefulness of Women Sub-Assistant Surgeons holding independent charge of dispensaries .. 546	Clerks in office of Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar district .. 279
GOPAL DAS, RAI SAHIB LALA—	Overseers in Canal Department .. 814
Question re—	Representation of scheduled castes among patwaris in Amritsar district .. 279
Definition of agriculturists for recruitment in services .. 74	Representation of scheduled castes in P. C. S. (Executive Branch) .. 278
Loans to Lahore Improvement Trust .. 476	
Proportions for recruitment of various communities in services .. 70	
Town Planning Schemes by Lahore Improvement Trust .. 474	
Villages brought under the jurisdiction of Lahore Improvement Trust .. 475	

	PAGES.		PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED—		QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	
HANS RAJ BHAGAT—concl'd.		HARI SINGH, SARDAR—concl'd.	
Question re—		Question re—	
Representation of scheduled castes in various Govern- ment Departments ..	280	Internment of Mr. Tehal Singh of Bhangali under the Criminal Law Amend- ment Act ..	688
Scheduled castes ..	281	Polling Stations at Jahan Khelan ..	411
Scheduled castes, recruit- ment in Police Depart- ment ..	734	Rejection of nomination papers for District Board, Hoshiarpur ..	483
Scholarships for scheduled castes ..	290	Representation for reduction in the number of village Chaukidars in village Nadalon in Hoshiarpur district ..	81
HARI CHAND, RAI—		Representations for relief from peasants of district Jhelum ..	817
Question re Sub-registrar, Garh- Shankar, District Hoshiarpur	404	Representation for remission of land revenue by people of Mahilpur ..	620
HARI LAL, MUNSHI—		Representation from Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar ..	391
Question re—		Scheme for physical and cultural development ..	602
Area under cultivation for wheat in Montgomery district ..	132	HARJAB SINGH, SARDAR—	
Convictions in connection with Multan riots ..	79	Question re establishment of police posts at China Khurd and other places in Gurdas- pur district ..	81
First Aid Instructions to Police Officers ..	624	HARNAM DAS, LALA—	
Grantees of Chak No. 67/12-L, Tahsil and Dist- rict Montgomery ..	46	Question re—	
Gun licences in Multan dis- trict ..	323	Appointment of Panchayat Officers ..	410
Loss suffered by people due to communal riots in Multan ..	79	Famine relief given to sche- duled castes in Hissar dis- trict ..	819
Murders committed in Jhang district ..	69	Representation of scheduled castes in the Police Depart- ment ..	554
Notice for compensation by grantees of Chak No. 67/ 12-L ..	748	Vacancies filled in the Agri- cultural Department ..	887
Notices of ejectment issued by Revenue Officers in all the tahsils of Multan district	809	Vacancies in the Punjab Secretariat for members of scheduled castes ..	742
Photography for police officers	667	HARNAM SINGH, CAPTAIN SODHI—	
Police Diaries about Magis- trates ..	624	Question re—	
Representations by grantees of Chak No. 67/12-L, tahsil and district Montgomery	134	Acreage of land sold and auctioned in execution of decrees ..	745
Water supply for irrigation in Chak No. 67/12-L, tahsil and district Montgomery	133	Amount realized by execution of decrees ..	340
HARI SINGH, SARDAR—		Applications for warrants of arrest ..	339
Question re—		Contractors put on black lists in Grey Canal Depart- ment, Ferozepore ..	745
Action taken on recommenda- tions of the Forest Com- mittee ..	822	Firearms, etc., captured by police ..	62
Ban on entry of Maulana Ata Ullah Shah Bukhari into Gurdaspur district ..	683	Jalsa Bachh and Superin- tendent, Grey Canals ..	130
Complaints by Punjab Motor Union against Sub-Inspec- tor of Police, Manwan ..	78	Land given on mustajari in execution of decrees ..	745
Establishment of Debt Con- ciliation Board, Hoshiar- pur ..	892		
Internees and externees in the Punjab ..	678		

	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	
HARNAM SINGH, CAPTAIN SODHI— <i>concl'd.</i>	
Question re—	
Number of members, appointed to Debt Conciliation Board ..	272
Number of murders, dacoities and communal riots in the Punjab ..	59
Persons employed for Grey Canals ..	128
Superintendent of Grey Canals, Ferozepore ..	131
JAGJIT SINGH BEDI, TIKKA—	
Question re—	
Distribution of literature by the Agricultural Department ..	273
Malkana ..	257
Rai Sikhs of Montgomery and other districts ..	263
JALAL-UD-DIN AMBER, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re—	
Bridge over Dek near Qila Sobha Singh in Sialkot district ..	747
Remission of revenue each year owing to stoppage of Dek Inundation in Sialkot district ..	136
KABUL SINGH, MASTER—	
Question re—	
Complaint against the Patwari of village Sandhwan, district Jullundur ..	749
Cow slaughter in Basti Multan Sahib, district Jullundur ..	121
Declaration of Jalpat Brahmins of Nakodar tahsil as agriculturists ..	752
Grant of relief to inhabitants of village Chakdana, district Jullundur ..	127
Murder of Bela Singh, Zaildar of village Jain ..	54
Murder of Sahda Singh and Nand Singh ..	66
Release of Budha Singh and others ..	344
Removal of grievances of the tenants of the Nili Bar Colony ..	254
Representation for free supply of fodder by zamindars of village Rupowal, tahsil Phillaur ..	127
KARTAR SINGH, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re—	
Compensation to zamindars for the construction of a bund in Nakahar Khad ..	809
Elections of District Board, Hoshiarpur ..	409

	PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	
KARTAR SINGH, CHAUDHRI—concl'd.	
Question re—	
Memorial from the hereditary tenants of 84 villages in tahsil Una ..	809
Mr. Kishori Lal, prisoner in the Bhagat Singh Conspiracy Case ..	345
Murders committed in the jurisdiction of Police Station Nur Shah ..	731
Panjotra for collection of revenue for poppy in Hoshiarpur district ..	344
Pensions withheld ..	743
Sub-Registrars ..	2
Transfer of I. C. S. Officers from Executive to Judicial Branch ..	80
Water-level in Doaba ..	753
KISHAN SINGH, SARDAR—	
Question re notification of amendments in by-laws of District Board, Lyallpur ..	398
LAL SINGH, SARDAR—	
Question re—	
Area of land at Ludhiana called 'Rakh' ..	469
Collection of land revenue in Ludhiana district ..	145
Consolidation of holdings in Ludhiana district ..	830
Famine conditions in certain villages in Ludhiana district ..	141
Inquiries made from Burma Government about ..	78
Percentage of Sikhs among patwaris in Jhang district ..	830
Taccavi loans in Ludhiana district ..	5
MAZHAR ALI AZHAR, MAULVI—	
Question re—	
Amount of fee realized by the Government under the Punjab Motor Rules, 1931 ..	826
Dr. Abdul Hafeez ..	68
Motor traffic challans and the amount of fine realised by courts ..	826
MUHAMMAD ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re—	
Communal representation among police clerical cadre ..	735
Complaint against a patwari at Jandiala ..	253
Muslim lady as teacher in Lahore College for Women ..	607
Teaching staff in Government College, Lahore ..	604

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—
CONTINUED.

MUHAMMAD ASHRAF, CHAUDHRI—

Question re—

Adjournment of a meeting of
the Gujranwala Municipal
Committee .. 473Municipal Committee, Guj-
ranwala .. 471Robkars from members of
Municipal Committee, Guj-
ranwala .. 472

MUHAMMAD HASSAN, CHAUDHRI—

Question re—

Arrears of Taccavi Loans
in district Ludhiana .. 126Complaints of corruption
against the police officers
in Ludhiana district .. 51Increase in crimes in Ludhi-
ana district .. 49Inspection of police stations
by Superintendent of Police
and Deputy Superintendent
of Police, Ludhiana, and
their travelling allowances .. 618Investigation of cases by the
City Inspector of Police,
Ludhiana, under his juris-
diction .. 608Police constables sent to
Phillaur for training in
Lower and Upper Classes .. 53Recruitment for Ludhiana
police forces .. 619Representation of certain
villages of Tahsil Jagraon
regarding water supply for
Rabi crops .. 125Representation regarding the
closing of Kassi Minor .. 128Travelling allowances drawn
by Honourable Minister
of Development and Direc-
tor of Agriculture and par-
ticipation of latter in public
meetings addressed by
former .. 338Travelling Allowances drawn
by Honourable Premier
and His Parliamentary and
Private Parliamentary Sec-
retaries .. 335Villages selected in Ludhiana
district for instructing
zamindars in modern
methods of agriculture .. 264

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN, SARDAR—

Question re—

Adequate representation for
the Muslims and Agricul-
turists in the University
Laboratories .. 524Appointment of a Non-
Punjabi Demonstrator in
the Physical Chemistry in
the University Chemical
Laboratories .. 525QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—
CONTINUED.MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN, SARDAR—
concl'd.

Question re—

Compensation to the zamin-
dars of ilaqa Pattoki due
to the closure of Upper
Bari Doab Canal .. 124

Industrial Investigators .. 267

Muslim and Non-Muslim
Agriculturists in the Supe-
rior Subordinate grades
employed in the Industrial
Research Laboratory .. 882Muslim chaprasis in the
Excise Department, Lahore .. 334Penalty charged by the
Dipalpur Canal authorities
from the zamindars of vil-
lage Angiwal .. 127MUHAMMAD SHAFI ALI KHAN,
KHAN SAHIB CHAUDHRI—Question re Qanungos in Rohtak
district .. 3MUHAMMAD WILAYAT HUSSAIN
JERLANI, MAKHDUMZADA HAJI
SAYAD—Question re grant of rewards to
the employees of the Haveli
Project .. 808MUHAMMAD YASIN KHAN, CHAU-
DHRI—Question re qualifications in
Electric Engineering of Mr.
Sibon, Electric Engineer,
Electricity .. 463MUHAMMAD YUSUF KHAN,
KHAN—

Question re—

Administration of Girls'
Primary Schools .. 597Boring operations in village
Dhok Mangtal .. 607Criminal or civil cases of Co-
operative Societies in courts
of Rawalpindi district .. 320Gun licence-holders in
Rawalpindi district .. 319Indians in Lawrence College,
Ghoragali .. 897Municipal committees with
joint and separate elec-
torates .. 517Normal School for girls in
Rawalpindi district .. 598Rural uplift work in Rawal-
pindi tahsil .. 885Training to Police Officers by
Chemical Examiner,
Lahore .. 121Unions of District Board
Employees in the Pro-
vince .. 517

