

THE
Punjab Legislative Assembly
Debates

From 27th February to 20th March, 1942

Vol. XIX

OFFICIAL REPORT



Lahore :

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1942.

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.**

Speaker.

**The Hon'ble Chaudhri Sir Shahab-ud-Din, Kt., K. B., B.A., LL.B. (Sialkot
South, Muhammadan, Rural).**

Deputy Speaker.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural).

Secretary.

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

Deputy Secretary.

Khan Bahadur Hakeem Ahmed Shujaa, B.A.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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

The Hon'ble Malik Khizar Hayat 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).

The Hon'ble Sardar Dasaundha Singh, B.A., LL.B., Minister of Development (Jagraon, Sikh, Rural).

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

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- Fateh Sher Khan, Malik (Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Sir, O.B.E. (Gujrat East, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur (Mianwali North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri (Sialkot Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Gujranwala East, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian, B.A. (Oxon.) (Kasur, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab, C.I.E. (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Ram Sarup, Chaudhri (Rohtak Central, General, Rural).
- Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General, Rural).
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 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri (Hissar North, General, Rural).
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 Santokh Singh, Sardar (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban).
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr. (Amritsar City, General, Urban).
 Sardar Khan Noon, Major Malik (North Punjab, Land-holders).
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai (Jaranwala, Muhammadan, Rural).
 *Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir (Ferozepore Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Shanno Devi Sehgal, Shrimati (West Multan Division, General, 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 Bahadur Lala (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour).
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural).
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 Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian, B.A. (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural).
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 Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib 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).
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar, M.A. (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban).
 Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar (North-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).
 Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar (Kabirwala, Muhammadan, Rural).

ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

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

* He passed away on 7th March, 1942.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 27th February, 1942.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 30 p.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DETENUS.

***7884. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the detenus confined in District Jail, Montgomery, have been on hunger strike from November 5, 1941;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the detenus in question were confined in separate cells soon after they resorted to hunger strike;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Thirteen security prisoners went on hunger strike in the Central Jail, Montgomery, from the 4th November, 1941. They gave up the strike on the 22nd November, 1941.

- (b) No. They were confined in a separate ward, not in separate cells.
- (c) In view of the answer above this does not arise.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: Will the Parliamentary Secretary state the reasons for the hunger strike?

Parliamentary Secretary: I want notice of that question.

FILM "SEHTI-MURAD"

***7886. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that a registered letter signed by me and four other M. L. A.'s was addressed to the Secretary, Punjab Film Censor Board, in April, 1941, requesting him to expunge certain indecent and objectionable scenes and passages from the film "*Sehti-Murad*";
- (b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Yes.

(b) The film was re-examined by the Punjab Board of Film Censors and certain portions which were considered objectionable were deleted.

BABA GURMUKH SINGH.

***8112. Sardar Lal Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) when Baba Gurmukh Singh, now detained in the Multan Jail, resident originally of Lalton Khurd, District Ludhiana, was taken into custody, the grounds on which he was arrested and whether he was tried before his conviction;

[Sardar Lal Singh.]

(b) whether it is a fact that the above-mentioned prisoner has been kept in solitary confinement ever since he was incarcerated; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that his relations in Ludhiana find it very inconvenient to visit him at such a long distance ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) He was arrested on 23rd February, 1916, tried in the Main Lahore Conspiracy Case and sentenced to transportation for life under sections 121, 124-A, 131 and 395, Indian Penal Code, on 13th September, 1915. He escaped in February, 1928, and was re-arrested in September, 1936, after more than 13 years. He was tried before his conviction.

(b) He has been kept in solitary confinement since he was re-arrested in 1936. It is not in the public interest to give reasons therefor.

(c) Government is aware that it would be less inconvenient to his relations to have him imprisoned in a jail nearer his home but do not consider it desirable to remove him from Multan.

Sardar Lal Singh : Does the Parliamentary Secretary mean to tell us that this man has been kept in solitary confinement for the last 5 years, that is, from 1936 ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Sardar Lal Singh : Has the Government consulted a medical officer to ascertain whether a man can live after being put in solitary confinement for such a long time ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He has been examined medically from time to time and there is no complaint about his state of health.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is it not against Jail Rules to put a man in solitary confinement, unless he is convicted of some jail offence ?

Parliamentary Secretary : His solitary confinement is not against Jail Rules.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : What is the justification for his solitary confinement ?

Parliamentary Secretary : As I have already stated, it is not in the public interest to give reasons for his solitary confinement. But his confinement is not against Jail Rules.

Sardar Lal Singh : What public interest is involved in not allowing him to live like a human being ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have nothing to add to the answer that I have already given.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Can you quote the rule under which a person can be put in solitary confinement without any fault of his ?

Sardar Lal Singh : Under what rules has he been confined in a solitary cell ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If my honourable friend gives a notice of this question, I will look into it.

MASTER KABUL SINGU, M.L.A.

*8113. **Sardar Lal Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the law under which Master Kabul Singh, M. L. A., has been re-arrested after his release from the Deoli Camp ;

(b) what is the present condition of his health ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Under the Defence of India Rules.

(b) Good.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know the rule under which Master Kabul Singh was confined ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Rule 26.

Sardar Lal Singh : Does the Parliamentary Secretary know that when he was re-arrested he had been very seriously ill for sometime ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question of my honourable friend was with regard to his present condition of health and as stated in answer to part (b) his present condition of health is good. If the honourable member is anxious to ascertain the progress of his health from time to time up to the present date and if the labour involved is commensurate with the trouble taken, I shall look into the matter.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : When was he last medically examined ?

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

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : The notice is there in part (b).

Parliamentary Secretary : It is with regard to the present condition of his health. Present condition of his health is good.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : What is the basis of the answer to part (b) of this question ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He was medically examined.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : When ?

Parliamentary Secretary : After this question was put.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Can you give the date on which he was medically examined ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He was medically examined after the date of this question.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I want the definite date.

Parliamentary Secretary : I cannot give a definite and specific date, because no question was asked about this.

SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

*8131. **Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann** : (i) Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether according to the provisions of section 19 of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, read with section 16 of the Land Revenue Act, cases of sales of agricultural lands owned by statutory agriculturists in favour of non-agriculturists are examined with the view to preventing the non-agriculturists from attempting to obtain the sanction under section 3 (2) of Land Alienation Act

[Sardar Jogindar Singh, Mann.]

of the Deputy Commissioners for such sales by fraud or misrepresentation and if so, the stage at which and the name in which this examination takes place;

(ii) will he further be pleased to state whether the case of sale of agricultural land, belonging to a statutory agriculturists named S. Gurbakhsb Singh, son of S. Fateh Singh, caste Bhinder Jat, of village Lobianwala, tahsil and District Gujranwala, in favour of a non-agriculturist named Shri Atma Nand Jain, Gurukul Board of Trustees of Gujranwala brought about by false representation that the said land measuring 240 canals, 5 marlas was required for a building for an educational institution, was also examined, if not whether it is intended to examine that case now?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (i) The honourable member is referred to the reply to his Assembly question No. 8099.

(ii) Government are examining the matter.

CINEMA FILMS.

*7885. **Sardar Moola Singh**: Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state if the Punjab Government proposes to exempt from the payment of entertainment duty any cinema films on the ground that they promote communal unity?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal: No.

INDUSTRIAL LOANS.

*8003. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any industrial loans have been granted under the State Aid to Industries Act to private individuals; if so, the names and residents of the persons who have been granted those loans;

(b) the purpose for which those loans have been granted;

(c) whether the men who have been granted those loans have utilised the amount for the purpose for which they took the loans; if not, whether they have been made to refund those loans?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal: (a) and (b) A statement showing the names of persons granted loans under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, for the periods from 7th March, 1936, to 31st March, 1937, and from 1st April, 1940, to 31st March, 1941, is placed on the table. A statement for the period from 1st April, 1937, to 31st March, 1940, was furnished in reply to unstarred question No. 1135¹ asked by Rana Nasrullah Khan on the 26th April, 1940.

(c) Under section 27 of the Act any loan not utilized for the purpose for which it was granted can be recalled immediately and in cases where default was committed in this behalf the defaulters were required to refund the amount.

Loans sanctioned under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, from the 7th March, 1936, to 31st March, 1937.

Serial No.	Name of borrower.	Industry assisted.	Amount.
			Rs.
1	Zama, son of Lal, weaver, Haiderabad ..	Weaving	100
2	S. Benjamin, Proprietor, Benjamin Weaving Factory, Ludhiana.	Weaving	2,000
3	Bishan Sarup, Victoria Trading Syndicate, Ludhiana.	Hosiery	5,000
4	Miro, weaver, Ludhiana	Weaving	500
5	Sh. Hussain-ud-Din, Ludhiana ..	Hosiery	2,000
6	Mistri Budha, Trunk Manufacturer, Sialkot	Trunk manufacturing	2,000
7	Bashhehar Nath Kashyap, Lahore ..	Electric goods ..	4,500
8	Devi Das, Lawrence Road, Amritsar ..	Chemicals	2,000
9	Messrs. Qutab Din, Gulab Din and Faqir Mohammad, Sialkot.	Tanning	5,000
10	Nand Lal, village Haiderabad, district Mianwali.	Weaving	500
11	Khairati Lal, etc., Popular Aluminium Works, Gujranwala.	Utensils	5,000
12	S. Kharak Singh, Amritsar	Metal work	2,000
13	Hari Ram Lakhi, Ludhiana	Hosiery	3,500
14	S. Kuldip Singh, Kulu	Wool Spinning and Weaving.	4,500
15	R. S. Swami Das, Model Town, Lahore..	Hosiery	5,000
16	M. Karim Bekah, vilage Haiderabad, district Mianwali.	Weaving	75
17	M. Mohammad Saeed, Chak No. 121, district Lyallpur.	Tanning	700
18	Swadoshi Manufacturing Syndicate, Limited.	Hosiery	25,000
19	The Standard Cigarette Manufacturing Co., Jullundur.	Cigarette manufacture	20,000
20	The Art Works, Khushab, district Shahpur	Manufacture of crucibles.	1,000
21	S. Avtar Singh, Frontier Woollen and Textile Mills, Rawalpindi.	Hosiery	5,000

Statement showing the names of persons or firms to whom loans have been advanced under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935.

Serial No.	Name of borrower.	Industry assisted.	Amount.
	<i>1940-41 (1st April, 1940 to 31st March, 1941)</i>		<i>Rs.</i>
1	Mian Mohammad Said, Proprietor of The Modern Tanning Works, Ferozepore.	Tanning ..	1,200
2	Mr. Basheshar Nath Kashyap, Proprietor of Precision Shops, 21-A, Lawrence Road, Lahore.	Manufacture of electrical and mechanical goods.	3,000
3	Messrs. Hassan Mohammad-Ahmad Hassan and Mohammad Ashraf, <i>Lohars</i> of Palampur, district Kangra.	Weaving ..	1,700
4	Messrs. Noor Mohammad, Hussain Din, Awan weavers, village Dhok Shah Dher, district Campbellpore.	Weaving ..	400
5	Dewan Tribeni Sahai Bhatnagar of Hansi, district Hissar.	Glue manufacture ..	3,000
6	Mohammad Anwar Ali Khan, Pathan Yusuf Zai, Jhajjar, district Rohtak.	Manufacture of essential oils, etc.	500
7	Mistri Mohammad Yusuf, son of Ahmad Din, Proprietor of Haqeer Weaving Factory, Shahdara, district Sheikhpura.	Improving his weaving factory.	500
8	L. Jeoti Sarup, Proprietor of Rational Weaving Factory, Kulu, district Kangra.	Weaving ..	500
9	B. Lachman Sarup Bhatnagar, of Kayasthan Street, Rohtak.	Glue manufacture ..	3,000
10	Messrs. Sultan Ahmad and Brothers, Sialkot.	Manufacture of trunks	5,000
11	The Imperial Foundry and Iron Works, Batala.	Development of graphite crucibles and planing machines.	8,000
12	Rehm Ali, son of Alahi Bux, Joya Qasab, of Jalalpur Jattan, district Gujrat.	Tanning ..	1,500
13	The Bharat Metal Works, Gujranwala ..	Manufacture of aluminium sheets and utensils.	2,000
14	S. Nahar Singh, son of S. Bhola Singh, Canal Bank, Lahore.	Dairying ..	5,000
15	M. Abdul Hamid Sabir, Proprietor of Agricultural Foundry and Workshops, Lahore.	Manufacture of agricultural pumps.	1,500
16	M. Faqar Karim of village Dhudhrail Sharki, district Gujrat.	Tanning ..	500

Serial No.	Name of borrower.	Industry assisted.	Amount.
			Rs.
17	Ch. Khushi Mohammad of village Jeowanjab, Post Office Jalalpur Jattan, district Gujrat.	Tanning	1,000
18	L. Sehdev Sahni of Kartarpur, district Jullundur.	Dry cleaning industry	700
19	Messrs. Din and Sons, Grand Trunk Road, Lahore.	Purchase of machinery	2,500
20	Khan Jamshed Ali Khan, Proprietor, Haryana Perfumery and Chemical Works, Jhajjar.	Distillation of essential oils.	500
21	Messrs. The Chishti Motor Transport and Trading Company (Registered), Talagang	Tanning	1,500
22	Messrs. Qutab Din-Attar Din of Hazro, district Attock.	Shoe-making ..	500
23	Messrs. The Bombay Thread Ball Manufacturing Company, Dabbi Bazar, Lahore.	Manufacture of thread-balls.	1,500
24	Rehmat Khan, son of Swand Khan, village Tibbi, Post Office Lakhawal, district Gujrat.	Tanning	400
25	Messrs. Amin Chand-Bhola Nath of Jullundur City.	Manufacture of brass cocks, buckets, tubes, water pumps, etc.	15,000
26	Ch. Lajpat Rai of village Alakhpura, tahsil Hansi, district Hissar.	Wool spinning and weaving.	4,000
27	Messrs. The Zamindar Foundry, Batala ..	Manufacture of chaff-cutters.	15,000
28	The Siwalak Woollen Mills, Hoshiarpur ..	Handloom weaving ..	5,000
29	M. Mohammad Yusaf, son of M. Ghulam Mohammad, Talagang, district Attock.	Weaving ..	3,500
30	Mr. B. R. Singh, Principal, S. C. College (Registered), Lahore.	Manufacture of fountain pens.	3,500
31	Mirza Amanullah Beg, Patti, tahsil Kasur	Manufacture of pumps	3,000
32	M. Abdul Rashid, Garhi Shahu, Lahore ..	Manufacture of ball-frame and ball-frame slates.	1,000
33	Pt. Bishan Lal Rozdon, Rozdon Pharmacy, Lahore.	Manufacture of phorone.	4,500
34	Messrs. Jaasn Malik Jammu Malik, Multan City.	Weaving ..	15,000
35	Mr. R. Kashyap, Khawaja Dil Mohammad Road, Lahore.	Manufacture of spare parts of machinery.	1,000

DISTRICT BOARDS.

***8004. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Muslims cannot secure their full number of seats in the District Boards of Ambala, Hissar and Karnal districts owing to the existence of the joint-electorate system there
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Muslims of those districts have represented several times to the Government that separate electorate system should be introduced in the election to the local bodies in the Ambala division :
- (c) the action that Government took on those representations ?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : (a) It is a fact that Muslims have not been able to secure at the general elections their due share of seats on the District Boards of Ambala, Hissar and Karnal but this cannot be attributed to the existence of the joint electorate system. In any case, deficiencies have been made good by Government by nominations.

(b) Representations have been received in the case of the districts of Ambala and Karnal only.

(c) The revision of the existing electoral circles of the District Boards of Ambala and Karnal, with a view to enabling the Muslims to secure their due share of seats, is already in hand.

MURDERS IN VILLAGES DHUDDI-KE AND CHUHAR CHAK.

***8122. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that seven men, named Gurnam, Jawala, Puran, Kartara, Ishar, Gurbaxa and Jaggu, all of village Dhuddi-ke in district Ferozepore were murdered during the last two years while there was a punitive police post stationed at Chuhar Chak near the said village for surveillance over these villages ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that only in one of the murders above-mentioned culprits were convicted and in all the rest they escaped detection ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in both the villages of Chuhar Chak and Dhuddi-ke there were committed ten murders, more than ever before while the police was stationed there in the years 1939 and 1940 ;
- (d) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, whether any inquiry has been made to find out whether this was due to the neglect of duty on the part of the police officers posted there or to some other reasons ; if so, the result of that inquiry ?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : (a) Since the location of the Punitive Police Post at villages Chuhar Chak and Dhuddi-ke Puran was murdered ; Jawala met his death at the hands of his rival, who

had acted in the exercise of the right of private defence; and Gurbaxa, a proclaimed offender, died as a result of the injuries he had received at the hands of his captors, while offering resistance to his arrest. Nothing is known about the death of Jaggu, while Gurnam, Kartara and Isher were murdered before the punitive police was located.

(b) Two out of the six cases of murder were cancelled. The alleged murderers in the remaining four cases were sent up for trial but escaped conviction except in one case.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE FACILITIES.

***8005. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to give separately the figures allotted in each district of the Ambala division out of a budget of Rs. 25,000 in the current year, for the extension of maternity and child welfare facilities?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement is laid on the table.
Statement showing the grant-in-aid allotted in each district of the Ambala Division during the current financial year out of a budget of Rs. 25,000 for the extension of maternity and child welfare facilities.

Name of the district.					Amount of grant-in-aid.
					Rs.
(1) Rohtak	..	..	..	..	455
(2) Gurgaon	..	..	..	..	1,312
(3) Karnal	..	..	..	..	974
(4) Ambala	..	..	..	..	581
(5) Simla	..	..	..	..	801
Total					4,123

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ARRESTS AND DETENTION IN CONNECTION WITH TRADERS' HARTAL.

***8131-A. Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** Now that the hartal and satyagraha movement of the Beoparis in connection with the General Sales Tax have been called off, will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take with regard to persons arrested, detained and convicted in connection with this movement?

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): I am glad that the Beopar Mandal has decided to call off its senseless campaign of hartal and satyagraha against the Punjab General Sales Tax. As I have already explained, before I proceeded on my recent visit to Indian troops overseas, I had agreed to concede all legitimate requests made to me on behalf of the trading community. I had agreed that the taxation

[Premier.]

staff should have no authority to enter the premises of the dealers for purposes of checking stocks or accounts except at the request of the dealers themselves and gave an undertaking that I will make a recommendation to the Legislative Assembly to raise the exemption limit under the Sales Tax Act from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. I had further agreed to consider sympathetically representations for imposing a one stage tax on particular commodities and to accept such representations subject to certain conditions. In view of this the Beopar Mandal's decision to advise the traders to observe hartal was wholly indefensible. On my return from abroad, I repeated my assurances to the Beoparis and tried to remove any doubts, real or unreal, which were brought to my notice. After this, it was even more unreasonable on the part of the Beopar Mandal to persist in continuing the hartal. However, it must be a matter of gratification to all law-abiding citizens that the sponsors of the movement have seen reason and decided to call off hartal which was causing a great deal of inconvenience to the public and was being exploited by mischief makers to create unrest in the province.

As I have assured the trading community on more than one occasion, the policy of the Punjab Government is to help and encourage trade and industries. They can, therefore, rest assured that their legitimate interests will always be safeguarded. They should, however, remember that they also have certain obligations towards the body politic and should not grudge their due contributions to the public exchequer. More than anything else, they should remember that at a time like the present when war is knocking at India's doors, political adventurers and fifth columnists are on the look out for every opportunity of creating unrest and chaos. They are ready to exploit every situation for this purpose. It is the duty of every patriotic citizen to help Government in thwarting their efforts. I earnestly appeal to all Punjabis to be on their guard against the machinations of such traitors.

I trust that the traders will now help the assessing authorities by furnishing their returns quickly in order to avoid the necessity of arbitrary assessments.

In view of the announcement by the Beopar Mandal that unlawful activities have been given up and the hartal has been called off, it has been decided to release those who were arrested in this connection and necessary instructions are being issued. (*Cheers.*)

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I know if Shrimati Shanno Devi is included amongst those who are going to be released ?

Premier : Shrimati Shanno Devi is not included in those connected with the hartal because she is a member of the Congress and the Congress is not involved in the hartal.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : She has been arrested in connection with affairs arising out of the hartal.

Premier : No, she was arrested for disobeying an order of restriction against her.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that she was arrested under Rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

APPROPRIATION AND FINANCE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT.

Minister for Finance : As required by section 169 of the Government of India Act, I lay on the table the Appropriation Accounts and the Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1940-41 and the Audit Report thereon.

BUDGET—PRESENTATION.

Finance Minister (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, full five years of our financial administration have now been completed, and the Budget to be presented to-day relates to the sixth year to begin on the 1st April, 1942. The question naturally arises and must be faced whether this stewardship of the finances of the province by your Government and this House will bear the test of well-established principles. As I rise to-day it is in the full consciousness of the fact that the most vigilant scrutiny will reveal that yours has been a worthy and strikingly successful custodianship in a period of heavy strain and immense anxiety. (*hear, hear.*) Famine pressed on us with unprecedented intensity for three years, though happily now the acute stage is fairly past. We are now in the third year of the war when the whole world lies shaken, as never before, in wild storms. And to-day the war unhappily is at our very doors. It may cast on a provincial government no direct responsibility for actual defence, but it could not fail vitally to influence the whole economic life of the country, and it has deeply affected our finances. Questions of ensuring security were of special urgency for a province such as ours, with our position on the map of India, and now the more imperious need for providing protection against possible air raids has had to be met. Our resources are exiguous, but we have manfully striven to meet our obligations, and the course of our financial administration clearly demonstrates the most jealous care for the best interests of the province. We are living in times when events beyond our power, beyond our ken and calculation, must so largely dictate our course of conduct. But though we have been confronted first with terrible famine and now with all-engrossing war, I feel assured, our policy would be justified on the strictest scrutiny, for it is grounded in the furtherance and promotion of men's true strivings.

I propose as in previous years to focus attention only on the outstanding facts of our provincial finance. Detailed statement by me is not necessary and may in fact stand in the way of your study of the very full and lucid explanatory Memorandum by the Finance Secretary. My own effort now as before in former years, must be by a simple and unencumbered survey to help the honourable members in forming a definite and sure picture of our finances.

I have to refer to-day particularly to the accounts and estimates of three years—the year 1940-41 for which final accounts are now ready, the current year 1941-42 for which revised estimates are now available and the next financial year 1942-43 for which I am to-day to present the budget.

1940-41.

When the budget for the year was presented, an actual deficit of Rs. 28 lakhs was anticipated. This was due entirely to famine for which provision was made in the budget for a direct expenditure of no less than Rs. 32 lakhs.

[Finance Minister.]

At the time there were anticipations also of a loss of revenue because of additional suspensions and remissions to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs, and further large provision had to be made for special *taccavi* advances in the famine-stricken areas.

However, as the year proceeded, there was considerable improvement in the revenue account and economies were rigorously practised in expenditure. When revised estimates were available at this time last year, a surplus of Rs. 24 lakhs was in sight. Actually the year has ended with a surplus of Rs. 69 lakhs. (*Hear, hear.*) Between the revised estimates and the accounts there was an improvement of Rs. 45 lakhs, made up of an increase in receipts of Rs. 26 lakhs and of a fall in expenditure of Rs. 19 lakhs. This is an improvement beyond all reckoning; but it must be remembered that this happy position was reached in spite of the fact that there was during that year an addition of Rs. 13 lakhs to the Special Development Fund, and that an additional provision of Rs. 11 lakhs had to be made under Police as a measure of strengthening peace and security, and a substantial contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs was made towards the Air Raid Precautions.

The increase in receipts was mainly under Land Revenue, Gross (Rs. 22 lakhs), in Irrigation Direct Receipts (Rs. 5 lakhs) and Excise (Rs. 3 lakhs), while there were some decreases recorded, e.g., under Stamps (Rs. 2 lakhs) and Rs. 7 lakhs under Irrigation resulting from increase in Working Expenses. Agricultural conditions proved favourable for both Rabi and Kharif sowings. Rainfall except in the south-eastern districts was sufficient and supplies from the canals proved adequate. On the side of expenditure the decreases are spread over a large number of heads, but the main decrease is under Civil Works (Rs. 7 lakhs) due to want of material for completion of a number of works, and Police (Rs. 3 lakhs), as expenditure on Civic Guards had not been exactly estimated.

The improvement in the revenue position is strikingly satisfactory, but there was notable improvement also in Extraordinary Receipts. In the budget estimate they were estimated at Rs. 49·70 lakhs, at the time of the revised estimate the yield was expected to be Rs. 82·51 lakhs. The accounts show a further improvement and the actual realized receipts are Rs. 91·64 lakhs. This is mainly due to larger sale-proceeds of undeveloped agricultural land at favourable prices. The honourable members would note that it has not been necessary to bring into aid even a rupee of these Extraordinary Receipts towards meeting the exceptional expenditure caused by famine or war. The whole of these receipts are in fact to add strength to our balances and to enable us to meet capital expenditure for which we have large responsibilities.

1941-42.

When the estimates for the current year were presented last year, a surplus of about Rs. 4½ lakhs was expected. As we proceeded with the year, both our revenue receipts and revenue expenditure showed marked signs of expansion and about two months ago a position of substantial surplus definitely emerged in sight and it was realized that the surplus would certainly be not less than Rs. 50 lakhs. It became necessary then to consider plans

for the best method of utilizing this surplus. The final revised estimates as exhibited in the General Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements would have shown a surplus of over Rs. 85 lakhs but for the decision of the Government, which I am sure the House will fully endorse, to add a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs to the Special Development Fund and create a new fund now called the Peasants' Welfare Fund with a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs. (*Hear, hear.*) Supplementary demands with regard to these two Funds were placed before the House yesterday. Even after making this provision of Rs. 60 lakhs and after allowing for exceptional expenditure under Air Raid Precautions of nearly Rs. 18 lakhs, the year is expected to end with a surplus of over Rs. 25 lakhs. (*Hear, hear.*) The total revenue receipts during the year are now estimated to be Rs. 14 crores and 19 lakhs as against the budget estimate of Rs. 12 crores and 60 lakhs, i.e., an increase of rupees one crore and fifty-nine lakhs. On the side of expenditure the revised estimates disclose a figure of nearly Rs. 14 crores as against the budget estimate of rupees twelve crores and fifty-six lakhs, i.e., an increase of rupees one crore and thirty-eight lakhs, leaving, as I have indicated above, a surplus of over Rs. 25 lakhs. A very large part of this increase is represented on the side of receipts by the transfer from the Central Road Fund of Rs. 68 lakhs, this also swells our expenditure by an identical amount. This large contribution from the Central Road Fund has been, as the honourable members are aware, utilized for building strategic roads for military purposes, but these roads also make a permanent addition to our communications. Excluding, however, even this amount, the revenue improved by Rs. 91 lakhs. The improvement is to be explained in the main thus :—

In lakhs.

(1) Share of income-tax under the Niemeyer Award received from the Government of India	..	23.44
(2) Land Revenue (gross)	.. ..	20.53
(3) Provincial Excise	.. ..	14.75
(4) Forests	.. ..	19.43
(5) Total Irrigation receipts under all heads	..	21.69
(6) Electricity	.. ..	2.36
(7) Industries	.. ..	4.20
Total		1,06.40

There are some counter-balancing factors in income. The chief drop is under Stamps where the revised estimates show a decrease of no less than Rs. 5,21,000. The income under this head for reasons now well-known is steadily declining though it is pleasing to note that decrease in expenditure under the head 'Justice' to some extent counter-balances this loss. There is also a total drop of Rs. 1.58 lakhs under receipts under Motor Vehicles Acts and Other Taxes and Duties. Under Agriculture, there is a deficiency of Rs. 5.24 lakhs, but this is entirely on account of smaller seed operations and reflects itself on the other side in correspondingly decreased expenditure. I have not referred to smaller variations which are apparent in the General Abstract.

[Finance Minister].

The most striking features of the year's finance are—

- (i) an addition of Rs. 30 lakhs to the Special Development Fund enabling not only the purpose of the Fund to be fully carried out as originally designed but also if found necessary to be expanded both in time and scope ;
- (ii) the creation of the Peasants' Welfare Fund with Rs. 30 lakhs ;
- (iii) the provision during the year of an additional Rs. 12 lakhs for Police to strengthen the machinery for securing peace and order ; and
- (iv) the provision of nearly Rs. 18 lakhs for the Air Raid Precautions.

The improvement in the revenue position is remarkable enough and the way in which it is proposed to utilize it is worthy of special note, but we have been no less fortunate in the matter of Extraordinary Receipts. The budget estimate stood at the high figure of Rs. 68 lakhs. The revised estimate now is Rs. 92.50 lakhs. Last year I had occasion to say that we were fortunate in not having to bring into aid any part of these receipts towards meeting the exceptional expenditure caused by famine or war. We are no longer afflicted with famine but heavy expenditure directly caused by war has had to be met during the current year ; still Extraordinary Receipts have not been touched for this purpose. It is difficult to estimate Extraordinary Receipts, because they depend on the uncertain factors of the amount of land that can be sold and the price which it can command ; but as these receipts do not disturb our normal budget and remain intact to improve our balances and to furnish resources to meet capital expenditure for which we have large responsibilities, inability to make exact forecasts is a matter of no serious concern. Our Irrigation Projects can be financed to the extent of these receipts without resort to the loan market—a most gratifying position at a time like the present as large resort to the loan market is neither easy nor desirable. The year 1940-41 was described by me last year as showing in a characteristic and unmistakable manner the essential soundness of our finances. The current year records a position of even greater strength and stability. (*Hear, hear.*)

1942-43.

The budget estimate of revenue receipts is Rs. 19.58 lakhs, very nearly the same as the revised estimate of the current year if we exclude the exceptional transfer of Rs. 68 lakhs from the Central Road Fund ; while the budget estimate of revenue expenditure is Rs. 18.63 lakhs, resulting in a small deficit of Rs. 10 lakhs. In former years whenever a deficit appeared in the budget statement, it was due directly to famine. Now this year the position as regards receipts, though marking a big advance on the year 1940-41 for which complete accounts are now available, may be regarded as fairly normal. The deficit is due to the fact that a large provision of Rs. 61½ lakhs had to be made for Air Raid Precautions and the expenditure on Police over the budget estimate for 1941-42 has increased by Rs. 25 lakhs. There is an additional provision on the budget estimates of the present year of nearly Rs. 5½ lakhs under other Taxes and Duties. The expenditure

under Police, so far as I can see, has probably come to say, because war in its train raises many large questions of law and order, and it appears also that normal demands under this head with our growing population and increased complications in social and economic structure must expand. Expenditure on the machinery set up for recent additional Taxes and Duties is also a permanent factor, but the provision for Air Raid Precautions is exceptional and pertains to the immediate conditions created by the war. If this exceptional expenditure had not to be incurred, there would be a normal surplus of over Rs. 50 lakhs; or what would be a more correct way of describing the position—this Rs. 50 lakhs more would have been available for Government's other activities mainly in the beneficent departments.

And I must not forget to mention that during this year a provision under various heads exists for Grain Compensation Allowance to the extent of over Rs. 14 lakhs on account of the heavy rise in prices recently. This is an exceptional circumstance, it would be seen that this alone would account for more than the contemplated deficit of Rs. 10 lakhs.

The ordinary revenue receipts of Rs. 13,53 lakhs mark an advance of Rs. 65 lakhs on the accounts of the year 1940-41. This increase is mainly under our principal heads of revenue and it may be briefly tabulated as below :—

					<i>In lakhs.</i>
Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax received from the Government of India					38.68
Other Taxes and Duties	..	..	..	..	22.80
Provincial Excise	..	..	..	..	9.88
Forests	..	..	..	..	2.89
Total					68.75

There are small variations on the positive side to which it is not necessary to refer. The main fall as compared with 1940-41 is under Irrigation where the Direct Receipts show a decline of Rs. 10 lakhs and Working Expenses an increase of Rs. 7 lakhs. The receipts under Motor Vehicles Acts also show a drop of Rs. 3 lakhs. This, of course, is a direct result of petrol rationing. Among the increases is a formal increase of Rs. 12 lakhs due to a larger transfer from the Central Road Fund. A fall under Electricity Schemes is merely formal on account of a change in the system of accounts to which detailed reference will be made later.

It may be of interest to note the percentage of particular sources of revenue to our total provincial revenue. On an average of provincial revenue during the years 1925-35—a period of ten years—Land Revenue represented a percentage of 25.2. The corresponding percentage for the period from 1937 to 1942—this is the period during which the present Government has been in office—is 22.6. In Forests the percentage of revenue has not varied and it stands now as before at 2.6.

[Finance Minister.]

Excise in the early period represented a percentage of 10 to total revenue. It now stands at 8·8. The average area per country spirit shop is now 187 miles as against 176 miles in 1936, while the number of country spirit shops per 100,000 of population remains fairly constant. Such absolute increase in receipts as has been secured is due entirely to active suppression of illicit distillation. A significant fact is that while average taxation of country spirit per proof gallon in the Punjab was Rs. 8-9-10 in 1912-13 and Rs. 10-10-0 in 1934-35, it now stands at the still higher figure of Rs. 11-6-7.

Irrigation including Indirect Credits, but excluding Irrigation Expenses, shows a tendency to a percentage increase since the earlier period due entirely to expansion in Irrigation Works and colony areas.

Revenue expenditure proposed for the year 1942-43 stands at Rs. 13,63,50,000. This marks a drop of Rs. 31 lakhs on the revised estimate for the current year, but almost the whole of it is explicable in terms of smaller expenditure on strategical roads that were a special feature of the current year financed from increased transfer from the Central Road Fund. The chief variations on the revised estimate for 1941-42 are :—

	<i>In lakhs.</i>		
Direct Demands on Revenue	+2
Civil Administration	+21
Beneficent Departments	+13
Civil Works	—45
Miscellaneous	—22

As already explained 'Air Raid' Precautions expenditure in the budget year is Rs. 61½ lakhs as compared with Rs. 18 lakhs of the revised estimate, but the drop under the general head 'Miscellaneous' occurs because in the current year a provision for Rs. 60 lakhs has been made under the Special Development Fund and the Peasants' Welfare Fund while no such provision exists in the next or budget year.

BENEFICENT DEPARTMENTS.

The figures of new expenditure since 1937 have been set forth in detail in the Memorandum by the Finance Secretary. I propose to refer in the main only to the Beneficent Departments. Here on the accounts of 1940-41 there is an advance of Rs. 21 lakhs and on the revised estimate of 1941-42 an advance of Rs. 13 lakhs. Expenditure under this head tends to grow as well might have been expected because of the desire of this House to see that Beneficent Departments are duly expanded to satisfy various requirements of well-being in Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation and Industries in all parts of the Province. The expansion has not taken place on the scale we all should have desired because of the heavy call of famine and now of war. The honourable members would no doubt see that the revised estimates for 1941-42 show an actual decline on the budget estimates of that year of Rs. 17 lakhs. This has, however, not meant any real restriction in beneficent activities because the major part of it was due either to more limited seed operations under Agriculture or a certain saving under Medical resulting from unforeseen circumstances.

Under Education Provision is made for accommodation for Technical Chemistry Laboratory as also for the acquisition of a collection of valuable manuscript and old books from Professor Shairani. The Government Intermediate College at Campbellpur is to be raised to the Degree standard and a sum of Rs. 15,000 is allotted in the cause of promoting literacy. The effort of District Boards starting model schools is also to be strengthened. Under Medical the scheme of subsidized dispensaries in charge of Medical practitioners, including women, is continued. Additional staff is provided for Lady Aitchison Hospital, Lahore, and the Medical School at Amritsar is to receive added equipment in several departments. Hundred new Nurse Dais are to be employed and more medicine is to be provided in rural dispensaries. Under Public Health the rural areas are to have once again Rs. 2 lakhs for sanitary works. A similar provision in urban areas is of half a lakh. The Simla Improvement Scheme is to receive a contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs and a lakh of rupees is to be found for drainage operations in Lahore and the continuation of certain Public Health Divisions. Improvement in rural drinking water supply with special attention to the scheduled castes again finds expression in the budget. (*Cheers.*) Under Agriculture probably the most significant provision is for the expansion of work connected with seed distribution, but demonstration and useful propaganda also receive a due measure of support. The Punjab Sugar Research Scheme is to be extended. Under Veterinary, the Lohani breed of cattle in the Kangra District will form the subject of careful research and various other schemes are to be financed from the Special Development Fund.

Consolidation of holdings continues to receive support and the extension of Better Living Societies is not to be arrested. A provision of nearly a lakh of rupees is made under Co-operation from the Special Development Fund. The Industries Department in which the House has shown such keen interest recently has an additional grant of nearly Rs. 4½ lakhs. The problems of the production and the industrial utilization of Punjab coals are to be studied, cottage and small-scale woollen industries are to be developed, subsidies under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1985, to the extent of Rs. 75,000 are to be given and a Glue Factory at a cost of Rs. 1½ lakhs is to be established.

The continuance and expansion of the Land Reclamation Department may also be mentioned as a part of our general beneficent activity : as also further efforts to solve waterlogging difficulties. The large sum of Rs. 4½ lakhs in connection with Soil Conservation under Forests deserves particular mention. All this is a respectable mass of beneficent activity embodied in the new budget proposals. Marked as the course of expansion of beneficent activities has been, it does not naturally satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the people. Our plans have had to suffer constant check because of the exceptional circumstances in which they have had to be framed.

Among other items of new expenditure, there is a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for War Publicity, and a sum of Rs. one lakh is proposed to be spent on the advance of communal harmony. Training classes and courses for the members of Panchayats are to be placed on a firmer footing. Under Civil Works a boat bridge at Harike is to be constructed. This will lead to more

[Finance Minister.]

direct communication between Lahore and Moga. The Punjab College of Engineering and Technology is to have considerable extension of buildings.

LOANS AND ADVANCES.

In the budget there is a provision of Rs. 22½ lakhs for loans and advances. Rupees 7½ lakhs on account of *taccavi*, more than half of which is earmarked for the famine area, Rs. 7 lakhs to various municipalities and Rs. 4 lakhs to the Lahore Improvement Trust. There is also the normal provision of Rs. 2 lakhs under the Industrial Loans Act.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

I analysed last year with some minuteness the financial working of the Hydro-Electric Scheme and I expressed my concern at the way the gap between the interest on capital outlay and net revenue after making allowance for depreciation still continues at a disturbingly high figure. The budget estimate for 1941-42 showed a net income of Rs. 10.68 lakhs. The net income under the revised estimate shows a welcome improvement of Rs. 2.86 lakhs. It will be observed that gross receipts have gone up by nearly Rs. 6 lakhs. This is due to an increase in rates which came into force early in September and to further development of load. Working Expenses show an increase of nearly Rs. 3 lakhs due to additional adjustment on account of increased sale of power to local distribution systems. There is a small fall in depreciation, while establishment charges show an increase. Now the basis of accounts has been changed to secure simplification by removing transactions between the main scheme and branches which unnecessarily swelled the accounts. Gross receipts indicate a fall of Rs. 20.71 lakhs, but this is no real fall. This becomes apparent on an examination of working expenses which show a decline of nearly Rs. 28 lakhs, though establishment charges and other miscellaneous expenditure are larger by a little over a lakh of rupees. This last increase is almost entirely due to the fact that the anticipated capital expenditure in 1942-43 is less than in 1941-42 and a larger share of establishment charges is, therefore, assignable to revenue account. In the year 1942-43 the improvement shown by the revised estimates over the budget estimate is fully maintained and the net income now stands at Rs. 13,71,000 against interest on capital outlay of Rs. 28,52,000. The gap now is Rs. 14,81,000. In the budget for 1941-42 it was Rs. 17,48,000 and in the revised estimates it still stands at Rs. 15,07,000. The gap is now narrower than in any recent year and we had expected that during the next year or two there will be heavy expansions under the scheme. In that event the gap would have been further reduced as a certainty, but war again has interfered to the detriment of normal and anticipated expansion. It has not been possible to establish thermal plants to make the supply of energy during winter months adequate, and now more recently conditions have arisen which will not permit even of the completion of projects that had been well-advanced. The following extensions to the distribution system of the Punjab Public Works Department, Electricity Branch, had been sanctioned :—

(i) Jandiala Guru Electric Supply Project,

(ii) Khangah Dogran Electric Supply Project,

- (iii) Lahore South Rural Electric Supply Project,
- (iv) Jullundur South Rural Electric Supply Project, and
- (v) Phillaur West Rural Electric Supply Project.

Work on the Jandiala Gurn Electric Supply Project is well in hand and must proceed, but the Jullundur South Rural Electric Supply Project and the Phillaur West Rural Electric Supply Project have had to be postponed. The two other schemes, i.e., the Khangah Dogran Electric Supply Project and the Lahore South Rural Electric Supply Project, constitute commitments by Government to make surplus energy available to public and industrial interests, the necessary equipment is in stock and it is expected that it will be possible to proceed with the completion of these schemes. That is as regards sanctioned schemes. Further extensions which would have relieved the financial position would in existing circumstances be difficult to undertake. The result is that just when our loss on the working of the Hydro-Electric Scheme was likely to be substantially reduced our hands have been stayed and we must wait for better and normal times. In this connection, I may refer to the observations of the Public Accounts Committee in their recent report. They observe:—

"This year we have gone into the financial results of this scheme in great detail.....The result is that we are satisfied with the manner in which the scheme is being run, but we concur heartily in the suggestion of the Chief Engineer that in order to safeguard the future of this important undertaking Government should take active, and if necessary, drastic measures to check erosion in the Uhl river catchment area. The Chief Engineer told us that each cusec of water in this river means a revenue of Rs. 45,000 per annum, to the Province".

EXTRAORDINARY RECEIPTS.

I referred at some length last year to the noticeable feature of our estimates constituted by Extraordinary Receipts exhibited outside our revenue receipts. These receipts have shown a welcome upward rise during the past few years. The revised estimate for 1941-42 shows an advance of Rs. 24½ lakhs over the budget estimate. The following table gives the exact position since 1937-38:—

	In lakhs.
1937-38	30.30
1938-39	19.24
1939-40	41.63
1940-41	91.64
1941-42 (Revised estimate)	92.50
1942-48 (Budget estimate)	95.50
Total	3,70.81

[Finance Minister.]

The aggregate for the six years 1937-38 to 1942-43 comes to Rs. 3 crores and 71 lakhs. In the framework of our estimates these Extraordinary Receipts are not taken into account for meeting ordinary revenue expenditure, but they constitute a most valuable source to meet extraordinary expenditure, such as construction of irrigation works and capital outlay on civil works, industrial development and electricity schemes. They also serve in case of any heavy call on our normal revenue leading to a deficit to act as a buffer against any depletion of our balances. A study of our Finance Accounts which were recently considered by the Public Accounts Committee would reveal that while our capital outlay outside the revenue account up to the end of 1939-40 came to Rs. 43,47 lakhs, Irrigation Works and Hydro-Electric Scheme being responsible for no less than Rs. 44,69 lakhs, our net debt on the 31st of March, 1940, stood at only Rs. 35,37 lakhs. The difference represents largely the use to which these Extraordinary Receipts have gone to help in the building of our large capital works, and the measure to which the need of borrowing has been obviated in the carrying forward of our Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Schemes. This procedure lends special strength to our finances. During the past five years the existence of these receipts has saved us from all dislocation in our finances.

WAYS AND MEANS POSITION.

It is not necessary for me to refer in any detail to our ways and means position, but it continues to be sound and we have never been placed in the position of an unfortunate borrower unable to meet his obligations. Any temporary advances taken by us for short periods are rapidly and easily paid off. What I wish to refer in particular to-day, as I once did before is the care with which our surplus balances are invested under the direct decision and supervision of the Finance Department. Investments are regularly made in the Government of India Treasury Bills and interest earned, and I venture to state with some degree of pride that the interest so earned during the past three years since 1938-39 amounts to no less than Rs. 5 lakhs. This is a small present which the Finance Department, not a directly earning department, has been able to make to the revenues of the province. I think it more than covers the cost both direct and indirect of this Department. *(Hear, hear.)*

IRRIGATION.