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	PAGES.	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	PAGES.
MUKAND LAL PURI, RAI BAHADUR MR.—		PREM SINGH, MAHANT—	
Question re—		Question re Maurusi owners of land in tahsil Gujrat and payment of land revenue	815
Civil Secretariat, Lahore ..	184		
Country liquor shop in Mozang ..	340	RAGHBIR KAUR, SHRIMATI—	
MUNI LAL KALIA, PANDIT—		Question re—	
Question re removal of illi- teracy from rural areas in the Punjab ..	530	Comrade Kartar Singh Gill, M. Sc., of village Brarki Gill, district Amritsar ..	54
MUZAFFAR KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR CAPTAIN MALIK—		Dr. Bhag Singh, socialist worker of Amritsar ..	737
Question re—		Failure of crops in tahsil Garhshankar ..	882
Land revenue fixed for Mammal and Thammewali zails of Mianwali district ..	255	Inspection of Iron Steel Mills in Badami Bagh by the Chief Inspector of Fac- tories ..	552
Sikh Ramgarhias in Gurdas- pur and other districts of the Punjab holding land as proprietors and occupancy tenants ..	2	Internment of Comrade Har- nam Singh of village Kasel, district Amritsar ..	56
NASIR-UD-DIN, CHAUDHRI—		Iron Steel Mills in Badami Bagh, Lahore ..	549
Question re—		Punitive police in village Chima Khudian ..	66
Mustajri cases in Gujranwala	821	Release of Nand Lal of Amritsar ..	339
Report in Mustajri cases relating to the civil court decrees ..	821	RASHIDA LATIF BAJI, BEGUM—	
NASRULLA KHAN, RANA—		Question re—	
Question re—		House tax in Lahore ..	406
Abiana in village Jallowal ..	811	Lahore Municipal Committee	478
Area under mango gardens in Hoshiarpur district ..	811	Levy of house-tax to meet the expenses of Lahore Drainage Scheme ..	476
Government and aided high schools in Hoshiarpur dis- trict ..	402	Medium of Instruction in District Board Schools in Lahore and Amritsar ..	529
Highest figure of rate of land revenue in Hoshiarpur district ..	811	Unemployment Committee..	332
PAETAR SINGH, SARDAR—			
Question re—		EUR SINGH, SARDAR—	
Deputy Commissioner, Am- ritsar's letter to Municipal Committee, Amritsar ..	474	Question re—	
Realization of water rates in villages in Hissar district	254	Additional Police Posts in seven villages of district Gurdaspur ..	738
Resolution of Tarn Taran Municipal Committee re holiday to be observed on Independence Day ..	473	Destruction of crops by Ods in Ludhiana and Feroze- pore districts ..	805
PREM SINGH, CHAUDHRI—		Remission of land revenue for failure of crops in Ferozepore district ..	804
Question re —		Removal of Additional Police Post at Chuhar Chak in district Feroze- pore ..	729
Admission of scheduled caste students to J. V. and S. V. classes in Ambala Division ..	346	SAHIB DAD KHAN, KHAN SAHIB CHAUDHRI—	
"Raghubir versus Netu"— Criminal Case in Gurgaon district ..	1	Question re representation of Muslims of Ambala Division amongst Deputy Superinten- dents of Police, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police ..	555
Scholarships awarded to scheduled caste students out of Silver Jubilee Fund	346		
Vernacular teachers belong- ing to scheduled castes in Ambala Division ..	345		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.

SANT RAM SETH, DR.—

Question re—

Annual costs of Punitive Police Posts quartered in Lahore and other Divisions ..	186
Deaths due to famine in Hissar district ..	816
Declaration of sweepers of Municipal Committee as whole-time and permanent servants ..	466
Development of industries in the province ..	325
Dysentery, Malaria and Influenza in Hissar district ..	601
Extension given to Mr. B. H. Dobson, Financial Commissioner ..	736
Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors recruited in 1938 ..	832
Kanungos in the Punjab ..	256
Kidnapping cases ..	737
Notices of ejectment served on tenants of Nili Bar and Ganji Bar Colonies ..	815
Revenue Patwaris in the Punjab ..	256
Strike in Rasul Engineering College ..	521
Terrorist prisoners in the Punjab ..	393

SATTA PAL, DR.—

Question re—

Damage to Crops by hail-storm ..	688
Expenditure on Fatehwal Murder Case ..	188
Grant of extension to Mr. J. W. Thomas, Principal, Hailey College of Commerce ..	346
Municipal and Notified Area Committees in the City of Gujrat ..	188

SHERI RAM SHARMA, PANDIT—

Question re—

Admission of students of unrecognized schools into recognized schools ..	17
Appointments made and extensions and promotions given by the Honourable Minister for Development ..	321
Complaint against patwari by residents of villages Himmatpura and Damkor ..	754
Complaint by Kanahya Lal of village Pughthala against payment of land revenue ..	16
Complaints by Ram Sarup and Ram Parshad, Orderlies, against Latif Shah, Junior Sub-Judge ..	183

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.

SHERI RAM SHARMA, PANDIT—
concl'd.

Question re—

Election of the Rohtak District Board ..	485
Electoral Circles of the Rohtak District Board ..	345
Exemption of Aheris of Rohtak district from the operation of Criminal Tribes Act ..	390
Expulsion of two students from Intermediate College, Rohtak ..	600
Import of Bhoola in Rohtak district ..	755
Inquiry against Tahsildar at Rohtak ..	805
Inquiry against the Tahsildar at Jhajjar ..	185
Magistracy in the Punjab ..	397
Magistrates posted in their home districts ..	668
Particulars about certain private aided colleges in the Punjab ..	15
Posting of Executive Officers ..	672
Refusal by Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, to entertain application for departmental action ..	684
Representation by Munshi and others for proper distribution of the Western Jumna Canal ..	188
Representation by zamindars of village Baho, district Rohtak ..	17
Representation by zamindars of village Umrah, district Hissar ..	17
Schools in Ambala district ..	598
Suspension of Professional tax on Harijans in Rohtak district ..	489
Untrained Inspecting Staff ..	547

SINGHA, DIWAN BAHADUR S. P.—

Question re representation of Indian Christians in Police Department ..

346

SITA RAM, LALA—

Question re—

Employees of Lahore Municipality drawing Rs. 100 or above as salaries ..	399
Imposition of taxes by Lahore Municipality ..	400
Various departments of Lahore Municipality and officers in charge of these departments ..	399

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—
CONTINUED.

SOHAN LAL, RAI SAHIB LALA—

Question re—

Appointment of two clerks
in the offices of Central
Training College, Lahore,
and Inspector of Schools,
Rawalpindi Division ..

534

Facility to Junior Vernacular
trained teachers to appear
at the Senior Vernacular
Examination ..

15

SOHAN SINGH JOSHI, SARDAR—

Question re—

Audit fees charged from
village Co-operative Soci-
eties ..

883

Candidates disqualified for
not sending returns of
election expenses in Punjab
Legislative Assembly Elec-
tion ..

673

C and D Class Co-operative
Societies ..

320

Chahi rate charged from
Agriculturists of Majitha ..

797

Co-operative Societies and
Co-operative Unionism in
the Punjab ..

320

Darling Committee's Report
Elections set aside by Election
Tribunals ..

676

Grant of squares of land to
Nawab Sir Muhammad
Mehtar Shah ..

139

Health of Bhai Sucha Singh,
conspiracy case prisoner ..

389

Liquidation of Co-operative
Societies ..

321

Lowering of rate of audit
fee, charged from Co-opera-
tive Societies ..

883

Offences committed by lorry
drivers ..

488

Reduction of allowances of
the Lahore municipal em-
ployees ..

419

Remission of land revenue
in Amritsar district ..

798

Representation from the
residents of village Baddo-
wal ..

603

Returns of election expenses
in Punjab Legislative As-
sembly elections ..

672

Road from Hoshiarpur to
Daulatpur Chak ..

481

Strikes in Government and
aided schools and colleges ..

600

Sub-Inspectors employed by
the Punjab Co-operative
Union, Lahore ..

884

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—
CONCLUDED—

SULTAN MAHMUD HOTIANA, MIAN—

Question re—

Acreage rate on the land
situated in Pakpattan tah-
sil ..

134

Aided schools ..

601

Application of Jowaya in
tahsil Pakpattan, regarding
Kharaba and the action
taken on it ..

262

Canal water for the grantees
of the new colony and the
zamindars of the old
colony ..

135

Debt Conciliation Board, Di-
palpur tahsil, in Mont-
gomery district ..

273

Debts due to Co-operative
Banks ..

323

Dying of cattle in the Punjab
on account of infectious
diseases ..

886

Expenditure on agricultural
farms in the province ..

887

Expenditure on broadcasting
in rural uplift work ..

887

Honorary Magistrates in
Montgomery district ..

390

Imposition of tax on kamins
by District Board, Mont-
gomery ..

402

Imposition of tax on sheep
by District Board, Mont-
gomery ..

401

Inundation of land in village
Jhamlayra ..

753

Relief for sufferers of village
Bullara Dilawar, tahsil
Pakpattan ..

747

Remission of land revenue on
present kharif of 1933 in
Pakpattan tahsil ..

746

Salaries paid to Imperial Ser-
vice Officers ..

389

Tarnal road in Pakpattan
tahsil ..

401

Unlicensed Arms recovered
by police ..

67

UTTAM SINGH, DUGGAL, SARDAR—

Question re public contribution
for the salary of Punjabi
teacher for the school at
Domeli ..

15

QUESTION HOUR—

Motion for dispensation of,
Motion re omission of, on Budget
day ..

189

18

R.

RAJI CROPS—

Question re—

Damage to, by hailstorm in
Gurgaon district ..

814

Failure of kharif and, in Kangra
district ..

807

PAGES.		PAGES.
	RABI CROPS—<i>conold.</i>	
	Failure of kharif and, in tahsil Bharauli, district Simla ..	131
	Representation of certain villages of tahsil Jagraon regarding water supply for, ..	125
	RAGHBER—	
	Question <i>re</i> , versus Netu, Criminal case in Gurgaon ..	1
	RAKH—	
	Question <i>re</i> area of land at Ludhiana called, ..	469
	RAI SIKHS—	
	Question <i>re</i> , of Montgomery and other districts ..	263
	RAMGARHIAS—	
	Question <i>re</i> , Sikh, in Gurdaspur and other districts of the Punjab holding land as proprietors and occupancy tenants ..	2
	RAM PARSHAD—	
	Question <i>re</i> complaints by, orderly against Latif Shah, junior sub-judge ..	183
	RAM SARUP—	
	Question <i>re</i> complaints by, orderly against Latif Shah, junior sub-judge ..	183
	RASHIDA LATIF BAJI, BEGUM—	
	Budget, general discussion ..	200—203
	Budget motion <i>re</i> recruitment to medical service ..	636
	Budget motion <i>re</i> working of Medical Department ..	692—96
	RASUL ENGINEERING COLLEGE—	
	Question <i>re</i> strike in, ..	521
	RAVI RIVER—	
	Question <i>re</i> damage to crops by the over flooding of, in Amritsar district ..	831
	RECOGNISED SCHOOLS—	
	Question <i>re</i> admission of students of unrecognized schools into, ..	17
	RECRUITMENT—	
	Budget motion <i>re</i> , to Medical Service ..	626—36
	Question <i>re</i> —	
	For Extra Assistant Commissionership and Tahsildarship from Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils ..	676
	For Ludhiana police forces ..	619
	In Police Department from Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils ..	676
	Proportions for, of various communities in services ..	70
	Of scheduled castes, in Police Department ..	734
	REDUCTION—	
	Question <i>re</i> —	
	Of allowances of the Lahore Municipal employees ..	419
	Representation for, of village chowkidars in village Nadalon in Hoshiarpur district ..	81
	REJECTION—	
	Question <i>re</i> , of nomination papers for District Board, Hoshiarpur ..	483
	REGISTRAR—	
	Question <i>re</i> Simla move of the, of the Office of Director of Public Instruction, Punjab ..	80
	REGISTRATION—	
	Demand for grant ..	977
	RELEASE—	
	Question <i>re</i> —	
	Of Budha Singh and others ..	344
	Nand Lal of Amritsar ..	339
	RELIEF—	
	Question <i>re</i> —	
	For depressed classes in Hissar district ..	123
	For sufferers of village Bullara Dilawar, tahsil Pakpattan ..	747
	Grant of, to inhabitants of village Chakdana, district Jullundur ..	127
	Grant of, to people of Ambala district ..	255
	Granted to the Ambala Division ..	130
	Representations for, from peasants of district Jhelum ..	817
	REMISSION—	
	Question <i>re</i> —	
	And suspensions of land revenue in Ambala district ..	132
	Of Government dues in five tahsils of Ambala district ..	748
	In land revenue in Jullundur district ..	261
	Of land revenue for failure of crops in Ferozepore district ..	804
	Of land revenue in Amritsar district ..	798
	Of land revenue in Nili Bar Colony ..	807
	Of land revenue on kharif of 1938 in Pakpattan tahsil ..	746
	Of revenue each year owing to stoppage of Dek Inundation in Sialkot district ..	136
	Representation for, of land revenue by people of Mahilpur ..	620
	Representation for, of land revenue in Sargodha tahsil ..	812
	REMOVAL—	
	Question <i>re</i> , of Chaudhri Abdul Karim from Presidentship of Municipal Committee, Zira ..	483
	REMUNERATION—	
	Question <i>re</i> , to the copyists in the Punjab ..	339
	RENT—	
	Question <i>re</i> , charged from petition writers ..	339
	REPORT—	
	Of Auditor-General on appropriation accounts ..	19
	Question <i>re</i> —	
	Darling Committee's, ..	798
	Of Land Revenue Inquiry Committee ..	261
	Of the Punjab Government Forest Commission ..	882