In previous years I have dealt at some length with our irrigation programme. I have little fresh to record to-day. The area served by the Haveli Canals continues to develop; relief to people in the greater protection to their crops is valued, and Government gains in added revenue. Progress with the Thal Project is not as rapid as could be desired, circumstances beyond our control have stood in the way of any such progress; but work has not been arrested and the construction of Headworks at Kalabagh has made considerable advance, and much complementary work has been either finished or is in fair progress. During the current year a sum of Rs. 32 lakhs has been provided for the project, and in the next the provision stands at Rs. 55 lakhs. It is estimated that adequate financial provision has now been made not only for the completion of Headworks, but also other associated important works in the execution of the project.

The Western Jumna Canal Extension has been fully launched, the work connected with the scheme has been advanced with all possible vigour—supplies of water have already been available for certain areas particularly susceptible to famine. During the current year, an expenditure of Rs. 82 lakhs is likely to be incurred on the scheme.

THE BHAKRA DAM PROJECT.

Much field work in connection with this project has been done, and necessary research regarding the special problems involved in the scheme is being conducted satisfactorily but here again difficulties caused by the war in securing necessary plant impede effort. In the meantime broader questions vitally touching our irrigation plans have been raised at the instance of the Sind Government, and we are in the midst of an inquiry into the relative rights of the Punjab and Sind. On the issue of this inquiry would depend the fate of the many irrigation schemes that we have now in hand or in immediate contemplation. Our case is strong both in law and on the merits, and we have entrusted it to most competent legal hands, but the state of suspense in which we have been cast is inevitable, and we wait for the issue of this inquiry with the utmost anxiety.

FIVE YEARS.

As the five years during which the present Government has been in office approach their close it would be an advantage to attempt a rapid reference to some of the main facts of our financial history during this period. The Finance Secretary's Memorandum sets forth this retrospect in considerable detail. I can only advert to a few salient features. Over the whole period of five years we have had surpluses in three years aggregating rupees one crore and twenty-six lakhs and deficits in the two years of intense famine of Rs. 81 lakhs, leaving a net surplus of Rs. 45 lakhs. We have further to remember that we have during this period created a Special Development Fund and placed in it no less than Rs. 98 lakhs. Further it is proposed during the current year to create a Peasants' Welfare Fund towards which a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs is being provided as a first step. With this new Fund, the stream of beneficent activity will become ampler as the Fund would be directed in channels which do not lie within the immediate purview of the Special Development Fund. It would appear that were provision not made for these exceptional funds, then in spite of the famine, our normal revenue accounts would have shown a total surplus of rupees one crore and seventy-three lakhs. This position is gratifying enough, but in a general survey of our finances we must note that during this period nature's benevolence was seriously interrupted in the earlier years and for three years grave famine weighed heavily on our finances. The direct cost of famine has been calculated at Rs. 1,88 lakhs—additional remissions and suspensions due to famine amount to no less than Rs. 80 lakhs and *taccavi* loans in famine areas account for Rs. 65 lakhs. Our finances stood this heavy and extraordinary strain caused by famine of Rs. two crores and seventy-eight lakhs and yet allowed the creation of two beneficent Funds to secure vitality and strength to our rural life. The famine has been a serious burden, the immense cost it has involved furnishes a measure of the frustra-

[Finance Minister.]

tion of our dreams for the further rise and uplift of the Punjab. Our consolation is that forethought and care gave us means to relieve misery and suffering in the amplest measure and success crowned the Province's anxious and earnest endeavour to render help in affliction and distress. Here I must also record that from the very outbreak of the present terrible war, effective measures to ensure peace and tranquillity were taken by strengthening the machinery for the preservation of law and order, and more recently considerable measures for effective protection have been taken. In the coming year, it will be noticed that as large a sum as Rs. 61½ lakhs is being provided for Air Raid Precautions, and Police expenditure is now higher by Rs. 40 lakhs as compared with the year 1939-40, when the war broke out. In other words, the year's budget makes a provision of over rupees one crore for meeting the situation created by the war, (*Hear, hear*) and I make bold to affirm that, when we consider our total resources and the exiguousness of provincial finance, this will compare favourably with any province in India. (*Cheers.*) The people of the Province stand forth significantly in the forefront of India's war effort (*Hear, hear*), unquestionably in providing man power, no less indubitably in offering material assistance. This crore for war needs represents Government's plan unhesitatingly to do all that lies in their power. (*Hear, hear.*)

Another very sure test of financial soundness is the measure by which our debt falls below our capital assets. The Public Accounts Committee referred to it in these terms :—

" We are particularly struck with the soundness of the debt position of the Province. The net debt on the 1st April, 1939, was Rs. 33,25 lakhs. During the year, a loan of Rs. 2,51 lakhs was raised, but on the 31st March, 1940, the net debt rose to only Rs. 35,37 lakhs, i.e., an increase of Rs. 2,12 lakhs. During the year the cost of servicing this debt was Rs. 1,62.48 lakhs. The Accountant-General has calculated that in future years the cost on this account will be Rs. 1,63.72 lakhs, i.e., an increase of 1.24 lakhs, in spite of the new loan carrying interest at 3 per cent per annum. These figures establish the soundness of the financial policy of the Province (*hear, hear*), a marked feature of which is that while new debt is incurred, arrangements are also made to cancel systematically a part of the previous debt."

This is a factor of abiding strength in the province's financial position.

Sir, examine it how you will, the five years during which this Government has functioned, unfold not only a bold and resolute policy of resisting misery and privation entailed by famine, but also of carrying further the work of building better, fuller and healthier life, and to that end also of studying and executing plans in our irrigation projects, for harnessing nature's forces for the permanent welfare of the people. (*Hear, hear.*)

Of the direction of policy pursued during the period, I can barely mention the outstanding features :—

- (i) In the forefront stands steady increase in beneficent expenditure. In the year immediately preceding the inauguration of

Provincial Autonomy, it stood at Rs. 2,87 lakhs, in the very first year under the present Government it was raised to Rs. 3,08 lakhs, and since then has steadily risen to Rs. 3,55 lakhs for 1942-43, and its growth was never arrested even during famine years. (*Cheers.*)

- (ii) The determination to see that law and order are fully maintained. The utmost effort has been made to control crime and keep down forces of disturbance and disorder. The material evidence of this is to be found in the broad fact that expenditure under the head of Police has advanced since 1937 by Rs. 41.74 lakhs.
- (iii) The policy steadfastly followed of building up permanent wealth—most strikingly shown by the manner in which Irrigation projects have been planned and completed in so brief a period, and are further in progress to-day.

This manifold programme of expanding beneficent activity and building up economic strength, in the face of famine and war, has been made possible because of genuine and permanent strengthening of our revenue resources. The main items in this addition to our present resources are :—

In thousands.

(a) Receipts from the Government of India under the Niameyer Award, now standing for 1942-43 at ..	66,96
(b) Receipts under Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts—recording an increase of ..	4,80
(c) Other Taxes and Duties (including Petrol Duty, the Entertainment Duty, the Urban Immovable Property Tax and the General Sales Tax) ..	35,98

These three items represent an aggregate improvement of a crore and eight lakhs, and the yield from Other Taxes and Duties are likely to show a considerable upward trend, though accurate forecasts are not yet possible, while there is likely to be a temporary decline in receipts from the duty on petrol. The receipts under Stamps continue to decline, but against this and other temporary adverse factors, the progress of our colony areas and the expansion of irrigation works may be confidently relied upon to bring in increasing revenues. I have not the time to-day to enter into any minute detail, but honourable members may note the general fact that after making all necessary deductions on account of transfers from deposit heads of accounts our revenue receipts are better by Rs. 2 crores and 11 lakhs when compared with the year 1936-37, and by Re. 1 crore and 62 lakhs when compared with the year 1937-38. It would not be indulging in any extravagant or hasty prophecy if I were to affirm that much of this improvement has come to stay, and before long the three items I have specified above should by themselves stand at least at Re. 1½ crores. The war itself has affected the normal increase in the Government of India's contribution by no less a sum than Rs. 56 lakhs. Our finances are by this one and a half crores more abundant and stronger to-day than they were five years ago—that is the further heritage which the Province has permanently acquired during these five years—the honourable members must feel a glow of pride as they contemplate this fact and all that it implies. And they are not likely to forget

[Finance Minister.]

that our Extraordinary Receipts, standing in recent years, at strikingly high figures have been conserved to carry forward the good work of Capital expenditure directly adding to our permanent wealth.

The great thinker, Carlyle, said that Government is emphatically a machine: to the discontented a "taxing machine", to the contented a "machine for securing property". The brief survey I have attempted should demonstrate beyond question what kind of machine your Government has truly been and is. Conservation of resources and building up wisely strength for the future, these are the two leading features of success that stand out in this record, to these we must steadfastly adhere, not for an instant should we allow them to escape our attention. We have passed through three years of sore travail brought by famine. We stood the strain, and once again as the face of prosperity shone upon us as through a cloud, the gloom of an all-encompassing war surrounds us. It is difficult at such a moment to look into the future with any sureness, but huge cataclysms apart, our foot is now set on secure and firm ground, and if we are watchful and cautious the path of progress should offer no obstruction. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, an eminent French philosopher pronounced with great authority and emphasis that you can only govern men by serving them, and he said that the rule is without exception. I feel as a humble student of your recent finance that the claim of this Government of having served this Province faithfully and earnestly is open to no question. (*Loud applause.*) Finance furnishes the most trustworthy interpreter of a government's doings. Can anyone doubt that the verdict of this strict and unbending interpreter is wholly in favour of your Government? If Government be a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants, there are no such wants that have not been the subject, within their means and power, of the most anxious care of your Government. Attachment, firm and unswerving, to the welfare of the province stands out unmistakably, as the guiding principle of all their action. (*Hear, hear.*)

I must now express my appreciation of the work of the officers and the staff of the Finance Department. The work is efficiently and competently performed and we owe the careful statement of accounts, at once accurate and well-arranged, to the staff; and, the Secretary's Memorandum as usual sets forth with remarkable clearness and fullness all essential facts about our financial position. This year a most helpful survey of the course of our finances during the past five years is presented in the Memorandum in the form of a complete chapter called the 'Retrospect'. I have said on former occasions that more than the mere shape of accounts and the helpfulness of explanations, it is due to a large extent to the strict vigilance of the members of the Department that our finances bear the gratifying aspect that they do. This conviction with me grows with years. The personnel of the Department has recently undergone important changes. Mr. H. D. Bhanot, who presided over the destinies of the Department with remarkable energy and strict attention to the best tradition of Exchequer control has recently left us after four years and a quarter. His record of service in the Department would be difficult to surpass. (*Loud applause.*) Ever ready to admit proper demands, he had developed to perfection the fine art of polite refusal.

where claims open to any exception were pressed on him, and his cheerful disposition and pleasant manner were a genuine asset to the Department. (*Hear, hear.*) It was a matter of personal satisfaction to me that before he left us, his notable service was recognized by the distinction of the Companionship of the Indian Empire. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. Bhanot's place as Finance Secretary has now been taken by Mr. C. N. Chandra, who has come to us after varied experience in the Districts and in the Secretariat. He has already produced, though he has been with us only for the short period of less than three months, the present Memorandum—a document of great ability and much fullness. Short as his association has been with me, I have no doubt that in Mr. C. N. Chandra we have the promise of a very successful Finance Secretary. (*Cheers.*)

One of the two principal assistants of the Finance Secretary, Rai Sahib Lala Lal Chand, retired a few months ago. His knowledge of procedural detail and apt precedent was always of great advantage. In his place we now have Lala Sundar Das Chopra, who in addition to his high academic qualifications possesses long experience in the Department. Mr. H. J. Pearson, the Deputy Secretary, continues to add to his remarkable record of efficient work. His advice in all Public Works proposals has always been of the highest value. (*Cheers.*)

Once again I wish to record my indebtedness to our Superintendents, and Assistants and the rest of the staff. Their work is onerous but it is to their high sense of duty and painstaking co-operation that the success of the Department is without doubt due. (*Cheers.*)

I must also record the Government's tribute to the valuable assistance received by us from Mr. P. K. Wattal, who has throughout the year occupied the office of the Accountant-General, Punjab, and presided over our accounts. To the vigilance of the Finance Department he adds the rigours of his auditorial scrutiny, and members of the Public Accounts Committee are particularly grateful to him for his very valuable assistance to the Committee. (*Cheers.*)

Our relations with Sir Cameron Badenoch, the Auditor-General for India, have been cordial, though distant, and I am sure that he keeps his watchful and beneficent eye on us.

Sir, I beg to present to the Assembly the Budget for the year 1942-43. (*Loud applause.*)

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 5th March, 1942.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 5th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FILMS.

***7887. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of the Companies producing films in the Punjab ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the general complaint of the public that the producers in the Punjab are producing films full of indecent and obscene dialogues and scenes ; if so, the action which Government have so far taken or propose to take to check the undesirable activities of such producers ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No such list is maintained by Government as it is not necessary for a film producing company as such to apprise Government of its existence.

(b) Government are not aware of any general complaint of this nature. Action is, however, taken whenever a complaint is received by Government. The Punjab Board of Film Censors and the local officers are alive to their responsibility of not allowing the public exhibition of films which are considered indecent or obscene.

S. SAJJAN SINGH, MARGINDPURI.

***8027. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Sardar Sajjan Singh, Margindpuri, was arrested on 9th June, 1941, by the Additional Superintendent, Police, Kasur, under section 129 of the Defence of India Rules and afterwards was taken as a security prisoner under section 26 of the Defence of India Rules and transferred to Sub-Jail, Muzaffargarh, on 8th August, 1941, from the Central Jail, Lahore ;
- (b) whether he was retransferred to the Central Jail, Lahore, on 11th October, 1941, from Muzaffargarh ;
- (c) whether during 9th June and 11th October, 1941, Sardar Sajjan Singh's son Ajit Singh, a lad of 18 years, applied to the C. I. D. authorities thrice for interviewing his father but he was not allowed to see him ; if so, the grounds therefor ;

[B. Moola Singh.]

- (d) whether the aforesaid prisoner submitted a list of his blood relations to the Deputy Inspector-General, C. I. D., Police, Lahore, on 11th August from the Muzaffargarh Jail, for approval of interviews including the names of his 4 younger brothers but the approved list sent to the Lahore Central Jail authorities in November, 1941, for interviews did not contain the names of his 3 younger brothers; if so, the grounds therefor?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Only one application was received from Ajit Singh during this period. Enquiries were made about his relationship with the prisoner and he was allowed an interview in October, 1941.

(d) The prisoner submitted a list on 9th August, 1941, in which he mentioned the names of two brothers. Only one of them was verified to be related to him and was brought on the approved list.

MOHAMMAD ISHAQ AHMADI.

***8136. Pir Akbar Ali:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Mohammad Ishaq Ahmadi, son of Allah Bakhsh of Mangoli, police station Niddoki, Sialkot district, was ordered on 19th June, 1941, to be detained and restricted within the limits of the revenue estates of Mangoli; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the said Mohammad Ishaq has been asked to report every Sunday at 11 a.m. to the Station House Officer, Niddoki;
- (c) whether the said police station Niddoki is about 8 miles from village Mangoli;
- (d) whether it is a fact that he is paid no conveyance allowance for the journey performed by him from his village Mangoli to the Niddoki police station;
- (e) whether Government is aware that he was an Ahmadi missionary at Hong Kong and was expatriated to India about a year before Hong Kong surrendered to Japan;
- (f) the charges against him?

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

(ii) For reasons connected with the maintenance of public order and efficient prosecution of the war.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is about six miles from village Mangoli.

(d) Yes.

(e) (i) Yes.

(ii) He was deported from Hong Kong in March, 1941.

(f) It is not in the public interest to answer this part of the question.

MR. KISHORE CHAND.

*8140. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Kishore Chand, of village Sekhwan, police station Dhariwal, district Gurdaspur, has been interned in his village since 20th May, 1941, and is not allowed to run his shop at Dhariwal, and that he has no other means of earning his livelihood?
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said Kishore Chand applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, on 9th June, 1941, that he should either be granted some allowance or that he should be restricted in Dhariwal so as to enable him to earn his livelihood;
- (c) if the answers to the above parts be in the affirmative, the action that the Government propose to take in this connection?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a)

(a) *First part*.—Yes.

Second part.—He is a Brahmin and lives by alms.

(b) Yes.

(c) He has already been informed that if he wishes to submit an application to open a shop at Gurdaspur, this will receive consideration.

TIKKA AMARJIT SINGH.

*8141. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether one Tikka Amarjit Singh, a prisoner in the Gujrat Jail, who was previously a detenu in the Deoli Camp, applied to the Government last month that he should either be released on parole to look after his son who was seriously ill or that his family should be given some allowance to meet expenses upon his illness, but that he has not been given any reply so far;
- (b) if so, what action Government is prepared to take on the application?

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

(b) The case is under consideration.

SARDAR BAHADUR SINGH.

*8142. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sardar Bahadur Singh of village Bhambri, police station Sri Gobindpura, district Gurdaspur, was brought from China under arrest about 9 months ago and has since then been detained in the Gurdaspur Jail without telling him for what offence he has been detained; if so, whether the Government is prepared to try his case in an open court?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes; he is detained, as stated in the order of detention, for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order and is in the Gurdaspur district jail.

[Sd. Amjad Ali Shah.]

The provisions of the law under which he has been detained do not enjoin his trial in open court, but his case, together with the cases of other detainees, will be reviewed shortly.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST.

***8030. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total estimated costs calculated at the time of locating an additional police post at village Sur Singh, district Lahore, for the year 1940-41 ;
- (b) the different items taken into consideration at the time of calculating the estimated costs and the amount of each item thereof for the 1st year ;
- (c) the total actual costs of this police post for the 1st year, i.e., 1940-41 ;
- (d) the actual amount spent under each item for 1940-41 ;
- (e) the total amount assessed for the costs of this post for the 1st year ;
- (f) whether the actual costs of this police post were taken into consideration before sanctioning the recovery of the amount assessed ; if not, the grounds therefor ;
- (g) whether between October, 1940, and February, 1941, Sardar Dalip Singh, Sub-Inspector, in charge of the above-named post was transferred to Bhikhiwind police station and no other police officer was sent to this police post in his place ; if so, for what period Sardar Dalip Singh remained absent from the post ;
- (h) whether the pay and horse allowance of Sardar Dalip Singh for the period of his absence from the police post were excluded from the actual costs of this post at the time of their calculation ; if not, the grounds therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) Rs. 8,608-14-0.

(b) to (e)—

Serial No.	Items.	Estimated cost for the first year.			Actual expenditure for the first year.		
		Rs. A. P.			Rs. A. P.		
1	Pay of Establishment ..	4,944	0	0	4,050	7	0
2	Conveyance allowance for Sub-Inspector.	307	0	0	310	10	0
3	Contingencies ..	494	6	0	231	12	0
4	Clothing and Equipment allowance ..	1,080	0	0	1,080	0	0
5	Leave contributions ..	618	0	0	618	0	0
6	Pension contributions ..	612	8	0	612	8	0
7	Hutting charges ..	500	0	0	72	2	0
	Total ..	8,608	14	0	6,978	7	0

(f) The cost of the post was assessed in accordance with the scales prescribed by the statutory rules.

(g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, DERA GHAZI KHAN.

***8143. Khan Sahib Shaikh Muhammad Amin :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the total population, communitywise, of the town of Dera Ghazi Khan according to the last census ;

(b) the total strength of the members of the Municipal Committee of Dera Ghazi Khan, communitywise ;

(c) whether this total strength is in accordance with the formula fixed by the Government for determining such strength and, if it is less, whether it is intended to increase the strength according to that formula ; if so, when, and if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism, on the floor of the House. If the honourable member would put in an unstarred question, I will endeavour to collect the information.

DRAINAGE FOR DERA GHAZI KHAN TOWN.

***8145. Khan Sahib Shaikh Muhammad Amin :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the newly built town of Dera Ghazi Khan is very widely laid out and contains about 16 miles roads running through it besides many smaller lanes also running through the town from one end to the other ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the town of Dera Ghazi Khan has a second class municipality whose resources are not sufficient to provide for a drainage scheme for the town and pucca roads ;

(c) whether he is aware that in the absence of such a drainage scheme, water collects in kacha drains with the result that it adversely affects the health of the town and that for weeks together after the rain fall the lanes of the town become practically unfit for traffic to the great inconvenience of the residents ;

(d) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, the steps that Government propose to take to improve the sanitary condition of the town ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the Municipal Committee, Dera Ghazi Khan, has on a number of occasions, approached the Government for the grant of grant-in-aid or a loan for the construction of a drainage scheme and that so far neither grant-in-aid has been made nor any loan advanced ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a), (b) and (c) Yes.

(d) Government will consider the question of sanctioning a loan or a grant-in-aid on receiving an application from the Municipal Committee.

(e) There was an application for a grant-in-aid in 1939, but the Sanitary Board did not accept it for want of funds. A loan of Rs. 1,27,020 was sanctioned by Government in the year 1938-39 but the Municipal Committee did not take it because of its failure to obtain a grant-in-aid.

ALBERT VICTOR GENERAL WARD, MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8016. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the diet charges in the Albert Victor General Ward, Mayo Hospital, fixed for patients;

(b) whether the Government intends to admit those Indian patients without any distinction of caste and creed in this Ward who agree to pay the diet charges?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye: (a) Rs. 2 per diem.

(b) No. The General Ward of the Albert Victor Hospital are exclusively meant for Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

NURSES FOR DUTY IN GENERAL WARDS AND IN ALBERT VICTOR GENERAL WARD, MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8017. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) number of nurses who are required to be on duty in the ordinary General Wards per number of beds and that of those on duty accordingly in Albert Victor General Ward of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore;

(b) whether the number to be on duty in Albert Victor General Ward per number of beds is larger than the number of nurses in other general wards; if so, the reasons therefor and the action that Government intend to take to do away with this discrimination?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye: (a) The number in the ordinary General Wards of the Mayo Hospital is 9·7 beds per nurse and that of the Albert Victor section 6·6 beds per nurse.

(b) The number of nurses in the Albert section is higher than in the other General Wards in view of the fact that the nurses in the Albert Victor section have to perform more duties as the patients admitted therein are all paying patients whereas in the general wards of the Mayo Hospital the patients are all treated free.

Government do not intend to take any action in the matter.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, DERA GHAZI KHAN.

***8144. Khan Sahib Shaikh Muhammad Amin :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Civil Hospital and the hospital for women in the town of Dera Ghazi Khan are situated outside the town towards its south and that the people residing in the northern half of the town experience great difficulty in obtaining medical aid from those hospitals ;
- (b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the financial position of the Municipal Committee, Dera Ghazi Khan, which already contributed a large sum of money towards the maintenance of the two hospitals referred to above does not permit it to open another dispensary or a branch dispensary in the town ;
- (c) if answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action Government intends taking for making medical aid easily accessible to the people of the town ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) The hospitals are not situated in the heart of the town but outside it as is the case in the other towns of the province.

(b) It is not correct to say that the Municipal Committee, Dera Ghazi Khan, contributed a large sum of money towards the maintenance of the hospitals but has only contributed 8 per cent of their income.

(c) Does not arise.

CATTLE FARM, HISSAR.

***8006. Khar Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of persons recruited and promoted in this financial year up to date, communitywise, in the Cattle Farm, Hissar, among the labourers, clerks and other employees ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha 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 Government consider it necessary in the public interest to establish a convention in connection with such questions. I shall, however, always be prepared to examine any particular instance of disproportionate representation which honourable members may bring to my notice in a more informal way.

GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR.

***8137. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) how many bullocks were purchased by the present Superintendent, Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, from April, 1940, up to November, 1941, and how many out of them have been found to be positive Tubercular cases ;

[K. S. Ch. Sahib Dad Khan.]

(b) who had examined them before purchase ;

(c) who was held responsible for the loss to Government on account of those diseased bullocks and what action, if any, was taken against him ; if no action was taken, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) 32, out of which only 8 were found to be suffering from T. B.

(b) None, even experts cannot definitely declare by a mere examination if an animal is suffering from T. B. or not ;

(c) The question of loss to Government does not arise as the 8 positive bullocks will go on working in that block of the Farm where only positive bullocks are being used.

BARSEEM.

***8138. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) how much seed of *Barseem* was purchased in 1941 by the Superintendent, Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, at what price and from where ;

(b) whether it is a fact that an offer about *Barseem* at a lower price was received from Karnal but it was overlooked : if so, why ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) 28 maunds as below :—

(i) Agricultural Assistant, Hissar, 13 maunds at Rs. 27-8-0 per maund.

(ii) Agricultural Assistant, Sonapat, 2½ maunds at Rs. 27-8-0 per maund.

(iii) Agricultural Assistant, Rohtak, 7½ maunds at Rs. 27-8-0 per maund.

(iv) Farm Manager, Hansi, 5 maunds at Rs. 22-8-0 per maund.

(b) No.

GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR.

***8139. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the young bulls were castrated on a suspicion of being positive Tubercular cases and how many of them were found on re-testing to be negative cases from April, 1940, to November, 1941, in the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar ;

(b) who was responsible for this negligence and what action was taken against him ; if no action was taken, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) 258, of which 31 were re-tested and of these latter 11 cases did not indicate a positive reaction ;

(b) No, one. An animal which gives a positive reaction once is accepted as a case of Tuberculosis for all practical purposes, and if the tuberculine is potent, an animal, which is positive on the first test, should always give a positive reaction in subsequent tests. During the first test, however, it was felt that the tuberculine supplied by the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, was not potent enough, and this was borne out by the results of the 2nd test. The matter was, therefore, taken up with the Director of that institution who has since arranged for the manufacture of a more potent kind of tuberculine specially for the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar.

PRIVILEGE MOTION.

INSULT TO ASSEMBLY BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LAHORE.

Mr. Speaker : Diwan Chaman Lall may move his adjournment motion.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab, Non-Union, Labour) : [Mr. Speaker, the only point that I would direct your attention to is this that you may be pleased to permit me to state the reasons why this particular motion should come before you in the shape of a privilege motion. It is a very important matter, which concerns the privileges of this House.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may move the adjournment motion.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I will, with your permission, move it. But before I do so, I submit that it is a very important matter which requires your decision in view of the circumstances that I will place before you to-day. The motion relates to a certain expression employed by Mr. K. H. Henderson, the District Magistrate.

Mr. Speaker : If the honourable member moves the privilege motion and I disallow it, then he will naturally wish to move the adjournment motion, and I think he will be too late then.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The only point is this. Will you not permit me to state a very important point before you, an important point which affects the dignity of this Chamber, which affects your dignity and the dignity of each honourable member on the floor of the House ? The point that I want to place before you is this that the privilege motion that I gave notice of related to a certain expression used by the District Magistrate, Lahore, on the 22nd February. The expression used was "I will finish the Assembly to-morrow". In regard to that expression I consider that it is derogatory to the dignity of this Chamber and affects the privileges of this Chamber. Any honourable member using an expression like that can be dealt with on the floor of the House. But when an outsider, who is a servant of this Government which owes its existence to the confidence reposed in it by this House, employs an expression of this nature, then it is a matter which is well worthy of consideration by way of a privilege motion moved on the floor of this House. Now, according to the legal position, a privilege motion can be moved in respect of certain things that are laid down in section 71 of the Government of India Act. But apart from that, the section itself

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gives permission to utilise those privileges which were inherent in the previous Legislative Council from which we derive our authority. Now, if there were certain privileges enjoyed by the Punjab Legislative Council, then those privileges, according to the Government of India Act, are also enjoyable by us. That is argument number one. How do I say that these privileges were enjoyed by the previous Council? There is nothing in the previous Government of India Act, nothing in the procedure adopted by the previous Council and nothing in the present Government of India Act which can prevent this House or which could prevent the previous Legislative Council from exercising its inherent authority. When its name is besmirched, when an expression of this sort is used against it, when its honour is attacked, there is nothing inherent which existed in the previous Legislative Council to prevent it from utilising its authority and discussing the matter as a breach of its own privilege. There are certain things inherent. For instance, if an insult is offered to the House of Commons, the House of Commons can deal with it. The House of Commons can deal with it in a wider aspect than we are privileged to do. For instance, the House of Commons can call the offender to the bar, make him kneel at the bar and deal with him in any particular manner it chooses. We are debarred from doing this because we are not a court of record; the House of Commons is a court of record. The Government of India Act lays down that we have no authority of a court; but we have certainly the authority to censure any individual who happens to use a derogatory expression of this nature. The previous Council also had a similar authority to deal with any individual who used similar expressions. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Secretary has gone into this matter carefully with his usual precision and wide knowledge of these matters and he has unearthed a precedent for the benefit of this House. That precedent relates to a similar incident that happened in the case of an honourable member of that House, he still continues to be an honourable member, when a certain Deputy Commissioner used insulting language; a great period elapsed when the knowledge in regard to this particular incident came into the possession of the House over a cut motion during the discussion of the budget and thereafter an adjournment motion was moved, because in those days apparently nobody thought of moving a privilege motion. The adjournment motion was allowed and that adjournment motion was carried *nem con.* I notice that my honourable friend the Minister for Revenue himself took part in that debate and called on the Government to take the severest action in regard to this matter. But that does not mean that the Legislative Council had not the authority to deal with the matter and not by means of an adjournment motion but by means of a privilege motion. I submit that I am deliberately distinguishing the authority to censure an individual from the authority to punish an individual. I say that according to the law as it stands and according to the position as it is,—because we have not passed an Act of privileges although we are permitted to do so, according to the legal position we have no authority to punish an individual who, howsoever base he may be and howsoever dishonourable he may be, uses such an expression in regard to this House. We have no authority to punish but we have certainly the authority to censure an individual, by a resolution of this House on a matter

of privilege, for having done something which this House considered worthy of condemnation. We can go further and this House has certainly the authority to call on the Government to take such action against the individual as the Government may be pleased to do in view of the feelings aroused on the floor of the House. I submit that what you have got to consider is this that the previous Legislative Council had the inherent right to censure or condemn or take notice of any individual, no matter who he may be, who had the courage and who had the hardihood to cast aspersions on the House or who had the courage and the hardihood to threaten this House or who had the courage and the hardihood to intimidate or attempt to intimidate this House. I submit that it is a right which is inherent in every organised body and every organised body has the right to do so. An honourable friend a little while ago gave an example. He said suppose a man comes to my house and he intimidates or attempts to intimidate me. He says I have got the authority and the right of sitting among the members of the family; surely I can condemn the action of that individual. If an ordinary individual is capable of taking notice of a matter like this surely a legislature of the dignity of this House, which is above all servants and which can make and unmake the laws of the province through its Chair, has got the inherent right to take notice of an act of this nature committed by one of its own servants and take notice by way of a privilege motion. We have the privilege to condemn, censure or take notice of the action of an individual who has the hardihood to intimidate this House. The expression which he used was 'I will smash Lahore: I will finish your Assembly to-morrow' an expression which can be used by a man who takes leave of his senses, or a man who has lost control completely over himself may employ this expression under great emotion which a responsible individual should not do in those circumstances. Even then it is a very serious matter *qua* the dignity of this House. It would be wrong indeed if we are to be so circumscribed and there is no law which circumscribes, that we are unable to take notice if an insult is hurled at the House, an intimidation is offered to this House and an attempt is made to bring this House into ridicule and contempt. I submit that we have got the inherent right. The only position that it is necessary for you to decide is this. According to section 71 of the Government of India Act it is obvious that there are certain privileges which —

Lala Duni Chand : Do you enjoy any privilege ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not enjoy any privilege except the privilege of being insulted and being abused. But there are certainly some privileges to which I am directing the attention of the House at the present moment. According to section 71, this is what it says :—

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the Legislature, there shall be freedom of speech in every Provincial Legislature, and no member of the Legislature shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of a Chamber of such a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

That is part one of the provision by the Government of India Act to preserve freedom of speech on the floor of the House. Part (2) says :—

- (2) 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

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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.

These are the two sections relevant as far as we are concerned. Even the first is not relevant as far as we are concerned : part (2) is definitely relevant. We have the authority at any time my honourable friend the Premier desires to bring up a Bill on the floor of the House defining it as a privilege that if any person attempts to intimidate this House he shall be dealt with according to the provisions of that particular Bill. We have the authority to bring a Bill before this House defining this privilege, namely, that if, for instance, anybody takes it into his head to insult this House we have the authority to define that privilege and prescribe the proper manner in which a particular individual, who is guilty of the breach, shall be dealt with. We have got that authority under section 71, part (2). We have not done so. My honourable friend has not defined the privileges to be enjoyed by the Chamber, but he has the authority under the Act to do so. He has not brought forward the Bill. The point is that in spite of the fact that he has not brought forward the measure which could be passed into an Act of the legislature defining the privileges of the legislature nevertheless we have the authority to do so. The question is, did we enjoy that authority all along or not ? Did the previous legislature, the Punjab Legislative Council enjoy the inherent privilege of condemning, or censuring, of taking notice of such actions on the part of certain individuals ? I think, Mr. Speaker, it is the inherent right of every legislature and there is nothing to prevent this legislature from taking notice of such things by way of privilege motion moved on the floor of the House against any individual who attempted to intimidate this House and hurled an insult at this House. I submit that the previous legislature, the Punjab Legislative Council had also exactly the same authority to take notice of any such insult offered to it. With the courtesy of the Secretary I refer to an incident which he brought to my notice. In the year 1928, the House discussed by way of an adjournment motion a matter of this nature. It would have been better and more dignified if we were to move a privilege motion in which my honourable friends opposite would join with us instead of our moving this matter by way of an adjournment motion which has the inherent disability of being a sort of censure motion against the Government. I want the House to be unanimous on this issue. I want the House to consider this insult not being offered to one individual or two individuals but to the entire House, to you, Mr. Speaker and to the constitutional Government in the Province. I, therefore, submit that this House has an inherent right to take notice, to condemn, to censure the action of any individual who has used expressions which are being attributed to Mr. Henderson, the District Magistrate of Lahore. The only proper course would be to bring this matter before the House and to take the decision of the House—a unanimous decision, as I do hope that my honourable friends opposite would join with this side of the House so that in future no individual should have the hardihood to use expressions of this nature. Otherwise what would happen ? Any individual would stand outside the main gate of the Legislative Assembly and use the most insulting language to this Legislature, to my friends over there and

to you, Mr. Speaker, and he would be able to do so with impunity. I, therefore, submit that you may be pleased to allow me to move this privilege motion.

Mr. Speaker : Had the words alleged to have been used by a Deputy Commissioner been used by a private person, what action could this House have taken against that person and under what law ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : You have been pleased to put a question to me. I have already explained that we have been debarred under the Government of India Act from taking any action, namely, to call a man and send him to jail or take any other action against him by way of punishment. But there is nothing to prevent us from condemning the action of that individual whether he is a servant of the Crown or a private citizen. In this particular case the individual concerned is a public servant and we can certainly call upon the Government in view of our condemnation to take the necessary action against him to vindicate the authority of this House. Since the Honourable the Premier has not so far brought forward any Privilege Bill, we have no authority to punish any individual, but we certainly have every right to condemn the action that was taken by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Speaker : Can the honourable member cite a single precedent in which this House, under similar circumstances, took any action against anybody ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : You have been pleased to ask me another question. My submission is this. My arguments are not based upon any precedent although as I have stated before a similar matter was broached on the floor of this House in the year 1928. My point is different. It is immaterial whether there has been any precedent or not. My point is that this House possesses an inherent right to condemn the action of any individual.....

Mr. Speaker : Is not condemnation or reprimand a mild form of punishment ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker : Is not censure also a mild punishment ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : If a person was brought before the House and then censured, certainly it would be a punishment.

Mr. Speaker : If the House has no power to summon and punish a person who insults it, to censure or reprimand such a person instead of discouraging or preventing its insults in future the House shall be prepared to receive greater insults than before as on hearing of his censure by the House he shall be convinced of its powerlessness and will naturally do more mischief than before.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Certainly it would be an insult, a greater insult to the House. We can condemn the action of Mr. Henderson and are powerless to inflict any punishment. But you will realise, Mr. Speaker, that in condemning the action of a person who is a servant of the Crown, we shall call upon my honourable friend the Premier to take the necessary action against him. He is the head of the Government which owes its existence to the confidence reposed in it by this House and this House calls upon my honourable friend to take some action against that individual whose action

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has been condemned by this House. As I submitted before, if there had been the Privilege Bill, we could have taken action against him ourselves.

Mr. Speaker : After hearing the long speech of the honourable member I regret to say that I am not convinced by his arguments and reasons. In my opinion the law, as it stands, does not give power to this House to take action against any abuse or insult flung by anybody at the House. This is very unfortunate indeed. If anybody insults or abuses the House the House is debarred from punishing him.

An Honourable Member : He can be prosecuted.

Mr. Speaker : But he may or may not be punished by the court.

Lala Duni Chand : May I help the Honourable Speaker by making a suggestion? A condemnation by this House will enable the Secretary of State for India to take action against Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Speaker : Can the Secretary of State for India take any action other than a disciplinary action?

Lala Duni Chand : Disciplinary action can be taken against Government servants.

Mr. Speaker : The offence must be the same whether the offender is a Government servant or not.

Premier : May I interrupt for a minute or so? You have clearly pointed out that unfortunately we are debarred from making any rule or passing any Act which would give us the power to punish anybody. That is quite clear from section 71 (3). It is alleged that Mr. Henderson used these words. It is quite possible that Mr. Henderson did use these words, but he might have used them merely to show that so far as the law is concerned it makes no difference whether it is broken by a member of the Assembly or by a Minister or by anybody else. The law is no respecter of persons. Apart from that this House has not the power. If it had had that power, then all my friends would have been in trouble because they daily shout : Wreck the Assembly. We are here to wreck the Assembly and so on. If that is not an insult, what else is it?

An Honourable Member : Not the Assembly, but the constitution.

Premier : You are always restive when home truths are told. When you shout that you will wreck the Assembly, nobody takes any action. Is it not a fact that the laws passed by this Assembly are daily denounced outside? Would you in that case like Government to take action? People abuse this House for passing the laws and the Government for carrying them out. And yet no action is ever taken against them. My honourable friend knows that people have shouted : Down with the Parliament. Parliament has got full power to take action against anybody. It is not impotent as we are, who cannot even pass any law to enable us to take disciplinary action. It is all very well to make speeches and advertise yourselves to show that you are very great "bahadurs". If you are fair, you will first pillory those who are asking people to wreck the Assemblies, wreck them because they are the creations of imperialist powers, wreck them from within and wreck them from without. Yet no insult to this House is ever imputed or suggested. People say, do not obey the laws passed by the

Assembly, and yet my honourable friend never got up and protested. And here is an allegation which may be correct or which may not be correct or it may be that the words if used were used in a different sense, yet the honourable member has the audacity to get up and make some kind of a speech for about half an hour, simply to say that this House should take action against the officer who is alleged to have made certain remarks. He forgets the beam in his own eye and sees the mote in other people's eyes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : With very great respect to you, Sir, I wish to make a few remarks in reply to what the Honourable Premier has just said.

(At this stage the Honourable Premier was seen walking out of the Chamber.)
May I appeal to the Honourable Premier to stay a little longer and listen to what I have to say? But he is so little concerned with what is happening in this House, or with the dignity of this House that after having made one of the most disgraceful speeches I have ever heard any honourable member on the floor of this House in justification of an insult which is not my insult, which is not your insult, which is not his insult but which is an insult to this very institution in which he happens to be the Leader, he does not pay heed to what is said by others.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am merely answering the point that the Honourable Premier made. He said that we have been shouting that we are going to wreck the Assembly. What I want to say is that ours has been a constitutional fight. We have said that this constitution is undesirable.

Mr. Speaker : Perhaps Mr. Henderson expressed the same opinion.
(Laughter.)

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend said that he does not know whether Mr. Henderson used this expression or not. But he does not know whether any honourable members were arrested or not, and he does not know whether there was a lathi charge or not.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the honourable member whether all this was not said by certain members of the House while the adjournment motions were discussed?

Honourable Members : Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I understand that affidavits have been filed in the High Court making a reference to this particular remark. The point that my honourable friend the Premier raised is this, that you cannot ask for the wrecking of the constitution but when Mr. Henderson says : I will finish the Assembly it is not an insult to the House. I submit my honourable friend in his eagerness to please the Indian Civil Service in this province—

Mr. Speaker : Please do not attribute motives.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am not attributing motives, I am only telling the truth. If the Honourable Premier had the hardihood and the courage to stand by the constitution of the province he would have taken action against the insult and the undignified remarks made by Mr. Henderson. He should have agreed to this privilege motion.

Mr. Speaker : Under the law as it stands, I cannot allow the privilege-motion of which Diwan Chaman Lall has given notice.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

INSULT TO ASSEMBLY BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LAHORE.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the insult offered to this honourable House by the use of the following expressions by Mr. K. H. Henderson, District Magistrate of Lahore, on the 22nd February, 1942 :—

"I'll finish the Assembly."

I should like your permission to move this adjournment motion and in view of your question, namely whether there was a precedent or not in regard to this matter, I should like to quote a precedent of the old Legislative Council 1928 when an honourable member of this House, Chaudhri Abdul Rahman Khan happened to have been insulted by the Deputy Commissioner. The matter came up within the knowledge of this House through a cut motion. Thereafter although months had elapsed after that incident, nevertheless an adjournment motion was moved on the floor of the House and I am very glad to have to say that there was not even one individual to justify, even in those bad old days, the action of the Deputy Commissioner in insulting an honourable member of this House and that adjournment motion was carried without any opposition.

Mr. Speaker : The budget session commences practically from to-day (*An honourable member :* From the 9th.) So, the subject matter of this motion can be discussed in the course of the budget discussion.

Diwan Chaman Lall : No. This matter is of such grave importance to the dignity of the House that it should not be left to the mercy of a cut motion. You were pleased to ask me for a precedent and I have given it and if that precedent could be taken advantage of in the old Legislative Council whose powers were more curtailed than the powers of this House, I submit that we are in a better position to raise this matter on the floor of the House through an adjournment motion. Why do we want an adjournment motion ? Because—we have just heard the speech of the Honourable Premier—No. 1 : He does not even know whether the expression was used by the District Magistrate. This will enable him to ascertain during the course of the day whether the expression was used. - No. 2 : He will be in a position to tell us, after ascertaining the fact whether the expression was used or not, whether the expression was justified or not, whether he will get up in his capacity of Premier and justify an insult hurled at this House by one of his subordinates.

Mr. Speaker : Did not the Premier say that it was not within his knowledge whether these words were used or not ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I do not know what he means by saying that it is not within his knowledge. If he means by that that the matter has not been brought to his notice, he is incorrect. The matter has been brought to his notice in several ways. If he means that he has not officially ascertained and satisfied himself, the only way to force him to ascertain officially

this fact is by way of an adjournment motion, since he himself has been lax in his duty in trying to find out whether that expression has been used or not during all these days. The matter happened on the 22nd February and to-day is the 5th March and up to this moment every day the matter has been dinned into his ears and he has been lax enough not to make any enquiry so far, to find out from the gentleman concerned whether he used this expression or not. The only method we can employ to compel him to get the necessary information is by way of an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker : Diwan Chaman Lall asks for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the insult offered to this honourable House by the use of the following expression by Mr. K. H. Henderson, the District Magistrate of Lahore on the 22nd February, 1942 : "I'll finish the Assembly".

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Did not the honourable member say that some affidavits were filed in court ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : What has that to do with this motion ?

Mr. Speaker : Is there any objection ?

Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : I object to the motion being moved.

Mr. Speaker : Those who are in favour of leave being granted may rise in their places.

Mr. Speaker : As less than 35 members have risen in support of leave to move the motion the leave is—

(Some members : We claim a recount.)

Minister of Revenue : I want to submit that three members, viz., Lala Bhagat Ram Choda, Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma and Mahant Gir-dhari Das have come in just now.