PAGES.		PAGES.
	REPRESENTATION(s)—	
	Question re—	
	By grantees of Chak No. 67-12- L., tahsil and district Mont- gomery	134
	By Munshi and others for pro- per distribution of the Wes- tern Jumna Canal	188
	By zamindars of village Baho, district Rohtak	17
	By zamindars of village Umrah, district Hissar	17
	For free suply of fodder by zamindars of village Rupowal, tahsil Phillaur	127
	For relief from peasants, Jhelum district	817
	For remission of land revenue by people of Mahilpur	620
	Adequate, for the Muslims and agriculturists in the Univer- sity Laboratories	524
	For redress of grievances re- ceived by Honourable Ministers	186
	From Hindustan Scout Associa- tion, Amritsar	598
	From Sardar Teja Singh Swat- antar	391
	From sub-tenants of tahsil Khaneval	757
	From residents of village Bad- dowal	803
	Of certain villages of tahsil Jagraon regarding water supply for Rabi crops	125
	Of Indian Christians in Police Department	346
	Of Muslims in the District Board, Jullundur	413
	Of Muslims of Ambala Division amongst Deputy Superin- tendents of Police, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police	555
	Of scheduled castes, among pat- waris in Amritsar district	279
	Of scheduled castes in Provincial Civil Service (Executive Branch)	278
	Of scheduled castes in the Police Department	554
	Of scheduled castes in various Government departments	280
	Steps to give adequate, to Akhuts in Government ser- vices	124
	REPRIMAND—	
	Question re, of students by the Principal of Government College for Women, Lyallpur	527
	RESOLUTION—	
	Question re, of Tarn Taran Muni- cipal Committee re holiday to be observed on Independence Day	473
	RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGED LANDS ACT—	
	Question re Rules framed under,	122
	RETRENCHMENT—	
	Question re Unemployment and, Committee	277
	RETURNS—	
	Question re candidates disquali- fied for not sending, of election expenses in Punjab Legislative Assembly Elections	873
	REVENUE—	
	Question re—	
	Panjotra for collection of, for poppy in Hoshiarpur dis- trict	344
	Remission of, each year owing to stoppage of Dek Inunda- tion in Sialkot district	136
	Patwaris in the Punjab	256
	REVENUE PATWARISHIP—	
	Question re—	
	Application by scheduled castes for, in Sialkot district	812
	REVISION—	
	Question re, in the Schedules of minimum areas for houses in Lahore Civil Station	480
	REWARDS—	
	Grant of,	283—85
	Question re—	
	Grant of, to employees of the Haveli Project	808
	RIASAT ALI, KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHRI—	
	Budget motion re —	
	Administration of Agriculture Department	840—42
	General policy of Jail Ad- ministration	566—71
	RIOTS—	
	Question re number of communal, in the Punjab	59
	ROAD(s)—	
	Question re—	
	Construction of, by Jullundur District Board	483
	From Hoshiarpur to Daulatpur Chak	481
	Tarnal, in Pakpattan tahsil	401
	ROBERTS, SIR WILLIAM—	
	Budget, general discussion	190—92
	Budget motion re Administration of Agriculture Department	836—38
	ROSKERS—	
	Question re, from members of Municipal Committee, Gujran- wala	472
	RULES—	
	Question re—	
	Framed under the Registration of Money Lenders Act	608
	Framed under the Restitution of Mortgaged Land Act	122
	RULINGS—	
	Adjournment motions—	
	Not to be taken up during dis- cussion of the budget	689