Seth Sudarshan : Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma was standing at the gate.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I wish to submit (1) that you gave no ruling and (2) that the Secretary may have made a mistake in counting. The Secretary said "thirty-four members" and he was challenged. I, therefore, submit that you must order another count.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Why is Government afraid of discussing this matter ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : The Secretary told you then and there that he might have made a mistake in counting.

Mr. Speaker : Let us have a second count and finish the matter.

On a recount the requisite number of members were found to be in favour of giving the leave. Mr. Speaker accordingly fixed 4-30 p.m. for the discussion of the motion.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) : Sir, while exercising the right of general discussion on this occasion in so far as the

[L. Duni Chand.]

supplementary estimates are concerned, I beg to place before you a few observations. My first observation is that a demand of grant by way of a supplementary estimate should be treated only as an exception and not as a general rule. Sir, it will appear from the figures given that the Government wants the sum of 1 crore, 16 lakhs and odd to meet the additional requirements of various departments. I submit, sir, that this amount is almost one-tenth of the total revenues of this province. The House should have expected that the Honourable Minister in charge would have anticipated, if not all these requirements, at least some of these requirements. It is rather disappointing to the House that the able Finance Minister should not have been able to anticipate any of these requirements. Sir, 9 lakhs and 78 thousands are required for the Police, for one Inspector-General of Police, Superintendents of Police and other police officers. Well, sir, the requirements of the Police are always before the Government. The conditions that require the engagement of additional police officers are always before the Government. There is no reason why the appointment of a second Inspector-General of Police and 5 Superintendents of Police should not have been anticipated by the Government. Matters of this kind receive very serious consideration on the occasion of discussion of the budget. If they come up before the House in the course of the year, they come up before a sleeping House and very few honourable members attach any importance to the supplementary estimates. So, by this procedure, the House is robbed of a very valuable right that the House could have exercised on the occasion of the discussion of the general budget and it is quite possible that the Government would not have been able to carry the House with it in connection with these demands at that time. Inspector-General of Police is the head of the Police and he controls the entire administration of the Police and, therefore, the appointment of a second Inspector-General of Police is not an ordinary matter. The Honourable Minister of Finance should have seen if a second Inspector-General of Police was really required. One Superintendent of Police is required in connection with a certain evacuation scheme of which no particulars are given in the supplementary estimates and we do not know what that alleged evacuation means. Another Superintendent of Police is required in order to meet the situation at Lahore. That means another Superintendent of Police for Lahore. Can it be said with any reason that the requirements of Lahore district were not known or could not be known to the Honourable Finance Minister or any other member of the Government? Then, another Superintendent of Police is required in order to maintain law and order, in order to maintain peace in Kangra district. How is the peace of Kangra district disturbed? I understand that certain prisoners of war are being kept at a certain place in that district. The Government has got apprehensions of breach of peace from those quarters. It is a sad spectacle of war without increasing appreciably the burden of the tax payer. I understand some Italian prisoners are there. What difficulties could there be for the ordinary administration of Kangra district or the police administration of the Province to keep those people under control? We should have expected that the Government would be able to control the Italian war

1 p.m.

prisoners whom they defeated in the war. These are the kinds of requirements for which funds are required. The Government has not taken proper steps at the proper time and this was not the occasion on which such a huge sum should have been asked for. These are the few observations that I wanted to make in connection with the charged items. There are several other charged items also which require very great scrutiny and which the House is not expected to exercise on an occasion like this. The Government has failed in its duty in not placing these matters before the House at the proper time.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, it is obvious that the second instalment of the supplementary estimates amounts to Rs. 1,16,89,000 and the first instalment which has already been presented amounts to about 78 thousand rupees. There are also other demands amounting to from one to ten lakhs of rupees. Apart from this other estimates are also to be presented. Let me, therefore, point out that the total of all the supplementary demands will amount to about 2 crores of rupees. It is surprising that the expenditure of the province is 25 per cent of the estimates and I would submit that such a procedure to get sanction of the House for expenditure is not fair at all. It had been proper if it were normal.

LAND REVENUE.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,960 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker: Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,960 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Land Revenue.

GRAIN COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural): I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 8,960 on account of "Grain Compensation Allowance" be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker, my purpose in moving the cut motion is to raise discussion on the point that the provision for grain compensation as made is insufficient. I want to refer the House to the note which is made under No. 2 where it is said that in view of the high prices of commodities it has been decided to grant grain compensation allowance to low paid Government servants with effect from December, 1941. It is said that there are altogether 9,219 first, second and third grade patwaris and 155 fourth grade patwaris and some muharrirs and peons and the total cost for the current financial year on this account amounts to Rs. 56,500 of which a sum of Rs. 49,540 has been made from savings in the grant, and supplementary demand for Rs. 6,960 is asked for. I want, through you, to draw the attention of the honourable members of the House to the fact that there are as many as ten thousand people who are going to be provided with this paltry sum. I want to bring

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it to the notice of the honourable members that in view of the fact that prices of almost all the commodities of ordinary necessity of every day have gone high, it is very difficult for low paid people to make both ends meet. I would ask the Honourable Finance Minister to enlighten this House by preparing a family budget in respect of them. Supposing a patwari has his wife and one child. How does the Honourable Finance Minister justify himself in proposing that with a paltry sum, say Rs. 26 which the patwari is getting every month, he will be able to maintain his family under the present conditions when the prices of all the commodities have gone high. My purpose in moving this cut motion is only to bring to the notice of the honourable members that pointed attention should be paid in the case of those people who are being given very low salaries. After all, efficiency depends upon the amount which you pay to those people. Apart from that if you want to avoid corruption, I would suggest that there should be a substantial increase in the pay of those people. I submit that patwaris are the only village officials who come in direct contact with cultivators. The Honourable Minister of Revenue and his other colleagues always claim to do good to those poor cultivators. I want to bring it to the notice of the honourable members that these patwaris play hell with the cultivators. Why? Have you ever asked this question? The simple reason is that they are very low paid and they cannot even meet the ordinary necessities of life and there is temptation to be corrupt and they get bribe from those poor people. If you wish to do good to the cultivators you should give them sufficient allowance so that they are in a position to live an honourable living and not to promote corruption in villages. With these remarks, I move my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved is—

That the item of Rs. 6,960 on account of "grain compensation allowance" be reduced by Re. 1.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana-East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, a sum of Rs. 56,000 has been allotted in the budget for 'grain compensation allowance' to patwaris and other subordinate servants. The total number of people who are going to be benefitted by this allowance including chaprasis and others is 9,857 men. Now the total amount of this compensation allowance per man works out to about Rs. 6. In this connection we are not told as to the period for which this allowance is to be given. (*An honourable member* : For four months). Well, it means that the Government is granting Re. 1-8-0 per month as grain compensation allowance. In this very budget while dealing with a certain department, an unusually higher demand for grant is made on the ground that the prices of commodities have gone up by 75 per cent. You can very well realise, how, whereas on the one hand the plea of the prices of commodities having risen by 75 per cent is put forward, it can be expected that the patwaris and others are going to tide over this difficult period with Re. 1-8-0 per month. If only one item of flour consumed by a chaprasi's family is taken, we find that for every rupee worth of flour that he used to buy previously he has to pay Re. 1-12-0. That is, he spends annas 12 more on one item among his daily necessities. Not to speak of other necessities such as *dhal*, sugar,

clothes, etc., flour alone would make it necessary for him to spend at least Rs. 8-8-0 more for his family consisting of five members. What a pity that the Ministers who get such huge sums in salaries should try to placate the poor by granting a paltry sum of Rs. 1-8-0 as compensation allowance. And they would boast before the people during their tours, that they have granted a grain compensation allowance to low paid Government servants on account of the rise in the prices of commodities. Again they would say that the Government imposed the new taxes with this very object and that we on this side of the House had opposed these taxation measures. They have the cheek to say such things in spite of the fact that they have imposed the taxes without giving any relief to the poor or reducing land revenue. All that they are concerned with is to provide employment for a few relatives of their party members or to remain constantly on tour for drawing large sums as travelling allowances.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order, that is not fair. Move a substantive motion, if you like.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I want that some addition should be made in this compensatory allowance by saving from their travelling allowances which they draw daily. Some compensation should be given to those poor people.

Mr. Speaker : Travelling allowance is not under discussion at the present moment.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I am suggesting how to save this money and to give it to the poor people.

I hope that the Honourable Minister will dispassionately consider my submission that Re. 1-8-0 as compensation allowance is not going to give any relief to these low paid subordinate servants. It is, therefore, essential that a saving may be effected in other expenditure and these people must be provided enough grain allowance to see them through the present hard times.

With these words I support the cut motion now under consideration.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) : Sir, I want to utilise this occasion for a few minutes to raise my voice on behalf of the most neglected lot of Government servants. I particularly want to place the case of the peons of the province before the Honourable the Finance Minister. In the very first year of the life of this House I drew the attention of the Honourable Finance Minister to the lot of the most needy and poor people, particularly the peons of the province. A peon gets only a fixed salary of Rs. 14 a month whether he serves for one year or for 30 years. The Honourable Finance Minister must be aware of the fact that they get a fixed pension, I understand of Rs. 4. They are practically denied all leave. He must be knowing that the requirements of these poor people, the physical requirements and the stomach requirements of these people are greater than the requirements of highly placed men like Sir Manohar Lal. My grievance is that up to this time the Honourable Finance Minister has not paid the least attention to the lot of these people. I can understand that the Honourable Minister of Finance may not be able to induce the Government to do other things for this province, yet in a small matter like

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this he could induce other Ministers to do something for these poor people. It is not too late. I know he sometimes shows supreme indifference to the voice that is raised from time to time from this side of the House. We also sometimes assume an air of indifference towards this Government which is not carrying out the will of the people. Still I hope that before Sir Manohar Lal is called upon to lay down the reins of his high office, if he can do something for these down-trodden people I think it will be a matter of some satisfaction to a man like myself who has always felt for these people. I have been approached by peons of my place a number of times. They say, "you are a member of the Legislative Assembly"—not knowing our position they attach a good deal of importance to us as members of the Legislative Assembly. I have tried always to tell them what our position is and have told them that all I can do is to raise my voice, it may be a cry in the wilderness. I am not one of those favoured persons who can go to the bungalow of Sir Manohar Lal and ask him to do certain things, but constitutionally I have placed this matter so many times in this House. The Government must understand that it is bound sooner or later to reap the consequences of its policy. If the peasants and the labourers of Russia are offering historic and heroic resistance to what is called the war of aggression and to the most well disciplined and the greatest military machine in the world, it is for this reason that Stalin produced a new spirit among them. While Stalin gave them bread, what has the Punjab Government done for them? While Stalin gave bread and butter to millions of these poor people who are now offering wonderful resistance, what has this Government done? The Punjab Government has treated some of these people with lathi charge and has sent them sometimes to prison. This is what the Punjab Government has done for them. Sir Manohar Lal will also remember that these people are the real backbone of the country. I understand that Sir Manohar Lal has been paying over a thousand rupees to Sir N. N. Sirkar. I think it is disgraceful that such a small pittance should be offered to these poor people. I have worked out and I find that the allowance to these people comes to about Rs. 1-7-0 a month. What relief can possibly be had with this small sum? They will welcome it however. I do not deny it, but he should have been able to do something more for them. It will not be difficult for him. I hope he will raise the salaries of Government servants like patwaris, constables, peons and other low paid people. Once I put a question to an Honourable Minister and his reply was that this was the market value of these people and they could get people for a salary less than they were paying. I say that this remark of the Minister reflects the general attitude of the Punjab Government towards these people. Let alone those people who have got serious grievances against the Government, the case of these people is over-due for the consideration of the Punjab Government. I would particularly draw the attention of the Finance Minister to this all important question of raising the salaries of all low paid people. According to my standard the lowest pay that any Government servant should get is Rs. 30 a month. If you can afford to pay thousands of rupees a month and if you can afford to create so many highly paid posts, you can equally afford to find funds for these people. With these remarks I resume my seat in the hope—I hope that it will not be hope against hope—that it

will rouse the stoic indifference of Sir Manohar Lal and he will do something to improve the lot of these unfortunate people.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the prices of cereals have gone up considerably in these days, and the poor people are faced with the problem of how to purchase them with their low incomes. Not only that, often they cannot get grain on account of rationing. In my opinion one of the causes of the success of the hartal was the fact that the Government had introduced rationing on account of which the hartal was particularly felt more than it should have been in the ordinary circumstances. It is, therefore, not only necessary to give the low paid Government servants compensatory allowances but also to open depots from where they could purchase grain.

The next submission which I want to make before this Honourable House is that the peons who get only a salary of Rs. 15 per month cannot be compensated by an allowance of a small sum and especially under the circumstances when the prices of grain have risen very high. The allowance should, therefore, be more.

Another point which I want to press on the attention of the Government is that the peons have often to work at the houses of the officers for full twenty-four hours. And there are also some officers who use them as cooks but do not give them meals. They have to go to their homes in order to take their meals. Government should take steps to stop such officers from detaining their peons at their houses and using them as private servants. Such low paid employees of the Government often belong to zamindar classes. This Government claims to be the representative of the zamindars. It also claims that it wants to ameliorate their condition. The Government should do something for the peons and patwaris, most of whom are zamindars, so that they may also feel that the Government is really for the benefit of the poor zamindars. (*Interruption.*) I am not saying anything against the urban people. If the Government had any sympathy with the poor people, then it should try to help them and the best way to help them is to reduce the pay of the highly paid officers and to increase that of the low paid ones. Reduce the pay of the big officers whether by taxing them or otherwise and distribute the saving so effected over the low paid employees.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is this. The financial condition of the local bodies is very poor and they cannot afford to give any compensatory allowance. I know the Honourable Speaker will say that I am irrelevant. But it is very important that the local bodies should also be helped in some way to enable them to pay compensatory allowance to their low paid employees.

Mr. Speaker: Irrelevant. Please speak to the motion under consideration.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh: Sir, the Government should arrange to give more allowance to their low paid servants. The allowance which has been provided for them is too little and should be raised. With these remarks I support the motion now before the House.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, at present the House is considering the question of the grant of compensatory allowance to peons and patwaris. It appears that the Government

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in providing the compensatory allowance to these people have thought that they are all either bachelors or widowers, otherwise they would never have sanctioned such a small pittance for them. These poor people have their families and a grant of Rs. 1-8-0, will not help them much. They cannot be compensated by this allowance for the rise in the prices of cereals. This allowance is not even sufficient to compensate them for the rise in the price of salt. It is, therefore, very necessary to raise this allowance. Lay axe at some other expenditure and give them more allowance. All those Government servants who are getting less than Rs. 20 per month should be given more allowance than what has already been sanctioned by the Government. I hope the Honourable Minister will enhance the allowance. Let him consider his own personal expenses and then think that after all these people have also to live. How can they live on Rs. 20 a month? I hope he will sympathetically consider my request and enhance the allowance of the peons and patwaris. They deserve his sympathy. With these words I resume my seat.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have risen to support the cut motion which is now before the House. It is difficult, rather impossible for the patwaris to make both ends meet with the small salary which is granted to them. That is why we have pressed the Government on more than one occasion to increase the pay of the patwaris. In order to make up for their small salary they are obliged to fleece the poor zamindars. All the zamindars are fed up with the unjust demands of the patwaris. It is, therefore, very necessary to save the zamindars from the unlawful demands of the patwaris over their small incomes. The only way to save them is to enhance the pay of the patwaris so that it may become unnecessary for them to force the poor zamindars to pay them bribes. Instead of one post of financial commissioner you very readily create three posts of financial commissioners. You also keep three chief engineers when only one can do the work of them all. But you hesitate to give more pay to the low paid employees. It is on account of their low pays that these people suck the blood of the zamindars by instigating them to institute false cases against each other and to fight amongst themselves. They adopt all such unfair means in order to be able to get something out of them. The allowance which the Government has provided for them is very little. I, therefore, request them to provide more for them in the budget of 1942-43. Otherwise they will cause too much trouble to the zamindars, because it is next to impossible for the patwaris to manage on such a scanty pay.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I would ask, through you, the Honourable Minister of Revenue to throw some light on the nature of discriminate treatment that seems to have been meted out to certain low paid servants. A glance at the Supplementary Estimates would reveal that the grain compensation in question is to be granted only to patwaris attached to field kanungoes and some peons working with them. What I fail to understand is that there are also several other

peons who are working with the various revenue officers like the Naib-Tahsildars, Tahsildars and Revenue Assistants who are not being granted any grain compensation along with the above-mentioned patwaris and peons. If low paid officials mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates are to be compensated, why should the other low paid servants be deprived of this small mercy by the Government? I am at a loss to understand this point. To me it seems rather unfair. Why should a differential treatment be meted out to different low paid officials of the Government? That is beyond my weak comprehension. Provision for other peons should also be made. It is a pity that when some officials with a monthly salary less than Rs. 20 are being given grain compensation allowance, some other similarly low paid servants are being denied this allowance as it appears from a cursory glance over this item.

I would be grateful to the Honourable Minister of Revenue if he throws light on this point in order to clear our doubts with regard to this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question is—

That the item of Rs. 6,960 on Account of 'Grain Compensation Allowance' be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,960 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Land Revenue.

The motion was carried.

FORESTS.

Minister for Finance : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,91,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Forests.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,91,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Forests.

FORESTS CONSERVANCY POLICY.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) : I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 3,09,390 on account of 'B.I.—Timber and other forest produce removed from the forests by Government Agency' be omitted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I think the motion is out of order, because it proposes to raise a question of policy which should be discussed in the course of the general budget.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I am not raising the whole policy of the Forest Department. I want to raise only the forest conservancy policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member will be in order if the policy underlying the present demand is a new one and not covered by the general estimate already approved by the Assembly. As the policy underlying the present demand is only a continuance of the policy already covered by the general budget approved by the Assembly, he cannot raise a discussion on that policy at this stage.

SYSTEM OF GRANT-IN-AID TO FOREST CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I beg to move my next motion, namely —

That the item of Rs. 15,340 on account of 'Payment of Grant-in-Aid to the Forest Co-operative Societies in the Kangra Forest Societies Division' (C. IV.— Grant in-Aid) be omitted.

(Urdu) : My object in moving this cut motion is to discuss the policy of the Government underlying this particular scheme which was not formulated at the time of the presentation of the last budget, and which has been newly devised. It has been stated at page 6 under item No. 8 that—

With a view to preventing further erosion and effecting a common policy of re-afforestation of denuded areas Government have decided to carry out the management of forests in certain selected areas of Kangra district through the agency of Co-operative Societies specially formed for this purpose.

Thus it is clear that there will be joint control of the Forest Department as well as of the Co-operative Societies Department over this particular scheme. The experts of both Departments will sit together in conference in order to devise ways and means to re-afforestise the areas in question. It will not be out of place to briefly state the history of this scheme at this moment. In 1937 it was proposed that the co-operation of zamindars be sought for the re-afforestation of those ilaqas where the jungles had been cut and removed and where the valuable land of the zamindars was being destroyed by the erosion and the swift streams rushing down the hills with no forests to check their speed. The idea was to conserve forests in those areas where they were particularly wanted to check the hill streams and save the land of the zamindars from their destructive operations. But this could not be done without the active co-operation of the zamindars. With the object of securing the co-operation of zamindars a special committee was set up in which some honourable members of this House were required to serve. After extensive touring this Forest Commission formulated its recommendations. I hope the honourable members remember having been presented with a copy of those recommendations by the Government in this House. But when it came to carry out those schemes and recommendations, the Government neglected its duty and has been sleeping over those recommendations since then. I am afraid the money spent on that Forest Commission has been wasted altogether. No step has been taken by the Government to implement those schemes by acting on the recommendations of this commission over which the hard earned money of the poor people of this province had been spent so mercilessly. Just consider the idea of the Government opening 24 or 25 forest co-operative societies during the course of 5 years. That is simply ridiculous and yet that is what this Government has done. Nay, even this much has not been accomplished. It is only an ideal to be reached in 5 years. I leave it to the honourable members to judge how long it will take the Government to open similar forest

co-operative societies in the whole of the Punjab at this slow speed. Twenty-five societies are to be opened in 5 years in one district of Kangra. When does the Government propose to reach its ideal? Surely we will have to wait till doomsday for the accomplishment of this task by this Government at this rate of speed.

Then, Sir, I have to bring another point to the notice of the Government and that is this. There are certain areas in the Kangra district which are assessed to land revenue but in spite of this the spontaneous growth of shrubs and trees on those lands has been declared to be the property of the Government. These areas have been placed in the category of undemarcated forests and all the trees growing there are claimed by the Government as their property. The Forest Commission recommended that the trees standing on those lands which were assessed to land revenue but did not exceed four acres, would belong to the owner and the Government would have no right over that growth. So far it has not come to our notice whether this recommendation has been accepted or carried out into effect by the Government.

Then so far as 'shamilats tika' i.e., the common property of the village community, are concerned the recommendation of the Forest Commission is that they should be placed under the management of forest co-operative societies. These societies should be formed in large numbers in the interests and welfare of the zamindars. If the Government are really sincere to help the zamindars of the Doaba by preventing further erosion of their lands and effecting a common policy for re-afforestation of denuded areas, they should vigorously expedite this scheme. If they are out to protect the lands of the zamindars from the inroads of erosion and also safeguard the forests on the basis of individual forest conservancy system, then it is incumbent upon them to form these forest co-operative societies in the largest number possible. Whatever Government have accomplished in this connection they have done so in a niggardly manner. As these societies are expected to do useful work for the benefit of the zamindars, the Honourable Minister would be well advised to move with a drive in this matter.

Besides, we are told under this system, that out of the income of these societies, the expenses of the staff of this department would be met. I strongly object to this arrangement. Obviously it looks absurd that the money of an organisation, run on co-operative basis, should be utilised in defraying the charges connected with the salaries of the staff of a Government department. This action is very objectionable and goes counter to the best interests of the zamindars. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if the Government, who proclaim from the house tops to be the only well-wishers of the zamindars, are seriously contemplating to do their utmost for the betterment of the tillers of the soil, they should refrain from utilising the money of these societies on the maintenance of their officers. The income of these societies should necessarily be allowed to be used by the societies themselves for the common benefit of the village community. I think the Forest Department does not stand in need of this money. Nature has placed unlimited wealth in the hands of the Punjab Government through this office which can easily become self-sufficient through the sale-proceeds of the products of the forests. I, therefore, strongly hold that the payments made to the forest staff from the income of these societies is a sort of unnecessary burden on the zamindars. Equity and justice demand that so

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

far as the income of the forest co-operative societies is concerned it should be spent for achieving the common good of the people and on such beneficent activities as are calculated to ameliorate the condition of the poor. With these words I commend this out motion to the House for acceptance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved is—

That the item of Rs. 15,340 on account of "Payment of Grant-in-aid to the Forest Co-operative Societies in the Kangra Forest Societies Division" (C. IV.—Grant-in-aid) be omitted.

Minister of Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh) : Sir, there is a good deal of misapprehension in the mind of my friend concerning the constitution of these societies. These co-operative societies have especially been formed for the Kangra district for the benefit of Kangra people in particular and for the benefit of those who live in the sub-mountainous regions near Kangra district. The object is to encourage and to speed up the very useful work undertaken by us to stop erosion and to reclaim arid soil. I hope my friend has seen somewhere near about his district or in his own district the very useful work that is being done by the Forest Department, the Co-operative Department and even by the Agricultural Department. All these three departments join hands in doing this exceedingly good work. These societies have been formed in addition to the work that was already being done there. It is not necessary to go into the details of the system that is in vogue in Kangra district, so far as the management of forests is concerned. All that we are concerned with here is that so far as the village forests are concerned, they used to be managed by the Government and the Government was entitled to the produce of those forests. Now for the benefit of Kangra people some of these areas have been made over to the special co-operative societies. There are co-operative societies in other districts in general. They stand on a different basis, but these societies are formed for this particular purpose. The money that was to go to the Government will go to these co-operative societies in the form of grant-in-aid. This is only a rough amount. It is not the exact amount. The exact amount will be the amount which will be earned by these forests so far as the income from them is concerned. The income is yet to accrue and that will be the real amount which will go to these co-operative societies. It was an entire misapprehension on the part of my friend to say that this will be some sort of a burden upon the peasant. It is for the benefit of those people. I am really sorry that my friend has not familiarised himself with the very good work that is being done there in his own district under his very nose. It is easy to get up and criticise and it is a different thing to see the work and then come over here to enlighten the House on the merits or demerits of that work. This is something additional that we are doing, but apart from this a lot of money is being spent on anti-erosion and soil reclamation work. If my honourable friends want to see the results that have been achieved in this connection, he may go to Hoshiarpur district where the results are apparent and where this work has been going on for some time. I hope my honourable friend will bless the Government when he sees the positive results of these societies and the policy that is being pursued.

2 p.m.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : May I ask one question ? Will this money be given to them in the form of grant or will they be allowed to appropriate the income of those forests themselves ?

Minister of Development : The money that is to come to the Government by way of produce of those forests will be given in the form of grant-in-aid to the co-operative societies.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : The honourable Minister has remarked that I am not in favour of the forest societies.

Minister : I never said that.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I only wanted to urge that this is a thing which the Minister should proceed with with the highest speed possible if he is really anxious to stop erosion in these areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 15,340 on account of "Payment of grant-in-aid to the Forest Co-operative Societies in the Kangra Forest Societies Division" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,91,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Forests.

The motion was carried.

OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,07,150 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of other taxes and duties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,07,150 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of other taxes and duties.

SPECIAL PAY.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 11,000 on account of Taxation Assistant to the Financial Commissioners be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I rule this motion out of order. The general question of special pay can be raised during the discussion of the budget. The general question cannot be discussed now.

URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX ACT.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

[M. Muhammad Nurullah.]

I gave notice of the motion in order to discuss the administration of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940 and the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941. I have just looked to the details provided under this item and I find that the rates and grades of pay for the occupants of these posts are very high and they do not fit in with the conditions of our province or of our country. They are objectionable as they are going to be a permanent feature. These are new appointments and therefore the rates could have been easily much lower. There are plenty of educated men available, B.As., LL.Bs., M.As. and so on and the present market rates are much cheaper. I think a B.A. can now be had for Rs. 35. If the Honourable Minister of Education had been here he would have told us that B.As. and M.As. can be had at cheap rates. There is no reason why these rates which had been prevailing during the last 40 or 45 years be given at this time. They would have been able to find much cheaper men for these duties.

Again, I find that these estimates were made on facts which have been changed. Rules under the General Sales Tax Act have been amended and probably they do not now require inspectors of the same grade or of the same quality. A lesser number may do. For these reasons I move my motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : By going through this demand we have come to know that the amount of expenditure for the staff required for the administration of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act and the Punjab General Sales Tax Act comes to in the neighbourhood of three and a quarter lakhs of rupees. It is estimated that only rupees three lakhs would be realised under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act and it has also been stated in the memorandum for the year 1942-43 that owing to the present circumstances the income may come to one lakh of rupees only. It means that the amount of money to be realized under the Punjab Immovable Property Tax Act and the General Sales Tax Act will come to 3 lakhs or less as laid down in the memorandum. But it is strange that an amount of 3 lakhs and a quarter of rupees will be spent on the staff required for the administration of these Acts. I, therefore, submit that out of a collection of about Rs. 3,00,000 which is expected from the Sales Tax for the current year, about Rs. 1,60,000 will be spent. Irrespective of the fact whether the General Sales Tax Act should be applied or not, we are now to discuss the advisability of appointing staff for the administration of Punjab General Sales Tax Act. I would now point out that such a transaction as I have submitted is against the principles of taxation which is to pluck the goose with the least squeeling and I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Revenue will agree to this fundamental principle. It is a universally accepted principle that while plucking a goose one should go easy about it, so that it may not become a noisy affair. But the methods adopted by our Government for fleecing the public are quite the reverse of it. Here taxation is resorted to so clumsily that it evokes a great hue and cry and provokes hartals and what is more, the statements given by the head of the Government are so irritating and provocative

that they only worsen the situation. In view of these facts, I beg to submit that even if we overlook the question as to whether the General Sales Tax should have been imposed or not, the steps taken for the administration of the Act are liable to rouse grave suspicion in the minds of the public in general.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, you will be pleased to recall the heat that was generated during the discussion of the Punjab General Sales Tax Act. In spite of the fact that much valuable time of the House was wasted and considerable expenditure was incurred in that connection, that measure has caused a great furore in the province. The object given out by the Government at the time of introducing their taxation measures was to afford relief to poor zamindars from the income thus derived. It is also added that the surcharge which was being levied as a temporary measure was intended for expenditure in connection with the war. Although this is not the time for criticising those measures, one cannot help feeling that in view of the sum asked for through the demand under discussion, the object of these Acts is not what it was given out to be. Had that been the object or the intention, such highly paid-officers would not have been appointed. The income to be received through these Acts in a year would only suffice to pay the cost of their administration. To quote a few instances, the Assistant Taxation Officer to Financial Commissioner is going to receive Rs. 850 as salary and Rs. 150 as special pay. It does not show that the appointment of officers with such large salaries could have been intended for affording relief to poor zamindars. If that had really been the intention, better qualified officers could have easily been appointed on salaries ranging between Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. In these days of unemployment highly qualified and efficient men can be had at even less than that sum. But it appears that there were already certain favoured men in view for whose benefit all these pains were taken. Again the grade fixed for a District Taxation Officer is given as Rs. 200—30—800. This scale of pay is far higher than the nature of work should demand.

Minister of Finance: These are all Extra Assistant Commissioners and they are already in service.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad: But this purpose could be served by appointing B.As. and LL.Bs. who are not earning more than Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 at present. They could easily be appointed on smaller salaries.

With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion which seeks to urge upon the Government the desirability of reviewing its policy with regard to the appointment of highly paid officers and would request the Government to fulfil their promise of affording relief to the poor zamindars from the proceeds of these taxes.

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

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General Rural): Sir, I want just to add a word to what my honourable friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad has said. There is a reason, and very good reason behind this extravagance. I know it for a fact, that in every district there are people who put forward their claims for rewards. Some of them want big rewards and therefore big posts should be created for them. I know that the Honourable Sir

[L. Duni Chand.]

Manohar Lal and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and the other Honourable Ministers cannot deny that well-qualified men, highly educated men, could be had for much smaller salaries. But they would come from amongst the classes, who have not done any particular service to the present Government. These posts are not given to those people who are in touch with the public affairs in the province. I know it for a fact that these posts are given to favourite persons or persons belonging to favourite classes. (A voice : No.) My honourable friend has remarked that the Taxation Assistant will get Rs. 850 per month. It is quite true. But he will be getting more than whom ? He will be getting more than General Tojo, the Prime Minister of Japan. General Tojo is adding new empire to the already existing Japanese Empire. What is he getting ? He is getting—and this is a fact—between Rs. 600 and Rs. 700 a month. This salary which General Tojo is getting, you are giving to this Taxation Assistant. I congratulate the Government on this kind of policy, because this kind of policy will bring about the downfall of this Government sooner or later.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I would like to quote an instance of what the nature of the administration of these Acts is going to be, regarding which the beoparis had already expressed their fears. They had agitated against this taxation measure on the ground that this Act would be more sinister in its operation than it looked on paper. A foretaste of what is coming has already been experienced by the traders in Mandi Burewala. I vouch for the veracity of every single fact contained in the statement I am about to make and if it is proved on enquiry to be incorrect I am prepared to face the circumstances. Yesterday a sub-inspector employed by the Taxation Department came to Burewala Mandi for distributing the return forms of the General Sales Tax. He was accompanied by a beopari who had abstained from taking any part in the recent hartal. This man urged the shop-keepers in very authoritative tones to take these forms. Naturally the traders objected to his assumption of authority when the sub-inspector himself was there. A number of children booed this self-styled honorary official at which he abused them and it resulted in a clash. After being manhandled he went to the Police Station for lodging his report which the police refused to record according to law. Having failed in his object he invoked the help of the Sub-Inspector from the Taxation Department and through his good offices succeeded in lodging a complaint on his behalf under section 332 against some respectable persons from the Mandi who had no knowledge of the whole affair. I assure the House that this report is 100 per cent false.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is irrelevant. On what motion is he speaking ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, I am pointing out the defects in the administration of these Acts for which this demand has been moved.

I was submitting that the report which has been lodged under section 332, I. P. C. is absolutely false. If this is how the officers appointed under the General Sales Tax and Immovable Property Tax Acts are going to administer them and the grant asked for is going to be spent on them, it is better that the entire demand be rejected by the House.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion now before the House. If my honourable friends carefully study the explanatory note appended to this demand they would find that the strength of the establishment that would be maintained for the collection of the General Sales Tax will be 875 for the current year. I do not know what additions will be made to it next year. Anyway for the present the strength of the temporary staff will be 875. It includes in it highly paid officers, who in addition to their fat salaries will be entitled to draw travelling allowances as well. Now the estimate of income from this tax, as has been shown in the supplementary estimates, is very small as compared with the expenditure that will be incurred on its collection. Sir, we were under the impression that as a result of the imposition of this tax a large sum of money would be realized and that was the reason why the traders, who did not want to pay this tax, were agitating against it and had decided to observe hartal by which not only the public but also the Government were put to a lot of trouble. But this mountain in labour has produced the proverbial rat. As a matter of fact the income from this tax will be so very small that Government would not be in a position to provide any relief from it to the zamindars. Let me tell my friends that when this measure was on the anvil of the House it was pointed out on behalf of Government that as a result of the imposition of this as well as other taxes zamindars would be provided good many facilities and that their lot would be bettered. But it is a pity that so far neither has any relief been given to them nor has their lot been improved in any way. Nevertheless the only result of this taxation has been that the traders went on hartal and a good deal of agitation was created in the province. Then, Sir, the hartal had not yet ended when the taxation staff began to serve notices on the traders so that they should fill in the amount of their turn-overs on the forms which had been supplied to them and return them to Government. I think Government should have at least allowed the traders some respite. I may tell them that if a person eats bread while it is very hot he is likely to get his mouth burnt. Similarly Government should also see that in the zeal of realizing this tax as early as possible they do not get another rebuff from the traders. Such an attitude will bring bad name to them. It is therefore only fair that they should allow some respite to the traders. (*Interruptions*). My honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, who kept mum during the hartal days is now in a happy mood and has begun to show signs of life in him. Anyhow the maintenance of such a big staff for the realisation of this tax is no sound policy. In this connection I may point out that Sardar Gurmukh Singh has made an offer to Government that he is prepared to pay the amount which Government wanted to realise from the traders for the last month provided they do not realise it from the traders. I think Government should accept his offer. That will not only save the traders from unnecessary hardship, but it will also save the Government from spending so much money for the maintenance of the staff which has been appointed to collect this tax. This offer of Sardar Gurmukh Singh shows that at least among the non-agriculturists there are men who are prepared to pay the taxes of their brother non-zamindars and can make sacrifices for them. But there is not a single zamindar who is prepared to forego even a single pie for the sake of bettering the lot of their brother

[S. Kartar Singh.]

zamindars. They know how to draw big salaries but they are not prepared to agree to a reduction of even one pie in their salaries. They in fact are proving white elephants for the province. However my submission is that it is in no way sound policy to appoint such a big staff for the realization of this tax. I think these posts, many of which will carry very high salaries, have been created so that they may be given to the relatives of the Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries. In this way my friends want to strengthen the position of the Unionist Party. With these words I support the cut motion now before the House.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir my honourable friend Sardar Kartar Singh has stated that because of the calling off of hartal Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was somewhat in a happy mood. I may tell him that that is not the only reason of his happiness. It is possible that he may be feeling happy because a purse of Rs. 60,000 had been presented to him on the occasion of his Jubilee. Anyway it is usually a habit with him to give expression to such views that taxes should be levied on the banias. But when the time for the levying of such taxes comes he begins to make differentiation between the banias of his own ilaqa and those of other ilaqs. As compared with the banias of other ilaqs he treats the banias of his ilaqa in a much better way and goes out of his way to exempt them from the imposition of certain taxes. (*Minister of Revenue*: Is it a bad thing?) Certainly it is a bad thing. After all why should he mete out differential treatment to the banias of his own ilaqa? Sir, it has become a habit with him to make such claims that he would do this thing for the jats and do that thing for the jats. But when the time for the imposition of taxes, which are levied for the welfare of the zamindars, comes he very quietly exempts the banias of his own ilaqa from them. For instance, only recently the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act was enforced in the Punjab. But my friends will be surprised to hear that in the whole of the Ambala division it has been enforced in Ambala only (*Minister of Revenue*: In the Ambala Cantonment as well). Well, I mean Ambala City and Ambala Cantonment both. He has not thought fit to enforce it in other towns of the Ambala division. It has neither been enforced in Rohtak nor in Hissar nor in any other municipality of that ilaqa. (*Minister of Revenue*: The people of this ilaqa are poor and so they have been exempted from this tax). This is his love for the jats. If he had been a well wisher of the jats he should have levied this tax in all the urban areas of the Ambala division and the money so realized could have been spent on affording relief to the poor zamindars. I ask, why has he not levied this tax on the banias of Hissar and Rohtak? The fact of the matter is that his sympathy for the zamindars is lip sympathy only. He is afraid of the banias of his own ilaqa and therefore he has not levied this tax on them. Now by exempting the banias of his own ilaqa from the urban immovable property tax he thinks that his position is secure and this is also another reason why he is feeling happy today. That is not all. If the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram got the banias of his own ilaqa exempted from the operation of this Act the Honourable Premier would not lag behind. He got the banias of Campbellpur, Mianwali, Multan, Jhang, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Gurdaspur, Jhelum and Gujrat districts exempted from the tax. It follows that this tax has been levied in the urban

areas of the central districts only. Sir this is the honesty of my friends. The fact of the matter is that Government could have realized double the amount of the tax which they propose to collect. After all what is the reason why this tax has not been levied in all the districts? Is this not a discriminatory treatment? What is the reason why only the urban people of the central districts have been selected for the imposition of this tax? The honourable members are aware of the fact that it is the zamindars of the central districts who are paying the bulk of the land revenue. Now when any tax has been levied on the urban people it is the urban people of these ilaqas who have been asked to pay it. If Government had imposed this tax in the urban areas of other districts as well, they could have realised double the amount of the tax which they propose to collect now, (Minister of Revenue : It will be imposed in other districts as well). But at least you have exempted them for one year. My submission is that so far neither any remission has been granted to the zamindars nor any relief has been provided to them. If this is so then what is the use of levying these taxes? Anyway if these taxes are to be levied on the urban people no discrimination should be made and they should be realized from the urban people of all the districts. With these words I resume my seat.

Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu {Ram) (Urdu) : Sir, a few remarks have been made about myself and I would like to reply to them. At every stage of the passage of the General Sales Tax Act much hue and cry was raised against it and even at that time it was said that the income from this tax would be too small as compared with the expenditure likely to be incurred on account of the establishment that would be engaged. The strength of the required staff for this purpose as well as the expenditure that will be incurred on it are before the House but so far as the income expected from it is concerned, nothing can be said about it at this stage. It may be that it will yield even up to a crore of rupees. However, our estimate of the income from this tax is very moderate. While estimating our income from this source we kept two things in view. In the first place we thought that it was very possible that the income derived from this tax might not come up to our expectations. Secondly we were afraid lest by estimating it at a high figure we should frighten the people who are going to be affected by this tax. However according to a cautious estimate we hope to get about 37 or 38 lakhs from this tax. We cannot be definite about it. As a matter of fact no one can be definite about it until the coming twelve months during which it has to be collected, expire. I agree with my honourable friends over there that if the income from this tax is to be only two, three or four lakhs it may be just as well to accept the offer of Bawa Gurmukh Singh to pay for all and remit the tax altogether. But let us wait and see what the next year produces. It will then be time to consider whether or not to accept the offer of Bawa Sahib. But I feel that when Bawa Gurmukh Singh once comes to know what he is in for by the offer, he is not at all likely to repeat it.

Then, sir, Sardar Kapur Singh complains that the Honourable Ministers have not included their own districts in the category of places which have been selected for the levy of the urban property tax. He enumerated various districts which have not been included in that category. Let me tell him that all the districts which he named are poor and backward.

[Revenue Minister.]

There are no grain markets in them and no rich people are there whom we could tax. However, let me tell him that the urban people of my district approached me with the request that Rohtak should also be included in the places to which the Urban Property Tax Act would apply with the result that that district will soon be included in them.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Hindu Jats of Ambala Division in services.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural)
(Urdu). : Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, the honourable members when they go to their constituents tell them that the present Government is that of the Jats. But nothing is done to promote the interests of the Hindu Jats of the Ambala Division in the services. I want to press, it upon the attention of the Government that the Hindu Jats of the Ambala Division should be given their due share in the services. With these words I move my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved is :—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram)
(Urdu): Sir, it would have been much better if the honourable mover had also given figures regarding the representation of Hindu Jats of the Ambala Division in services. He has made a general statement that the Hindu zamindars of the Ambala Division have not been given their proper share in the services. In the absence of such figures regarding their representation in services it cannot be definitely stated that their share is less than what they deserve on their population basis. Had he given the figures it would have enabled me to give a more appropriate reply to what he has stated. I would request the honourable member to give notice of a question to find out the exact position of the Hindu zamindars of the Ambala Division in services. If the answer to that question showed that they had less representation in services then what it should be, his complaint would be justified and he could press this fact on the attention of the Government. (*Interruption*). The honourable member complained that the Hindu zamindars of the Ambala Division were not properly represented in the services. It was for this reason that I have made this suggestion.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,97,150 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of other taxes and Duties.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

Mr. Speaker: Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

Bhakra Dam Project.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 33,000 on account of continuance of Beas Dams Division (Special Survey) be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my object in moving this cut motion is to emphasise that the Government should expedite the work of the Bhakra Dam Project. I should like to refer you to the Supplementary Estimates, page 30. Mark the following words:—

The High Dams Circle was abolished with effect from 31st October, 1941, and the Beas Dams Division then attached to the Ferozepore Canals Circle. The field work in connection with the Bhakra and other Dam sites has been completed and two new sites are under investigation. It has since been decided to continue the Beas Dams Division up to the 31st of April, 1942, with the object of completing the Bhakra Dam Project and carrying out surveys for a dam on the Beas at Larji.

The Bhakra Dam question has been before the authorities for well over a quarter of a century now. Since the time when the reforms were introduced the question has time and again come up before the provincial legislature. The present supplementary budget, true as it were to the traditions of all previous budgets, contains a demand about the Bhakra dam Project. Every time that a new demand is put forward concerning this project, the House is told that the project is about to be started and completed. But the fact remains that the scheme seems to have been practically given up if we look to the original site from which it derived its name. The project it is clear, only exists in name. The mention of it now, therefore, in the Supplementary Estimates is compatible only with the spirit of the Urdu line:—

"Zikr mera mujh se behtar hai ke us mehfil men hai."

The Government perhaps is under the impression that the people will be satisfied only if the scheme is mentioned over and over again in this House. Their attitude bears a striking resemblance to the attitude of the British Government which repeats the promise of establishing a Government in India in no way inferior in status to any single member of the British commonwealth of Nations, but in actual practice what we find is the sad spectacle of their representative's repeating the August offer. Similar is the case of the Punjab Government in connection with the Bhakra Dam Scheme. A promise every year that the Scheme will be carried through; the result, a paltry item of a lakh or two included in the yearly budget estimates. Originally, as you are aware, Sir, the scheme was meant to be

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.]

finished at a cost of a stupendous figure of sixteen to twenty-two crores but the astronomical figure has now come down to the earthly figure of 33,060 in the Supplementary estimates. It is nothing short of an irony of fate to recall the solemn assurances of no less an authority than Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. He went to the Haryana districts when his Government was face to face with the task of helping the British Empire to survive a war not unlike the present, but may I say, very much like it. He promised the inhabitants of the Haryana districts that this scheme would be carried through in no distant future and this would result in converting the parched tracts of lands into smiling fields overgrown with rich corn. But that promise has not been fulfilled. I belong to Jhajjar Tehsil in one of the Haryana districts and I testify here to the disappointment of the people of these districts at the nonfulfilment of that promise. I may be excused for another analogy. The people of these districts feel that they are being treated very much like the starving man who was served with a morsel. Naturally the morsel could not quench his hunger, it only revived the craving in all its intensity although it had been benumbed and weakened on account of hunger. The same is our case. When the Government brings forward such small demands on account of the Bhakara Dam scheme from time to time our passion that lies dormant in our bosoms to see the scheme completed is again revived and there is no end to our disappointment. Will Government, I ask, give up the policy of feeding the starving with a morsel of bread? Not once or twice but several times the name of the Bhakara Dam has been mentioned before us, but it has not been completed so far. The Government may say that the previous Government were irresponsible and hence they could not be expected to have any strong feelings of sympathy for the poor zamindars of this area. But what about the present democratic Government? Has it too no regard for the down-trodden people of the province? Let us see what it has done in this connection. As soon as it came into existence as a result of the promulgation of the Government of India Act of 1935, it raised new hopes in our minds by saying that the engineers of the Punjab would be sent to America in order to study for themselves the construction of high dam in that country. The idea was to study the works of expert American engineers. We thought that something tangible would come out of this expedition. Previously a survey of the locality had been started. But up till now the Bhakra Dam is not in sight. Even the original scheme has been abolished and the site has been forgotten. I wonder if the Government were serious at all. Otherwise it would not have been difficult to persuade the Bilaspur Durbar to come to some sort of agreement. (*An honourable member*: Now canals are being dug). I live in that very locality and I do not see any Bhakra Dam canals being dug. May be the graves of the Unionists are being dug.

I was submitting that till 1935, the present Minister for Revenue, then Leader of the Opposition, did not spare the Government for its procrastination in carrying the Bhakra Dam Scheme into effect. He severely criticised the Government for putting off the matter year after year. He then made a proposal that till the execution of the Bhakra Dam scheme, tube wells be sunk in the Karnal district with a view to supplying water for

irrigation purposes. Thus in making proposals and counter-proposals the days passed on till the era of provincial autonomy set in, when my honourable friend and his party came into power and held the reins of the Government. Now this autonomous Government has been in existence for the last five years but it has done nothing worth the name to expedite this scheme. Early in 1937 what we elicited from the Government through interpellations was to the effect that they were carrying on negotiations with the Bilaspur Durbar in connection with the Bhakra Dam scheme. We were also told that as the Durbar demanded excessive money for the land which they wanted to acquire for the construction of the Dam, the terms were under consideration. When again after some time this question was raised by us, the Honourable Premier stated that certain alternative storage schemes were being considered by the Government. We were assured that these schemes would prove very useful. Still the time went past and nothing substantial was done for the benefit of the people who had been dreaming of an abundant supply of water from the Bhakra Dam Scheme. Then the hostilities broke out and the question of Bhakra Dam was shelved on the ground that the equipment and other materials required for executing this project could not be imported owing to war conditions. Now we are told that the Sind Government has lodged a complaint with the Government of India in regard to the distribution of the waters of Indus. Unless this dispute is settled, no action can be taken to put this scheme into practice. We are also apprised of the fact that the Government of India have appointed the Indus Commission to investigate the matter and its decision is being anxiously awaited. So you will observe, Sir, a period of full one quarter of a century has elapsed, but this unlucky scheme has not come to fruition. It continued to be postponed on one pretext or another. As I have already stated, at first it was the Bilaspur State which stood in the way of the materialisation of this scheme. Then the plea of non-availability of material due to war was put forth. After this came the dispute over Indus waters between the Governments of the Sind and the Punjab, which hampered the Government to proceed with the scheme. I am now apprehensive that after the settlement of this dispute, the Government would put forward this plausible excuse that they have been compelled to postpone its construction because Japan has come upon us.

Pir Akbar Ali : I see the honourable member is very happy over it. He welcomes it.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What I wanted to convey was that as the Government had been postponing this scheme under one excuse or other, next time they would put forward this plea which is very plausible. Now, Sir, I have no intention to refer the honourable members to other speeches on this subject. But I would like to make a reference to the budget speeches delivered by our talented Minister for Finance. You will conclude from this that year in and year out a mention of the Bhakra Dam Scheme, under a bold caption, has been made by way of white-washing and yet every time it is shelved. Now let me refer the honourable members to the budget speech of 1940. The Honourable Minister said :—

The scheme, so designated, is a subject of constant and anxious study by Government.
The importance of providing irrigation to the parched districts of Hissar and

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Rohtak has been brought home to us all with particular emphasis during the past two years, when Government has had to spend Rs. 2½ crores in direct and indirect relief, and I stand to assure the House and those districts that not a day is being wasted in coming to practical grips with the many problems involved in the scheme. (*Hear, hear.*) The main problem and the associated question are under attack from all possible sides. The project is expensive and finance at present is not easy, but I trust that this will not form an insuperable obstacle. Honourable members are aware that much directly applicable study has been recently made by distinguished Punjabee engineers into the technique of the design and the construction of high dams. A High Dam Circle has been created to prepare designs and estimates of construction. In this connection the designs of the Uppr and the Lower Sirhind Canal Systems are also under examination.

You will observe, Sir, that after receiving approbation, the Honourable Minister slept over the matter till in 1941, during the course of his budget speech, he told us :—

The anxiety of the Government in affording relief to the parched districts of Hissar and Rohtak continues undiminished, but it cannot be concealed that the scheme, so designated has to some extent receded once again into the background. The general position is as I expressed last year : 'The main problem and the associated questions are under attack from all possible sides. The project is expensive and finance at present is not easy.' The House would no doubt wish to know that investigations for the construction of this project are in full operation. The High Dam Circles has been continuously working since October, 1939, and is expected to conclude its activities by the end of October this year. As now planned, the scheme would lie within a more limited and manageable financial compass. It is also encouraging that much preliminary work of essential character has been done, for example, the most suitable alignments at sites have been largely determined and flood investigations for drainage crossings substantially advanced ; also many scientific questions involved in the scheme have been satisfactorily examined.

You will realise, Sir, that even this year he did not break any new ground. He repeated what he said in 1940, though in different words. Now under this item for which a supplementary demand has been made, we are told that the Beas Dam Division will be continued till April 30th 1942, with the object of completing the the Bhakra Dam project and carrying out surveys for a dam on the Beas. May I ask if the Government are fully confident of achieving their object ? I have serious apprehensions about it. Will it not be proper if the Government spelt the word 'dam' as 'damn'. so far as this scheme is concerned ? (*Laughter.*) Let us see what the Honourable Minister says in his budget speech of 1942 on this subject :—

Much field work in connection with this project has been done, and necessary research regarding the special problems involved in the scheme is being conducted satisfactorily but here again difficulties caused by the war in securing necessary plant impede effort.

After this comes the dispute over Indus water. He continues :—

In the meantime broader questions vitally touching our irrigation plans have been raised at the instance of the Sind Government, and we are in the midst of an inquiry into the relative rights of the Punjab and Sind. On the issue of this inquiry would depend the fate of the many irrigation schemes that we have now in hand or in immediate contemplation.

It would be crystal clear that every year the name of Bhakra Dam Project is repeated and then it is put off. But this does not serve the purpose or solve the difficulty of the poor zamindars whose lands yield nothing for want of water supply. Hence for the satisfaction of the people something practical and substantial is necessary. Much propaganda was made year before last that canals and dams were being dug with a

view to run non-perennial canal for the seasonal supply of water to the districts of Hissar and Rohtak. We were also told that these would be necessary for the completion of the Bhakra Dam Scheme. I do not blame the Government for making these palliatives. What I object to is whether the work has been or is being accomplished according to the requirements of the people.

I would submit that the work carried out by the Government in this connection is nominal. I should say it is nothing as compared with the needs of the zamindars. Let me ask the Government who is now out to extend the seasonal canals in the province. Does Jamna now possess a sufficient quantity of water to contribute to these canals? If Jamna had sufficient water in it was it formerly wasted in other provinces or has nature now turned generous to our Government in transgressing the ordinary limit of water supply? I do not understand how that change in the quantity of water in the river has taken place. May I know whether the extension of seasonal canals would be a permanent feature? (*Interruptions*). In the connection with utilizing the water of Sutlej and Beas and the construction of Bhakra Dam what I want to know from the Government is whether there is any possibility of Bhakra Dam being accomplished in near future? However, I am constrained to remark that it is very tactful on the part of the Government to make attempts for the completion of this scheme in the name of the river Beas. But now when the Indus Inquiry is being carried on and when it has become uncertain for the Punjab Government to take advantage of these rivers, what are the steps which our Government is contemplating to take in this matter? It will be wise on the part of the Government to lay before us the facts regarding the Bhakra Dam Project and to intimate the House as to whether any satisfactory work is being done to provide water to Haryana and Jhajjar tehsils which are badly in need of it. I ask the Government where do they stand with regard to Bhakra Dam Scheme? It is really disappointing that we have heard too much of it, as I have already submitted, but nothing practical is being done in this connection. I am afraid if this scheme still exists. I would therefore request the Honourable Minister in charge not to hoodwink the people any longer but he should instead come forward and tell us where he stands. I submit there is no use extending further hopes to the people who have now become more vigilant and wide-awake. The former Minister might have been sincere in his efforts with regard to this scheme because he used to say that he would die after accomplishing the Bhakra Dam Scheme. But as regards the present Minister we do not know the intensity of his desire in this matter. He might die after simply duping the people of the Haryana districts.

With these few words, Sir, I strongly support the cut motion before the House.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 33,060 on account of continuance of Beas Dams Divisions (Special Survey) be reduced by Rs. 1.

Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): (*Urdu*): Sir, I can very well understand the reason of my honourable friend Shri Ram Sharama's feeling uneasy on the subject of Bhakra Dam

[Revenue Minister.]

Scheme. His trouble is that all the doors of criticism have by now been closed. But I am much surprised at the obstinacy of my friend sitting over there who had even now the audacity to remark that nothing practical was being done to help the people of Haryana despite the fact that all that was possible had been and was being done in this connection.

He asked me in the course of his speech ; has the Western Jamna Canal been extended ? I must point out that a non-perennial canal in the Hissar district was completed in June last and a similar canal for the Rohtak district will be in existence by next August when there will be water enough for Pandit Shri Ram Sharma to drown himself in near his own home. If my honourable friend feels any doubt about it I would ask him to visit that canal and make an experiment for himself.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Honourable Minister dipped his nose therein ?

Minister of Revenue : Even last year we offered him a handful of water to dip his own nose in. I do not know why he did not try his luck. But now he rises in his seat and complains that the hopes held out in connection with the Bhakra Dam Scheme have not materialised. He seems to be uneasy why the scheme has been mentioned in budget estimates so often. I think my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma does not want us to make even a reference to that scheme. Does he think that we should not have made a provision in the budget for sending Engineers to America to study the problem of high dams ? Does he deprecate the idea of Government having provided in the budget money for survey ?

Lala Duni Chand : What we want the Government to do is to expedite that scheme.

Minister : I am afraid my honourable friends opposite seem to be ignorant of the fact that the preliminary work in respect of the scheme has been in hand for a considerable time, and the scheme has had to be mentioned in our demands for grants for the simple reason that the Government had to incur various expenses at different stages. Can it be denied that two Engineers were sent to America for studying the problem of constructing high dams ? Can it be denied that they brought back with them models and photographs of high dams and incidental works ? Those photographs and models were shown to the honourable members of this House including Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. If he still has the hardihood to attempt to throw dust into the eyes of the people, I am afraid the fault is not ours, and the attempt will be futile.

As regards the obstructions in our way to execute this scheme I never said there was none. Firstly it was the hitch created by the Bilaspur Durbar which caused delay. In this connection my honourable friend quoted a speech made by me in which I am purported to have said that the Punjab Government could and should apply pressure. He should remember that at the time when this speech was made the State was still under the supervision of the Punjab Government and had not been entrusted to the care of the Central Government. Again he went on to say that after meeting opposition from

the Bilaspur State the Government started looking out for an alternative scheme. Quite true. Does he mean to suggest that we should not have done it? In fact, we explored three alternative schemes. One of them is that if the Bilaspur State does not accede to our wishes a number of tubewells may be constructed on the banks of the river Jumna and water should be carried through channels to the native land of my friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma; the second is that a dam be constructed on the river Beas at Balehu in Kangra district, and water supplied to Rohtak, Hissar and Sirsa. Thanks to the machinations of Panditji and his friends a furore was created against this scheme. The people of the Kangra district were told that the districts of Rohtak and Hissar should not be allowed to benefit at their cost, that this scheme would destroy the houses of the Rajputs and ruin their water mills (ghrats). Panditji and his party went about fomenting trouble in Kangra. Pamphlets were distributed. Deprecatory poems were recited at public meetings and circulated among the public, letters were addressed to the Officers Commanding, Dogra Regiments, calling for intervention. No stone was left unturned by my friends of the local congress committee to mislead and excite the people of Kangra.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can the Honourable Minister substantiate these wild allegations that he is making?

Minister of Revenue : Yes, unfortunately I cannot read Punjabi; otherwise I would have read out one particularly bad poem which those friends had composed and distributed among the people of the Kangra district. I have got a copy of it with me.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker : Honourable member may make a personal explanation later on.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, the Honourable Minister has made a false statement that I wrote a poem in Punjabi. If he resumes his seat I will tell him—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has no right to ask the Honourable Minister to sit down.

Minister : Would it not be better for Panditji to go to Kangra and refute my statement there? He should tell the people that the poem in question is the product of Chhotu Ram's brain and thus remove the misunderstanding.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I have never been to Kangra in the whole of my life.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister should avoid all personal references.

Minister : Sir, my difficulty is that I am not permitted even to reply to the remarks made by my friends opposite. Either I should be allowed to do so or they should not have been permitted to say those things.

Mr. Speaker : Had the honourable member objected in time I would have stopped him.

Minister of Revenue : How could I invite your attention at every step and cause interruption? He referred to the alternative schemes and while enumerating them I had to refer to the part played by Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma in opposing the Balehu Scheme. If my honourable friend denies this fact I invite him to call a public meeting at Palampur or at Kangra and to refute my charges against his party. If he does so I will apologise to him there and then. The fact that the Congress-party tried to bolster up an agitation against this scheme is borne out by the pamphlets which were distributed by them. My honourable friend Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma took a prominent part in it and raised the cry that this scheme would benefit the residents of Rohtak and Hissar districts and ruin the people of Kangra.

Thirdly there is the Beas Dam Scheme which is proposed to be taken in hand so as to offset the loss the people of the Doaba have sustained owing to the continuous fall in the level of sub-soil water in that tract. Attempts are being made to fix upon a suitable place for constructing this Dam.

These are the three alternative schemes which are at present under consideration of the Government and to which a reference was made by Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. Besides this many irrelevant and inconsistent statements were made by my friend. For instance, he said that the Bhakra Dam scheme was on paper only and nothing had been done to give it a practical shape. Does he mean to say that the expense incurred in sending two engineers to the United States, who brought back photographs and models of a project suitable for our purpose, was an expense incurred on paper? Were surveys conducted on paper only? Again, he remarked that whatever the Government might say in this connection public would not be satisfied. If by public is meant Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and persons of his ilk, let me assure the House that the Government is not going to care two hoots for their opinions. It will not affect the Government in any way whether they are satisfied or not. But so far as the satisfaction of the Public at large is concerned both Panditji and myself are well aware that they have no doubts in the matter. Then Pandit Shri Ram Sharma very glibly made a highly mischievous remark to the effect that fifty thousand men from Harvana who enlisted in the Army were now pronouncing *mangal* (benedictions) on Government and the Bhakra Dam scheme at Singapore. It pained me to find a member belonging to the foremost political organisation in the country indulging in such vicious talk. Does he exult over the fact that people who had staked their lives for the defence of their country are in captivity today? All that I can say to him is—Maharaj, you alone are capable of uttering such '*Mangal charan*' ridiculing the sacrifices of the Haryana people who fell fighting or were captured at Singapore!

In short my friend, during the course of his speech, referred to the Bakhara Dam Scheme, its alternatives and the delay caused in the execution of the scheme by what he characterised as faked alternatives and lastly, Indus river, etc., and he made a most poisonous and malicious suggestion "your next excuse will be, 'Japan has now come'" Sir, just imagine the light manner in which he speaks! Let me tell him that if Japan invades India and is even partly successful he would be planning a flight even

though the invading armies may be at a distance of 500 miles from his place of residence. (*Laughter*). He speaks as if the coming of Japan gave him a peculiar satisfaction?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. Do you think that the tone of the Honourable Minister is desirable and the language employed by him is parliamentary?

Minister of Revenue : I do not think it is in any way proper for any honourable member to talk in the strain of Pandit Shri Ram. He is a member of the Congress organisation and he should speak in a much more restrained and moderate language. If at any time I lose temper that is immaterial because after all I am a Jat and have no faith in the creed of non-violence. But he is a prominent member of an organisation which preaches that one should be non-violent in thought, word and deed. Is this the way in which the supporters of non-violence and the standard-bearers of peace and good should speak in this House? I am afraid his manners and the way in which he speaks will do no good to the organisation of which he claims to be a member. On the contrary I think he will bring its name into disrepute.

Anyway the work in connection with the Bhakra Dam Scheme is proceeding. (*Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :* And it has started working too). No it has not started working, and if Pandit Shri Ram's 'mangal-charan' fructified? I think the work on this project would never be started. But we will try to counteract with the evil effects of his 'mangal charan'. However the point to remember is that he will be in a position to witness the flowing of the canal in the month of August. Water will be supplied by the extension of the Western Jamna Canal. This supply will benefit, though only during kharif, all the areas designed to be served perennially by the Bhakra Scheme. The benefit will extend to the home of Pandit Shri Ram also. This canal has been dug in such a way that when the Bhakra Dam Scheme is undertaken the present extensions will fit into the scheme.

The Pandit naively asks—where will this water be supplied [from, was this water already available, and if so why was it not supplied earlier and if it was not available wherefrom will it be taken and supplied to these new ilaqas? Very artful questions indeed. Sir, the propaganda at present being carried on by the workers of the local Congress organisation is that the inhabitants of Rohtak and Sonapat Tahsils will be deprived of their water for the benefit of the zamindars of Jhajjar because that tahsil happens to form my constituency. They are also telling the people that the water at present supplied to the inhabitants of Gohana Tehsil and Karnal district will similarly be taken away from them for the benefit of Jhajjar. They suggest that if additional water had been available earlier Government would have supplied it earlier. The present extensions are a mere device to steal water from some in order to supply it to others who are greater favourites. All these things are being said to mislead the people. The sober truth is that no water is being diverted from any tract to oblige another tract. The Western Jumna Canal Extensions will supply water during the rainy season only. During that season the river Jumna has plenty of water which finds its way through the Ganges to the Bay of Bengal. We propose to make use of this water and supply it during the rainy season to the dry tracts. This is not a new division of the old water.

[Minister of Revenue.]

As a matter of fact this water will normally be supplied during the rainy season, i.e., from the 15th of June to 15th September. This is the water that will be taken away from the river Jumna and supplied by these extensions to the people who will thereby be able to sow at least one crop a year. The propaganda that this water will be supplied to the inhabitants of Jhajjar by depriving others is absolutely false, and my friend should, if he has any regard for truth, stop it at once.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Honourable Minister has stated that I went to the Kangra district and did this kind and that kind of propaganda and that I published some Punjabi poems against the Unionist party. This charge is absolutely without any foundation. I have never been to Kangra nor have I published any Punjabi poems nor do. I know Panjabi I and my party have no knowledge about this matter at all.

Minister of Revenue : I pointed out at that very time that I was referring to my honourable friend Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma and not to him.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then, Sir, he pointed out that although I belonged to the Congress party still I preached violence. That is not a fact at all. I have never preached violence. What I said was that these people to whom promises had been made for the last quarter of a century that their lands would be turned into smiling fields have got nothing so far. It is a pity that their lands are as barren as they were before. During the Great War they made sacrifices but they get nothing in return. In this war also 50,000 recruits have been supplied by Haryana area but I think that after this war they would not get anything just as they got nothing after the last Great War. What I wanted to convey was that my friends had been postponing the Bakhra Dam scheme on one excuse or the other and now when the armies of Japan were knocking at the doors of India they would put forward this excuse also for not proceeding with its work. Then, Sir, the Honourable Minister pointed out that if the armies of Japan invaded India I would run away from the very fear of them even though they may be at a distance of 200 or 500 miles. That is nonsense pure and simple. I know how brave the Honourable Minister of Revenue is ?

Mr. Speaker : This is not a personal explanation. It is a second speech.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) : Sir, I want to submit before the House that the speech that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has made is unworthy of a responsible Minister. The one point of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma's speech was that there has been an extraordinary delay in giving effect to the Bakhra Dam scheme and he wanted to know when this scheme was going to materialise, though in his usual eloquent way he brought in so many details and so many facts. He only wanted satisfactory explanation from the Government as to why this scheme has not materialised up to this time. Instead of meeting him, the honourable Sir Chaudhri Chhotu Ram has, as usual, indulged in the abuse of the Congress. What has the poor Congress or the poor Congressman done in connection with this ? He does not attach any weight whatsoever to the

views of men like Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and I believe he does not care a two-pence for what Pandit Bhagat Ram says about Kangra district. If that is his position then how does he plead it as an argument, that because Pandit Shri Ram Sharma was responsible for certain speeches or Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma was making certain speeches, therefore the scheme has not been given effect to? I do not think there is any logic or any reason or any fairness in Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram coming to the conclusion that it is the Congress that is responsible for the failure hitherto of the materialisation of the Bhakra Dam scheme. If it gives him pleasure—I know it does give him pleasure—to abuse the Congress, let him do so but I think his reference to the Congress in season and out of season is not relevant and loses all its force. He objects to Pandit Shri Ram Sharma's reference to Japan. Our position is that it is the policy of men like Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, that is responsible for bringing the war nearer the shores of India.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant, nor should he make personal attacks.

Lala Duni Chand : I say, Sir, that I am replying to the remarks which he made.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak to the motion before the House.

Lala Duni Chand : I think I am entitled to give a reply to the remarks which the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram made. I want to tell you that the position of the Congress all along has been that entire man power of India should be utilized.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. The honourable member is irrelevant. He should speak to the motion before the House.

Lala Duni Chand : He spoke quite irrelevantly, and, therefore, I have a right to reply to all those irrelevant remarks which he made.

Mr. Speaker : He did not attack the Congress as such.

Lala Duni Chand : I am simply replying to his remarks. We do not want that any foreign power should come to India.

Mr. Speaker : There is no such motion before the House.

Lala Duni Chand : My point is that Sir Chhotu Ram said that the Congress is responsible for bringing the war nearer to India.

Mr. Speaker : He did not say so.

Lala Duni Chand : I want to say only one thing more. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram (*Several honourable members : Zinda bad.*) Yes, Sir Chhotu Ram *Zinda bad*. I do not want him to die so soon. I want him to live long so that people may know more about him. I wish him a long life. All that I want to say is that another man like him lived in the past. He was Hemu Baggal. He also issued his *sikka* for a few days only. Let live him for a long time to see what his policy has done to the Punjab.

Mr. Speaker : His policy is not under discussion.

Lala Duni Chand : All right, Sir. I congratulate him on the policy that he is pursuing because he will be the first man to reap the result of that policy. That is all that I wanted to say.

Mr. Speaker : I may tell the honourable member that he should address the Chair.

Lala Duni Chand : When I am addressing you, I address Sir Chhotu Ram through you.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 33,080 on account of continuance of Beas Dams Division (Special Survey) be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Extravagant expenditure in the Irrigation Department.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

My first point is that we have been spending a lot of money on this Punjab-Sind dispute. We have never been told what the nature of the dispute is and what is going to be the likely result of this enquiry. I want, to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister, if he kindly gives me his ears, to the fact that he is making under contingencies, provision to cover payment to Sir N. N. Sircar, as fees to be paid in connection with the case at Rs. 1,035 per day, a total of Rs. 1,34,550. May I enquire from the Honourable Minister whether there was no able lawyer in the Punjab, who could get such a high fee to conduct the case as well as anybody outside the province would do? Was there any speciality about this case that the Government had to engage such an eminent lawyer from outside the Punjab? That is my first question regarding the Punjab-Sind dispute.

Then I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to many other items, where I feel that money is being wasted. There are many officers on special duties. These officers are of the rank of Superintending Engineers. They are practically Chief Engineers. First, 1 or 2, then 3, and now we are going to have about six Chief Engineers. It is nothing but wasting the money of the province. This is all undoubtedly against the interest of the zamindars. This Government has been calling themselves the servants of the zamindars and great well-wishers of the zamindars, but I want to point out to the Honourable Minister in charge that he should not ignore the remarks I am going to make like those of Pandit Shri Ram. He should pay his special attention to the interests which I think are more important than the interests of the towns, or even law and order. I will give a particular instance. In the districts of Lyallpur and Sheikhpura under the Lower Chenab Canal live about 20 lakhs of people. Therefore special arrangements are necessary for the protection of the Headworks at Khanki. If there is a bomb on a person or on a building or on a town, it may destroy that person, building or the town. But if a Headwork is bombed, it will cause very great harm and destruction and in these days it is difficult to repair it. I think the Headworks are more important than the towns. Something must be done to protect them against air raids. Where would this population of about 20 lakhs go if you neglect the headworks and leave them as they are? You are neglecting them and spending money on useless services. You should squeeze money from other sources and try to protect the headworks.

Minister of Revenue : Have the headworks anything to do with this item ?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I am pointing out to the waste of money and am objecting to expenditure on other minor things.

Mr. Speaker : Order please. Which item in Supplementary Budget is the honourable member referring to ?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I am objecting to their paying such high fees to a lawyer from outside and giving him Rs. 1,34,000. I am drawing your attention to page 28, item 3, which relates to extension of the post of Officer on Special Duty, Southern Administration, in the Punjab Irrigation Secretariat. It is further mentioned there that the war activities in the Irrigation Branch have added greatly to the already heavy work in this Administration especially in connection with the transfer of the Central Workshop of Amritsar to the Department of Supply. There you are. Further on mention is made of the fact that the officer is to relieve the Chief Engineer of certain duties. My point is that these are all redundant jobs. The main point that I want to bring to his notice is to curtail expenditure on all other items and spend some money on the protection of headworks so that we who reside in the colonies may be saved in case of adverse air activity and the peace and law and order of the Province may be maintained. If we have, God forbid, an unfortunate experience of the nature explained by me, what will the twenty lakhs of population do ? I am of the opinion that they will kill each other and you will not be able to keep peace in the Province and you will be sorry for not paying attention to the point I am raising now. You must in all seriousness pay all possible attention in this direction without raising any objection. May I ask now, what is the necessity of the last item on page 34 ? It relates to establishment required in connection with *warabandi* cases in the Rohtak division. This should have been ignored. One officer might have made a special job of it and finished with it. You could give certain allowances—though Chaudhri Sumer Singh and I are against such allowances—to an officer and the money thus saved could be used on the protection of headworks. That is the reason why I want to draw your attention to this matter. I think most of the items of expenditure are redundant and more attention should be paid towards that serious matter.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Chaudhri Sumer Singh's next amendment is not in order¹. Will the Honourable Finance Minister please explain for the information of the members what he means by the item of Rs. 2,76,900 on page 32 ? It is not understandable.

Minister of Finance : It is explained in the Note given there at page 32.

Mr. Speaker : How is it a part of the demand which has just been voted upon ?

¹That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Remarks.—To invite attention to the poor representation of Hindu Statutory Agriculturists on Irrigation Establishment.

Minister of Finance : It is not a demand. It is in connection with Irrigation Works. There is a credit under the head of Irrigation of Rs. 2,07,526, and there is a corresponding debit to the head 'Interest on Debt and other obligations' which is a charged item. See page 32 of the supplementary estimates ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not included in the demand.

Minister : No. It is brought up to the House because it is not otherwise mentioned and it is under the particular head of Interest on Debt and other obligations and arises for the first time, on account of the counter entry of adjustment under Irrigation.

Mr. Speaker : A separate demand should have been made.

Minister of Finance : But this is not a demand. It is a charged item under 'Interest'.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

The motion was carried.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

Minister of Finance : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,51,590 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,51,590 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

Sanitation of district jails.

Sardar Kapoor Singh Ludhiana East (Sikh, Rural) (urdu) : I move—

That the item of Rs. 18,000 on account of Contract-Contingencies be reduced by Re. 1.

I have moved this with a view to criticise the sanitation of district jails.

Mr. Speaker : But it is out of order.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Will you see the explanation ?

Mr. Speaker : I have over-ruled it. Does the honourable member want to satisfy me that he is in order ? Sanitation, Health and other allied matters are discussable when the annual Budget is discussed.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : That is right but the excess of Rs. 18,000 is anticipated on the basis of the amount actually due to increased expenditure, on sanitation services, postage, etc., etc., as a result of subversive movements. There it is.

Mr. Speaker : What does the honourable member want to discuss ?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I want to discuss the question of sanitation of district jails.

Mr. Speaker : That can be discussed at the time the annual Budget is discussed.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : But that can be discussed now.

Mr. Speaker : No. Only so far as this item can be discussed.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I will discuss only this item.

Mr. Speaker : The Note is too wide.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I will restrict myself to this item of excess expenditure.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member could have made his object of discussion quite definite and precise.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I am prepared to amend it.

Mr. Speaker : But I cannot allow any amendment at this stage.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : All the same I am not speaking on Sanitation generally but I will restrict myself to this item only. I have moved this out motion with a view to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that although they had sanctioned this amount long ago, yet the method of utilizing it was so defective that half of the money was surely wasted. I know it for certain that when several prisoners were sent to the Gujrat Jail, the Government had sanctioned this money for the construction of latrines, etc., for the use of the prisoners. In this connection I may point out that I was the first to enter the Gujrat Jail and at that time there were no latrines in the barracks of the prisoners. It was in the beginning of December last that the jail authorities wrote to the Government that separate latrines and bath rooms in the barracks were very necessary and that the requisite amount for the construction of the same might be sanctioned. The Government no doubt accorded their sanction. But the Public Works Department and the sanitation engineers took so long to execute the construction work that it was not before four or five months elapsed when the latrines, etc., were completed. The work which ought to have been finished in a few days was accomplished in several months. Besides, the ground around the barracks was not levelled, with the result that during the rainy season water got collected around the building and began to stagnate helping thereby the mosquitoes to flourish. The jail authorities sent reminder after reminder to the Public Works Department to remove this defect and arrange for an outlet of this static water. I perfectly remember that no action was taken in the matter. This difficulty was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner also. He was good enough to hear our complaints but in spite of this the months of June, July and August passed away and the water kept stagnating and the Public Works Department quietly slept over the matter. Consequently malaria began to rage in the barracks of the prisoners. By mentioning this what I want to emphasise is that even though the Government sanction the requisite money for a certain object, their agencies for executing that work are very slow to take the construction in hand. Now when the rainy season was over, the Public Works Department people were shaken from their slumber and in the month of November they levelled the ground. (Laughter.) In this connection I may also point that when they were going to undertake

[S. Kapoor Singh.]

the construction, their pointed attention was drawn to the fact that as a result of this water was bound to collect in the vicinity of the barracks. Although they realized the soundness of our advice, yet they continued their work and were reluctant to deviate from the defective plan prepared by the Public Works Department. They were not prepared to make changes according to the requirements.

Exactly the same was the case with the supply of mosquito nets. The usual delay and carelessness was exhibited by the authorities in providing these nets to the prisoners. The honourable members would be interested to know that they were supplied to us in month of October when winter had set in in right earnest, and malarial season had come to an end. *(Laughter)*.

I am sure I have made it clear how the sanitation of the jails is tampered with and adversely affected by the careless attitude of the departments entrusted with the construction work. Then there is an allied matter and that is of diet. The wheat supply there was very defective. The jail authorities asked permission for making local purchases. But the Government would not agree. They wanted to benefit the contractors at the cost of the tax payer. The wheat which could be had at Rs. 3-4-0 was supplied by the contractor at the rate of Rs. 3-9-0 per maund.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak only about sanitation.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : It is a question of health also. Supply of wheat has a direct bearing on the health of the prisoners. However, what I want to lay stress upon is that when the Government has to spend any money on a certain work, they should refrain from doing that work tardily or allowing any unnecessary wastage through their departments or red tapism. With these words I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 18,000 on account of Contract-Contingencies be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Treatment of political prisoners.

Sardar Lal Singh : Sir, I beg to move.

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's amendment is out of order. It has nothing to do with political prisoners.

Sardar Lal Singh : I want to discuss the treatment of convicts in jails. I would not be very long.

Mr. Speaker : It does not arise out of the particular item. So, it is out of order. The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,51,590 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

The motion was carried.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,78,320 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Police.

Mr. Speaker : The motion moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,78,320 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Police.

Sardar Lal Singh : I beg to move....

Mr. Speaker : I am doubtful about the relevancy and admissibility of the honourable member's amendment.

Minister for Public Works : This relates to recruitment and this vests in the Defence Department over which the Punjab Government has no control. If the honourable member could vest this Government with that control I will reply, otherwise the cut motion is out of order.

Sardar Lal Singh : My object is that so far as recruitment is concerned the Punjab police try to place obstacles in the way of certain classes.

Mr. Speaker : That is not the point ; the motion is out of order.

Additional Inspector General of Police.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (Urdu) :
I beg to move—

4 p.m.

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

This demand is in regard to the creation of a post of an Additional Inspector-General of Police and the constitution of a second Arms Staff to deal with arms smuggling in the province. My submission is that the former Inspector-General of Police has been working efficiently and therefore no Additional Inspector-General of Police is required to be appointed. As regards arms smuggling, I would submit that if sincere efforts were made it would have been stopped long ago. But unfortunately insufficient efforts have been made to stop it. You would remember that a few months ago this subject was brought before the House in the form of questions and the Government was then told how rifles and revolvers had been imported in the district of Mianwali. I was well aware of what was happening in my district when the Haveli Project was under construction. At that time, you will be surprised to know that one pistol was sold for one bag of wheat. The attention of the police was invited to that fact but all in vain. As a result of that ignorance of the Police a considerable stock of unlicensed arms is now present in my district. To arm oneself for the purpose of self-defence in case of war is one thing. But when the arms pass through the hands of 'Gundas' and rogues, the peace and tranquility of the province is jeopardized. Particularly at this time of chaos and disturbance when the war has come nearer our homes, the smuggling of arms will not be in the interest of the province. The Arms Staff being insufficient has not been able to stop the arms smuggling and therefore I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the remarks made by my honourable friends Mr. Dev Raj Sethi who has stated in the course of his speech that the Police of Mianwali district had not made efforts to stop the import of arms in the district. I would submit on the strength of my experience that the Superintendent of Police and his subordinates did their best in restoring unlicensed arms from various suspected places with the help of zaildars and lambardars. I am well aware of the fact that they had been taking a keen interest in finding out unlicensed arms and getting them deposited with the district authorities. It is, therefore, incorrect to say that the Police did not make genuine efforts in restoring unlicensed arms.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana) : I wish to say a few words in reply to the mover of the cut motion. I must confess that I could not follow his criticism. Does he mean to say that there is no need for the new Inspector-General of Police? If he will look at the memorandum he will find that there is enormous increase of work which was not provided for previously and which cannot be coped by the present Inspector-General. A. R. P. is a very important work and the new Inspector-General is the Director of Civil Defence as well as Additional Inspector-General. There are various other duties including the Civic Guards which did not exist previously. The present Inspector-General of Police could not be expected to cope with the enormous work. He has to handle ordinary as well as extra work. I am sure honourable members would agree that A. R. P. is a very important work and requires to be carried on in co-ordination with the Army, and whatever staff may be necessary should be ungrudgingly sanctioned. I do not think anybody in this House would support my honourable friend from Jhang in his contention that arrangements for internal security such as Civic Guards should not be thorough. It is not for the purpose of extra staff sanctioned but he wants to criticise the collection of illicit arms. He said that some were doing it in the past and the information was given to the police. I wish the honourable member had been more vigilant and given this information and the illicit smuggling would have been checked. He has conceded that in several districts in the Punjab including Mianwali, Jhang, Lyallpur, a large number of illicit arms have already been recovered. This factor contributes to the peace and security of the law-abiding citizens. If illicit arms are possessed by a large number of people of doubtful character the honourable mover of the cut motion knows what it means to people of his type and others and he should have been the first to approve of the extra staff sanctioned for the collection of illicit arms. I expected he would have asked for more staff and not criticised the Government for taking steps for the prevention of crime and other measures to improve law and order. I hope that this cut motion will be defeated.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,78,320 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Police.

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 55,560 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Industries.

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS AND ROADS ESTABLISHMENT.

Minister of Finance : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 61,440 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment.

The motion was carried.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES.

Minister of Finance : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,52,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Receipts from Electricity Schemes—Deduct Working Expenses other than Establishment.

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

In moving this cut motion, I want to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance whether it is sound financial policy to spend money in one year for the benefit of the current as well as the next year. Supposing we spend a sum of Rs. 1,72,200 this year in the hope that the price of paper will rise next year.....

Mr. Speaker : Which item of the demand is the honourable member discussing ?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The item of Rs. 1,71,600 on page 69 of the Estimates.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's cut motion relates to the whole demand. Therefore, he cannot discuss only one item.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I will speak on more than one items.

Mr. Speaker : No. His motion is out of order.

Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,28,510 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,28,510 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous.

Panchayat Journal.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian-Christian) (Urdu) : Sir, I move—

That the item of Rs. 4,620 on account of publication of Panchayat Journal be reduced by Rs. 1.

My object in moving this cut is to bring this fact to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister as well as that of the Government that this expenditure is wholly unnecessary. It is not the present Government which took the initiative in the matter of introducing the Panchayat system in the Province. Long before them the previous Government have a tempted to popularise this system and as such it does not need any further propaganda for making the public panchayat-minded.

Minister of Public Works : We are aware of this fact.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : It is passing strange that even after knowing it for a fact the Government is acting like one who does not know anything. If that is so why are you so anxious for wasting public money on further propaganda? My honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali is shaking his head but let me assure him that my remarks are based on first-hand information and personal experience. I fail to comprehend the advisability of starting a Panchayat Journal at such cost when it is realized that the panchayat system has been in existence for a number of years and it does not need any further effort on the part of the Government to persuade the population of this province to take interest in it. The honourable members are aware that a number of journals have already been started in the various districts of the province under the auspices of the Rural Reconstruction Department. Those who have seen these journals know that a number of useful articles on the need of panchayats and the benefits to be obtained through them are always contained in them.

This is not the case with those journals alone ; even such important papers as the *Tribune* and other Urdu dailies also occasionally include illuminating articles stressing the need for the extension of the panchayat system. Again certain district boards bring out their own journals in which useful articles on the merits of the panchayat system are sometimes included. I have, therefore, so far been unable to bring myself round to taking the idea of starting a Panchayat Journal at the expense of public funds, kindly. Apart from moving this demand the Government have not tried to prove the necessity or to justify the need of such a journal.

This is an innovation that is going to be introduced by Government. Let me tell them that there is a general impression throughout the length and breadth of the province that the panchayats had been established in order to strengthen the position of the Unionist Party and to carry on its propaganda. That is the reason why the Panchayat officers and the Assistant Panchayat officers are gathered every year in the capital of the province and under the excuse of imparting training to them in connection with their duties they are taught as to how they can carry on the propaganda of the Unionist Party in the villages. It is my considered opinion that they are gathered not because they still require any training, but because my friends want to impress upon them that their sole duty is to carry on the propaganda of the Unionist Party and thus strengthen its position in the rural areas. I have myself plenty of experience about the establishment and working of panchayats. I know how panchayats are established and what are the difficulties that stand in the way of establishment of panchayats. The honourable members who know something about the system of panchayats are aware of the fact that there is only one difficulty in the way of establishment of panchayats in the villages and that is party faction. It is very easy to establish panchayats in villages where there is no party faction. But where there is party faction it is very difficult to establish panchayats there. I may tell my friends that these party factions cannot be removed merely by the starting of any journal. On the contrary other means can be employed for putting an end to these party factions. I do not think it is at all necessary to start a journal merely for the sake of impressing upon the villagers the importance of panchayats. This object can be achieved by other means as well. For instance, the officials, I mean the local officials of every district or tahsil can go to the villages where there are difficulties in the way of establishment of panchayats and can impress upon the villagers through the assistance of the local influential people the need of establishing of panchayats. If this method is adopted I think the efforts of my friends will be crowned with success. I, therefore, think that there is absolutely no need for starting this journal and the public money should not be wasted in this way.

Besides, my submission is that even if we admit the need of starting any such journal, then I ask is it a matter which is so very urgent that provision should be made for it in the supplementary estimates ? Could not the starting of this journal be postponed till the introduction of the budget ? In this way my friends can make provision for anything in the supplementary estimates just as they have done in the case of this journal. It seems that they have adopted this method because they do not want that these things should be discussed threadbare on the floor of the House, as they would

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber.]

be if such a demand had been made at the time of the introduction of the annual budget. They want to save their trouble. After all why have they adopted this method? If this is the way in which they want to demand money, I ask what can prevent them from making similar provisions for other works in the supplementary estimates? There should be some cogent reasons for making any such provision in the supplementary estimates. I ask is it necessary that this journal should be started during the course of this year? Could it not be postponed for two months? What harm would have been done if it had been postponed? Do my friends think that if this journal is not started, the whole system and working of panchayats would come to a standstill? My submission is that in this way my friends can make provision for any thing during the course of the year if they so desire. I for one think that in the supplementary estimates provision should be made for only those things which cannot be postponed till the introduction of the budget. Even if we take it for granted that this expenditure is fair and that such a journal is needed even then I think that it is not at all proper for Government to make a provision for it in the supplementary estimates. I have moved this cut motion in order to impress upon the honourable members the undesirability of making such provisions in the supplementary estimates. With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 4,620 on account of publication of Panchayat Journal be reduced by Re. 1.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh), Rural), (*Punjabi*) : Before I begin my speech I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether this journal has been started or not? (*Minister for Public Works* : It is about to be started.) The Director of Panchayats also told me that this journal has not been started and it may take one or two months more. Anyway if my friends study the explanatory note appended to this demand they will find that Government have given two or three reasons for the starting of this journal. The first reason is that by starting the panchayat movement Government want to radically change the social and economic condition of the residents of the rural areas. It is with this end in view that panchayats have been established in the villages. (*Minister for Public Works* : Is there anything wrong in it?) Well, in order to achieve this object of radically changing the social and economic condition of the zamindars they want to start this journal as well because in their opinion printed word carries greater conviction in this country and it would prove more useful than the Panchayat Officers. Thirdly it has been pointed out in the explanatory note that there is at present hardly any newspaper of consequence which concerns itself primarily with the rural people, their needs, their difficulties and their peculiar problems.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.*)

They think that as soon as this newspaper is started the social and economic condition of the zamindars would be changed. If they are under this

impression, I ask why do they waste money on the maintenance of Panchayat Officers and Assistant Panchayat Officers? Instead of bearing all this expenditure, would it not be better for Government to start this journal forthwith and give a sack to all these officers? After all what is the necessity of appointing a Panchayat Officer and an Assistant Panchayat Officer in every tahsil when the purpose for which they are appointed can very easily be served by starting a panchayat journal? Just see, that my friends think that an object which they could not achieve by appointing an army of Panchayat Officers and Assistant Panchayat Officers can be attained over-night by starting a panchayat journal by reading which people would be convinced of the need of establishment of panchayats!