	PAGES.		PAGES.
RULINGS—concl'd.		RUB SINGH, SARDAR—	
Adjournment motions—concl'd.		Budget motion re working of Medical Department ..	648-49
Out of order, if general discussion of budget or voting of demands for grants would afford opportunity for discussion of matters raised by, ..	82-83	RURAL AREAS—	
Main object of, is discussion and not voting, nor censure	83-84	Question re removal of illiteracy from, Punjab ..	520
Budget—		RURAL DISPENSARIES—	
During general discussion the budget is to be discussed as a whole and not the specific items in it ..	160	Question re, at Shahkot and Shankar ..	412
Budget motions—		RURAL RECONSTRUCTION—	
After a subsequent item is taken up for discussion, a prior item cannot be taken up ..	419	Question re, in Kulu sub-division ..	317-18
Debates—		RURAL UPLIFT WORK—	
Impersonality, most important rule of parliamentary debates ..	299	Question re—	
Division—		Expenditure on broadcasting in, ..	887
No coercion should be used to force an honourable member to vote ..	941	In Rawalpindi tahsil ..	885
Miscellaneous—		S.	
Members not to hold conversations from their seats with the occupants of galleries ..	792	SAHDA SINGH—	
Personal references and remarks to be avoided ..	835	Question re murder of, and Nand Singh ..	66
Privilege, Breach of—		SALARIES—	
Nothing can be called breach of privilege of a member unless the member concerned was interfered with while acting as a member of the Assembly ..	905-06	Question re—	
Privilege motion—		Employees of Lahore Municipality drawing Rs. 100 or above as, ..	399
Can be moved at any stage and at any time ..	901	Paid to Imperial Service Officers ..	389
Questions and answers—		SAMPURAN SINGH, SARDAR—	
Lengthy answers to questions to be laid on the table and not answered orally ..	672	Budget motion re Land Revenue Assessment in Lahore district..	963-71
Not to contain insinuation ..	820-21	SANTOKH SINGH, SARDAR SAKIB SARDAR—	
Whenever any honourable member wishes to rely upon any statement made by another honourable member of this House, he should have that statement in his hand for ready reference, otherwise his question or statement will not be taken as based on correct facts ..	822	Budget, general discussion ..	244-48
While it is the right of honourable members to seek information, it is also the privilege of Government members not to answer certain questions in the public interest ..	133	Budget motion re Administration of Agricultural Department, ..	790-96, 833-36.
		SANT RAM SETH, DR.—	
		Budget motion re general policy of Jail Administration ..	495-501
		SAQQAS—	
		Question re begar exacted from, of Beri, ..	744
		SATYA PAL, DR.—	
		Budget, general discussion ..	165-69
		SCHEDULED CASTES—	
		Budget motion re economic and social conditions of, ..	351-69
		Question re, ..	281
		Question re—	
		Admission of, in Normal Schools	279
		Admission of students to Junior and Senior Vernacular Classes in Ambala Division..	346
		Applications by, for Revenue Patwariships in Sialkot district ..	812
		Assessors and, ..	333-824
		Declaration of, as agriculturists	747
		Enrolment of, as constables and head constables in the police	69
		Famine relief given to, in Hissar district ..	819

PAGES.	PAGES.
SCHEDULED CASTES—<i>concl'd.</i>	SENIOR VERNACULAR EXAMINATION—
Question re—	Question re facility to Junior Vernacular trained teachers to appear at the, .. 15
Recruitment of, in Police Department .. 734	SEPARATE ELECTORATE—
Representation of, among patwaris in Amritsar district .. 279	Question re introduction of, in Municipal Committee, Hodal .. 548
Representation of, in the Police Department .. 554	SERVICES—
Representation of, in P. C. S. (Executive Branch) .. 278	Question re—
Representation of, in various Government departments .. 280	Names of accepted candidates and new entrants taken in, in Ambala Division .. 744
Scholarships awarded to, students out of Silver Jubilee Fund .. 346	Instructions regarding community-wise recruitment to, .. 611
Scholarships for, .. 280	SHAH NAWAZ, MRS. J. A.—
Vacancies in the Punjab Secretariat for members of, .. 742	Budget, general discussion .. 154—59
Vernacular teachers belonging to, in Ambala Division .. 345	Budget motion re working of Medical Department .. 658—65
SCHEDULE—	SHEI RAM SHARMA, PANDIT—
Question re, revision in the, of minimum areas for houses in Lahore Civil Station .. 480	Adjournment motion, moving of during Budget discussions .. 689
SCHEME—	Bhakra Dam Scheme .. 305-306
Question re—	SIBOU, MR.—
For overhauling primary and secondary system of education .. 526	Question re qualifications in Electric Engineering of, .. 463
For physical and cultural development .. 602	SIKANDER HYAT-KHAN, THE HONOURABLE MAJOR SIR (PREMIER)—
SCHOLARSHIPS—	Appropriation accounts, Report on, discussion of, .. 19
Question re—	Assembly, adjournment of, .. 18
Awarded to scheduled caste students out of Silver Jubilee Fund .. 346	Assembly Hours of sitting .. 689
For scheduled castes .. 280	Bhakra Dam Scheme .. 311—15
For scientific, industrial and agricultural education .. 890	Bill—
SCHOOLS—	Legislative Assembly (Offices)
Question re—	Select Committee Report, presentation of .. 47
Aided, .. 601	Budget, general discussion .. 221—36
Grant-in-aid to denominational, in the Punjab .. 185	Budget motion re administration of Agriculture Department .. 851—59
In Ambala district .. 598	Budget motion re general policy of Government .. 447—60
Primary, secondary and high, for girls in Lahore .. 535	Budget motion re land revenue assessment in Lahore district .. 972-73
Strikes in Government and aided, and colleges .. 600	Budget motion re reduction of chahi rates .. 923—31
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments Demand for Grant .. 980	Canal Act Committee .. 297—303
SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION—	Hours of sitting of the Assembly .. 18, 283, 876.
Question re scholarship for, .. 890	Point of order re demands for grants, arrangement of, for discussion .. 349-50
SCOUT—	Question hour, Motion for dispensation of, .. 189
Question re representation from Hindustan, Association, Amritsar .. 598	Question hour, omission of, on budget day .. 18
SEAT—	SIKHS—
Allotment of, in Assembly .. 35-36	Question re percentage of, among patwaris in Jhang district .. 830
SEATING ARRANGEMENTS—	SILVER JUBILEE FUND—
Making of, .. 147	Question re Scholarships awarded to scheduled caste students out of, .. 346
SECRETARY—	SIMLA MOVE—
Question re appointment of, of Jullundur District Board .. 481	Question re, of the Registrar of Office of Director of Public Instruction, Punjab .. 80
SELECTION OF BOYS—	
Question re, in schools by teachers .. 825	