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order please. Now Diwan Chaman Lall may move his adjournment motion.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

INSULT TO ASSEMBLY BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LAHORE.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

It is with very grave sense of responsibility and of seriousness being regardful of the dignity of this House and of the dignity of every honourable member sitting in this Chamber that I am moving this adjournment motion in order to—

- (a) draw the attention of this House to what I consider to be a grave inroad into the privileges enjoyed by this House, and
- (b) draw the attention of my honourable friend the Premier to what has been happening in Lahore under his very nose without probably his knowing anything about it, and to direct his attention to the necessity for him to take necessary action to vindicate the honour of this House, the honour of every honourable member who sits in this House and to see to it that the attack made on the civil liberties of the citizens of Lahore by one individual is not repeated and that individual is properly reprimanded for what he has been doing. It may be argued, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the question whether he used this expression or not is in doubt. As far as we are concerned that expression is not in doubt. The fact of that expression having been used and the context in which it was used are matters now which are beyond any dispute whatever. They have formed the basis of an affidavit filed in the High Court. They have formed the basis of a great deal of agitation in the press and I do not know whether my honourable friend the Premier has obtained any direct information from the gentleman involved as to whether he did or did not employ the expressions that are attributed to him. But in any case many days have elapsed and the expressions are there. For instance, in this affidavit which was filed by Mr. A. C. Bali who is a very important member of the staff of the *Tribune*

[D. Chaman Lall.]

and by Mr. Virendra, the Managing Director of a very important daily newspaper, The *Partap* of Lahore, the following words occur :—

The District Magistrate himself addressing Mian Iftikhar-ud-din said :

District Magistrate : "Who are you ?"

A voice : "He is an M. L. A."

District Magistrate : "I will finish your Assembly in a day and I will smash Lahore to-night, you swine, you have no business to be here".

An honourable member : How is that relevant ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I would draw my learned friend's attention to what is relevant, and I do not desire that he should anticipate me on the point of relevancy. I want to build a picture for my honourable friend of which he has been denied the benefit of as to in what circumstances all this has been happening in Lahore. You know that in the city of Lahore we have had a grave hartal which culminated in a series of lathi attacks. Some of us, as far as the Congress was concerned, we were not parties to the controversy that was raging between my honourable friends the Government on the one side and the beoparis on the other. I want to make that statement definitely and without any ambiguity that we were no parties to the controversy that was raging between my honourable friends and the beoparis. What did happen was this that we on this side of the House not only with one accord but equally under instructions of that great Musalman, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the President of the Congress, actually offered to be parties to the bringing about of a settlement between my honourable friend and the beoparis. That offer was made on the floor of this House by me on behalf of my party. We offered to sit at a round table conference with him in order that the issues might be satisfactorily settled in the interest of the province. There was a second interest that we in the Congress had in this matter, and that was to see that the civil liberties of the people were properly and duly protected. It could not be that we as representatives of the people here holding the positions that we do could sit silent and watch and witness lathi charges on innocent men, on innocent women and upon children. We would be less than human, we would be inhuman, if we did not raise our voices in protest, and my honourable friend knows and you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that statements were issued by us after witnessing some of the terrible incidents and that we were constantly in demand by the public. Whenever any incident of this nature took place leaders of this Party were constantly in demand being asked to go and watch and witness the brutalities that were being committed. On the 22nd of February, on the day when this incident is alleged to have taken place, on that very day, appeared a statement under my signature in which I condemned in the strongest terms possible the brutal activities of some of the officials who had been engaged in these lathi charges against those women and children and against those men. From what we saw, we were convinced that that was not in any way the right method to give people the necessary training to meet the enemy who was at our door, to start these attacks against the people, nor was it the right method to intimidate the people who were engaged in this hartal, in order to win a victory. On that very day I made this offer of a round table conference. At the same time I said that in my presence when I was called up to witness this lathi charge that was being

made in Dhani Ram Street, I found that people had been injured in that lathi charge. Nevertheless the satyagrahis squatted down on the floor and the Police in my presence wanted to arrest them as in the case of previous jathas. It was in my presence then that Shanno Devi who was in the party with folded hands said to the jatha in my presence, please get into the van and obey the orders of the police. Immediately without the slightest hesitation this jatha by the advice given to them by Shanno Devi got up and marched into the van. To my utter horror and surprise I later learnt that after I had left again the Police resorted to a lathi charge and one of the victims, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was this very lady, an honourable member of this House, Shanno Devi, who was a victim of that lathi charge, apparently for having assisted the police!

Look at the second instance. I am drawing my honourable friend's attention to these facts to show the culmination of all that had taken place on the 22nd. My friend, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, President of the Punjab Congress Committee, an honourable member of this House, held in very great esteem by all of us was passing along the Mall when his car, which had a Congress flag, was stopped by a large crowd who complained to him that lathi charges were being made and that there was a great deal of trouble. He got down and the Police themselves asked Mian Sahib to intervene and separate the men from the women where they had collected in the street. Mian Sahib immediately intervened and within no time whatsoever got the women who were mixed up with the men in this great procession separated one from the other. A little while later again there was a little row, a little running about and the Police themselves asked Mian Sahib again to intervene and see to it that only the Satyagrahis remained there and the others got departed from that particular spot. Mian Sahib's instructions given on the spot were carried out and it was the police that was asking Mian Sahib to do this in order to preserve peace and order at that particular place. What was the result, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Immediately Mr. K. H. Henderson—I have not the pleasure of knowing the gentleman—he may be a most estimable gentleman, a brilliant administrator, an excellent man—I do not know him, but I only know what actually did happen at that spot—Mr. Henderson arrived apparently in great temper and then arriving, without making the slightest enquiry, without finding out that it was the police that had asked Mian Sahib to intervene, went to Mian Sahib whom he knew—I believe they were at Oxford together—I believe he knew him when he went to arrest him. (*Interruption*)—I thought they were at Oxford together, but probably not—I bow to a friend who is sitting on the other side whose word I must accept without any demur—.

Premier : Mian Sahib himself says that they were together at Oxford.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Possibly. The fact that Mr. Henderson knew Mian Sahib is incontestable because it was Mr. Henderson who arrived to arrest him when Mian Sahib offered Satyagraha on the last occasion. I submit without making the slightest enquiry from anybody or from Mian Sahib as to the reason why Mian Sahib was there, as to whether it was correct or not that Mian Sahib was actually assisting in the preservation of law and order at the request of the police themselves, Mr. Henderson goes up to Mian Sahib and asks him who he is, then says, "yes, I know you",

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and then says, "I will smash Lahore to-night; I will finish your Assembly. You swine, get out" (*Interruption*). I do submit my honourable friend should realise that this is not a laughing matter. His predecessors, those hardened bureaucrats of 1928, did not look upon a similar episode in the light-hearted manner in which my honourable friend is looking. What does my honourable friend say? On the last occasion he said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, "in my own personal capacity I am only Sikander Hyat-Khan, an ordinary man. That is there whether I am in Lahore or in Delhi or anywhere else. But I may tell them that as the Premier of the province, I have certain responsibilities to discharge as also certain claims on my friends opposite". Now my friend has certainly a claim on his friends opposite and I have the privilege and honour as my friends on this side have, of claiming him as our friend. He has a claim on us for supporting every honourable deed of his Government. He has a claim on us to see that the dignity of this Government should be preserved in the interests of law and order and the peace in the province. But he has no claim when he gets up and suggests that an unconstitutional act, an act which is worthy of condemnation, should be supported by us. He has every right to accept our support if his administration is not guilty of the excesses that his administration has been guilty of during these last few days. He has no reason to expect our support if he gets up and upholds the attitude and the acts of an individual which are reprehensible. My honourable friend even in the interest of law and order and peace in the province, in the interest of the purity of administration, in the interest of democracy to which my honourable friend has made much lip-sympathy should not support such acts. He has no reason to get up and do anything but the right thing, namely to condemn the action of this district magistrate who has exceeded his duties. Why do I say it? Because my honourable friend goes on to say—

If they do not—that is my honourable friends opposite—respect me as the Premier of the Province, how do they expect the British officials to show respect to me?

Now am I to take it that my honourable friend is worried about the respect that Mr. Henderson should pay to him? Or is he worried about the respect that Mr. Henderson should pay to law and order, to peace, to good administration, to the setting up of a good example? Is it a good example not only to abuse Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, but to order immediately Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din's arrest for no rhyme or reason? And if there was a reason why has Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din been released a few days later? Is it good Government, is it democracy, that an official should order immediately the arrest of six members of this honourable House as a culmination point of the reign of terror that Mr. Henderson had created in the city of Lahore? And what for? There was an honourable colleague of mine, Munshi Hari Lal, who was not even on the spot, who had nothing whatever to do with the happenings at Lahore. Suddenly the Police arrive at night, arrest him and take him to jail. It has been alleged, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I have heard it from certain friends that the talk in the Punjab Club has been that the arrests effected by Mr. Henderson were due to fifth column activity. If that has been the talk in the Punjab Club, I can only say this that the Punjab Club inhabitants are suffering from a serious inferiority complex. There has

been no fifth column activity and the fifth column activity, if any, is to be displayed by men like Mr. Henderson who, in this very serious situation that faces the country, attempt to indulge in methods which are condemned by my honourable friend and his Government day in and day out as methods that are outworn, as methods that are tyrannical that should never be resorted to in any democratic stage and yet those are the very methods a copy of which will be found in the annals of the Gestapo activities in Germany, that is where you will find a copy of the deeds that Mr. Henderson has been guilty of. My honourable friend lives a more or less sheltered official life. He does not know the significance of the feeling in the city of Lahore as a result of these atrocious activities of this very unworthy official who has taken it upon himself not only to terrorise the beoparis, to terrorise the honourable members of this House, but to intimidate this very House itself by the use of that very expression which is now under discussion in this adjournment motion. What has he done and why did he do it? The object was that he wanted probably to live as the rightful successor of Michael O'Dwyer and Dyer whose names are an anathema even to my honourable friend and may I take it that my honourable friend is going to uphold the activities of this gentleman? Is he going to justify on the floor of this House the arrest of six honourable members for no rhyme or reason but to intimidate this House? Is he going to get up and justify the use of this abusive language by a subordinate official of his? Or is he going to justify the tyrannising act of this official in arresting no less than three representatives of the press who had nothing whatever to do with the hartal, who had been allowed by the police themselves into the cordon which they created, for the purpose of reporting? Is that the act of a normal individual which my honourable friend wishes to uphold or is that the act of an abnormal person who has lost all sense of decency and who is so full of his own authority that he wishes to terrorise not only the public, not only the beoparis, not only the women, not only the children, but also the members of this House and intimidate this House itself and put terror into the hearts of the representatives of the press? Is this the act of a man who is acting constitutionally or are these the acts of a man who is wanting to rule this province in spite of my honourable friend and his Government as the Dictator of Lahore? These deeds are reprehensible. No Government can live and carry its good name in the province if it is not going to condemn such deeds. This Government must perforce condemn these deeds if it wants to have its good name enrolled in the history of this province.

Now in 1928, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a similar thing happened in the old Legislative Council. To-day you have witnessed my honourable friend, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, getting up to oppose the introduction of this adjournment motion, although as I stated on a previous occasion I congratulated unfortunately prematurely my honourable friend, the Premier, for having established a convention that on all such important occasions the Government should not oppose an adjournment motion. But my honourable friend opposed it. Why did he oppose it? Because it was an insult to the dignity of the House. On a previous occasion a similar incident happened when an honourable member of this House was abused by a Deputy Commissioner, whose name was Mr. Worsely. That matter was brought up on the floor of the House and my honourable friend, Sir Chhotu

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Ram, not then in the Government got up and said that the Government must institute an enquiry in the matter and condemn the action of that Deputy Commissioner for having used that language. There is a French saying which means "other times, other manners." My honourable friend's times were different then from his times now. My honourable friend's manners were different then when he supported that adjournment motion in 1928. Why did he do so? Because he realized that the insult offered to an honourable member of the House was an insult offered to the dignity of that Chamber. What has happened to my honourable friend now, when he has the hardihood to get up and oppose a motion, which, I think, every member should have accepted and accepted it without a demur, because it was a motion designed towards the integrity and the dignity of this House. Why does my honourable friend oppose it now? I want to say a word in regard to my honourable friend, Sir Chhotu Ram. He said on that occasion :—

"I would ask the Government with all the emphasis at my command to institute an enquiry into the matter so that we may be able to lay our hand on the wrong doer. Sir for proper adjudication of a matter if it were to be sufficient that one party should make certain allegations and the other party should reply to them, then I would most respectfully submit that there is absolutely no use of the courts of law. They should be closed down. Sir, I would again submit that it is in the fitness of things that the matter should not be left where it is, but should further be inquired into.

Now, if at that time there was a statement by the Deputy Commissioner that he did not use that expression attributed to him, that statement was before my honourable friend, and yet he insisted upon an enquiry being held into the allegations and that legislature ridden as it was by bureaucrats, that legislature had the good sense, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to carry that motion unanimously without a single dissentient voice and unanimously censured that Deputy Commissioner for having used that language. I think my honourable friend would have employed the same method now, now when he is in the seat of the mighty should have allowed this motion to be carried on the floor of this House without a single dissentient voice, because to-day it was the turn of my honourable friend Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, or the turn of some of us here, to-morrow it may be the turn of my honourable friends sitting on those benches and not their turn at the instigation of the Government, not their turn because they have done wrong or they have broken the law, but their turn merely because it is the whim of the Deputy Commissioner that they should be sent to jail, that they should be abused and they should be arrested and let off at his own sweet will. It is a horrible state of affairs to permit in this province. My honourable friend will bear with me when I say that it is his responsibility to see to it that the administration has not gained a free rein to indulge in doing things that it has been doing in the city of Lahore. It must be the policy of the Government to check such things, because if there is a bad name that anybody earns as a result of these activities, it is the present Government that will earn a bad name. Does my honourable friend wish to declare on the floor of this House that there was nothing against these six honourable members who were sent to Borstal jail, kept there in the worst cells imaginable, not allowed a single interview by their relatives or doctors or lawyers. They

were allowed interviews only when they were going to be released. They were practically kept in solitary confinement, simply because it was the will and desire of Mr. Henderson that the honourable members of this House should be treated in this fashion. After this Mr. Henderson denies having used that expression against my honourable friend Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and denies having said anything about the Assembly. This is nothing, but begging the question. But the worst is the fact that my honourable friend getting up this morning said, what does it matter if Mr. Henderson did so. What does it matter, the honourable members of this House have also said "Wreck this constitution." If my honourable friend appeals to us and he wants us to strengthen his hands in regard to the dignity of his Government, because the dignity of the Government is something apart from the personnel of the Government, surely he must take necessary steps to put an end to this sort of regime that has been blackening the face of the administration in the Punjab. My honourable friend should not say these things. He knows the distinction between what the Congress has been demanding and what Mr. Henderson has said. The Congress has been demanding independence. This constitution gives us no independence at all. Let all the people combine to wreck this constitution in order that we may have free and independent India. That is very different from Mr. Henderson, standing near the General Post Office, saying to Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din: "You swine, I'll finish your Assembly to-morrow" and proceeding to arrest Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and other honourable members of this House in order to carry out his threat. Now the actual action is very different from what my honourable friends do. I hope he will realize the difference between that action of Mr. Henderson and the constitutional demand for free and independent India. It is not a matter for hair-splitting. It is a matter which affects the dignity of this House. You have got an example before you. What happened in 1928? The action of that Deputy Commissioner was censured by the House. To-day we have to see and judge the action taken by Mr. Henderson; whether he took that action in a provocative spirit, whether he took that action after having lost his temper completely, whether he did that under the effect of liquor or under the stress of strong emotion, that man is not fit to be the administrator of Lahore.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : How long will the honourable Diwan Chaman Lall take? His time is over. He has already taken half an hour.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I will conclude in another two or three minutes. I do not desire to exceed my time limit.

My honourable friend must realise that this a grave matter, which affects not only the dignity of this Chamber, but also it affects the civil liberties of the people and it also affects the dignity of his own Government, which has pleaded all these days a complete ignorance of what is being happening in the Punjab. They do not know anything about lathi charges. In one instance they denied the lathi charge in the Lahore Cantonment, but later on when evidence was produced, they had to admit it. My honourable friend should not, therefore, stand on the floor of this House, it would do him no good, it would do no good to the dignity of this House to merely say what he said this morning, "No matter what Mr. Henderson has done."

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It shows that he does not care a hoot for him and for his Government. He has not even worried about informing him or his Government as to what action he takes. I am merely taking my stand on what my honourable friend has himself stated on the floor of the House. He was not aware, he is still not aware of what actually has happened. If this is the manner in which democracy is working in the Punjab, I say the sooner this type of democracy is put an end to, the better for the people of this Province. (*Honourable Premier: Hear, hear.*) My honourable friend says, "Hear, hear". I do hope he does not believe that the deeds of Mr. Henderson are justifiable. I am merely laying bare facts before my honourable friend and I am asking of him not to be frightened of the Indian Civil Service as he seems to be, not to attempt to justify an unjustifiable thing merely because it happens to be done by an Englishman, a member of the Indian Civil Service. If you have not courage even to stand up to an Indian Civil Service Officer, what courage are you going to display when you stand up against the enemy in spite of your wonted declaration of being the sword arm of India? Stand up on your dignity, stand up as men, not as servants of the old bureaucratic regime which gave you the bitter example that you have set to-day on the floor of this House, but as independent men in charge of a Government who are prepared to take their stand as rulers of the province and not merely the servants of Mr. Henderson. I do hope my honourable friend would realise the implication of what I have said and I reserve, Mr. Deputy Speaker, after I have heard my honourable friend, whatever I have got to say on this motion but I have commended this to every honourable member who desires to preserve the dignity and prestige of this honourable House. (*Loud cheers.*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved is—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (West Hoshiarpur, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to support the adjournment motion moved by my honourable friend Dewan Chaman Lal who, in the course of his speech, has placed before the House the words uttered by the Lahore District Magistrate on the arrest of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din. I do believe that the members of the House would be one with me in saying that it is the bounden duty of the party responsible for running the administration to maintain the respect and prestige of this House. It is a pity that this morning the Honourable Premier has stated in his speech that if the District Magistrate had said that he would finish the Assembly it was an ordinary thing for it had been the catchword of the Opposition also. In this connection I would like to enlighten the Honourable Premier on this point by saying that we have never asked the Government to finish or wreck this Assembly. What we do drive at in our daily speeches is that the All-India Congress Committee does not like this constitution which has been thrust on us. Instead of that, we desire to have complete independence. The intention of this body is to prove this constitution defective through parliamentary activities and wreck it with a view to attain full independence. I am surprised that a responsible man no less than the Honourable Premier himself is making such efforts to conceal the insult and blunder committed by the District Magistrate with respect to this august House. I do not think it would be out of place

to remind my honourable friends opposite of the incident of Louis of France and the Parliament. My friends should remember that when Louis declining to accept the recommendations of the Parliament of France threatened to dissolve it, the consequences were most ugly and unpleasant. This clash was the only reason of the French Revolution. When the facts are there, the Government cannot hoodwink the people of the province by saying that this House has not been insulted by a public servant. I, therefore, feel certain that if full expression could have been given to our feelings the situation would have become more thorny for the Government than it is at present. Then, sir, it is most regrettable that the Honourable Premier, this morning, tried to evade this matter and the attitude adopted by him was contrary to the history of the world. I may point out that this matter is not worth evading and the Honourable Premier should realise its importance. Let me therefore cite an incident appearing on the annals of the history of England by which the rights and privileges of Parliament would be known to my honourable friends opposite. They should know that when the recommendations submitted by the Parliament were not approved of by King Charles the revolution took place and ultimately the king had to bow before the Parliament. Since then the practical democracy has taken birth in England. Generally the Leader of the House is held responsible for the respect of this House and I wonder how he can dare say, "Never mind. Even the Opposition says so". It is a thousand pities that on the one hand he says it is his heart's desire that the Opposition should co-operate with him and on the other he makes such lame excuses only to discredit the Opposition. This is not a fair game.

Then, sir, the Honourable Premier has said that the I.C.S. officers do not respect him as the Leader of the House. Let me clarify this point by saying that if the present attitude adopted by the Government is changed as it has been suggested from this side of the House and severe action is taken against that officer, full support will be given to the Government by the Congress Assembly Party. We are prepared to join hands with them provided they give us undertaking to bring these English officers to their senses as suggested by my learned friend Diwan Chaman Lall. Now, the other side of the proposition is this. Since this Government have come into power this has been the general complaint in the province that the so-called responsible Ministry is running the administration for its own ulterior motives. I understand there have been some exceptions as certain nominations of the Government's favourites were rejected by certain Deputy Commissioners. I would like to point out, in this connection, that if I.C.S. officers, be they English or otherwise, tried to run the administration under the spirit of partisanship the Congress Assembly Party would be justified in making demands for explanation from the Government. The officials who are responsible for the administration of the province be they Hindu, Muslim or English ought to discharge their duties honestly and efficiently. They should serve in this country without indulging in party-politics. I am conscious of the fact that our feeble voice cannot penetrate the ears of our Government. Yet I deem it my duty to express our strong condemnation of the policy of this Government in overlooking the most objectionable and illegal actions of their officers. The honourable Ministers are also aware of the fact that they employ both fair and unfair means to strengthen their

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Government. Fortunately for the Government the present international situation has also assisted them in this matter. May I know from the Honourable Premier if it is not his foremost duty as the head of a democratic Government to see that the I. C. S. officers in this province, whether Indian or European, discharge their duties in an efficient and proper manner? I do not wish to precipitate matters but I am constrained to remark that so far as the adjournment motion moved by my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall is concerned, I did not expect the Honourable Premier to say things which he has said to-day. The other day too he said that the District Magistrate was justified in effecting the arrest of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din. Again as to the charge that the District Magistrate came to the scene in a drunken state, the Premier defending him said that when he came to his bungalow in the evening he did not appear drunk at all. However if the statement made by the Premier is to be believed that the District Magistrate ordered Mian Sahib's arrest in a sudden fit of irritation, may I know whether the other arrests which were made between 10 and 11-30 p. m. that night were effected with his or the District Magistrate's permission?

I would through you request the honourable members of this House not to discuss this motion in the light of party politics but to give it an unbiassed consideration. In connection with the reference to the precedent of 1928 it would be interesting to know that the permission for discussion in that case was not opposed by the then Leader of the House, who was an Englishman. But to-day the attitude of our own Government is quite different. While at that time an Englishman admitted that the officer concerned was in the wrong, our Punjabi Premier, as was expected of him, instead of owning the fault of his District Magistrate and saying that he will see that he is duly punished, and that such an unfortunate incident is not repeated again, has tried to defend him.

In the statement issued to the Press to-day the Honourable Premier has made a request to the British Government which no other Indian would have ever thought of making—.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : On a point of order. We are not discussing the Honourable Premier's statement which I think the honourable member has not understood and if he has then he should realize that what is in and between the lines is something which every patriotic Indian must respect.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, before this statement I was under the impression that the Honourable Premier was in favour of the Indian Freedom Movement. The fact of his resignation from the National Defence Council also strengthened this belief. But his statement to-day has proved that he is not in favour of India being granted self-determination. (*Interruption.*) If that is so this is the best opportunity for him to prove that he can deal with British I.C.S. officers with the same firmness which he employs in the case of Indian officers. In connection with the action that he took against an Indian Sessions Judge recently the Honourable Premier had given an assurance that he would deal equally firmly with British officers if anything was reported against them. But to-day our adjournment motion has demonstrated that he takes sides with the British officers rather than punishing them. I beg to submit that the Honourable Premier should eschew this

diplomacy of his and take strong action against the District Magistrate. An officer, be he an Englishman or an Indian, should be made to understand clearly that he cannot with impunity insult this House. With these words I support the adjournment motion moved by my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia (Ludhiana and Ferozpur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, my honourable friend Chaudhri Kartar Singh, who just resumed his seat has, in the course of his speech, tried to impart a lesson of courage to the Honourable Premier. He exhorted him to take a bold step besitting a courageous and resourceful head of the Government in defending the honour of this august House. But I beg to submit that I do not subscribe to these views. Nor do I believe that this adjournment motion was moved with the object of hearing it from the lips of the Honourable Premier that Mr. Henderson has acted in a reprehensible manner. I also do not feel that the object of this motion could have merely been to get a certificate from the Government expressing their sincere pain at the insult offered to our colleague Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din. Because I have with my own ears heard the Honourable Premier remark "Why should the District Magistrate not say so when the members of the Opposition themselves say, 'we will wreck the Assembly and we will wreck this Government'". When I heard these words I thought that it is on account of his position in this Province and the seat that he occupies in the House that the Honourable Premier is compelled to say such things in order to keep his officers in good humour for carrying on the administration. Had Sir Sikander occupied any other seat in this House, for instance had he occupied a seat with the Opposition he would never have uttered those words but would have given expression to a very different feeling. It is the fault of that seat or the position which he occupies that he has to concur in certain matters against his personal feelings. It is quite natural. There are some eighty or ninety members on that side of the House. Supposing any one of them has a difference of opinion with an officer in his ilaqa on some matter and he says something unpleasant; would he not feel that the officer had accorded him a shabby treatment?

In fact everybody knows that Mr. Henderson meted out this treatment to an honourable member of this House. The plea cannot be put forward that he took this action because he was forced by circumstances to do so. Let me tell my friends that the case of Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din is much more strong than was the case of Chaudhri Mohammad Abdur Rahman Khan to which reference has been made by my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall to-day. My friend Chaudhri Abdur Rahman Khan was insulted while he was sitting in the bungalow of a Deputy Commissioner. Long after the occurrence of that incident he came to the Punjab Legislative Council and told the members of the Unionist party that he had been insulted by such and such a Deputy Commissioner. The result was that an adjournment motion was moved and the whole House condemned the action of the Deputy Commissioner concerned. But in this case Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din did not go to the bungalow of Mr. Henderson for making any personal request. As a matter of fact he was passing that way when he came to know that a procession was being taken out in connection with the traders hartal and he

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went to that place where the crowd had gathered. When other Congressmen saw the President of the Congress going there they also followed him so as to see what was happening there. It was there that Mr. Henderson insulted and abused him and said that he would finish this Assembly. He should know that this Assembly cannot be finished by mere word of mouth. Let me also point out that we have not come here to save this Assembly nor do we think that if this Assembly is finished the whole of India would go to dogs and all the Punjabies would die of hunger. As a matter of fact nothing of the sort would happen. But the question before us is whether or not he was justified in meting out such an insulting treatment to Mian Sahib. If he was not justified in meting out this insulting treatment and hurling abuses at him then why is this plea being put forward that whatever he did he did under the force of circumstances? If this excuse can be put forward on behalf of the District Magistrate will not a thief be also justified in advancing the same plea and saying that if he committed any theft that was because he was forced by circumstances to do so. This is an absolutely false plea, and we are quite justified in condemning his action. If my friends had also joined with us in condemning his action I tell them heavens would not have fallen. We have brought forward this adjournment motion in order to voice our feelings on the point and to tell the House that we abhor the behaviour of the District Magistrate. Why to speak of the Deputy Commissioner, such things do not even befit a tongawala. (*Hear, hear.*) He is an educated person and I think that he got his education in England and being an educated person he should not have stooped so low as to abuse a respectable citizen. Besides he should know that this Assembly has been established in the name of his king and it was his moral duty to have abstained from insulting this institution if not for us at least for maintaining the dignity of his own king. But he did not care even for that and he abused Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and insulted him. (*An honourable member* : And thereby he insulted the whole House.) My friend is talking of the insult of the whole House. I say leave alone this House. My point is that if he has insulted one member to-day he would insult another to-morrow.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : On a point of order. I request the honourable member to withdraw the word ہوس نون چہڑو I appeal to the honourable member not to use such words.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : If my honourable friend can point out as to what objectionable phrase I have used I would certainly withdraw it. In fact I have not used any objectionable word at all. My point is that we should leave aside this matter that the District Magistrate had insulted the whole House. That is immaterial from my point of view. My submission is that all the honourable members do not think that the District Magistrate has insulted the whole House. Had they so thought they would have united in demanding from the Government to call his explanation. If that had been done that would have been much better. But they have not done anything of the sort and that was the reason why I said that we should leave aside this matter that the whole House had been insulted. If the Honourable Premier had any desire to keep up the dignity of this House he could very easily have sent for Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and could have

obtained real facts from him. Then he could have sent for Mr. Henderson and after knowing the facts from him as well could very easily have asked him to beg pardon of Mian Sahib. If he had adopted this method the matter would not have gone to such a length and that bitter chapter would have been closed. But he has not taken any such action and therefore we feel and rightly feel that it is the Premier who is encouraging such officers to insult respectable Indians. This attitude of his will result in two bad things. In the first place Mr. Henderson will think, because his action had been defended by the Honourable Premier, the Honourable Premier wants that respectable Indians should be insulted. Secondly he will think Indians are so very divided that they cannot even unite in a matter like this.

Sir, whenever any such matter comes under discussion the speech of my honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is referred to. But my submission is that at that time there was no party Government and he was the Leader of the Opposition and he had to say those things which he said at that time. Now he is the Minister of a party Government and if at present he does not support this motion that is not anything which should surprise us. He is only following his leader's bell. He has no other option. He is not to be blamed for it. The system of party Government compels one to adopt this attitude. However, by moving this adjournment motion we have expressed our feelings on the point and our object has been achieved in so far as we wanted to tell the people that such a treatment has been meted out to respectable people of this province. The press will of course publish some reports about the proceedings and in this way the people outside this House would also come to know that a Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Henderson by name, offered this insult to the members of this Assembly. That was the object which we wanted to achieve by moving this adjournment motion.

I will say one more thing and it is that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram does not want to be involved in this affair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Do not be personal, please.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia : Sir, what I want to say is that such a thing can only be said by one when one knows that his party is strong on account of some sanction behind it. When all happen to be of the same mind and are upholders of the same principles, then no one can raise voice against them. Even a member of that party cannot dare to oppose the wishes of all. I endorse the opinion of the honourable Lala Duni Chand which he expressed this morning. He said that the present Ministry will remain in power for some time more and during its term of office can do whatever it may like to do. I quite agree with his remarks about the present Ministry. So long as the present war lasts the Ministry will remain intact and can indulge in all sorts of irregularities. After the present war is over some other party may come into power and form the Government. So long as this constitution lasts our business is to expose the irregularities of the Government. This is our duty and we will continue to discharge it.

No lawlessness was resorted to during the hartal but the Government always came forth with one or other threat and found fault with it. Sometimes they said that the agitators do things which are against the law and sometimes they objected to the slogans. They also said that the hartal

[Pt. Muni Lal Kalia.]

was not complete and such and such class of the shopkeepers was not with those who observed the hartal. The Government resorted to making arrests and anticipating that the Opposition would raise hue and cry in this House against the excesses committed by the police against the traders and arrested honourable members belonging to this side of the House. But we never cared for what they said or did. Our duty as representatives of the people was to criticise the actions of the Government and we did our duty. Our aim was to expose the Government and we have exposed them.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, the plain and simple issue in this case is whether Mr. Henderson used the words that are attributed to him or not, if he did use those words what action does the Honourable Premier intend to take against him to bring him to book. Most respectable members of the Press Gallery have given an affidavit to the effect that Mr. Henderson did use the words attributed to him and I should like to know from the Honourable Premier if he has thought it necessary to call for Mr. Henderson's version of the case. If he has, I am sure he will read it before the House.

Sir, in this connection I would like to quote from a speech made on a similar occasion by a bureaucratic member in the last Legislative Council, Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency, who afterwards became the Governor of the Province. This is what he stated on that occasion:—

'Sir, I wish to assure this House that the dignity and honour of this House is as dear to Government as it is to any member of this House (*hear, hear*). I desire to give them the assurance that any question relating to the status and position of the members of this House is considered by Government a very important question, and that is the reason why when this motion for adjournment was raised yesterday, Government took no sort of objection to it. (*Hear, hear.*) I agree that in the matter which the honourable mover has brought forward a very important point of principle quite apart from the episode, is involved. I agree that all members of Government in whatever department, however highly placed, however lowly placed, should, quite apart from that courtesy which they should offer to all visitors, be particularly courteous to members of this House on account of their public position. (*Hear, hear.*) My own practice, sir, I think, is sufficiently well-known to honourable members of this House. (*Hear, hear.*) At any time of the day, whether it be in the morning before I go to office whether it be in office, whether it be after office hours, if a member of this Council wishes to see me, whatever I may be doing, however busy I may be, however overwhelmed with work I may be, whatever important matter may be occupying my mind I make it a point to see him. (*Hear, hear.*) and that I believe is the spirit in which our officers work and that is the spirit in which the Government wishes them to work. (*Hear, hear.*)

Continuing Sir Geoffrey said—

'Sir, I think it is of immense importance that the deputy commissioners and honourable members of this Council should have frequent inter-communication. As I have already said, courtesy should always govern and should be the guiding spirit in such interchanges. It is clear that when an M. L. C. comes to see a Government officer he does not only come to see him as a member of the district, a *zaidar* or a member of the district board (though he is of course entitled to courtesy as such) but he has a special position and is entitled to special attention on account of his position and the public aspect of his work, and Government recognises this: and they will impress this point on their district officers. (*Hear, hear.*) I think that all questions should fully be discussed between local officers and members of the legislature in their districts with the fullest confidence and fullest freedom on both sides, without any bitterness and without any reproaches. I consider that local officers should take the M. L. Cs. into their confidence and *vice versa*, and that in them they have been given under the new constitution a fresh and valuable assistance in the performance of their very important duties.'

This happened when we were governed, as was said, by an irresponsible bureaucratic Government. Now this Government claims to be a representative Government in so far as they have been elected by the people. But what a contrast does it offer as compared to what was said by Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency. He took no objection to the adjournment motion; he rather welcomed it and he left the members free to vote as they liked. But unfortunately, here in this so-called representative Government the position is quite otherwise. The Honourable Premier not only took a very objectionable attitude when dealing with this affair, he was understood to say—at least I understood him to say—that not only Mr. Henderson might have used those words but that he was, perhaps, justified in using them. This is the position of the present Government as compared to what was done by a bureaucratic officer of the then Government.

To my mind, sir, the simplest way to deal with this matter is to ask Mr. Henderson to give his version of the case. The Honourable Premier has already got the version of the members of the Press Gallery and he can easily find out which of the two is the correct one. If he comes to the conclusion that Mr. Henderson did use those words, I am sure the Honourable Premier does not require to be told that he should take the strongest possible action against Mr. Henderson to put him right and bring him to his senses. With these words, I support the motion.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The question may now be put, sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Before I put the question, may I know whether any member of the Government wants to take part in the debate?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Sir, there are several members on this side of the House who wish to speak and the Honourable Premier has to make a statement.

Diwan Chaman Lall : He can make that statement now. Question may now be put, sir.

Premier : Nobody has so far spoken from this side of the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, we want a division and no attempt should be made to rob us of an opportunity of a division being taken.

Premier : I do not see any relevancy of my honourable friend's remark. If the House wants to discuss this motion it is at perfect liberty to do so. Nobody has spoken from this side and my honourable friend is trying to stifle this side.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I draw your attention to the fact that it is now quarter to six and the debate has to come to an end by 6-30? I too should have my right of reply to the debate. The Honourable Premier has, therefore, only half an hour to speak if he wishes to do so.

Premier : Why half an hour?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Do you want more time? Then my honourable friend should have taken an earlier opportunity of presenting his case to the House. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would request you to keep three points in view, namely, my closure motion, my right of reply to the debate and my claim of a division on this adjournment motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I will keep in mind the honourable member's closure motion. As to his right of reply, he can have it only if time permits.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I suppose I have a right to claim division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Certainly.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu) : Sir, I have risen to oppose this adjournment motion, not on the basis of party differences but for the sake of truth and justice. As a matter of fact this House can never tolerate an insult against any member of this august institution, because insult of a single member constitutes the insult of the whole House and this cannot be tolerated by it. But we must dispassionately and calmly consider the circumstances in which and the object for which this act has been committed. We must be prepared to put up with any amount of hardship which is calculated to help the peaceful administration of the country. If the present incident had not happened, the whole of the city of Lahore would have been put to shame, and lakhs of men and women would have been landed in difficulties and disgraceful position. In my humble opinion the action of Mr. Henderson, the District Magistrate of Lahore, was essential and called for by the prevailing circumstances. Failing that, the peace and tranquillity would have been jeopardised and several big persons would have been humiliated. In fact governments are formed in order to maintain law and order. Particularly a Deputy Commissioner is responsible for peace and order because it is he who represents the Government. If he has insulted a member with the object of saving the honour of the citizens of Lahore and protecting them from the curse of disorder, we should tolerate it. (Laughter.) His object was to protect the honour of the people and maintain peace and order among them. We should be grateful to Mr. Henderson for his having restored peace not only in Lahore but in whole of the province. With these few words, I oppose this adjournment motion.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) : I am sure there will not be two opinions in this House with respect to the question that the dignity of this Assembly must be preserved fully and scrupulously not only by every member of this House but by everybody who wishes to serve the province. My honourable friend opposite will confirm me when I say that in many a public meeting, not to speak of private meetings, the Honourable Premier has made it clear that all servants, howsoever high or low are serving the Government which has been set up in the province by the people's vote. The Honourable Premier who is the greatest public servant of the province has declared that he regards himself as a servant of the Assembly and of the people. That is the position which the Honourable Premier has more than once proclaimed in the Punjab. That is the tradition which he and his Government are bent on maintaining in this province. As far as that principle is concerned I am sure that in fairness there cannot be any two opinions.

I was rather surprised to find my friends, Sardar Santokh Singh and Diwan Chaman Lall, referring to the discussion of an adjournment motion which took place in 1928. I should have thought that the legal subtlety of my friend Diwan Chaman Lall and the business experience of my friend

Sardar Santokh Singh should have enabled them to appreciate the main difference between the two adjournment motions. In the case of the adjournment motion of 1928 what were the facts? An honourable member of the Council goes to see the Deputy Commissioner to represent the claims of his constituency. What happens? The Deputy Commissioner accords him bad treatment and calls him *haramzada*. Any public servant who treats not only a member of the Legislative Council but any public man in that way cannot certainly be absolved of his conduct. If a similar incident had happened now, I am sure the Punjab Government will not be merely satisfied with an enquiry, but will take the strongest action against that officer in order to redeem and vindicate the honour of the province and when I say this I measure my words. The officer should not have allowed the words attributed to him to have escaped his lips. But the present motion is on a different footing. I entirely agree with every word of the mover of this motion so far as the respect of this Assembly and of its members is concerned. I am sure that if any public servant use words of disparagement against the Assembly, the duly constituted tribunal of this province, nobody will condone his act. But what are the facts of the present case? I will not go into the details because the Honourable Premier will go into them when he makes his statement in the course of the debate. Under certain unfortunate circumstances certain members of this House happen to be there in a crowd, I, for one, do not question the right of members to be present on occasions in order to appease the situation as best as they can. However, in the present case certain things take place which provoke Mr. Henderson to say "I will finish the Assembly". It is not certain whether he used these words at all. Obviously he could not have used them. *(Interruption.)* I would advise my honourable friend to await the statement of the Honourable Premier on this question. I do not want to anticipate his statement. I only want to place before the House both sides of the case. I was submitting a doubt whether he used the words in question at all. If he did not use those words, then there is an end of the matter. If he did use those words then something should have happened before he uttered these words. Therefore, so far as the facts of this particular case are concerned, they will obviously require a statement by the Honourable Premier, but so far as the basic rights and privileges of this House and of the individual members of the House are concerned, I would appeal to my friends opposite not to mix them up. Let us deal with the two issues separately, firstly the dignity of the House and the dignity of every member of the House, specially when a certain statement is attributed to have been made by someone and may be it is denied by the other against whom it is made and is denied in such cases by the Government at the time. I submit that examining the matter from this point of view the honourable members will find that the matter is not so easy as my friends opposite seem to imagine. I was sorry to find some of my friends opposite stating that the Honourable Premier is not taking up the right attitude of having justice done because a Britisher and an I. C. S. officer is involved. I strongly condemn the cheap gibes in which some members here have indulged at the cost of the Honourable Premier. Those of us who have had the privilege to know the Honourable Premier know that whenever conditions in the country have demanded a strong action, he has never hesitated to take the strongest action required

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

and even now those of us who know him believe that now when we require a real honourable political settlement, honourable to the country and honourable to all the important elements concerned, the presence of the personality of the Honourable Premier will help greatly to adjust matters in an honourable way. Such cheap gibes I feel are not fair and are a dis-service to the cause of the country—such cheap gibes to be made on matters which concern the reputation of a man who is at the moment, without fear of contradiction, an asset to the great national cause which we have at heart.

Lala Duni Chand : It is neither *titar* nor *bater* !

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order, order.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I can afford to ignore the honourable member's remarks. I am sorry that the honourable member like Rip Van Winkle does not realise what is happening in the country. He has not yet awakened from his sleep and I would appeal to him now that we are on the verge of very important developments and this is the time for the best elements in the country, the leaders of all parties and the people who have a say in this matter, to arrive at an honourable settlement, that their position should not be so weakened as to minimise the help which they can render the country and which help the country has a right to expect of them. I would appeal again before I end my speech that in dealing with the facts of this particular motion we should isolate the two aspects involved, one as the honour and dignity of the House and the other the dignity of every member of this House as a member of this constituent assembly.

I have said that on this particular question there cannot be two opinions and I am only doing my duty when I say that the honour and dignity not only of the members of this House, but of every member of the public is the special preserve of the Government. Not only that, but as the Honourable Premier made a statement about a year or so, ago he sent instructions to district magistrates officially that when members of the House go to meet them and represent matters regarding their constituencies they should not only be courteous to the members, but should regard them as members who are there to assist Government because the Government is an integral part of the members constituting this House. That is the spirit which the Government desires should constitute the tradition of relationship between the officials and non-officials in this province. If it is found that at any time any district magistrate, as that magistrate about whom an adjournment motion was brought forward in 1928, ill-treats any honourable member who goes to see him, you may be sure that this Government has broad enough shoulders to take the strongest action against that officer in order to vindicate the honour and dignity of the House and the province, but at the same time I would appeal to the honourable members to realise the difference between.....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would request the honourable member to wind up his speech because the Opposition wants a division and the Honourable Premier has to make a statement.

An honourable member : A closure motion will have to be put to the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend has been asked to wind up his speech and he must obey the instructions of the Deputy Speaker.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : So far as my speech is concerned, I have finished it. I may point out that it is the right of my honourable friends at any time to rise and ask that the question be put, and the question will have to be put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The Honourable Premier.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Surely I am not interested that a division should be taken at this time, thus depriving the Premier to exercise his right to place his point of view before the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : That has not been done. That is why I have allowed a member from Government side before I put that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether the Honourable Premier is going to make his speech? You have called upon him and he should get up in courtesy to this House and in courtesy to the Opposition. As a matter of fact courtesy demanded that my honourable friend after I had moved this motion should have got up and made a statement on the floor of the House as happened on the last occasion when Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency made a statement when the motion was moved.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : So far while four Opposition members have spoken, only two Government members have had the opportunity to speak.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I drew your pointed attention to the fact that attempts are being made to avoid taking a division. That is not being fair to the House to sabotage the taking of a division, and I ask the Honourable Premier in all fairness to the House to make his statement whatever statement he has to make and not to shirk his responsibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was lost.

Rao Pohop Singh (East Punjab Landholders), (*Urdu*): Sir, I firmly believe that such propositions should not be discussed on the floor of the House because by doing so a kind of bitterness is likely to be created. Sometimes such propositions are brought forward for the purpose of discrediting the honourable members sitting on this side of the House and sometimes in order to get votes on a particular subject of vital importance. But I do not think this proposition is worth while to be discussed in the Assembly. After all who would like to vote for this adjournment motion which is devoid of logic and sense of proportion. The words used are capable of literal meaning and have no sense in them. Mr. Henderson has no power to finish the Assembly. It is not desirable on the part of Opposition to raise discussion on an issue which has already been discussed thrice in this House. However the arrest of my

6 p.m.