	PAGES.		PAGES.
SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE—		SUB-INSPECTOR, POLICE—	
Question re—		Question re—	
Dismissal and appointment of officials of, Jhajjar ..	464	Complaints by Punjab Motor Union against, Manwan ..	78
Inquiry into the election of Vice-President, Jhajjar ..	464	SUB-JUDGE—	
Muhafiz employed by, Jhajjar ..	464	Question re complaints by Ram Sarup and Ram Farshad, orderlies, against Latif Shah, ..	181
SOIL—		SUB-REGISTRARS—	
Question re deterioration of productivity of, in the Punjab ..	274	Question re,	2
SPEAKER, MR.—		Question re—	
Adjournment motions—		Garh Shankar, district Headquarters ..	404
Admissibility of, during budget session ..	82—84	SUB-TENANTS—	
Moving of, during Budget discussions ..	689	Question re representation from, of tahsil Khanewal ..	757
Carrying forward to next day of supplementary questions and answers ..	877-78	SUCHA SINGH, BHAI—	
Seating arrangements, making of — ..	147	Question re health of, conspiracy case prisoner ..	389
SQUARES—		SUICIDES—	
Question re grant of, of land to Nawab Sir Mehr Shah ..	139	Question re,	731
STAFF—		SULTAN MAHMUD HOTIANA, MIAN—	
Question re—		Budget, General discussion ..	162—64
Teaching, in Central Model High School, Lahore ..	537	Budget motion re working of Medical Department ..	649-50
Taken to Simla by the Director of Public Instruction ..	541	SUNDAR SINGH MAJITHIA, THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR (REVENUE MINISTER)—	
STAMPS—		Bhakra Dam Scheme ..	307
Demand for Grant ..	977	SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS—	
Supplementary demand re ..	286	Demand for Grant ..	982
STARVATION—		Supplementary demand for ..	315
Question re deaths due to, ..	732	SUPERSESSION—	
STATEMENT(S)—		Question re, of certain Provincial Education Service Officers ..	528
Supplementary, of expenditure authenticated by Governor ..	624—26	SUPERINTENDENT—	
Withdrawal of, re treatment by Police of Mian Muhammad Htikhar-ud-din ..	899-900	Question re, of Grey Canals, Ferozepore ..	131
STATIONERY AND PRINTING—		SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND(S)—	
Demand for Grant ..	982	Administration of Justice ..	315
STRIKE(S)—		Capital Outlay on Electric Scheme—Hydro-Electric Schemes (other than Establishment) ..	318
Question re—		Civil Works ..	316
In Government and aided schools and colleges ..	600	Construction of Irrigation Works—Capital Expenditure ..	315
In Rasul Engineering College ..	521	Excise	283—85
STUDENTS—		Famine	315, 316
Question re—		Forests	287
Admission of, of unrecognized schools into recognized schools ..	17	General Administration ..	315
Percentage of, trained in First Aid ..	13	Irrigation Establishment charges ..	288—315
SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS—		Irrigation, Navigation, etc., working expenses and other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues ..	316
Question re—		Hydro-Electric Schemes—Working Expenses ..	315
In the service of Multan District Board ..	601	Medical	315
Serving in various hospitals in the Punjab ..	184	Miscellaneous	316
SUB-INSPECTOR(S)—		Other taxes and duties ..	287-88
Question re—		Police	315
Bank and consolidation, ..	1	Provincial Excise	316
Employed by the Punjab Co-operative Union, Lahore ..	884	Public Health	316
Inquiry against, Pindri ..	78	Stamps	286
Recruited in 1938 ..	832	Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	315
		SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES—	
		Presentation of, for 1938-39 ..	19,84