[Rao Pohop Singh.]

honourable friend Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din makes this issue somewhat delicate, but thanks to the mover those words do not form the subject of the adjournment motion. But we must consider at the same time as to whether it was proper to utter the alleged words under those circumstances. Were those words spoken in the interest of the province? Sometimes of course in view of a particular type of circumstances one has to perform unpleasant duties too. So the Deputy Commissioner was compelled by the force of circumstances to perform that unpleasant duty, when filthy abuses were being hurled at him and provocative language was being used by the processionists. The words alleged to have been used by the Deputy Commissioner "I shall finish the Assembly", have no significance.

It is very regrettable that the tactics employed by the Opposition in raising discussion on trivial type of matters like this are very undesirable. I am afraid my honourable friends sitting opposite have always been after creating some hullabaloo in the province. Formerly they brought forward an adjournment motion against the lathi charge. That was over. Hartal was called off and Lahore came to life again. Things started to move in a favourable direction. But this did not please my friends sitting opposite. What did they do then? They gave a notice for an adjournment motion with regard to the arrest of Shrimati Shanno Devi. What I would like to point out is that calling off the hartal was a disappointment to my honourable friends opposite who then resorted to this adjournment motion with a view to create a further chaos and disturbance in the province.

Then the mover of the adjournment motion made a reference to a similar incident of 1928. But I would request him to compare the prevailing circumstances with those of 1928. A great difference he will find therein. As far as our rights and privileges are concerned, I am confident that they are quite safe in the hands of the Leader of the House and I firmly believe that if ever a member of the Legislature be he a backbencher or the Leader of the Opposition is insulted outside the House, the whole Legislature would take up cudgels on behalf of that particular member. Now I would like to make a few observations with regard to the word Satyagrah. This is a delicate word carrying delicate meaning as is clear by the oft-repeated expression of Mahatma Gandhi. My honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches would realise its significance by recollecting the incident when Mahatma Gandhi persisted in doing satyagrah all alone at the place of Dandhi in connection with the Salt Civil Disobedience Movement. Then on the last occasion he had permitted only those prominent members of the Congress to offer satyagrah who hold distinguished position in the All-India Congress Committee such as Mr. Bhave and the Congress Ministers. As regards the Punjab a few members of the Congress applied for permission to offer satyagrah. But Mahatma Gandhi considered them quite unfit for satyagrah. This is the importance attached to satyagrah by the High Command. But during the hartal satyagrahi movement every Dick, Tom and Harry came forward for offering satyagrah. Let me, therefore, submit that to name such people satyagrahis does not seem to be fair and equitable on the part of the Opposition so far as the significance and delicacy of the word goes. (*Noise and Interruptions.*) The first and foremost duty of a satyagrahi is to face aggression and violence even under most provocative

circumstances with cool head and dispassionate heart and he must not even in his heart abuse the violent and aggressive attitude of the people in power whom he is facing by his non-violent attitude. But in the processions of beoparis what have we been observing was that about twenty thousand people would come out to denounce the law and they would hurl filthy abuses and slogans at the Honourable Ministers and the officers on duty. Under such a provocative shadow of the circumstances if the Deputy Commissioner uttered something which pinched the agitators and the wire-pullers of the so-called Satyagrah Movement the fault was not his.

With these remarks, sir, I strongly oppose the adjournment motion.

Premier (The Honourable Lt.-Col. Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): Sir, before I make a few remarks which I must make, I may straightaway allay the anxiety of my honourable friend that we want to avoid a division on this motion. We do not want to avoid a division. Not only do we not want to avoid a division, but we will press for a division if my honourable friends want to wriggle out of it (*Diwan Chaman Lall*: Surely?)—I remember on several previous occasions they tried to wriggle out of an adjournment motion and we had to force division and get it recorded, and we propose to get it recorded to-day also.

Before I proceed to the merits of the case itself, I should be allowed to say a few words with regard to the tactics used to get this motion admitted. An attempt was made to get a privilege motion moved.

Diwan Chaman Lall: On a point of order. Is my honourable friend in order in questioning the ruling that is given on the floor of the House? My honourable friend is now attempting to go behind it.

Premier: I am not questioning the ruling of the Chair at all. I am merely mentioning the tactics which my honourable friend used to get this motion admitted. I was saying that an attempt was made to move a privilege motion in this House and for two days my honourable friend racked his brains to see what arguments he could put forward to get his motion admitted. I do not know what passed between him and the Speaker and the Secretary of the Assembly, but anyhow he thought better of it and instead this adjournment motion was put in, an adjournment motion with regard to a matter which has been indirectly discussed on three previous occasions on three adjournment motions. All these words were used in those adjournment motions and all these arguments were put forward in those adjournment motions.

Diwan Chaman Lall: And what was your reply?

Premier: And these very allegations were made in those adjournment motions.

Diwan Chaman Lall: And what was your reply?

Premier: My reply? My honourable friend might look up the debate.

Diwan Chaman Lall: There was no reply. Now did we want you to give your reply.

Premier: As I said on previous occasions, it is now becoming the custom of my friends opposite to get some kind of adjournment motion to

[Premier.]

create some kind of hullabaloo. There is wide latitude in the rules and there are loopholes, and these loopholes sometimes are wide enough.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What has that got to do with his reply ? I beg to submit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is time that my honourable friend either justified the conduct of Mr. Henderson or his conduct in this matter or else dealt with the arguments that have been advanced instead of trying to throw all sorts of insinuations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would request the honourable member not to interrupt the Honourable Premier.

Premier : I did not interrupt my honourable friend during the course of his speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall : For very good reasons. I was not irrelevant.

Premier : The honourable member spoke for 35 minutes and he was irrelevant the whole time, but I did not interrupt him. I am merely pointing out the fact that this very insinuation and these very allegations were discussed on no less than three occasions in this very House by means of adjournment motions.

And yet to-day they have come forward again by this back door method to create another sensation and also to throw mud on the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore. I will come to the facts later on. In the course of his speech the honourable member mentioned several things, including the precedent which went up before a court. As pointed out very clearly by my honourable friend, Mir Magbool Mahmood, there was no parallel at all between the adjournment motion moved in the old Legislative Council and the adjournment motion moved in this Assembly, for the simple reason that there a member of the Council in his own constituency, went to see the Deputy Commissioner of his own district in order to bring to his notice certain matters relating to his own constituency. The Deputy Commissioner did not treat him courteously and naturally it was the duty of that House to interfere in that matter. That House took objection to the action of the Deputy Commissioner. That was one thing. I am not now going to enter into the merits of the case. But when I do, I will be able to show that my honourable friends have not only wasted the time of the House, but have created unnecessary fuss about nothing by adopting this particular method. My honourable friends must remember that they did not go as members of the Assembly. If any member of the Assembly to-morrow joins an unlawful assembly, do you mean to say that he will not be dealt with according to law or arrested ? Let me give an illustration. Suppose an honourable member of this House goes and joins a party of dacoits, and commits dacoity, and while committing dacoity gets arrested ; do you mean to say that nobody should take any action, because he is a member of this Assembly ? Certainly he will be dealt with according to law. It is said that my honourable friend went there to safeguard the rights of the public. Is he a *khudai farujdar*, a self-appointed custodian of public morale and public peace ? As a matter of fact, I can cite instances to show that wherever my honourable friends opposite have interfered in such matters, it has always resulted in some kind of action, some kind of disturbance. That is the nature of their service to the public, as if they were the only people whom the public

could trust. My honourable friend always knew what the beoparis were going to do. Where there was a lathi charge or an unlawful procession he was always in touch with such things. I believe he has got some kind of telepathy. Whenever there is an unlawful procession, whenever there is a lathi charge and things of that kind, he is aware of them and as a public servant he has to go and poke his nose into it. There are 175 members of this Assembly, but every time my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall and the honourable lady member, who is unfortunately not here to-day for unavoidable reasons are always present on such occasions. With regard to my honourable friend Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, I know that it was by chance that he went there. He had no intention to go there. (*Interruptions.*) In any case he went there, and I am sure my honourable friend will pay due tribute to those policemen who behaved nicely to him. But their complaint is against the attitude of the Deputy Commissioner who arrived on the scene later on after that mob had been moved. My honourable friend said that they were peaceful satyagrahis. The mob dispersed, but the peaceful satyagrahis stayed behind. Perhaps my honourable friend is not aware that there were no satyagrahis in the mob. The satyagrahis had been arrested in 9 different groups that morning at 9 different places of the city. This mob went on to the Mall headed by groups of women agitators and demonstrators. They had nothing to do with the satyagrahis. As a matter of fact I was given to understand that the Beopar Mandal denied all responsibility for this demonstration. They had no connection with it whatsoever, but my honourable friend persists in calling these people satyagrahis, even though they were not sent by the Beopar Mandal. That mob was declared an unlawful assembly.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : It was never declared an unlawful assembly.

Premier : Never declared within the hearing of my honourable friend. He went there and Shrimati Shanno Devi also appeared—.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The fact is that Shrimati Shanno Devi did not go there.

Premier : My honourable friend's information is wrong.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am perfectly right.

Premier : My honourable friend was in his house at that time.

Diwan Chaman Lall : So I committed an offence and was arrested.

Premier : Some people commit serious offences behind closed doors.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend is insinuating that I have committed any offence behind closed doors. He is insinuating—.

Premier : I said that some people—.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Are you insinuating that I have committed an offence behind closed doors?

Premier : I am not going to answer that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I seek your protection, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Let the Premier repeat his insinuation outside the House. I will see him.

Premier : I said, sir, that some people commit serious offences behind closed doors. For instance certain persons connive at certain things sitting behind closed doors, and plan that such and such a thing should be staged and it is staged.

Diwan Chaman Lall : On a point of order. No honourable member of this House is permitted, according to the Rules of Procedure of this House, to make an insinuation against any other member of the House. My honourable friend's statement implies only one thing that the honourable members on this side who were arrested were also guilty of doing things behind closed doors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : He has replied to that point.

Diwan Chaman Lall : He has not replied. I seek your protection. If my honourable friend is courageous enough, let him make that statement clearly on the floor of the House. Let him come out in the open and make that statement. Honourable members of this House were arrested three days later.

Premier : My honourable friend need not be too nervous and he need not worry about it. I was saying that without knowing the facts they come and make insinuations against somebody who is not present in this House, that is, the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore. I do not hold any brief for the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore or any other officer if he in any way transgresses law or propriety.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has he done so or not ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Have patience and listen.

Premier : My honourable friend has no patience. My honourable friend, in the course of the speech, said that it was the congress policy to have nothing to do with the hartal, but their instructions were to bring about an amicable settlement, if they could do so. But on the floor of this House a member of the Assembly openly declared that he had not only sympathy with, but helped, the hartal. What about that ? A member in this House said so and he is present here now.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Name him.

Premier : Chaudhri Kartar Singh.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of personal explanation—

Premier : My honourable friend again tried to read from the statement and as usual he tore away a few of my words from their context and thereby tried to argue that I said that I was not suspecting— (*Inter-ruption.*) My honourable friend left out the last two lines which are not complete. I said that I did not for a moment countenance any discourteous behaviour on the part of anybody towards any member or any respectable citizen whether he is member of this House or not but I pointed out that daily batches were going about and denouncing the law passed by this Assembly. They were daily going out and hurling filthy abuse on the Ministers including the Premier and the words which I actually used were that if they did not respect me as Premier of the province, how could they expect the British officers to show respect to me, and if their mothers and sisters, who were also my mothers and sisters, abused me and hurled filthy

abuse at me, how could they possibly expect others to have any respect for me? If my honourable friends had any sense of proportion, had any sense of self-respect for this House and for this Government, they would have denounced that kind of demonstration in which filthy abuse was hurled against the members on this side. (*An honourable member from Government benches*: Shame.) They resent it if somebody uses filthy words for members on their side of the House, and they should also have the same kind of feelings in their minds when one of the Government members is being abused unnecessarily. My honourable friend heard it daily since he was present on several occasions, according to his own account to see that the Police did not exceed the limits and he must have heard those abuses, but did he ever think of bringing about an adjournment motion to condemn those people who had used those words and those epithets against us? No, of course not. It is, therefore, not the dignity of the House in this matter but it is mere sensation-mongering. And so far as this particular allegation is concerned, I have it on the authority of the Deputy Commissioner that he never used any word derogatory to the dignity of this Assembly. (*Hear, hear.*) He never said that he was going to smash the Assembly. What he said was, "I would finish the hartal to-morrow if it were not for some busy bodies and members of the Assembly." (*Voices from opposition benches*: Oh, oh.) (*Uproar.*) Now, sir, let me ask my honourable friend one question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Not worthy at all of an Englishman.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Will you believe this version?

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din: Do you believe him?

Premier: Why should I not believe him?

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din: Why do you not believe my version?

Premier: There are only two minutes left. Let me finish.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din: You should reply.

Premier: I am going to reply if you will listen. There is one point on which I want to be quite clear. No sensible man can make a remark haphazardly. Now I cannot possibly conceive that a Deputy Commissioner will merely go about shouting "I will smash the Assembly". Something must have been said by somebody else in reply to which he would have used those words. (*Oh, oh.*) (*Interruptions.*)

Diwan Chaman Lall: You do not believe him then.

Premier: What I mean to say is that it is possible that somebody might have said, "I am member of the Legislative Assembly" and then I could understand the Deputy Commissioner say, "Well, member or no member, it is a question of law".

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why are you imagining things? You know the exact facts. (*Uproar.*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No interruptions please.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din: May I give the exact facts if you want?

Premier: You ought to have given those facts earlier.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : You know them already.

Premier : Nobody can make those remarks unless there was occasion for them. Why should the Assembly come in? Because he was dealing, according to my friend Diwan Chaman Lall, with the mob which had nothing to do with the hartal.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : I have purposely refrained from participating in the debate, but if you want facts I will certainly give them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order please.

Premier : I will appeal to my honourable friend opposite that this is what the Deputy Commissioner says, that these are the words he used. And this is what he says.—(*Interruptions.*)

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : I have told you what he said.

Premier : Why should my honourable friends bring that abuse on themselves? He says that he did not use those words.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Suppose he says he did not arrest the mob afterwards.

Premier : He says several things which I did not tell the House and if my honourable friend knew them, he will have several things to worry about. However, I am not interested in them at the moment. What I was saying was that the Deputy Commissioner denies that charge and I do not see any reason why my honourable friend should press that charge when he denies it. At the same time I would have made further enquiries and taken action but my honourable friend wanted to take action here, and after this debate—after the abuse, after the mud which has been hurled here—I am afraid it would be impossible for me to do anything beyond that because I cannot after this hold an inquiry into the allegations which are denied on the one side and asserted on the other. (*Interruptions.*) I may remind the House that they must put a stop to this kind of nonsense once for all. This kind of adjournment motion will not do. After the general complaint if my honourable friend had come to me and said that these were the facts, I would have made an inquiry and after the inquiry, if I had found that there was any truth in it, I would have taken action as I have taken action against other officers where I have reached the conclusion—: (*Interruptions.*) (*An honourable member :* They were Indians.) They were Europeans. So far as my honourable friend is concerned, they are the same men who—. (*Interruptions.*) (*Uproar.*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question is—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

(*While division bells were ringing.*)

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Urdu) : On a point of personal explanation. Sir, the Honourable Premier referred to my remarks in which I had stated that I had sympathy with the traders. No doubt I have every sympathy with the cause of the traders. I spoke about it to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and he permitted me to show sympathy towards the cause of the beoparis and said that the Congress members could have sympathy with all the just demands of the traders. I assure you, sir, that I have sympathy with the just demands of the traders and other Congress members are also with them so far as their just demands are concerned.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : On a point of order. I have purposely refrained from participating in the debate because the matter concerns me also. The Honourable Premier has told the untruth. He knows the true facts, having enquired from me. I am very sorry to say that everything he said goes against what actually happened there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : That is no point of order.

The question is—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly divided: Ayes 26, Noes 51.

AYES.

Baldev 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.
Duni Chand, Mr.
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar.
Hari Lal, Munshi.
Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.

Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, Sardar.
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
Chaudhri.
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
Muni Lal Kalra, Pandit.
Partap Singh, Sardar.
Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Santokh Singh, Sardar.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.
Sudarshan, Seth.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rab, Mian.
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, Mian.
Amir-ud-Din, Khan Sahib Mian.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
Dasaundha Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Sir.
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
Guest, Mr. P. H.
Hans Raj, Bhagat.

Indar Singh, Sardar.
Khizar Hayat Tiwana, The Honourable Malik.
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Sir.
Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
Mohar Singh, Rao.
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
Muhammad Seadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.

Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.	Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.	Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.	Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Khan Sahib Pir.	Roberts, Sir William.
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.	Roshan Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
Pohop Singh, Rao.	Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir.
	Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
	Tara Singh, Sardar.
	Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p. m. on Friday, 6th March, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 6th March, 1942.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, at 2-30 p. m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker in the chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

***8179-8180.**—Cancelled.

STOCKING WHEAT.

***8181. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any order in force, under the Defence of India Rules or any other rules framed by the Punjab Government, prohibiting the stocking of wheat beyond a certain quantity in the Province; if so, the prescribed limit and the quantity and whether the order is applicable to the producers of wheat?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : The reply is in the negative. But the withholding of stocks from sale by any person, firm or company, ordinarily dealing in grain or flour, whether wholesale or retail, is an offence under rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules. The District Magistrates have been instructed to requisition stocks over 20 maunds.

Sardar Lal Singh : Does it apply to the producers of wheat also when the wheat crop is harvested?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, it does not.

PURCHASE OF DESI COTTON.

***8186. Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Central Government, out of the special fund created by them, have made considerable purchases of short stapled Corara cotton;
- (b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether the Punjab Government is aware of the quantity (exact or approximate) of such cotton which the Central Government have bought;
- (c) whether he is aware of the fact that the greater portion of short stapled Desi cotton of the Punjab, before the War with Japan, was invariably bought by Japan, and this door is now entirely closed to the Punjab, with the result that the stocks

[S. Santokh Singh.]

are accumulating (there being no demand), and the Province is badly suffering on account of unprecedented low prices which have been prevailing for some time now ;

(d) whether the Punjab Government has made any representation to the Central Government pressing upon them the necessity of buying also the Punjab *Desi* cotton, in the same way as Comra ; if so, whether he would be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of that representation ;

(e) if no representations have yet been made by the Punjab Government to the Central Government, whether it is contemplated to make these now ; if so, when ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) Government are not aware of any final decision but the question of purchasing short staple cotton is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Only about 85 per cent of the Punjab short staple cotton is believed to have been exported to Japan, but it is true that about 85 per cent of the total production is exported from the province.

(d) and (e) The Punjab Government are in touch with the Government of India on the general question of the disposal of short staple cotton and will take all possible steps to see that the interests of the Punjab grower are protected.

Sardar Santokh Singh : With reference to part (e), may I know whether the local Government has actually made any representation to the Government of India, and if so, will it please lay a copy of that representation on the table of the House ?

Minister : I have already said that we are in touch with the Government of India and that we are doing all we possibly can to protect the interests of the grower.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I know whether the Government is getting itself in touch with the Government of India orally or by letter or telegram ?

Minister : In every possible manner.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Except by correspondence ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it a fact, with reference to part (e), that the Punjab Government has made a representation to the Central Government regarding the position of *Desi* cotton ?

Minister : We are doing everything possible to protect the interests of the grower.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I ask a straightforward question whether any representation has been made to the Central Government : the answer must be 'yes' or 'no'.

Minister : What does the honourable member mean by representation ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has the honourable member sent any considered statement of the position as visualised by the Punjab Government to the Government of India ?

Minister for Development : There are many ways in which such a statement can be sent and a representation made and we are doing all that is possible to protect the interests of the grower.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I ask a very simple question whether a representation has been made. I do not ask whether there are many methods of making the representation. If my honourable friend has a defective knowledge of English I will repeat it again, has a representation been made by the Government or not ?

Minister : The honourable member has no right to presume that he is the only individual on the face of earth who knows English. (*Laughter.*) I understand the full significance of the word 'representation' and perhaps the honourable member does not realise the full significance of the word as I do.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Since the Honourable Minister claims to understand the significance of the words used by me, may I know, whether he has made a representation or not ? The answer must be 'yes' or 'no'.

Minister : The answer has been given more than once and repetition of it would not be of any use whatsoever. (*Renewed laughter.*)

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask whether there is anything common between the qualities possessed by the honourable members sitting on those benches and the qualities that are well known of a well-bred mule ? (*Laughter.*)

Minister : If the honourable member repeats it he will have a suitable answer.

THAKAR SINGH.

***8043. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that a representation was sent to him on 11th October, 1941, by one pensioner Daffadar Beant Singh, son of Kanhya Singh, village Bhaita, Post Office Mahilpur, district Hoshiarpur, regarding the release of his cousin Thakar Singh, son of Maya Singh, a Satyagrahi prisoner in the Rohtak Jail, on the ground of the loss of eye sight of the prisoner ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : Yes : the petition was rejected. The prisoner was released in December last with other Satyagrahis.

CHAUDHRI KHUSHI RAM GUPTA AND CHAUDHRI SITA RAM.

***8044. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Khushi Ram Gupta and Chaudhri Sita Ram, ex-members of District Board, Hoshiarpur, who were removed from membership of the District Board, sent representation to the Secretary, Medical

[S. Moola Singh.]

and Local Government Departments, Punjab, per registered post acknowledgment due, to know the reasons and rules under which they had been removed from membership ;

(b) whether he is aware that no reply has so far been received by them from the said Secretary ;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for not replying so far and the action that the Government propose to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) and (b)

Yes.

(c) Government is not required to state such reasons.

Sardar Moola Singh : May I know why Government feels averse to tell the reasons ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I would refer the honourable member to section 44 of the District Boards Act.

Sardar Moola Singh : Why does the Government fight shy of disclosing the reason ? Is it because the Government considers that action unjustified ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is no question. I repudiate the insinuation.

CHAUKIDARA TAX IN VILLAGE KHAD.

*8045. **Sardar Moola Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the rate of *chaukidara* tax leviable from some villages especially from village Khad of tahsil Una, district Hoshiarpur, has recently been enhanced ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The *chaukidara* tax has not been enhanced in any village of Hoshiarpur district.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is the Government aware that in the whole of Hoshiarpur district especially in Una ilaqa, *chaukidara* has been realised at a very much enhanced rate ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I repeat the answer already given.

Sardar Moola Singh : May I enquire whether Government is prepared to institute an enquiry in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government made enquiries and the result has been placed before the House.

PAYMENT OF DOUBLE *chaukidara* FOR WAR FUND.

*8135. **Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that it has been announced by the Tahsildar and subordinate revenue officers in the

Batala tahsil, district Gurdaspur, that every *chaukidara*, paying resident of that tahsil shall have to pay double the amount of *chaukidara* which will be collected for War Fund and consequently the *lamhardars* are forcing people to pay double *chaukidara* and refuse to accept the ordinary *chaukidara* even from poor zamindars who are not in a position to contribute towards the War Fund ;

(b) the amount that has been collected so far, under the above orders :

(c) whether the Government has authorized this method of collection of War Fund ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) No such announcement was made by the Tahsildar, Batala, or any officer subordinate to him.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : Is it a fact that some collections have already been made ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, it is not a fact.

Minister for Public Works : If the honourable member has got any specific instances and sends them to me I will look into them.

LALA DHANI RAM BHALLA.

*8183. **Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether Lala Dhani Ram Bhalla, Proprietor, Bhalla Shoe Company, Lahore, was arrested on the 12th February, 1942 ; if so, for what offence and under what law ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the police authorities did not allow him to take his turban inside the lock-up ;

(c) whether it is a fact that a goldsmith was especially called for by the police to remove the gold ear-rings from his ears ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the police refused to allow him the use of *charpai* in the lock-up ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes ; he was arrested under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules on suspicion of being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the efficient prosecution of war ;

(b) Yes ; this is a customary precaution.

(c) Yes ; this was done at the request of his son when it was pointed out that prisoners were not allowed to retain such articles.

(d) No.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi : May I know what was the precaution that was taken in removing the ear-ring ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It was a customary precaution. Sometimes people take objectionable articles into jails in their turbans.

SARDAR JAGAT SINGH KWATRA.

***8184. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Sardar Jagat Singh Kwatra, a well-known business man of Lahore, was arrested on the 12th February, 1942; if so, for what offence and under what law;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he was taken from his residence to the Tibbi Police Station, Lahore, on foot and with handcuffs on; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) where is he kept now?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes; he was arrested under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules on suspicion of being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the efficient prosecution of war;

(b) No.

(c) He has since been released.

LATHI CHARGE ON SATYAGRAHIS AT RAMGARH (MUGHALPURA).

***8185. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a lathi charge was made on a procession of Satyagrahis by the police at Ramgarh (Mughalpura), a suburb of Lahore, on the 10th February, 1942;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on the above occasion some Sikhs were dragged by their Keshas (long hair);
- (c) whether the Government held any enquiry into this incident; if so, whether he would be pleased to place the result of the enquiry on the table of the House;
- (d) what action, if any, has been taken or is intended to be taken by the Government against the police officials concerned?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the reply to (b) above.

DUTIES OF SISTERS IN GENERAL WARD, MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8018. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the duties entrusted to the sisters in the General Wards of the Mayo Hospital with respect to the welfare of the patients?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The Nursing Sisters attached to the General Wards of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, are required to look

after the general welfare of the patients, e.g., cleanliness, proper nursing, comfort and to see that all diets, treatment, etc., ordered by Visiting Physicians and Surgeons is carried out properly. They are also responsible for the general management and supervision of all the wards in respect of cleanliness of wards and utensils, bath rooms, supervision of linen, bedding and to see that there is an adequate supply of clothing for the patients. Further they are responsible for the general and linen stock of their respective wards checking them once every month.

Mr. P. H. Guest : In view of the numerous duties that the sisters have to perform, may I ask how many sisters are on duty at one time ?

Minister for Education : This question does not arise out of the answer that I have given. If the honourable member wants this information I shall be glad to supply it to him if he gives notice.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know the total number of sisters in the hospital ?

Minister : I require notice.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Can the Honourable Minister tell me the number of wards in which these sisters work ?

Minister : I require notice for that too.

CLINICAL ASSISTANTS ON DUTY IN THE MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8019. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the duties of clinical assistants on the Medical and Surgical sides of Mayo Hospital on days when ordinary patients are admitted and on other days ;
- (b) the period of the day in which each of them remains on duty on working days of a week ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) and (b).

(1) *Clinical Assistants on Medical side :—* *Duties.*

(i) Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Medicine.

(ii) Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Attend Medical Out-patients' Department three times a week on alternate days from 8-10 a. m. in summer and 9-11 a. m. in winter. Thereafter they attend the hospital wards and give practical demonstrations to the students on each case. After the hospital work they give lectures to the students in classes.

[Education Minister.]**(1) Clinical Assistants on Medical side :—****Duties.**

On other days when they are off the Medical Out-patients' Department duty, they take care of and treat the sick with the physician in charge and examine the case notes written by the students connected with each case and any other miscellaneous work required of them.

Period of duty—Six hours a day.

- (iii) Clinical Assistant in charge Rai Bahadur Amar Nath Tuberculosis Institute.

Same as above but he attends the Out-patients' Department on every working day.

(2) Clinical Assistants on Surgical side :—

- (i) Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Surgery.

Attend Surgical Out-patients' Department as No. (1) (i) (ii) above. Thereafter they work in Operation Theatre and help the Surgeons in charge in operative work. On other days when off out-patients' duty, they give demonstrations and lectures to the students in their respective subjects and take care of and treat the cases on surgical side.

Period of duty—Eight hours on admission days and six hours on other days.

- (ii) Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Operative Surgery.

(3) Clinical Assistants on Ophthalmic side :—

- (i) Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Ophthalmology (Eye).

Attend Out-patients' Departments on every working day. Thereafter they work in the Operation Theatre to help their Ophthalmic Surgeon in operative work up to 3 o'clock and then go round in the wards to give demonstrations to the students.

- (ii) Clinical Assistant to the Professor of Ophthalmology (Ear, Nose and Throat).

Period of duty—Eight hours a day.

All Clinical Assistants attend the Mayo Hospital for their respective cases daily in the evening and attend emergent cases at any time during off-duty hours.

TIME-SCALE OF PAY FOR S. E. S.

***8020. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government are contemplating to introduce the time-scale of pay for the S. E. S. ; if so, the date when this is likely to come about ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The matter is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR.

1513. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 1457¹ laid on the table of the House on 9th February, 1942, will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the weight of the stolen firewood in each case or the extent of the damage which led the Superintendent, Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, to vary the amount of fine imposed in each case ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : The weight of the stolen firewood in each case is given in the enclosed statement.

The amount of compensation is assessed keeping in view the damage done. Mere weight is no criterion. In the present case, heavier compensation was fixed in cases where large branches of Jand and Keekar were cut in consequence of which great deal of damage was done to the trees. In view of the very special pains which are being taken at the Farm to grow more trees especially of the fodder bearing type, deliberate damage to them is treated as a serious offence.

Statement showing the names, caste and religion of men, etc., who were caught stealing wood on 26th November, 1941, and the amount of compensation recovered.

Serial No.	Name.	Caste.	Religion.	Time when caught.	Place where caught.	Amount of compensation.	Weight of the stolen firewood.
						Rs.	Mds. Seers.
1	Karim-ud-Din ..	...	Muslim ..	3 p.m. ..	Chauपाली Bir.	3	0 20
2	Kakoo ..	Chamar ..	Hindu ..	6 a.m. ..	Stable Bir	3	0 20
3	Mauzoor ..	Biloch ..	Muslim ..	8-30 a.m.	Ditto	3	0 25
4	Chiragh Din ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	3	

Serial No.	Name.	Caste.	Religion.	Time when caught.	Place where caught.	Amount of compensation.	Weight of the stolen fire-wood.		
							Rs.	Mds.	Seers.
5	Ahsan ..	Dogar ..	Muslim ..	11-30 a.m.	Chaupalia Bir.	3 }			
6	Rakhi ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	3 }		0	30
7	Jaini ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	3 }			
8	Jaini ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	3 }			
9	Chaudgi ..	Chamar ..	Hindu ..	3-30 p.m.	Lamba Bir.	2 }			
10	Bichha ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }		0	30
11	Sheo Chand ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
							Annas.		
12	Liloo ..	Saqqu ..	Muslim ..	2-30 p.m.	Chaupalia Bir.	8 }		0	30
13	Ali Mohammad	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	8 }			
14	Heta ..	Dhanak ..	Hindu ..	2 p.m. ..	Chhaoni Bir.	2 }			
15	Harphul ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
16	Patori ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
17	Shanti ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }		2	20
18	Mam Kaur ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
19	Anchi ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
20	Lachhman ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
21	Santi ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			
22	Chandrawali ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	2 }			

SUPERVISORS AMONG MATES IN THE GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM,
HISSAR.

1514. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 1468¹ laid on the table on 9th February, 1942, will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the date of the appointment of each of the two mates mentioned therein ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready.

MUSLIM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

1555. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a Muslim Deputy Commissioner has ever been posted to the Ambala district since the advent of the British Raj in the Punjab ; if not, the reasons therefor, and whether it is proposed to appoint one such now ;
- (b) the period for which the Hindu Deputy Commissioners have held the post of Deputy Commissioner in Ambala during all this time ?

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan :

- (a) (i) No.
- (ii) Partly chance and the exigencies of the service, and partly because of the paucity of Muslim Deputy Commissioners, those available being required elsewhere.

(iii) It is not feasible to make any change at present.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the period for which the Hindu Deputy Commissioners have held the post of Deputy Commissioner in Ambala.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Pandit Avtar Kishen Kaul .. | 15th November, 1924, to 21st November, 1924. |
| 2. Mr. C. N. Chandra .. | 18th November, 1928, to 8th June, 1929. |
| 3. Mian L. Singh .. | 14th October, 1929, to 7th December, 1929. |
| 4. Mr. B. R. Tandon .. | 22nd April, 1932, to 31st October, 1932. |
| 5. Mr. J. M. Shrinagesh .. | 1st November, 1932, to 17th November, 1932. |
| 6. Mr. J. M. Shrinagesh .. | 14th January, 1933, to 30th January, 1933. |
| 7. Mr. J. M. Shrinagesh .. | 24th March, 1933, to 8th July, 1933. |
| 8. Mr. B. R. Tandon .. | 9th July, 1933, to 25th November, 1936. |
| 9. Mr. P. K. Kaul .. | 26th November, 1936, to 25th May, 1938. |
| 10. Mr. Nawab Singh .. | 26th May, 1938, to 16th October, 1938. |
| 11. Mr. J. M. Shrinagesh .. | 4th May, 1939 to September, 1941. |
| 12. Mr. N. M. Bueh .. | September 1941 up to now. |

GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR.

1516. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number of persons recruited, community-wise, since April, 1937, up to date, as clerks, peons or

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chaprasis and also as labourers in the Hissar Government Cattle Farm, showing separately the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists among them ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : The required information is given below :—

	HINDUS.		MUSLIMS.		SIKHS.		Scheduled castes.	Others.	Total.
	Agriculturist.	Non-agriculturist.	Agriculturist.	Non-agriculturist.	Agriculturist.	Non-agriculturist.			
I.—Clerks—									
(a) Research Scheme Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b) Office Clerks	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
II.—Duffry and Peons ..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
III.—Menials (Permanent) ..	119	17	100	13	7	..	47	2	305

The information in respect of casual labourers who are employed on daily wages cannot, it is regretted, be supplied since changes among them are most frequent and their castes, religions, etc., are not recorded in the muster rolls.

PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY PROFESSORS.

1517. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- the number of Physics and Chemistry Professors, community-wise, separately employed at present in the Government Intermediate and Degree Colleges of the Punjab ;
- the number of Muslims out of these in the grade of Rs. 110—185 and higher grades ;
- whether it is a fact that Muslims are not adequately represented in this line of service ; if so, the steps Government intend taking to make up the deficiency ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a)

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christian.
Physics	10	7	3	1
Chemistry	11	3	4	1

(b) 8.

(c) I am afraid the honourable member is labouring under a misapprehension in regard to the policy of Government about communal representation in the services. The formula, securing due representation to the various communities, applies at the initial stage of recruitment to a particular service. After that "handsome is as handsome does" and promotion from grade to grade within the service is not made on the communal ratio basis nor is it possible or desirable to split up any service into small watertight compartments and allot a certain number of posts to each of the latter on a communal basis.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG INSPECTORS, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

1518. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : With reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 1425¹, dated 31st March, 1941, will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the vacancy advertised for a Muslim non-agriculturist was filled by a non-agriculturist or by an agriculturist ;
- (b) the number of non-agriculturists who applied for this vacancy with their names and qualifications ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) By a non-agriculturist Muslim who is B.A., LL.B.

(b) I do not think the detailed information asked for by the honourable member will serve any useful purpose.

MUSLIMS IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

1519. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of the P. E. S. and first class (Rs. 200.—10—250) posts in the Education Department and the number of posts held by each community in the cadres in the province and the share of the Muslims of the Ambala division therein, showing the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists, separately ;
- (b) the total number of second class posts (Rs. 140.—10—190) and the lower grade and the number of posts held by each community in these cadres in the province and the share of the Muslims of the Ambala division among them, showing the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists, separately of the Province as a whole and of those of the Ambala division ;
- (c) the action Government propose to take to give their due share to the Muslims in the above-named grades in case they are not adequately represented ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) and (b) The honourable member is referred to the History of Gazetted Officers, Civil List and gradation list of the Subordinate Educational Service (Part A) which contain the required information and copies of which are placed in the Assembly Library.

(c) The policy of Government in the matter of communal representation in the services is well known, and every effort is made to give due representation to every community.

STOCKISTS AND COMPOUNDERS.

1520. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number, community-wise, of persons recruited as stockists and compounders in the Veterinary Department from April, 1937, to April, 1941 ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : By the term stockists the honourable member apparently means stock assistants. The number recruited was 30, as follows :—

Muslims	15
Hindus	8
Sikhs	6
Scheduled castes	1

No compounder was appointed from April, 1937, to April, 1941, to the Veterinary Department.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS—(concluded.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

Panchayat Journal.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the motion of Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber—

That the item of Rs. 4,820 on account of publication of *Panchayat Journal* be reduced by Rs. 1.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I was submitting yesterday the objects of the *Panchayat Gazette* which is to be published weekly by the Government. The first object stated by the Government is to better the social and economic conditions of panchayats which I am afraid will not be achieved because no subscription will be forthcoming for that journal and its copies will have to be supplied to the people free of charge. Only zaildars and lambardars will be exceptions to that as they would be obliged to subscribe for the proposed journal. What I want to submit is that so long as illiteracy is there the journal would serve absolutely no purpose to the panchayats. What is required is that those who form the panchayats should be educated first. But if the desire of the Government is to find employment for two or three persons related to their party members, the publication of the proposed journal is justified. If the Government want to favour somebody by providing him a job under this pretext they should tell us straight away and we would be right glad to collect a sum of Rs. 10,000 for them. (*Laughter.*)

Now, let us see what that Gazette will contain. It will be a 12 page Gazette with a cartoon on its title page which, according to the version of one of the honourable members sitting on the Ministerial benches, would represent one of the Honourable Ministers.

Minister of Public Works : You will also be included in the cartoon.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : No, thank you. The fact is that a friend of mine went to see one of the members of the Government's party and the cartoon was shown to him. It is a donkey loaded with files being beaten by Sir Chhotu Ram. The donkey is too weak to move and the Deputy

Speaker standing near by is seeing the miserable condition of the donkey. One page is thus finished with the cartoon and the rest of the pages are devoted to the agrarian laws and their benefits as if the rural people are not acquainted with them already. I do not understand what the benefit of agrarian laws has got to do with the panchayats.

Minister of Development : So that the opposition offered to the agrarian laws in cities may be removed.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : The Honourable Minister should bear in mind that the Panchayat Gazette will not pass through the hands of citizens. As to-day waste-paper is sold at a high price the Panchayat Gazette may come into the hands of banias in the form of wastepaper and they will dispose it off in the form of 'Purias' given to their customers. This will be the fate of the Panchayat Gazette.

Minister of Development : Have you access there also ?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : We both belong to villages and we are well aware how things are getting on there. I am afraid the Panchayat Gazette in this way would be the 'Ithad Party Gazette' and about Rs. 10,000 would be wasted under the pretext of promoting the cause of panchayats. Then the tour programme of the Director of Panchayats will be published in the Gazette. What an important feature for which the Government is demanding ten thousand rupees ! In my opinion the Government would be well advised to spend this sum of Rs. 10,000 on some really beneficent work rather than throw it away on a journal which will not command even the most insignificant number of subscribers in the province. No good is going to result from this venture except, of course, to enable the Government to find employment for two or three persons related to their party members. If the Government are really anxious to do something for the poor through this journal the Honourable Ministers can very well do the same during their tours. With these words, I support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, after a careful study of the question and from the experience gained in connection with the working of the Panchayat Act, I have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely necessary to have a journal for the guidance of the panchayats that have been brought into existence under this Act. I was of the opinion that the appointment of a large number of Assistant Panchayat Officers, Panchayat Officers and Divisional Panchayat Officers was quite unnecessary. So far as the latter category of officers was concerned the consensus of opinion even in this House was against them. But recently I had an opportunity of meeting Chaudhri Dewak Ram, Divisional Panchayat Officer, Ambala. The manner in which he explained to me the merits and the demerits of the panchayats was so impressive that it convinced me that the appointment of Divisional Panchayat Officers was extremely necessary. He told me that he has made a detailed report to the Government making a good many suggestions to improve the working of panchayats. I think those suggestions are quite good. The Honourable Minister for Public Works may kindly adopt those suggestions for the welfare of zamindars. Now during this meeting I also saw a person whose duty was to tour the whole province and to submit

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an annual report of the defects in the working of the Act. If the proposed Panchayat Journal is started the pay of this officer would be saved and the benefits accruing from and the defects in the panchayats would be put in black and white in greater detail.

I was really surprised to find this motion moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber, who is a retired Tehsildar and has himself had experience of the working of panchayats. Although they were not very useful institutions in the beginning they have, since the passing of the amended Panchayat Act, become very useful. If this journal is started, and if, as I believe, it contains very useful and instructive articles, I am sure it will prove highly beneficial to a large number of panches and sarpanches who are not so highly educated people. Apart from that it will enable the Government to increase the powers of the panchayats and the poorer section among agriculturists and non-agriculturists will get rid of the curse of litigation which is to-day a great drain on their resources. Even before it comes into being it is highly unjust and unfair to allege that this journal will be a vehicle of party propaganda. It is as yet premature to say that, because one cannot generalise from a single particular.

I would request the honourable mover to withdraw his cut motion because it is a really useful item of expenditure for which the Government has made a demand. With these words, I oppose this cut motion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion which has been moved by my friend, Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber. The fact is that the Unionist Government are already notorious for their extravagance, and there is hardly any doubt about it. But this item of Rs. 10,000 for starting a weekly Panchayat Journal, in regard to the preliminaries of which a sum of Rs. 760 has been demanded for the few remaining days of the current financial year, is their master stroke. What good is going to come out of it and how far it is going to succeed in imparting instruction to the public with regard to the principles of the panchayat system, is the obvious question which comes to one's mind. Like the Honourable Minister of Revenue I have also experience—I should say bitter experience—of starting such weekly journals. My experience is that such papers or journals make absolutely no impression on their readers, nor are they a sound business proposition. No one is prepared to subscribe for any such journal. About three-fourths or two-thirds of those to whom Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram's paper is sent do not pay a single pie by way of subscription.

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): Absolutely wrong.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: I challenge my honourable friend, who probably does not know anything about it, to controvert my statement that a large number of persons who are on the mailing list of the Jat Gazette do not pay any subscription. Put apart from this I have other reasons for doubting the success of the Panchayat Journal. Its greatest drawback will be lack of subscribers, for the simple reason that it is going to be started under the auspices of the Government. People do not expect any good out of such papers which are brought into being under official

patronage. All that this journal is good for is that it would prove a good advertising medium for the Government. The panchayats would of course be compelled to subscribe for it from their funds. All the papers appearing under official or semi-official patronage have the disadvantage of being regarded with suspicion by urban as well as rural people alike. Such journals find their place on the heap of the household or kitchen rubbish. Even the weekly War Editions of Urdu papers on which the Government wasted as much as Rs. 80,000 of public money, are not read by any one. The Government are making a mistake if they still hope that this Panchayat Journal will be read by the people of this Province.

Then, Sir, my submission is that the principle of panchayats is very good and if this movement becomes a success here I think two-thirds of the evils of our province would be removed. Many things are good in principle but when effect is given to them they turn out to be harmful. The fault does not lie in the things themselves but in the persons who give effect to them. This journal like many other beneficent departments is being started to strengthen the position of the Unionist Party and to carry on its propaganda by fair or unfair means. This is the only object for which it is being started. My friends have set apart this sum of Rs. 10,000 in order to provide employment to some of their own men; otherwise there is no other object of this journal. I do not want to take up the time of the House. I would simply say that in this way public money is being wasted and whenever we see that public money is wasted, it is our duty to bring it to the notice of this House as well as to the public at large. This journal instead of benefiting the public would harm their interests. It will neither assist the panchayat officers in the discharge of their duties, nor will it produce any desirable effect on the rural people. So, what is the use of starting a journal which will not prove useful in any way. In this connection I may point out that all those persons who previously acted as the election agents of the Unionist Party have been appointed as panchayat officers. Whenever they go to villages for holding elections to panchayats they instead of performing their duties cause disturbances there. I know of three or four places in my own district where the panchayat officer went to hold elections of panchayats but instead of that disturbances were created there and he had to save his life by taking to his heels. My friends will at once say that the Congress must have some hand in the creation of those disturbances. But I assure them that Congress had nothing to do with them. If my friends doubt the correctness of my statement they can ask the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak and he will bear me out. The causes of these disturbances are the panchayat officers themselves. What they do is that they somehow or other get the candidates belonging to their own party declared as elected and this partiality on their part leads to disturbances. In my district the Deputy Commissioner had to interfere at four or five places and to postpone the elections of the panchayats. When the affairs are such, do my friends think that this journal will in any way remove these evils? I for one think that this journal is being started in order to hide such things from coming before the public. The result will be that these evils will increase all the more and whatever kind of democracy we have in this Province it will die its natural death.

(Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.)

Under these circumstances I think that this sum of Rs. 10,000 is being wasted and I would request the House not to sanction it. With these words I support the cut motion.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I have been very much surprised to hear the speech of my honourable friend who has just preceded me. I do not know how I should call him. Should I say that he is a deshbhagat? After all, he belongs to that party which claims to be the only patriotic party in the country.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup : I have no such intention at all. As a matter of fact I am speaking against the cut motion. My submission is that if the starting of a journal is bad for Government it is equally bad for my honourable friend. If he thinks that newspapers do no good to the public, I ask, why has he started his newspaper?

Mr. Speaker : Please do not bring the honourable member in.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Sir, it has become a habit with my honourable friend to oppose each and every suggestion put forward by Government. The question before us is whether or not the starting of this journal will be in the interests of the zamindars. My friend thinks that it will do no good to them. On the contrary it is my considered opinion that this journal is absolutely necessary and that it should be started as soon as possible. Let me point out that if my friend is honest in expressing his views and he thinks that the starting of journals or newspapers is against the best interests of the public, then I ask, why does he not stop the publication of his newspaper? If the starting of a journal is a bad thing for Government it is equally bad for him too.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Sir, there are two sides to every picture. My friend has dealt with the dark side and I am telling you something about its bright aspects. While dealing with its bright side it is but natural that I should make some references to my honourable friend as well. Anyway my friends of the Congress Party who claim to be the real well-wishers of the poor always say in their speeches that if Government take right steps or do anything for the good of the people, they would be prepared to support their action. But my submission is that whenever any proposal or suggestion is put forward by Government for improving the lot of the poor people, my friends oppose it tooth and nail. For instance, this suggestion has been put forward by Government that a panchayat journal should be started with a view to benefit the poor people. My friends have opposed this suggestion as well. We are therefore forced to draw this conclusion, that in their opinion only those things are good which can serve their purpose and not the others. They think that as this journal will not help them in any way, it is not in the interests of people to start it. It means that they do not care a bit for the interests of the public and it is their own interests which they have placed in their forefront. I ask, when they are not honest in expressing their views how do they expect us to accept their suggestions? I would, therefore, request my honourable friends of the Congress Party and in particular Pandit Shri Ram Sharma that they should

act according to some principle. It will do them no good to offer opposition to each and every suggestion of Government.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup : It is very necessary to bring the panchayats under discipline. The honourable member Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber supported the cut motion saying that there is no need for bringing out any such journal. May I ask him, if he is in favour of the panchayats, whether it is not necessary to help those panchayats to function in a satisfactory manner and to fulfil the purpose for which they have been brought into existence? The rural people are uneducated and it is very necessary to make them understand wherein their benefit lies. For this purpose, is it not necessary to bring out a newspaper so that those who are educated among the rural public may read out to them what is for their benefit? Uneducated people can understand a thing easily. Only an attempt has to be made. Educated people sometimes knowingly go astray. This is not the case with the rural people. If once you tell them that they should do a certain thing which is good they will always do it. But the urban people even knowingly do not act upon a good advice. There are so many newspapers and journals for the benefit of the urban people while there are none for the benefit of the rural people. I, therefore, say that for educating the rural people this amount may be granted to bring out a newspaper. I request the honourable members of the Opposition that at least on such matters as are likely to benefit the rural people they should abstain from opposing us. With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion.

Rao Pohop Singh (East Punjab Landholders) (Urdu) : Sir, this House passed the Panchayat Act in order to extend the system of panchayats all over the province. The purpose of the panchayats is to reduce litigation in which the zamindars so often indulge unnecessarily and to help the rural masses to better their lot. The Government have employed for this purpose various officers. For example, there are the Assistant Panchayat Officers, Panchayat Officers and Divisional Panchayat Officers. These officers are employed so that through panchayats they should carry out the work of the uplift of the rural areas. A weekly would be very helpful for these people in their laudable mission. The various panchayat officers and other people who are educated in the rural areas can read out to the uneducated rural masses various articles in order to enlighten them on various useful subjects. Other countries spend millions of rupees on the good work of uplift of the backward classes. A sum of Rs. 10,000 for bringing out a weekly is not much, and no one should grudge to grant it to the Government. It was said that people are not interested in reading such periodicals. No doubt they are not. But do you know the reasons for lack of such interest on their part? If they are not interested in reading such newspapers it is because other newspapers have spoiled their taste by their low tone and by providing them with articles in which either personal attacks are made or mud is thrown on certain people. We will try to improve their taste by this weekly and also make the people read it. In view of the service which we want to render with the help of this weekly I hope such a small amount as Rs. 10,000 will be granted by the House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Urdu): On a point of personal explanation, sir. The honourable member made a personal attack on me. He said—

کہیں رائے کے خیال سے کرتے ہیں

It is a mean attack.

Mr. Speaker: This is not a personal explanation. The honourable member is making a speech.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, it is a mean attack.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The honourable member should withdraw that expression.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, it is mean to impute motives. But if you rule that it is unparliamentary I will withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: If the honourable member used an unparliamentary expression, why did he not object to it then?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: This is for you to decide.

Mr. Speaker: If the honourable member was of the opinion that the language used by the other honourable member was unparliamentary, why did he not object to it then?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: I think that the language used is unparliamentary. It is not proper for any honourable member to impute motives to another honourable member of the House.

Minister of Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, I did not expect that a proposal for the starting of a Panchayat Journal would be a subject of the criticism that we have heard to-day and yesterday. The reasons that prompted the Government to start this journal are detailed on page 80 of the memorandum accompanying the supplementary estimates and if the honourable members had taken trouble to read them, I think much of the criticism would not have been made.

It is essential for the Panchayat Department to carry on the missionary work and for this purpose they must have a journal to carry on their propaganda. I have no hesitation in confessing before the House that the Punjab Government is in no way original in starting this journal. As a matter of fact the credit goes to the party opposite, when they were in power in other provinces, for starting such journals for the benefit of panchayats and for purposes of rural uplift. ● (Hear, hear.) I was, therefore, very much surprised to hear this criticism from the members of the Congress benches opposite. Such journals were started everywhere where the Congress party was in power. I would refer them to the United Provinces, Bihar and other provinces. When I saw that those periodicals were doing useful work, we came forward with this proposal. The honourable member who represents the Christians, when he spoke, was contradicting himself throughout the speech. I could very well realize his difficulties. He had every good thing to say for the panchayats, and he said that this Journal was being started for the purpose of propaganda in favour of the panchayats. His trouble was, as he confessed towards the end of his speech, that this journal would be used as a means of propaganda for the Unionist Party. That should not be anticipated. It should be judged from the issues that will be brought out. It is wrong to anticipate that it

is going to be on party lines. We want to better the lot of the villagers. We want to save them from litigation and to make the panchayats popular and if thereby he thinks that the Unionist Government is getting the reward, then I think that that is a credit to which the party is entitled and no criticism from the honourable member opposite is needed. He talked of factions in villages ; but those factions have to be ended. We have seen for more than a century that the legal system has not cured those factions—rather they are on the increase. So, another remedy must be found and it must be an indigenous one. My experience has been, and I think it will be borne out by many executive officers, that factions have settled down with the increase of panchayats. I concede that in certain villages it may not be a success but in those cases the district officers have got ample powers to interfere and they do interfere. So, on the question of panchayats there is no difference between my honourable friends opposite and myself. But it was pointed out that there will be expense which will be a waste. There will be some powers given to the panchayats with safeguards. There must be supervision and advice of the Government if we want the panchayats to progress and that can be done by this journal. If a good thing is done by one panchayat, how are we to inform the other panchayats without the means of a journal? If a panchayat makes a certain proposal which is not found to be a success, we must warn the other panchayats that they must not repeat that very mistake. That cannot be done without the help of a journal. No department of the Government which has to do missionary work of this nature, can do so without it. The Co-operative Department and the Department of Agriculture have got similar journals. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, who is not in his seat at the moment, has been amply replied to by the honourable members from Rohtak. He talked of disturbances in certain elections. I say that defects do crop up but we are looking into such cases and we try to set them right. No disturbances have come to my notice so far, but if there were any, I think Panditji's presence must have got something to do with them. (*Laughter.*) The honourable members whose party has been responsible for starting these journals in other provinces, should be the last to criticise this measure and I can assure them that beyond popularising the panchayats and bringing those panchayats on a proper basis, we have no other intention of doing party propaganda or anything else. I, therefore, hope that they will not press the cut motion.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) : I would like to say only a few words in reply. I feel that a good deal of the speeches and arguments advanced have been beyond the scope of my motion and that is why the Honourable Minister seems to have misunderstood me to a certain extent. My motion was that this expense is unnecessary. I explained that under the circumstances prevailing in the province, there was nobody against the panchayats. My experience is that the people like panchayats. It is only in few villages where there are factions that the people cannot form a panchayat; otherwise there is no

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need of propaganda for the people to set up panchayats. Every one likes panchayats. People know that it is to their benefit. The officers concerned must go to them and explain to them the benefits of panchayats and people will then form the panchayats. Therefore, we do not require so much propaganda which would mean unnecessary expenditure. This was my point. The existing workers could do propaganda required to enlighten the villagers so that they may set up panchayats. There are numerous papers in different districts which are already doing that sort of propaganda and uplift work. They are writing good articles in favour of panchayats. Even our non-official papers like the *Tribune* and other vernacular papers have from time to time been writing in favour of panchayats. The district boards and other bodies also do this sort of work. Under these circumstances it is unnecessary to incur this expenditure.

My second point was, granted this was a good work, even then it should not have formed part of the supplementary estimates. We could very well wait for the grant of this sum. There was no hurry for putting this item in the supplementary estimates in the middle of the year and thus not give this Assembly time to think over and consider the matter. Therefore, my objection was that since this was an unnecessary expenditure and since whatever little work required to be done was being done in the province already, the Government could wait and it could bring this matter before the House at the time of the annual budget. Therefore, with these remarks I would press my motion.

Minister of Public Works : I want to say two or three words. The honourable member said that there are already papers which are carrying on propaganda in favour of panchayats. I am not aware of such papers. He further mentioned the name of a paper. The trouble is that all those papers have certain political views and we want a journal which should be absolutely for panchayat propaganda and which should be above party politics. That was the reason for starting this journal. Then he said that since the panchayats are popular, they can be formed in no time. The formation of panchayats is one thing and working thereof is another. One panchayat should be informed of the working of another and that cannot be done without a journal. Good decision of one panchayat should be within the knowledge of the other so that they may act accordingly. Therefore, it is necessary to have this paper. The last criticism of the honourable member was as to why we had come with a supplementary grant. If this item were included in the annual budget, nobody would have perhaps known of it in that bulky volume. We wanted to get the views of the House and therefore we brought it in this manner. Moreover, we had certain savings within the department and we wanted to utilize them within the current year. That is the reason why a token demand has been moved with regard to this item and that is the reason why we have brought it in the Supplementary Estimates. This Assembly has to sanction the main Budget and if it sanctions the supplementary budget, the position is the same. Perhaps this criticism may not have been made at the time of

discussion of the annual budget. As a matter of fact we have got more views of the honourable members on this point.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber: Does the Honourable Minister give an assurance that it will not be used for party propaganda?

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That the item of Rs. 4,620 on account of publication of Panchayat Journal be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was lost.

War propaganda by mobile cinema units.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 5,000 on account of scheme for intensifying war propaganda by means of mobile cinema units, be omitted.

As will be observed, this demand has been made in connection with war publicity and intensification of propaganda in the villages in favour of war with the help of mobile cinema units and public meetings. Outwardly we have been asked to vote a small sum of Rs. 5,000, but if you just probe into the matter, you will find that already a large sum has been expended on war propaganda. In 1940-41 the Government made a provision of Rs. 1,22,826 in the budget for this purpose and in 1941-42 they provided a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs to achieve this object. Even next year, that is, for 1942-43 an amount to the tune of two lakhs of rupees has been earmarked to intensify war propaganda. What I want to enquire is this, whether in view of making large provisions for achieving this end, it is yet necessary to put forward a supplementary demand of Rs. 5,000. Were not those large sums of money sufficient to attain the object in view?

Now we understand that a new scheme has been evolved for intensifying war propaganda. This scheme will involve a total expenditure of Rs. 80,000, which the Government of India have offered to share with the Punjab Government in equal proportion. This brings down the amount charged to the provincial revenues to Rs. 40,000. As it has been decided to intensify war publicity by means of mobile cinema units and public meetings in rural areas of the Punjab, the equipment of these three additional cinema units, will alone cost about Rs. 48,000. I would submit that this expenditure is absolutely futile and it is not going to do any good to the public at large. If you just go into the details, you will find how public money has been squandered. Out of the amount earmarked for war publicity, Rs. 80,000 have been spent on the maintenance of the staff, while Rs. 10,000 have been provided for their travelling allowances. Next year it is expected that Rs. 80,000 would be spent on the dissemination of war news through the press. A certain number of newspapers which agree to publish weekly editions containing purely war news and propaganda, will receive substantial help from the Government, who will purchase these newspapers for free distribution in the villages. This year newspapers were paid to the extent of Rs. 10,000 each. Now when the Government have left no stone unturned in intensifying war propaganda through pamphlets, newspapers, etc., I fail to understand the necessity of this supplementary demand.

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Then we are told that the Government have not been able to achieve a sufficient measure of success in making war propaganda with one or two cinema units. Hence at the suggestion of the Central Government they want to increase the strength of these cinema units by another three additional cinema units. The amount left after meeting their cost would be spent on holding public meetings in rural areas. All this show is intended to elucidate the significance of the war which is being waged by the allies, so that it may help the Government to mobilise the man-power or for the matter of that recruitment may be facilitated. I again in all seriousness ask the Government whether they really feel that the abovementioned large sums of money, of which provision was made in the last two budgets and is being made in the new budget also, were not enough to attain the desired object.

We have also been informed that the war propaganda in the villages is all the more essential specially in view of the fact that during the last Great War lack of proper and adequate propaganda in favour of war, led to the creation of misunderstandings and great dissatisfaction among the masses. This time they are not going to take the risk and hence a sum of two lakhs of rupees has been provided in the new budget so that an intense campaign of war propaganda may be launched to enlighten the villagers who in return are expected to contribute their mite, namely, by offering their services for winning the war. In other words the Government is out to obviate the difficulties that arose in the rural areas during the last Great War. I doubt the soundness of this argument as the circumstances that existed at that time and which led to trouble do not exist now.

Next it has been stated that as the war has now come nearer our homes it is high time for intensifying war propaganda in the rural areas. By doing so the war loans will be popularised and it will help the war efforts to a great extent. It has also been pointed out that a film can create a great effect on the minds of illiterate people and therefore three more films are proposed to be purchased for doing war propaganda. But my submission is that by showing war films in the villages the Government will not be able to popularise war loans nor win over the hearts of people. I firmly believe that motion pictures will not create any effect in mobilising public opinion which is not in favour of war. And it is an open secret that people in general, under the existing circumstances, are not inclined towards actively joining the anti-Axis front. When this is the state of affairs the Government could have spent any amount of money last year for war propaganda and even to-day they may earmark lakhs of rupees but unless and until the public feeling is changed no good is going to result from this venture. My point is that the motion pictures, weekly journals and frequent meetings in rural areas held in connection with war efforts will not create any effect on the general feelings of the people. I would ask the Government to peep into the hearts of the masses and judge for themselves where they stand. We have been told that war propaganda will be done by mobile cinema units. But may I ask the Government what they will show in the films? Do they want to show the present war news appearing in papers now-a-days? I submit if even one-fourth of those news is true it will not be possible in any case to show them on the screen. After all

what do they propose to show people in this connection? What have the Government got with them to win over the people of the province? Do they think that by showing the fall of Singapore and retreat of Dunkirk on the screen they would be in a position to popularise war efforts in the province? Absolutely not. I have already submitted and I repeat it again that unless and until the remedy of real disease is found it will be no use indulging in superfluous efforts like this. I am sure my honourable friends sitting opposite must have read in the newspapers, that according to the view of the British Government one of the reasons for the fall of Malaya Peninsula was that the people of Malaya did not extend full help and willing co-operation to the British Government. To-day in connection with Burma also the same remarks are being made by the editors of English newspapers in Great Britain. They say that in Burma the attitude of the people in general is not helpful to the Britishers. Was it not in the power of the Government of Burma to purchase cinema machines and intensify war propaganda there? My honourable friends sitting opposite should be aware of the fact that unless Indians are told why this war is being fought for and what will India get during and after the war, no propaganda will stand them in good stead. If everything could be set right by war propaganda alone and if our oft-repeated demands were to be thrown to winds unattended and uncared for, Mr. Churchill would not have worried himself about making a new statement in connection with the Indian problem. It is obvious from this fact that the war propaganda is a secondary thing and the first and foremost thing is to convince Indians that they are really fighting for the independence of their own country. I would, therefore, submit that the Government by holding meetings and granting any amount of money to dailies and weeklies for war propaganda and by earmarking Rs. 5,000 for mobile cinema units, cannot purchase the hearts of people. They may spend even 12 crores of rupees for war propaganda and I am sure no good will result from it. My friends should not be oblivious of the fact that a man fights for his own home and hearth and not for those of others. When a house catches fire which is not our own we have every sympathy with the inhabitants, no doubt, but we do not risk our life excepting, of course, to save our own skin if we happen to be in flames. Let me, therefore, once again submit that the people of India will not help the war efforts only by going through the present budget and this item of Rs. 5,000 in the supplementary estimates. What I want to drive at is that our Government should keep pace with the change of time. To be brief, as my honourable friends are aware, Sir Stafford Cripps had been to India and exchanged views with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and others and stayed in Lahore with my friend Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din. The friendly attitude adopted by Sir Stafford Cripps gave a shock to Mr. Churchill who then considered him an enemy of Imperialism. But now things have absolutely changed and there is a ray of hope for some favourable negotiation between India and Britain as Mr. Churchill has now given him a prominent place in the cabinet. We are sure that Sir Stafford Cripps will stick to his convictions regarding the Indian problem. But it is unfortunate that the Unionist Ministry do not bow before the changes that have come so far. But instead of that our Government are persisting on harping on the same tune—propaganda.

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which has now become out of date. I must say that some of the Unionist Ministers for some ulterior motives do not want that the demands of the Congress should be accepted by Great Britain. (*Interruptions.*) I was submitting that the Government will not be able to produce any effect on the public opinion by motion pictures. As the time has changed, as the war has taken the worst shape, the Government should make efforts to cure the real disease and should not indulge in side issues. I strongly oppose this supplementary demand with the remark that this expenditure is a mere waste of money and that the Government under the prevailing conditions ought not to sleep over the common cause of the country—complete independence and freedom.

Mr. Speaker : Supplementary demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 5,000 on account of scheme for intensifying war propaganda by means of mobile cinema units be omitted.

Mrs. Duni Chand (Lahore City, Women, General) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my honourable brother Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. It is clear from the supplementary estimate that the Government is demanding Rs. 5,000 for the purpose of war propaganda to be done by holding meetings and showing mobile cinema pictures to the people in rural areas. This amount of money is being demanded for the present year which is going to end after 25 days. Now the question boils down to this, whether this huge sum which has been allotted for carrying on war propaganda and helping the war effort is being utilized in the most suitable and proper manner. So far as the point of view of the Government and the Opposition in regard to the war is concerned, there is no gainsaying the fact that both of us want the centre of hostilities to be as far away from our shores as possible. We cannot tolerate any stranger setting foot on our soil with aggressive intentions. Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru have also clearly indicated their position in this matter by declaring that they are uncompromisingly hostile to any foreign aggression. The greatest factor which militates against the effectiveness of such propaganda is that it will be carried out by Government agency, and the people and various political parties in the province will have nothing to do with it. They will rather try to make it ineffective. It will be conceded, therefore, that so long as the people and these parties do not lend their support, the possibility of the effectiveness of such propaganda would become very doubtful. Now let us take the question as to which political parties and sections of the people do not co-operate with the Government in this matter. The Government are properly cognizant of the fact that there are very few persons who help them with the idea that they are in duty bound to fight the aggressive forces of the Axis Powers. Most of the people who are assisting the Government at present do so with the hope that they may be able to get something out of the large amount of money which is being spent so lavishly. Anyhow let us now see which sections of the population and political parties are pursuing a policy of sitting on the fence. The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League are unequivocally non-co-operating on principle. The Hindu Mahasabha is also not prepared to lend its whole-hearted support until the Government accept their demand. The fact that the Government has pursued a policy of repression during the last

five years has embittered the people of this province. The treatment that they have meted out to the Kisan, the Ahrar and the Khaksar parties, who wielded a considerable influence in the province, has gone a long way in creating resentment against the Government. In view of this fact it can hardly be expected that these parties would sincerely assist this Government in any matter. The public is also aware that hundreds of patriots have been thrown into jails. Be it a railway compartment, the village *Chaupal* or the district bar-room or any place where people come together, the topic of discussion is invariably the repressive policy which this Government is pursuing from the time it came into office. Had this Government been a really popular Government and had the people been convinced that this war is being fought for the safety and protection of their country, the tax which they have to collect with the use of force to-day would have been voluntarily paid by the people.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable lady member is not quite relevant.

Mrs. Duni Chand : I think the Government would be well advised to prove it in a practical manner by a change in their policy that the war is in fact being waged for the good of India instead of persuading the people by cinema shows and public lectures to believe that. It is not possible for the people who are daily made victims of repression and highhandedness to readily succumb to propaganda. No propaganda, however cleverly executed it may be, can prove effective when the originator of it is known to be such a notorious Government.

The Press is buzzing with the news that Mr. Churchill will shortly make a pronouncement in regard to India. We have to see how far this pronouncement goes to satisfy our aspirations. If it reflects a change of heart on the part of the British Government. Your mobile cinema units will no longer be necessary for carrying on war propaganda. But if the old, old story of "a wolf in sheep's clothing" is again repeated, let me assure the Government that no one is going to be misled by your moving pictures. People will be more impressed by the shows that this Government stages by ordering *lathi* charges and spilling the blood of innocent women and children of this province.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the honourable lady member to be relevant.

Mrs. Duni Chand : If the Government were to realize their mistake that an administration can be run by rule of brute force and give a proof of this realization, I am confident that they would not need mobile cinema units to make us understand the danger our country is facing.

It is not the exhibition of propaganda films but an evidence of a change of heart and the sincerity of purpose that would impress upon us the importance of considering this war as our war and urge us to put in the utmost of effort for its successful prosecution. Because

مچائی چمپ نہیں سکتی بنارت کے اصولوں سے

کہ خشتہ آ نہیں مکتی کیوں کاغذ کے پوروں سے

With these words I support the cut motion now before the House.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural)

4 p.m.

(Urdu): Sir, the motion now before the House is that this sum of Rs. 5,000 should not be granted to the

Government for war publicity work. Now what we have to see is whether this money is being demanded for a good purpose and whether it should be sanctioned or not. It is only after considering these two questions that we can come to the conclusion whether this money should be sanctioned or not. My submission is that so far the help which this province has rendered for the successful prosecution of the war both in men and money is unparalleled. Not only that our gallant Premier regardless of personal risks twice visited the different war fronts. He undertook those hazardous journeys in order to put a new heart in our troops who are fighting our battles there. In spite of all that we have done we have yet to make more efforts in this direction. Now war has entered a new phase and it has come to the very doors of India. At this time it is our duty to try our level best to increase our war effort. As a matter of fact we should intensify our war effort to such an extent that people should come to know that the people of the Punjab have decided to bring this war to a successful end. My friends are aware of the fact that at present at least fifty per cent soldiers in the Indian Army are Punjabis. They are so very brave people that they can offer stiff resistance to the enemies even though they may be much superior in numbers. Now in order to increase our war effort in the province it is necessary that we should intensify war publicity and do propaganda in the cities and villages so that people should liberally help the Government both with men and money. This propaganda should be especially made in the towns so that the educated people should also offer themselves for recruitment. I think it is the duty of every individual to help the Government in their war effort. If we do not render any help and God forbid the British armies are defeated, do my friends know what would happen? The Punjab will be the worst sufferer. No doubt we are being governed by the British but I tell my friends that it is better to be governed by the Britishers than by any other nation. As compared to other nations they are much better. If we help them in winning the war the Britishers will surely grant us more self-governing powers. This is the time for us to prove to them that we are fit for self-government and that we are capable of governing ourselves and that we can do only by rendering help in this war. I am sure after the successful termination of this war the British Government will grant us independence. Anyway in order to win the war we should intensify our war effort and in fact we should leave no stone unturned in that behalf. We should do this propaganda throughout the length and breadth of the province not only for urging the people to render help in men and money but also to contradict those false rumours which are set afloat by ignorant persons. These rumours are a positive hindrance in the way of war effort. Besides they frighten the people as well. When the people become frightened they lose their balance of mind and the result is that every kind of work suffers which ultimately results in the lessening of the war effort. We should tell the people that at present we are so very strong that not only can we successfully resist the combined forces of Germany, Japan and Italy but we can meet the onslaught of any other invader also. We should make this propaganda in our villages on such lines which would

convince the people that we are really strong so that they should help the Government with men and money liberally. I think the sum of money which has been set apart for this purpose is very small and I would request the Honourable Premier that in the next year this sum should be doubled. With these words I oppose the cut motion now before the House.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I move—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (Urdu): Sir, I would like to deal very briefly with some of the points that have been raised by my honourable friends opposite in respect to war publicity.

Lala Duni Chand : I shall be obliged if the Honourable Premier can give me five minutes. I shall give him some facts for reflection and after that he can enlighten us. It will be in the interest of the Honourable Premier to give me five minutes to speak.

Premier : It is not within my power.

Mr. Speaker : It is in the power of the Chair or the whole House.

Lala Duni Chand : Do you want to take away from me the time which the Honourable Premier has been pleased to allow me? As the Honourable Premier has been pleased to allow me five minutes, I request that you do not take it away.

Premier : I am sorry that my honourable friend, Lala Duni Chand, has not been able to get an opportunity to make a speech. He probably does not know that after a closure motion is carried he cannot be allowed to speak.

Mr. Speaker : The Chair can permit and even call upon a member to speak not only after the closure motion is carried but also till both 'Ayes' and 'Noes' are completely collected.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : On a point of order. Only two honourable members on this side have spoken on this motion and others were seeking your permission to speak when the closure motion was moved. I should like to know whether under the circumstances the closure motion could have been accepted.

Mr. Speaker : The Chair has the power to accept a closure at any time.

Premier (Urdu): The object of the Government is quite clear. The amount in question is required to carry on war publicity. The Government of India have promised to give us some lorries on the condition that half of their price is paid by us. We readily accepted their offer and agreed to pay half the cost of the lorries. It was a cheap bargain. We all know that it is very necessary to intensify the war propaganda and to contradict the mischievous and misleading rumours that are being spread at present by the enemies of our country. It is not intended to suppress war news. Our purpose is to acquaint the public with the real facts concerning the war situation so that they may not be misled by the

[Premier.]

adverse propaganda which is being carried on by interested parties. May I ask my honourable friends what harm there is in doing so?

My honourable friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, made a few statements in the course of his speech. They were most irresponsibly made. Perhaps he little realizes the gravity of the situation facing us at present. Let him realize that we are passing through very critical times. Mrs. Duni Chand also fired off a speech in the same irresponsible strain. I would advise the honourable lady member not to make such irresponsible speeches outside this House. She should be more careful when making speeches from a public platform. Any such speech made outside the House would certainly constitute an offence, both legally and morally. I advise her to be more cautious while making speeches on this subject. Such speeches create unrest and panic among the public. It is the duty of every one not to spread panic among the public whether through the press or from the platform.

Lala Duni Chand : I rise on a point of order. Is the Honourable Premier within his right to give directions to the Press in the course of a speech that such and such a speech should not be published? Is he within his right or not?

Premier : In my capacity as the servant of this House it is my privilege to advise honourable members and in my capacity as a public servant it is my duty to advise the public. Similarly as a servant of the Press it is my duty to advise it.

Lala Duni Chand : Your rights in the House are different from your rights outside the House. In the House you are subject to certain rules of procedure. You cannot go beyond that procedure.

Premier : I request the honourable member to try to understand my point. The rules are applicable to him in the same manner as they are to me or to other honourable members of this House. It is the right of every member to tender advice on a particular matter. I am only advising my honourable friends to abstain from making particular statements in the interest of the public and they object to my doing so, while they themselves, as we all know, indulge in abusive language. So long as the war lasts the honourable members should be more careful in their public utterances. After the war, when the present critical times are over, it will be open to them to indulge in any such criticism or remarks. When you make such irresponsible statements you commit an act of treachery not only towards your country but also towards your children to protect whom it is your duty as well as mine.

Lala Duni Chand : Do you know what is being said on thousands of radios? What have you done to prevent it?

Premier : Our enemies spread rumours and it is the duty of every patriotic and peace-loving citizen to check them, and to help the public to judge for themselves the worth of the enemy propaganda. So far as the spread of rumours broadcast by enemy radio stations is concerned, neither you nor I can help it. We can only contradict them and it is your duty as well as mine to advise the public not to attach any value to them.

Had the honourable member been in Germany and had he made any remarks distasteful to the Germans he would have been in the hands of the Gestapo who would have tortured him by hanging him by the feet.

Lala Duni Chand : Have you never listened to these radios yourself ?

Premier : I am a busy man. Sometimes I do listen to the radio but not the enemy radio. I have not got the time to devote to listening to radio news. Moreover, it is no business of mine to tell people what a particular radio station broadcasts. I am only anxious that misleading rumours should not get currency in order that panic may not spread among the public. And it is your duty as well as mine to check the spread of any such rumours as well as the consequent panic.

Then, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma said that he was not concerned with what may happen to a house, meaning thereby our country, and that it was the concern of the landlord or the owner and not that of the tenant to look after it. If they do not consider themselves as co-sharers of this house—our country—or partners in the affairs of the Government of this country, then why are they at grips with the Britishers ? Let them remain unconcerned. But if they think that they are partners with us and the Britishers so far as the affairs of this country are concerned and also realize that the danger which is facing it at present is common to both of us, then it is their duty to share with us the responsibility of removing that danger. But unfortunately they believe in sharing the advantages with us without sharing the disadvantages. It is their duty to extend a helping hand to us in the hour of common danger and to share with us the responsibilities of the defence of the country. The honourable member most irresponsibly said that our army had laid down its arms and surrendered. The honourable member stated what our enemies state. Our soldiers who are fighting the enemies at various fronts are brave and courageous. They cannot lay down their arms. They are brave men, not like the honourable member Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. They are not like men who are devoid of all self-respect and sense of honour. Only such men can say such things who have no regard for their country and who care little for the safety and honour of their women and children. The honourable member is not here at present. Had he been here I would have called upon him to explain before the House what right he had to make such absurd allegations against our brave soldiers. They are bearing the hardships of the war in order that such people as Pandit Shri Ram Sharma may continue to participate in the Shraddha ceremonies undisturbed and Mrs. Duni Chand may live in comfort and receive Rs. 20 per day for attending Assembly sittings. Such utterances do not accord with their dignity as members of this House. They should be ashamed of them. It is our common duty to clear the atmosphere of all such ill-founded rumours. As representatives of the people an obligation rests upon us to check the spread of panic by laying before them true facts relating to the war. With these words I oppose the motion now before the House.

Munshi Hari Lal : Is the word ' besharam ' parliamentary ?

Lala Duni Chand : On a point of personal explanation. I am not one of those persons who would care for Rs. 20 a day. I am one of those

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people who have in their lives sacrificed as much as Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 a month for years and years. I ask the Honourable Premier to consult the Income Tax records. I sacrificed my income at a time when I was making Rs. 3,000 a month and I was making more income than the Honourable Premier himself.

Mr. Speaker : Order, please, do not be personal.

Munshi Hari Lal : It is my right to have your ruling. I have raised a point of order, whether the word ' besharam ' is parliamentary.

Mr. Speaker : *Prima facie* it is unparliamentary. But that will depend upon when it is used and how it is used.

Munshi Hari Lal : You have heard the speech of the Honourable Premier. I want to know whether it is parliamentary as he has used it.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot recall the exact language or the exact words used by the Honourable Premier.

Munshi Hari Lal : Let the Honourable Premier be called upon to repeat what he said. I heard the words indistinctly.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 5,000 on account of Scheme for intensifying war propaganda by means of mobile cinema units be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Special Development Fund.

Chaudhri Sumar Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*):
Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 30,00,000 on account of special development fund be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my object in moving this cut motion is to bring to the notice of the Government its failure to achieve the desired object by the creation of the Special Development Fund.

Let us first of all take the question of providing education to the poor villagers. In this connection we are told by the Government that a large number of model schools have been opened in the rural areas of the Punjab. It is true that a number of model schools have been established in the rural centres. But what about their utility? I can say from personal experience that these schools are no better than the previous schools. There is no doubt that the Government have spent one lakh of rupees in this connection but the experience of the last 4 or 5 years has shown us that no improvements have been brought about by these model schools in spite of the fact that Government had proposed to appoint selected teachers in them. What we actually find is this that these schools neither show better results in education nor in games. In certain cases other schools beat these model schools both in education and in the play-ground. What is then the use of these white elephants? I know the condition of model schools of my own district. More often than not the teams of the model schools are defeated in the play-ground by the ordinary schools. Similarly, the educational results of the so-called model schools are no better than the

ordinary schools. All that I like in these model schools is their sanitation. Moreover beautiful charts are hung on the walls. These are good things indeed. But they are not enough. Something more substantial ought to be done. Another difficulty is the paucity of grant-in-aid. The question of granting such grants-in-aid rests with the Government. But in reality the strings are held by the higher authorities who are not liberal in this regard. The district boards are responsible nominally. In reality the high officers of the Education Department have the necessary powers to spend the allotment for those model schools, though in paper transactions these grants are given to district boards. I am, therefore, strongly of the opinion, that unless the Government finance the district boards liberally for the purpose of dissemination of education by opening schools on a large scale and paying the teachers adequately, no useful purpose would be served by creating this special development fund. It would be much better to divide this fund among district boards.

Then there is another point which I would like to bring to your notice and that is this. We are told that under the aegis of the Special Development Fund some allowance has been given to the doctors in charge of rural dispensaries, so that twice a week they should tour the villages lying within the radius of five miles of the dispensary. Outwardly the scheme is very attractive. But certain difficulties have cropped up, which the Government should remove in the interest of the poor zamindars, without further delay. They proceed on tours during the working hours of the hospitals and not after attending to the outdoor patients. I can say with the fullest confidence that the entries made in the daily register are done by the compounders. Strict control should be exercised over these doctors. They should be asked not to proceed on tour during working hours. As a result of this much inconvenience is caused to the poor patients requiring immediate attention of the doctor. I hold the view that this arrangement has not proved satisfactory. Government should take speedy action to improve it. The allotment of Rs. 100 per doctor for medicine is insufficient to meet the demand, and so this is another cause of the failure of the scheme.

There is yet another item under this head which requires a little more consideration at the hands of the Government. It is the arrangement of nurse dais in the village dispensaries. I may point out that one nurse in the hospital cannot look after the needs of so many villages. If the Government are in right earnest to benefit the rural people by the establishment of this Fund, they would be well advised to expedite the training of dais at the expense of the State so that they may be deputed to every big and centrally situated village or rural dispensary. The nurses at the hospitals, especially the headquarters hospitals, demand very high fees which the villagers find it difficult to pay. Hence if the Special Development Fund is to be utilized in the best possible manner, it would be in the fitness of things that the money earmarked for this item should be spent on training dais in as large a number as possible and not on paying emoluments to the nurses.

I would like to make a suggestion and that is that the Government should appoint a special highly qualified officer, who should thoroughly go into

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the programme of this Fund and remove its glaring defects, so that the money may not be wasted away on unnecessary items. In the end I would again stress upon the Government to give liberal grants to district boards for the purpose of imparting mass education. With these words I move my out motion.

Mr. Speaker : Supplementary demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 30,00,000 on account of special development fund be reduced by Re. 1.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I may point out at the very outset that I am not opposed to the constitution of this fund. It would afford me great pleasure if the Government add more money to it. What I have to complain is the manner in which the money of this Fund is being disbursed. I feel that half of the amount is wasted on any item on which it is spent. My assertion is borne out by facts. If you just peruse the uses which this Fund has so far been put to, you will agree with me and form the same opinion which I have formed. We find that wherever the Government have made use of the Fund, it has done so not with a view to benefit the zamindars, but to confer favours on some of their minions. The methods adopted to utilise it are very defective. I think it has been decided to spend this money on certain items out of which consolidation of holdings, opening of model schools, etc., are very prominent. However I would deal with every item one by one and suggest proper and better methods for carrying them into effect.

Now, the amount that has been set apart for the purpose of consolidation of holdings is being utilized by the Revenue Department. In other words this work which ought to have been entrusted to the Co-operative Department has been placed in the hands of the Revenue Department. I may point out that the consolidation work in the districts of Ludhiana, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur was carried out by the Co-operative Department very efficiently and hence it is eminently suited to do this job. The Revenue Department execute this work in a tardy manner. They cannot do it economically like the Co-operative Department. Their method of work entails much wastage of money. The system adopted by the Co-operative Department is very commendable, because there is an element of persuasion in their mode of carrying out consolidation work. Besides, they charge a nominal fee and consolidate the holdings in accordance with the entries made in the *number khasra* or revenue records. Apart from this the officers of the Co-operative Department are actuated by worthy motives to serve the zamindars. They consider themselves as the servants of the people. The very foundation of the department was laid on this high principle of service to mankind. They scrupulously refrain from accepting illegal gratification, although now I find in them a little tendency towards this bad habit. But so far as the Revenue Department is concerned, there is already a scandal about it that the members of its staff refuse to do anything without first getting their palms greased. (*Honourable members on the ministerial benches* : No, no.) These officers consider themselves not as the servants but as the masters of the public. As a result of that the people are put to great trouble. I do not see the necessity of a new department to do this

work when the Co-operative Department is efficient enough to cope with the work of consolidation. When every year the work of consolidation done by the Co-operative Department is praised by the Government, why this transfer of work to the Revenue Department which unfortunately happens to be more corrupt than the Co-operative Department? Then, it is very disappointing that most of the money spent in connection with consolidations through the Co-operative Department is paid by the zamindars. But in the Revenue Department the case is the reverse, that is, most of the money spent in connection with consolidations through the Revenue Department is paid by the Government itself. In the districts of Jhelum, Gujrat, Mianwali and Muzaffargarh, the work of consolidation would be done through the Revenue Department and therefore the people of that ilaqa will have to spend less amount of money as compared with the people of those districts in which the work of consolidation would be done through the Co-operative Department. In this connection I would like to point out that in the district of Ludhiana the consolidation work is being done in an unsatisfactory manner.

My submission, therefore, is that the work should be done by one department and there should not be any overlapping. To take away from the Co-operative Department the work of consolidation and to transfer it to the Revenue Department does not seem to be just and fair for the simple reason that the latter is more corrupt than the former.

Now my second objection is with regard to education. As regards Special Development Fund it has been stated by the Government that model schools will be opened in the rural areas with a view to create rural outlook among students. But what is being done in those model schools? Dramas are staged and radio songs are enjoyed. I do admit that the object for which those schools have been opened is being achieved by the Government to some extent. But what I want to object to is that most of the money is being lavished on unnecessary items which do not create rural outlook. I mean to say that the same extravagances are found in the model schools as are present in the cities and this is the most objectionable point. By starting model schools the Government have indeed broken a new ground but they should continue this practice and should not stop it after three years time as stated by them. In all, a hundred and thirteen model schools have been started in the province. It is really appreciable. But my submission in this connection is that the facilities provided to them may not be stopped after three years' time. Because in such a short period the model schools will not be able to set an example before the people of the province who would surely feel disappointed on seeing the facilities stopped. By doing so I am afraid the Government will incur the displeasure of the people. It is, therefore, necessary that the grant to these schools should be continued.

I would like to make a few observations with regard to Industry also. The most objectionable thing against the Industrial Demonstration Parties is that they do not devote much of their time to their own activities. Instead of that they carry on propaganda against our activities. This should not be done. Furthermore Co-operative Assistants have been appointed

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by the Government for the work of industries. They have been granted temporary jobs.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : The demand relates to the sum of Rs. 30,00,000 which is to be added to the Special Development Fund. The honourable member is not quite relevant in discussing the details of the Special Development Fund at this stage. He may support or oppose the proposal of Government to transfer this amount to the fund. The honourable member will have ample opportunity of discussing the details of the Special Development Fund when the budget is before the House.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I suggest to them the method of making the best use of the money.

Mr. Speaker : Is the honourable member opposed to the transfer ?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I am not opposed to the transfer. I am in favour of this Fund. I wish this Fund should be utilized to the best advantage of the people.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : At this stage the honourable member should oppose or support the proposal of Government to transfer this amount to the Special Development Fund.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I am not opposing that. I am suggesting how this money can be used in a proper manner. I was submitting about Demonstration Parties. They are indeed useful. But I would submit that they should make the best use of the money and that they should be above party politics. If they do not poke their nose in the affairs of other organisations it would be very desirable on their part. Now I come to the Public Health Department. It has been stated that the Medical Department will sell quinine at cheap rates. Formerly it was distributed by the district boards.

Minister of Education : For the benefit of the members of district boards.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : No, it was not for the benefit of the members but the supply of quinine that you received was probably for the benefit of the members.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should not be personal.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Sir, the Honourable Minister has been my colleague in the local body and I know it for a fact that he did appropriate quinine for his personal use.

Any way, sir, previously quinine used to be distributed through the agency of district boards, zaildars, etc. As these bodies and persons kept in touch with the rural population and knew their requirements ; quinine was supplied to the needy and was thus properly administered. But even that mode of distribution was not perfect and left many things to be desired.

Let me assure the Government that I am not opposed to the principle underlying this Fund. I would rather like more money to be set apart

for such funds. But my submission is that they should be properly administered so that their object may be achieved. If you do that we on this side of the House will lend you our fullest support.