	PAGES.		PAGES.
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS—		TENANTS—	
Carrying forward of, to next day	824	Question re—	
SUSPENSION—		Notices of ejectment served on,	
Question re, of Professional tax		of Nili Bar and Ganji Bar	
on Harijans in Rohtak district	499	Colonies	815
SUTLEJ RIVER—		Removal of grievances of, of the	
Question re loss due to inundation		Nili Bar Colony	254
of,	802	TERRORISM—	
SWEEPERS—		Question re, Prisoners in the	
Question re—		Punjab	393
Declaration of, of Municipal		THAMREWALI ZAIL—	
Committees as whole time		Question re land revenue fixed	
and permanent servants ..	466	for, and Neromanwal Zail of	
Employed by Municipal Com-		Mianwali district	255
mittees	523	THEFT CASES—	
T.		Question re, in Mubarakpur, dis-	
		trict Ambala	548
TACCAVI LOANS—		THOMAS, MR. J. W.—	
Question re—		Question re grant of extension to,	
Arrears of, in district Ludhiana	126	Principal, Hailey College of	
in Ludhiana district ..	5	Commerce	346
TAKSILDAR—		TIPPING—	
Question re—		Question re, of chaprasis of officers	39
Inquiry against, at Rohtak ..	805	TOWN PLANNING—	
Inquiry against, at Jhajjar	185	Question re, schemes by Lahore	
TALAGANG—		Improvement Trust	474
Question re Non-Muslim Officer		TRAINING—	
posted to, and Firdigheb ..	185	Question re, to police officers by	
TARNAL ROAD—		Chemical Examiner, Lahore ..	121
Question re, in Pakpattan tahsil	401	TRANSFER—	
TAX(S)—		Question re—	
Question re—		Of Indian Civil Service Officers	
House, in Lahore ..	406	from Executive to Judicial	
Imposition of, on Kamiks by		Branch	89
District Board, Montgomery	402	Of police constables from Jul-	
Imposition of, on sheep by Dis-		lunder district	735
trict Board, Montgomery ..	401	Of the Ambala Division to Delhi	
Imposition of, by Lahore Muni-		or the United Provinces ..	56
cipality	400	TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE—	
TAXES AND DUTIES—		Question re—	
Demand for Grant	977	Drawn by Minister of Develop-	
TEACHER(S)—		ment, and Director of Agricul-	
Question re—		ture and participation of	
Muslim, as Teacher in Lahore		latter in public meetings ad-	
College for Women	607	dressed by former	333
In Lahore College for Women	537	Drawn by Premier and his Par-	
TEACHING STAFF—		liamentary and Private	
Question re, in Government Col-		Parliamentary Secretaries ..	335
lege, Lahore	604	Inspection of police stations by	
TEJAL SINGH—		Superintendent of Police, and	
Question re Internment of Mr.,		Deputy Superintendent of	
of Bhargali under the Criminal		Police, Ludhiana and their,..	618
Law Amendment Act	688	TREES—	
TEJJA SINGH SWASTANIPAR, SARDAR—		Question re auction of, on Grand	
Budget motion re release of, ..	494-95	Trunk Road, Amritsar to	
Question re—		Lahore	409
Representation from, ..	391	TUBERCULAR PATIENTS—	
Question re	608	Question re microscopical exami-	
TELEPHONE—		nation of sputum of,	11
Question re, for the Assistant Sec-		TUBE-WELLS—	
retary, Finance Department ..	341	Question re sinking of, ..	267
		U.	
		UJJAL SINGH, SARDAR BAHADUR	
		SARDAR—	
		Budget motion re Administra-	
		tion of Agriculture Depart-	
		ment	778-90

	PAGES.		PAGES.
UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS—		W.	
Budget motion re grievances of	492—94		
UNEMPLOYMENT—		WARDHA SCHEME—	
Question re—		Question re introduction of, in	
And retrenchment committees	277	Punjab	3
Committee	332	WARRANTS—	
UNIONS—		Question re applications for, of	
Question re, of District Board Em-		arrests	339
ployees in the Province ..	517	WATER—	
UNIVERSITY CHEMICAL LABORA-		Question re supply of, for gardens	881
TORIES—		WATER LEVEL—	
Question re Appointment of a Non-		Question re, in Doaba ..	353
Punjabi Demonstrator in the		WATER RATES—	
Physical Chemistry in the, ..	525	Question re Realization of, in vil-	
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS—		lages in Hissar district ..	254
Question re system of compart-		WATER-SUPPLY—	
ment for plucked candidates in,	11	Question re—	
UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES—		Meters on house connections for,	
Question re adequate representa-		in Ambala city	3
tion for Muslims and agricul-		Reduction of, in Montgomery	
turists in the,	524	Circle of the Nili Bar Colony	249
UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL—		Representation of certain vil-	
Question re compensation to the		lages of tahsil Jagraon re-	
zamindars of Jhaga Pattoki due		garding, for Rabi crops ..	125
to the closure of,	124	WELL—	
UNSTARRED QUESTIONS—		Question re Interference by the	
Question re answering of, on com-		zamindars with the right of	
munal matters	616	Achhuts to use the village, of	
		Manana, district Karnal ..	395
V.		WESTERN JUMNA CANAL—	
VACANCIES—		Question re representation by	
Question re—		Munshi and others for proper	
Filled in Agriculture Depart-		distribution of,	188
ment	887	WHEAT—	
In the Punjab Secretariat for		Question re area under cultivation	
members of scheduled castes	742	for, in Montgomery district ..	132
VACATION—		WITHDRAWAL—	
Question re spring and summer,		Of objectionable expressions ..	758-59
in industrial schools	276	WOMEN'S SECTION—	
VERNACULAR TEACHERS—		Question re improvements con-	
Question re—		cerning the, of the Medical De-	
Belonging to scheduled caste		partment	544
in Ambala Division	345	WOMEN SUB-ASSISTANT SURGE-	
Prospects of, in industrial		ONS—	
schools	276	Question re—	
VETERINARY—		Departmental Grade Examin-	
Demand for Grant	981	ations for,	545
VETERINARY HOSPITAL—		Usefulness of, holding indepen-	
Question re—		dent charge of dispensaries	546
At Kasowal	347		
Opening of a, and civil dispen-		Z.	
sary in village Parjhan ..	886		
VICE-PRESIDENT—			
Question re Inquiry into the elec-			
tion of, Small Town Committee,			
Jhajjar	464		
VILLAGES—		ZAMINDARS—	
Question re—		Question re—	
Brought under the jurisdic-		Representation by, of village	
tion of Lahore Improve-		Baho, district Rohtak ..	17
ment Trust	475	Representation by, of village	
VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—		Umrah, district Hissar ..	17
Question re—		Villages selected in Ludhiana	
Audit fees charged from,	883	district for instructing, in	
		modern methods of agricul-	
		ture	264