Minister of Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh): Sir, it is a matter of very great regret to me that my honourable friend stood up without studying the full facts about the consolidation of holdings so far as the two aspects of it are concerned. The consolidation of holdings was done through the Co-operative Department to start with. That was the best way to do it and we proceeded in that manner for some years and a very good progress was made. But so far as the revenue records were concerned, those records could not be kept in the best possible manner because that is the work of revenue specialists, so much so that last year there was a conference held and the work of the Co-operative Department concerning the consolidation of holdings was examined carefully and critically. That examination led to the result that the records were not complete in the sense in which they should be. Our revenue records are well known for their accuracy and efficiency. And because that high standard of accuracy could not be kept by those people who were not experts in the revenue line, we had to spend more money. We had to engage additional revenue staff for the purpose of correction of those records and that was the additional expenditure which we had to incur simply because those records could not be prepared in the best possible manner. More than this, we had to engage additional staff to supervise the work of the people of the Co-operative Department who are still engaged in the consolidation work. That work which used to be done by the Co-operative Department alone is being done now by the Co-operative Department under the supervision of revenue agency and certain revenue officers have been employed for that purpose. Now, there is another branch which is doing the same work, that is, the consolidation of holdings work is being done by the revenue agency alone. These are the two different aspects of this consolidation of holdings work. It has to be seen which succeeds better. I personally prefer this work to be done by the Co-operative Department. Here, I would like to say one thing and I would say it with all the emphasis at my command that my honourable friend was absolutely wrong when he said that there is some sort of corruption so far as the Co-operative Department is concerned. There is absolutely no corruption there and the work is being done in the best possible manner and it is being watched with the utmost care and there is absolutely no corruption anywhere there. Then my honourable friend said that so far as the co-operative work is concerned we charge some fees and so far as the work done through the revenue agency is concerned no fees are charged, and then he entered into the usual way of saying something which is being said always that there is some sort of favouritism shown to one side in all matters. There too he is altogether wrong. No favouritism is shown to anybody. So far as that work is being done through an agency, even there fees will be charged. These are not to be charged during the first year, it is a different matter altogether. We are following the same procedure which was adopted in the Co-operative Department. There too in the beginning we did not charge fees. We had to popularise the thing and when it became sufficiently popular we began to charge nominal fees. Similarly, with regard to the work that is being

[Development Minister.]

done on revenue lines, there too fees will be charged, but not in the first year because the work has to be popularised and it has to be seen which agency does the work in the best possible manner and which agency is to be preferred in the end. So, my submission is that if my honourable friend ever gets up in a matter which is rather serious, he should study the thing first and then criticise the Government.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Now, this is the sort of work which deserves to be praised by everybody who is a friend of the peasant. (*Hear, hear.*) If my honourable friend has genuine sympathy for the peasant, he should have stood up and applauded the Government for the best work that we are doing for the benefit of the peasants. Apart from this, my honourable friend did not have the courage to oppose this Special Development Fund. In a way he wanted to say something, but he had not the courage to say anything against this fund. He could somehow or other make up his mind to say a few things in a shilly shally manner and he was not at all serious. He brought in all sorts of things; he said something about quinine and the old affairs of the Ludhiana District Board. But so far as this fund is concerned, I hope he realizes the beneficent activities which have been added to by the right use of this fund. He should be afraid of no propaganda, because if any propaganda is undertaken it is undertaken for the benefit of the peasants. My honourable friend says he has sympathy for peasants but at times to serve his own political purpose he comes and says things which are not in any way advantageous to the peasant. So far as this aspect of the propaganda is concerned, he need have no exaggerated notions about it. (*Hear, hear.*)

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, at the very outset I wish to make it clear that we do not ask why Government have set apart a sum of 30 lakhs of rupees from the general revenues of the province for the creation of the Special Fund. As a matter of fact we will not object even if they go on increasing it year after year. However, what we want to point out to them is that they should see that this fund is not misused. My honourable friend Sardar Kapoor Singh has already drawn the attention of the Honourable Minister for Development to this fact, although in a very lukewarm manner, that he should see that this fund is properly used. Instead of accepting our advice the Honourable Minister has tried to assure us that there is absolutely no corruption in his department. I can say without any fear of contradiction that there is not a single department of Government in which money is properly used. In fact in every department a part of the sum allotted to it is wasted. If the Honourable Minister were to go to his own district, Ludhiana, he would find that a good deal of the public money is wasted and it goes into the pockets of the officers in the shape of bribes.

Minis'er of Development: The honourable member is not relevant.

Lala Duni Chand: Does it lie in the mouth of the Minister to say that I am not relevant? He is thinking of the days when he was the Deputy Speaker. Some other Minister could say this but he cannot. Anyway my submission is that it is within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister

that corruption has been and is rampant in the Ludhiana district but so far he has not moved his little finger to put a stop to it.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : The honourable member is making insinuations which are not justified.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Minister of Development : In the first place my honourable friend is entirely irrelevant. The remarks that he is making do not by any stretch of language fall under the motion which is under discussion. Secondly I have no personal knowledge of any corruption existing anywhere either in the Ludhiana district or elsewhere.

Lala Duni Chand : My submission is that he knows those officers who had been accepting illegal gratifications and those who had been offering them.

Minister of Development : Is this all relevant ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should speak to the motion and not bring in irrelevant facts.

Lala Duni Chand : My honourable friend says that I am irrelevant. I am not at all irrelevant. If he wants to know the relevancy of what I am saying I may tell him that the past experience shows that the funds of Government are not put to a proper use. In fact they are misused. On the basis of that experience I want to warn my friend Sardar Dasaundha Singh that he should see that this sum of 30 lakhs of rupees, which is being set apart for the creation of a special fund, is not wasted away. We do not object to the creation of this fund at all. But we want to say that it should not be misused. Now I hope my friend must have understood the relevancy of my argument. We daily see that the money which is supplied by the poor zamindars is misused and we want to impress upon the Honourable Minister the desirability of making the best use of this money. My honourable friend has been appointed as Minister only recently. He has very little experience of Government departments and that is why we want him to be on his guard and see that this fund is not wasted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Lala Duni Chand : My submission is that in the departments of Government corruption is rampant and our fear is that this money will also be misused. I was trying to point out to the Honourable Minister by citing the example of the Ludhiana district about which I think my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan will throw a flood of light during the discussion of the budget. The Honourable Minister should know that in prosecuting my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan at least five thousand rupees have been incurred by Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Lala Duni Chand : Well, sir, the Honourable Minister has pointed out that money is being spent on the consolidation of holdings and on the opening of model schools. These things are in themselves good. But my submission is that a part of the money, which is spent on the consolidation of holdings and opening of model schools, is also misused. That is the reason why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you I was pointing out to the Honourable Minister that he should see that this money which was being set apart for the creation of a special fund was not wasted. It appears as if the Honourable Ministers are feeling perturbed as to why we have

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come back, for they think that now we will criticise them severely. If on the one hand we appreciate the work that is being done under the guidance of the Minister of Development, on the other hand we want to point out to him that we have grave doubts about the proper use of this fund. In view of the past experience of this Government we do not think that this fund will be used properly. Any other Government can do so but not this Government.

I contradict the claim of the Government that there is no corruption. Corruption is everywhere, in all departments. With these words I support the cut motion of Sardar Kapoor Singh and hope that the Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh will show intelligence enough and after setting aside his experience of past years as a lawyer and the habits formed, will turn a new leaf in his life.

Some honourable members : Question may now be put, sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 30,00,000 on account of special development fund be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,28,510 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous.

The motion was carried.

The following supplementary demands were then moved and agreed to :—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,85,780 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Deposits and Advances—Advances not bearing interest.

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, 1942, in respect of other Revenue Expenditure.

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, 1942, in respect of Construction of Irrigation Works.

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, 1942, in respect of General Administration.

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, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous Departments.

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, 1942, in respect of Medical.

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, 1942, in respect of Agriculture.

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, 1942, in respect of Civil Works.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, the 9th March, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 9th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, at 12 noon of the Clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

REFERENCES TO LATE NAWAB SIR SHAH NAWAZ KHAN
OF MAMDOT.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): It is with the deepest regret that I have to make reference to the most untimely and sudden death of one of our valued colleagues, the late Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot. The Nawab Sahib was one of the leading figures among the gentry of the Punjab and was the premier land-owner in this province. His unassuming and affable manners had earned for him the esteem of every one with whom he came in contact. He was a great philanthropist; and few people know that he annually spent large amounts on charities; and in his case it can be truly said that what the right hand gave the left hand did not know. It is not generally known that he helped orphans and several deserving institutions irrespective of caste or creed; and whosoever went to him never came back empty-handed. To me his loss is a personal one because he was a very valued and esteemed friend of mine. Sir Shah Nawaz Khan became the Nawab of Mamdot only recently, but even before that, in Lahore and elsewhere in the province, he had close and friendly relations with several of us and we poignantly feel the loss which we have suffered by his untimely demise. His death has removed from the field of activity in this province a great benefactor of the poor and a patriotic Punjabi. Though some of us in this province did not agree with his political views, yet no one can deny that he was an honest and earnest worker in furthering the best interests of the province as well as of his own community. His loss has created a gap which it will be difficult to fill. To the Punjab, and to the Muslims in particular, his loss is irreparable. I, on behalf of the House, wish to convey to the members of the bereaved family our deepest sympathy and condolence in their great bereavement and to assure them that we share with them the sorrow and mourn with them the loss of this great gentleman, who was a distinguished and esteemed colleague of ours.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar (North-Western Towns, General, Urban): I associate myself and my party wholeheartedly in mourning the loss of the late Nawab Sahib. The suddenness of the loss adds to the tragedy. Nawab Sahib truly knew how to live for others. It may be said without any exaggeration that he leaves behind a large number of genuine mourners. He was, to my mind, a fine specimen of benevolent aristocracy. His spirit of fellow-feeling and comradeship is truly reflected in the relations that subsist between the members of various communities that inhabit his estate. He had a large number of loving friends in the various communities of the

[L. Bhim Sen Sachar.]

province. A gentleman possessing unassuming manners his simplicity was striking. The one thing that struck me about the late Nawab Sahib was that even after his great inheritance he did not seek to break away from the past immediately preceding it. That is an experience which is not of the ordinary. People when they come by rich inheritances are likely to forget their past. We lose in the Nawab Sahib a gentleman who will be missed both inside and outside the House.

Premier: I move that as a mark of respect to the memory of our late colleague the House may be adjourned for to-day. We can sit for additional two or three hours to-morrow and dispense with the question hour.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : We have no objection to fall in with the suggestion of the Leader of the House. We may sit till 7 p.m. to-morrow.

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): It is not possible to put in words the grief and sorrow occasioned by the sad and sudden death of the late Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot. Only last Friday he was in our midst in this very Chamber to all appearances hale and hearty. None of us could have dreamt that within the next forty-eight hours the cruel Sisters with their abhorred shears would be slitting away the thin-spun thread of his life and would be snatching away from us this jewel of a man. The late Nawab Sahib came into prominence in the public life of this province only ten years ago when he inherited those vast estates which he administered so well. Out of his abundance he gave freely to all public causes. A gentleman of the highest order, he was singularly free from all taint of vice or vanity. Frank and outspoken to a degree, he lived a remarkably simple life, elevated and enriched by the highest character. He bore no ill-will or malice to any. He was a friend of all and there is little wonder that the death of such a noble soul should have plunged the entire province into the deepest gloom. As a member of that political party with which the Nawab Sahib completely identified himself towards the closing years of his life and of which he was an unbreakable pillar in this province, I mourn his loss and join in the request made to you, Mr. Speaker, that on behalf of this House you may kindly convey to the members of the bereaved family and other relations of the late Nawab Sahib our sense of profound grief at his death, our appreciation of the great services he had rendered and our deep and sincere sympathy with them in the terrible bereavement which has befallen them.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): On behalf of the Independent Party, I associate myself with all that has been said about the sad and lamented death of Nawab Sahib. We were all stunned to hear of his sudden death yesterday. When this House adjourned on Friday for to-day, we left him hale and hearty, and nobody could have thought that his end was so near. Nawab Sahib was a gentleman of sterling worth and the highest character. His charities were so well-known. I feel sure that by the passing away of this gentleman the province is distinctly the poorer to-day.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Inner Lahore, Muslim Women, Urban), (Urdu): Sir, the untimely and sudden demise of Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz of Mamdot has plunged not only this province but also the whole of India

into grief. As a matter of fact the Muslims have received a terrible shock at his departure from this world and have sustained an irreparable loss. The deceased was the President of the Punjab Provincial Muslim League which gathered tremendous strength as a result of his unique philanthropy. The late lamented Nawab had great sympathy with every cause of the Muslims. He was never found wanting in extending a helping hand to them in time of need. Strictly speaking he devoted his time for their cause and made unparalleled financial sacrifices for them. He possessed fine qualities of head and heart. I on behalf of my sisters in the province join the House in expressing my sense of deep sorrow and grief at his death. I wholeheartedly support the motion under consideration. May God bless the soul of the deceased and enable the survivors to endure the loss with fortitude and courage.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam (Rawalpindi Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban), (*Urdu*): The references made by the Honourable Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in such well-balanced and serious words at the sad, unexpected and untimely demise of the late Nawab Sahib, fully represent the feelings of all the honourable members of this House. At this stage we can only express our grief individually by paying warm tributes to the noble soul who departed from us for ever yesterday. The late lamented Nawab Sahib possessed a dynamic and towering personality in this country. His sterling qualities of head and heart will not only be eulogised in this House, but also outside the Punjab where, I am sure, his magnanimity of heart and bountiful disposition will be greatly remembered. The deceased was a noble Muslim and a gentleman of a very high order. It is the imperative duty of every Mussalman of the province to pay his tribute to the departed soul. I knew him intimately and I can say without any fear of contradiction that the late Nawab of Mamdot was as much an Indian as he was a staunch Muslim. He was as much imbued with love for his country as with devotion to Islam. His life, which he so nobly led, will stand as a monumental lesson, an excellent specimen and a beacon of light to his countrymen. In this connection I am reminded of Shaikh Saadi's verse which though composed centuries ago, is ever applicable to eminent personalities like the one whom we all mourn to-day. It is to the following effect—

آن چنان زی کد و دین تو
که رویا بوند تو خندان

It aptly applies to our late friend and I feel that the noble soul left this world cheerfully. But his kith and kin and even his adversaries, who did not see eye to eye with him in matters political and personal, are without exception plunged into grief at the departure of the deceased. It is no exaggeration if I say that one and all are overwhelmed with the utmost sorrow on his passing away. They all share the irreparable loss which the province has sustained on account of his untimely death. Well, sir, yesterday unfortunately I could not be present to offer my condolence and express my feelings at his burial. I avail myself of this opportunity to give expression to my views at this solemn hour. I once more completely associate myself with what the Honourable Leader of the House and other honourable members have said while paying tributes to the late Nawab Sahib. I am sure everybody present in this House feels the void that has been caused

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by the death of this great leader. With these words I wholeheartedly support the motion that the House be adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Nawab of Mamdot.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I fully associate myself with all that the previous speakers have said. I have had the honour of being Nawab Sahib's colleague for the last eleven years. He was a quiet gentleman, a selfless worker, a generous benefactor and a pillar of strength to his party. His loss is very great and irreparable to all of us, but his loss is even greater to his own community. I strongly support the resolution moved by the Honourable the Premier, and I also request that we pass this resolution standing.

Sir William Roberts (European): Sir, on behalf of the European community I should like to associate myself with the tribute paid to the memory of the late Nawab of Mamdot. His character was such that it had a special appeal to the European community. He was large hearted and tolerant. Though a rich man he was much loved by the poor and the rich; by the Hindus, Sikhs, Christians as well as by Muslims; by Muslim Leaguers as well as non-Muslim Leaguers, by those who believe in Pakistan and those who do not believe in Pakistan. His was a life of stabilising influence in the Assembly and the country. I have, therefore, great pleasure in paying this tribute to the memory of a great gentleman.

Mr. Speaker: I completely associate myself with all that has been said in support of the resolution of condolence and sympathy. The most sad, sudden, unexpected and untimely death of Nawab Sir Muhammad Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot has deprived not only this House of one of its prominent members but has also robbed the land of five rivers, nay, the whole of India of one of the topmost and eminent philanthropists, patriots and generous Muslims. Our loss is irreparable and unbearable, but what cannot be cured must be endured. So, we must submit to the inevitable and communicate our deepest sympathy and condolence to the members of the bereaved family of the deceased.

The question is—

That this Assembly record its sense of profound regret at the sad and ultimate death of Nawab Sir Muhammad Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot and convey its deepest sympathy and condolence to the members of the family of the deceased.

The motion was carried all members standing.

Premier: I move—

That the question hour be dispensed with to-morrow.

The motion was carried.

Premier: I move—

That the Assembly do sit till 7 p. m. to-morrow.

The motion was carried.

Premier: I move—

That the Assembly do now adjourn as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Nawab Sir Muhammad Shah Nawaz Khan of Mamdot.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 10th February, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 10th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

EXODUS TO SIMLA.

***8272. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether like the Government of India, which have decided not to move to Simla during the ensuing summer the Punjab Government intends not to move to Simla this summer?

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : Steps are being taken to let it be known generally that the normal exodus of the Punjab Government to Simla this year has been postponed.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Does 'postponed' mean that the date is postponed or that the Government is not moving at all?

Premier : I am afraid I cannot anticipate what will happen in the future.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Do you not know your own mind?

Premier : We have decided that Government will not move to Simla.

BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed with the general discussion of the budget.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar (North Western Towns, General, Urban) : Sir, it is only natural that the Honourable the Finance Minister should have started with a review of the achievements of his Government during the last five years. He started by putting the question "whether the stewardship of the finances of the province by your Government and this House will bear the test of the well-established principles". And in almost the same breath he answered by saying, "the most vigilant scrutiny will reveal that yours has been a worthy and strikingly successful custodianship". Before moving forward to support his claim he made a reference to the difficulties that he had to encounter in the administration of the finances of the province. He referred in the first place to famine of unprecedented intensity and he also referred to the war which has "deeply affected" the

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revenues of the province. I have no wish to make any comments on the intensity of the difficulties that he had to face on these two accounts. But he certainly wanted the House to accept his statement that he had to face very real difficulties during this period of five years. Against this background very firmly set, he proceeds to detail the various achievements. His first achievement for which he wants to take credit for the financial administration during these five years is that on the whole there is a surplus. Now the question that naturally arises for our determination is, 'is surplus by itself a recommendation'? How does a surplus arise? A surplus would arise either when the revenues happen to be under-estimated or when certain expenditure is not incurred. Whether it is a case of under-estimating the revenues or whether it is a case of certain expenses not having been incurred, I submit that the fact of a surplus alone will not entitle the Honourable the Finance Minister to any special credit. We have it on the authority of no less a person than the Honourable the Minister for Development, who once held that a surplus by itself is not an indication of the prosperity of the province. I am sure every one of us will agree with him.

Minister of Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh): I never said so.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I am extremely sorry for the mistake. I should be corrected. It was the Honourable the Revenue Minister.

Then, if surplus by itself is such a source of satisfaction as to cause a glow of pride to appear on the faces of the honourable members of this House, may I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that during the five years immediately preceding, 1937-38, the previous Government had shown a surplus of one crore and two lakhs. If surplus by itself were a source of credit for any Government, certainly the present Government would stand beaten by its immediate predecessor. I need not labour this point very much, because it will not be contended that a surplus by itself is an indication that all is well. If we have a surplus, as I had submitted, it may be the result of more revenue, it may be the result of less expenditure. If it is the result of more revenue, then, certainly the budget will expose the authorities for under-estimating the revenues of the Province. I, for one, would not like to suggest that it is a case of under-estimating, at any rate a case of deliberate under-estimating, but the Honourable the Revenue Minister, you will remember, the other day told us that the new taxes have not been shown in their fullest extent, so that people may get used to the burden that is to fall upon them.

Minister of Revenue : Caution is one of the considerations.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Quite right. It was then a case of under-estimating the revenue.

The second point on which stress was laid was the Special Development Fund and the Peasant's Welfare Fund. We were told about some other beneficent activities. Now, I do not say that Government do not spend anything on beneficent activities. The Government have been spending on beneficent activities. What I ask is this. If the Government want to take credit, a special credit, an extra credit, an unusual credit—for spending on beneficent activities, may I know, if they had not spent this amount on

beneficent activities, where they would have liked this amount to go? Surely not either into the pockets of the honourable members of this House or into the pockets of the Honourable Ministers. The amount has to be spent. You cannot escape this. The Government must spend something on beneficent activities. But may I be permitted to point out to the Honourable the Finance Minister that figures are sometimes very cruel indeed. I have worked out a percentage of the amounts spent on beneficent activities with respect to the entire expenditure and may I be permitted to point out that if we take the years from 1930-31 right up to to-day, we find that in every year, more was spent on beneficent activities than is proposed to be spent during the coming year. The percentage of amounts spent on beneficent departments works out as 27.5, 26.7, 28.5, 27.7, 26.5, 27.6 and 26.2.

During the year 1935-36 the percentage of amounts spent on beneficent departments was 27.5 as against 26.2 that you are going to have now. The Honourable the Finance Minister while discussing the expenditure on famine observed:—

Our consolation is that forethought and care gave us means to relieve misery and suffering in the amplest measure and success crowned the Province's anxious and earnest endeavour to render help in affliction and distress.

As I told you, I do not deny that amounts were spent on famine relief, but there was no forethought and care, that one case say. You will remember, in the very first year the Government thought that there was no likelihood of famine re-occurring and therefore they transferred ten lakhs of rupees from the Famine Relief Fund and took it to the ordinary revenues. Now, the Government by their experience of the working of the finances of this province should not have taken that step so hastily. This province mainly depends upon agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of revenue. They should not have taken those 10 lakhs from the Famine Insurance Fund. And then, again, are we quite sure that all has been done and that nothing further remains to be done and that whatever has been done is sufficient? I have a letter with me which I received over the signatures of responsible gentlemen like Pandit Neki Ram Sharma and Pandit Thakar Das Bhargava, the office-bearers of the Famine Relief Committee, Hissar. I may remind the House that Pandit Thakar Das Bhargava is well known to many members of this House and so is Pandit Neki Ram Sharma. What do they say? They say in the letter that about two hundred villages in different parts of the district are affected by the calamity and there has been absence of rain in these barani areas for a period of four years, that is, 1938—1941. This is what the gentlemen belonging to that ilaqa say. May I, therefore, be permitted to remind the Honourable Finance Minister, who thinks that the famine has ended, that it has in fact not ended? According to him our famine has ended because he does not apprehend any decrease in revenue and he will have full amount of revenue in his coffers according to the estimates. But does he not know that there is practically famine prevailing all over the province? There is food shortage which is one of the difficulties of the people. Who is responsible for this? It cannot be said that the Government is not responsible for the situation that has been created. There should have been regulation of prices at the proper time. It is well within their knowledge as to who is responsible for non-fixation

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of prices. It is because of this non-activity of theirs in time that we are placed in a state of famine in the province. Another item for which the Honourable Finance Minister claims credit is that measures have been taken for peace and tranquillity. There is no doubt that money is being spent on police probably out of all proportion according to a layman, but an amount which Government consider as the proper amount to be spent. We have seen that expenditure on police has increased to an enormous degree and we are told by the Honourable Finance Minister that this expenditure will become a permanent feature of the Administration. I must straightaway admit that in the absence of complete data it is difficult for an outsider to pronounce opinion on the legitimacy of the expenditure that is incurred by the Government. Being outside the Government I cannot naturally lay my finger on the correct figure because there are details which may not be within my knowledge. But one thing we can definitely say and it is this, that this additional police is being employed presumably with a view to preserve internal security. The Government will have to be given the right to determine what amount of force is required to maintain internal peace and security. It will be too much for me to claim that such and such a thing shall be done by such and such a person or so much police shall be there. But one thing we can say definitely and it is this, that a cry has been going on in the province for a long time that expenditure on police is a very heavy item. If we go a little beyond the year 1935-36, then we have the speech of not an irresponsible person but of a gentleman who was a Minister of the Punjab Government for some time in the old regime. That gentleman who had the inside knowledge of the administration—I am referring to the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram—in his budget speech during the year 1935 said, "We must remember that we spend a very large proportion of our annual revenues on salaries". I propose to take the year 1935-36 a standard year because I want to measure the achievements or the shortcomings of the present Government by reference to the statements that were made in that year by no other person than the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. This was the statement made by the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. I submit if that statement is correct—and there is no doubt it is correct—was there not a case for effecting retrenchments rather than adding to the already heavy expenditure? Some expenditure, as I have said, was bound to be incurred because of the conditions that prevailed in the province, but what about the expenses on items which formed a regular feature of your budget estimates? What is it that the Government have done? They have added to the expenditure and the Honourable the Finance Minister wants to take credit for the measures relating to peace and security by saying that so much has been spent on police. I submit that mere expenditure of an amount is not a proof of the fact that that expenditure was legitimately spent or that expenditure will bring forth good results. With respect to the expenditure on police, while I may not be in a position to say that that force has been unnecessarily increased, I can, however, say definitely that the police people while they behave towards the public, forget that they are, as they should be, the guardians of law and order. They forget that they are the servants of the public and that they are dealing with human beings. They forget

that they are dealing with the tax-payers, they forget that they are dealing with peaceful citizens of the province. And for me it is a very important matter. It may be of importance to the Honourable the Finance Minister to find that so much money is to be spent on the police. It is a very important matter for this side of the House that not only is this amount spent in a proper manner but the persons on whom this money is spent behave in a way which will not bring any discredit to the Government and that the money is spent in a way which is worthy of the name of a civilised government. Have you not the instances before you of the bad conduct of the police in the province which have happened only during the last few days? Are not the honourable members sitting on those benches aware of how the police behaved in Sargodha? Are they not aware how the police behaved in Lahore? Are they not aware how the police normally behave and how it is possible for even the highest police official to take the law in his own hand and beat a man with his fist? Are the honourable members opposite prepared to hear this that two police officers gave a thrashing to a youngman who was going on his cycle. The youngman blew his nose and it was alleged that the mucus fell upon the police officers going in a car closely. This thing happened only recently in the Lahore Cantonment.

Mr. P. H. Guest : I happened to be an eye-witness to that incident. Whatever is alleged by the honourable member is not correct. The young man deliberately spat at the gentlemen in the car.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, the honourable member opposite has been pleased to challenge the correctness of my statement. I straightaway admit that I was not on the spot myself and I was not an eye-witness. This incident has been reported to me. Now, may I make an offer to the Government? Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to institute an enquiry into this single incident? (*Premier :* Into what?) A young man was passing on his bicycle. He was crossing a motor car which was coming from the opposite side. The young man blew his nose. My honourable friend, Mr. Guest says that it is wrong. Probably he was in the car himself. If he was not in the car, it will be very interesting for the House if he tells us as to how it is that he happens to know something about it.

Minister of Public Works : May I interrupt my honourable friend? What has the police force got to do with the acts of an individual? What actually happened there should be settled between the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the eye-witness we have got in the House here.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. If any fact is wrongly stated by one honourable member and another honourable member of the House has a personal knowledge of the correct fact, he may, if the speaker in possession of the House gives way, correct him then and there. But if he does not give way, he may correct him after his speech is finished.

Minister of Public Works : We do not know the full facts. But we have got an eye-witness here by chance.

Mian Abdul Aziz : But he has not referred to the time, date and place of occurrence. He may be referring to some other incident.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : As the interest of the House is to know the truth about this incident, I have not the slightest hesitation in giving way to the honourable member who challenged my statement. Let us know from him the date on which according to him this incident happened, the place where it happened and whom it concerned, so that we may be able to fix up the responsibility properly.

Minister of Public Works : But the honourable member has not given the date himself.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I hope my honourable friend opposite will be in a position to give us the date and the name of the gentleman he has in mind.

Minister of Public Works : You give the facts and let the eye-witness here contradict them if he considers it necessary.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, in the absence of proper data we are not in a position to question the desirability of adding to the police expenditure, but we are definitely in a position to bring it to the notice of the Government that the behaviour of the police should be improved, for instance their behaviour in taking respectable people to distant places throwing them almost in the jungle at 10 or 11 o'clock in the night and stripping them naked. This is the state of affairs and the Honourable the Finance Minister can feel proud that the expenditure has gone up by 25 lakhs in that particular year. You can raise it to 40 lakhs, you can raise it to 2 crores, but you cannot ensure peace in this province unless the police behaviour is improved. We spend fabulous amount of money on this service, but this service should know that it has to behave properly. It is not only the police that we can find fault with but the whole machinery is rotten to the core. We had the opportunity of discussing the conduct of another officer here on the floor of the House but I need not revert to that again. But here is another instance which I think has come to the notice of the Honourable Premier himself. This is a letter which I have received from the office of the District Congress Committee, Maghiana, and I hope that a copy of this letter along with the report of the incident has also been sent to the Honourable Premier.

Premier : Premier has nothing to do with such letters. It might have gone to the department concerned. How can you expect me to read all those letters?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What is it that a responsible body like the District Congress Committee, Maghiana, writes? When it writes in this open manner and when it sends copies of its letter to the Government, it definitely takes the responsibility for everything mentioned therein. This is what the letter says :—

"..... Mr. Wazir Ali, Naib Tahsildar, Lalian, came to our village on 20th Manghlast, i.e., 1st February, 1942, at about 4 p.m. while he was going to Inayat-Pur where he had to stay for the night. He called me and other relations of mine and before a number of people gathered over there he demanded Rs. 250 from me for the purpose of contribution towards the War Fund. I told him that we were very poor people and that I would collect Rs. 100 from all the Hindus of that village and give the contribution. The Tahsildar persisted on payment of Rs. 250 and on my expressing inability to do it he let loose his Girdawar Raja Ahmad Khan, the peon of the Girdawar, his own peon beat with a view to coercing me to meet his demand. The Girdawar and the two peons broke

upon me like mad men and gave me shoe beating, slaps and kicks. The Tahsildar ordered me to stand on knees and catch my ears by passing my hand transversely under my leg (Kan Pakro) like school boys, and I protested against that treatment and thereupon the Girdawar gave me several stick blows. I was abused and insulted and disrespected amongst all those who were present and witnessed all the scene....."

If incidents of this type happen on the 1st of February, is it law and order? Is it for this purpose that you want to strengthen the hands of the executive? Is it for this reason that you want fabulous amounts for such people who are supposed to preserve law and order in the country?

There are two or three points in the accounts for the year 1942-43 to which I should like to refer. When we go through the accounts of 1942-43 we find a statement by the Finance Minister which says: 'that the accounts may be regarded as fairly normal'. What does this mean? There are two sides of the budget: the receipt and the expenditure. On the receipt side if all these amounts are now considered as normal what does it mean? What happens is this that the receipts from revenue will continue to be raised in the manner that they are being raised. We have therefore given no relief to the poor agriculturists. Now this is a fact. We were told on the floor of the House that the new taxes are being raised to alleviate the misery of the agriculturists and the small landholders. This fact has remained uncontroverted up till now that the Government have not been able to give any relief in the form of lower land revenue to the small peasant, leaving alone the question of remissions. Remissions in the ordinary course shall have to be given, because those are the reliefs which are granted by nature and not by Government. When nature comes in her cruelty to deprive the poor tiller of the soil of a portion of his wealth you have no choice but to grant remissions. Therefore these remissions are not the reliefs for which any credit could be claimed. Credit could be claimed if land revenue had actually gone down. The honourable the Finance Minister has given us the percentage of this land revenue. He says:—

On an average of provincial revenue during the years 1925—35 Land Revenue represented a percentage of 25·2. The corresponding percentage for the period from 1937 to 1942 is 22·6.

What is intended probably is that the Finance Minister wants the people to think that receipts from land revenue have actually gone down. This lower percentage is misleading. It is admitted that the total revenue has gone up and it is further admitted that land revenue is not an elastic item of income. If the land revenue stands at that amount and if the other amounts have gone up it is natural that the percentage of land revenue should be lower, because you have given no relief to the peasant. Reduction in land revenue percentage is due to increased cultivation, increased irrigation. Therefore the burden on the land or the burden on the land-holder stands where it was. Can it be denied that the population is increasing? Nobody will dispute it. Can it be denied that the pressure on land is increasing and increasing every day? If the pressure on land is increasing and if the burden on land is being added to and if you are not adding anything to the productive capacity of the peasant, may I know in which form you are giving relief to the peasant for whose welfare you always cry? Have the Government come forward and made any proposals for giving relief to the small peasant? Now the first act of the benevolent Government is the constitution of the Peasants Welfare Fund and we have

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got in that fund the sum of 30 lakhs. Have I to remind the House that the land revenue payers in the province are about 35 lakhs and it does not give even one rupee per head to look after the peasants. It should not be forgotten that an enormous amount out of this fund will be consumed by the salaries of people who will run this fund. Therefore I submit that this reduction in the percentage of land revenue is no indication that any relief has been given. No relief has been given. Is it not within your knowledge that at least one-third of the agricultural people are out of employment? Again, the Government have given no relief through the other method that was open to them. The other method is that the expenditure could be reduced. This House has spent on the Resources and Retrenchment Committee about one lakh of rupees. May I enquire what is it that the Government have done in reducing the expenditure? The expenditure stands at the appalling figure. May I enquire from the Finance Minister if every person from whom he is realising the revenue is in a position to pay his contribution to the Government exchequer? In the words of Sir Chhotu Ram, "When you drain all the taxes you claim that relief has been given or is likely to be given". That is a very important question that I want to put, because all your expenditure is now based on this standard of revenue. The Finance Minister says that these receipts have now become normal. Therefore it means that they are not going to be reduced. If the receipts are not going to be reduced, then what is the relief which is available to the poor agriculturists and the peasant? Nobody will dispute, not even the Finance Minister will dispute, that unless the persons who feed you become strong there cannot be prosperity in the province. You must make him strong and put him in a position in which he may be above grinding poverty. Where is the provision for that?

The revenue of the province stands where it was and expenditure is also there. A large percentage of the expenditure is being incurred in the form of high salaries of the officials. I, therefore, enquire, what is that system and what is that form of administration in the province of which any person can feel proud? While going through the budget figures one finds that the revenue as well as the expenditure is normal and the budget is nothing more than a routine budget.

I would with your permission refer to the budget of 1935-36 in which Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram drew the attention of the Government as he always does to the appalling and miserable condition of the agriculturists and also to the enormous expenditure that was being incurred. These are the two tests by which I would judge the Government. Firstly, have they done anything to reduce the burden of the tax payer or to add to the income of the tax payer and secondly, have they done anything to cut down the expenditure, the wasteful expenditure that is being incurred?

In passing, I would draw the attention of the House to what Malik Barkat Ali said in his minute of dissent.

Minister of Finance : It was duly expunged by a vote of the House.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : But it forms part of the official publication.

Mr. Speaker : It was expunged by a decision of the House.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar: Then I will not refer to it. I draw the attention of the House to the various forms of allowances, those avoidable forms of expenditure in which money is being spent. This is at least a thing to which we can refer. As I said in connection with other items of expenditure, I will not be wise if I increase an expenditure unless I know what good effects that increase will produce. In this connection I would refer to the recommendation of a regularly appointed committee to the effect that an amount of Rs. 48 lakhs could be saved. Even Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram admits that the province cannot prosper through agriculture alone and that is a common ground on which we all agree. The Honourable Minister for Finance is also one of those who believe that prosperity cannot be ensured in the absence of industrialisation. I ask him, what is it that the Government have done during the five years that they have been in office to industrialise the province, to increase the purchasing power of the people and make them prosperous? Where is the money to come from? Agriculture alone cannot provide it. It is only an accident due to the War that the prices of agricultural produce are so high. I ask Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram what he or his Government have done in this connection.

Minister of Public Works: He has given you the solution already.

Minister of Revenue: That is not palatable to him. (*Laughter.*)

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar: He was one of those gentlemen who advocated that land revenue should be reduced and that abiana should be reduced. But what have his Government done to reduce either the land revenue or abiana since they came into office? There is no doubt that relief has been given in respect of private debts. But I ask, what have you done to improve the credit of the agriculturist? Does he find it easy to go and get the money he wants for his every day needs? All that the Government has been able to do is to create another class and so far as the poor agriculturist is concerned, nothing has been done to improve his condition. Nothing has been done to add to the industrial income of the province; nothing has been done to reduce the number of unemployed and, if I may say, nothing has been done of which the people or their Government can feel rightly proud.

May I remind the House that it is this Government which claims to be representative of the popular voice of the province, that has kept half a dozen honourable members of this House behind the bars for the last over a year and a half. Now, is it conceivable that honourable members of this House should be detained and given no opportunity to defend themselves for alleged suspicion of being agents of a Government who are now the allies of the British Government? The Honourable Minister shakes his head. (*Minister of Public Works:* I have not followed your argument). Where is Sardar Hari Singh and where is Sardar Kabul Singh? Why have they been detained? Was it not said that these gentlemen were in conspiracy with Russia which is now the ally of the British Government? Russia is now helping the British and the British are helping the Russians. Is it not doubting the sincerity of your allies?

Before I sit down, I will refer to the respect that this Government has for popular opinion. In the capital of the province we are going on without the elected representatives of the city. The Municipal Committee of Lahore

[L. Bhim Sen Sachar.]

was superseded before this Government came to power. If this Government had any regard for popular opinion, if they wanted the popular opinion to express itself, they would have restored that body at once. But what do we find? Six years have passed and nothing has been done to bring that body into being. That indicates that Government are not only not anxious to have that popular representative body to function, but they are very anxious to shut the popular voice.

Before resuming my seat I should like to make a reference to the one lakh of rupees which have been set apart for promoting communal harmony. I submit that if your 14 crores are not enough to bring about communal harmony in this province, your one lakh set apart specially for this purpose is not going to help you. It is a change of heart that is required. It requires a change of outlook. It requires purity of administration based on justice, equality of treatment to all and a desire to recognise human beings as such. It requires a will to see that everybody has got an equal right to live in this province. It requires a determination to see that love prevails in the province instead of hate as at present. It is not a thing which can be brought about by setting apart a lakh of rupees. The Government should by its conduct everywhere, in services, inside and outside this House, in public speeches and in conferences, infuse confidence amongst the people. If confidence is not created that justice is being meted out, you cannot have communal harmony. I may also add that more than setting apart any amount for air raid precautions, internal security and communal harmony it requires a large imagination and breadth of vision and a desire to see that the whole province is pulsating with a desire to live like fellow beings. We have to shed all distinctions between man and man.

In this connection I must acknowledge the kindness of the Honourable Minister for Revenue for sending me a portion of his speech which he delivered on the occasion of his birthday celebrations. I am obliged to him for that. He says therein that he has the interests of the down trodden at heart. I give him credit for that. But I would respectfully suggest to him that he should not suffer from an inferiority complex. I agree that it is most difficult to get rid of the impressions formed in early childhood. It is just those impressions which dominate our conduct later on and we want to assert ourselves when we feel that we are not being treated properly. It is this inferiority complex which creates that trouble and this reminds me of a little story of a young girl. There was a young girl and her mother knew that she was very fond of a particular kind of cake. So she just prepared that cake and put it on the table and kept it covered. When the girl came in the mother said, 'Dear, I have got some excellent thing for you'. 'What is it?' 'Something which you will very much like.' The girl removed the cover; what do you think she did? Instead of feeling thankful to the mother she took the plate with the cakes and threw it on the ground. What was the reason? It was merely this that the girl did not want to be anticipated by her mother. If the mother asked her if she wanted milk the girl would reply that she wanted coffee. If the mother asked her if she wanted coffee the girl would say, milk. The explanation

for this is very simple. The girl was suffering from inferiority complex. Similarly, the impressions that unfortunately were created in our friend's mind in his early days at school and college are still working havoc in his mind. Therefore he feels the necessity of having to assert himself so that he may not be blamed of weakness. He knows how to strike, but I would most respectfully request him not to attempt this. Let us change the atmosphere of the province. He has already converted the Finance Minister to a policy which is not his. The Finance Minister is now merely playing the part of an agriculturist minister. But I fear that policy will bring about bankruptcy in the province.

May I just say one word to the Honourable Finance Minister. He has utilised the surpluses in a particular manner of investment. In the present condition of the world it is not possible to utilise that money to any useful purpose. I would therefore suggest that it can be put in fixed deposit. Even at a rate of two per cent it will bring revenue to the province. (*An honourable member*: I thought the insurance companies did not know where to invest their money). If that is not done, is it not possible to utilise that money to repay a portion of the debt due by this Government to the Central Government? I put this question of course with hesitation. I do not know whether it is possible for the Finance Minister to repay a portion of the debt which is due to the Central Government and save as much as 4 or 8½ per cent by way of interest. If this will effect a saving of 8 or 10 lakhs by way of interest it is worth while saving. Similarly, you can effect saving in the Hydro-Electric Department. No capital expenditure is possible at present. Therefore no capital works can be undertaken. Therefore people who are there only in connection with capital works can be removed. In this way some saving can be effected.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan (Attock North, Muhammadan Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, I congratulate my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, for his criticism of the budget in a cool and calm manner. He did not import any heat into the discussion. I wish this spirit pervades the whole House and none gives any offence to any one by employing strong language. He has set a good precedent and I hope other honourable members will also discuss the budget in the same spirit. Criticism can be effective without bitterness and unnecessary heat.

I would now like to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister not in any conventional manner but from the bottom of my heart, on his having managed the finances of this province for the last five years in a most efficient and excellent way. All credit is due to him for this excellent steering, and, if my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition had cared to cast a glance at the peaceful revolution that the Honourable Finance Minister has brought about in the method of handling the most difficult problem of finance, he would have certainly joined me in showering praise on the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal. Let us not overlook the heavy odds against which he has had to work. No sooner did this Ministry come to power than a most dreadful famine broke out in the South Eastern Punjab. The situation thus created by this natural calamity called for the highest qualities of head and heart in a Finance Minister, and I am glad to say that our Finance Minister rose equal to the occasion. It is remarkable indeed that he had to spare, I do not know how, a huge sum of Rs. 1,80,00,000

[K. B. Nawab Muzaffar Khan.]

which he liberally spent in order to alleviate the sufferings of the starving millions. Not only this. A further sum of Rs. 80,00,000 had to be remitted in the land revenue to lighten the burden of the poor zamindars. Furthermore, a sum of Rs. 60,00,000 was granted to the poverty-stricken people as taccavi loans. We had hardly recovered from the shock of these natural calamities when this deadly war, the deadliest that the world has seen, broke out. After having already spent a large sum of about 4 crores in connection with the famine relief work, our Finance Minister was called upon to provide for the extra expenditure for the prosecution of this war. In this connection it is gratifying to note that even the Leader of the Opposition has recognized this expenditure as necessary. The Honourable Finance Minister really deserves to be congratulated by all sections of the House. His masterly handling of the provincial exchequer reminds me of the days gone by when Sir John Maynard was the Finance Member. One of us happened to call him a bania on account of strong control of finances. But he retorted, "I am proud to be a bania". His words are still ringing in my ears. The pride that Sir John Maynard felt in being a bania we claim to feel tenfold for our present Finance Minister who had also the good luck of being assisted by a Brahman. I mean Mr. Bhanot. A bania and a Brahman! This is the happiest combination that any Finance Department can wish for. No wonder, therefore, if the results are so brilliant as those which we are discussing today.

After this rather eulogistic introduction, I may also be permitted to come to the dark side of this budget. This brings me to the education department which is under the control of the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye. In this connection I am reminded of a Persian couplet of the celebrated poet Sa'adi which runs as under:—

هر کس از دست غیر ناله کند سعدی از دست خویشانی فریاد

The Unionist Government has all along been claiming to be sympathetic towards the backward communities, and this claim is really a true one. Our Government is undoubtedly sympathetic towards the backward communities. But it seems to have overlooked one important aspect. In the matter of female education Muslims are most backward. Owing to the custom of Pardah and Islamic law, Muslim women do not join institutions where co-education is carried on. Consequently, Muslims have been left behind in the matter of female education. At long last the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam succeeded in diagnosing the ailment of the Muslims and founded a College for Muslim women and located the college in a plot of land valuing about 3 or 4 lakhs of rupees. Being poor the Anjuman could not erect a suitable building for this purpose and stood in need of help from the Government. We believe in self-help and before approaching Government we have, as I have stated already reserved a plot of land worth about 4 lakhs for the purpose. It was then that we approached Government for assistance. But I am really sorry that the Government has not extended its helping hand to us to the extent we wanted. We have received only a meagre grant. About 250 girls have joined this college in which education is imparted upto the standard of B. A. Our monthly expenditure is Rs. 2,000 a month. We have no college

building and the girls have to sit in tents for want of suitable building. I would request the Honourable Minister very humbly, but forcefully withal, that he may extend his helping hand to us as, of all the communities in the province, we Muslims are the most backward in regard to the education of women. We only get Rs. 5,000 as a grant from the Government while our expenses are Rs. 80,000 per annum. I would also appeal to the representatives of other communities to support me in this reasonable demand. After all, Muslims and Hindus are the two wheels of the same carriage. It is our duty to see that both of them are in good working order. (*Dr. Sant Ram Seth*: We certainly support this). It will not be out of place in this connection to mention that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has helped us in the establishment of an industrial school for Muslim women. We are so grateful to him for this act of kindness. Similarly, I request the Honourable Minister of Education to give us a liberal grant for the Islamia College for women. The kindness of Sir Chhotu Ram should serve as an example for the Minister of Education. When the present Minister of Revenue was in charge of the portfolio of Industries, he was gracious enough to grant us a liberal grant for the Industrial school in the same manner in which help had been previously given to Sir Ganga Ram's Institution for widows.

In making a request for this grant of money, I may mention that this college is not exclusively meant for the benefit of the Muslims alone. Girls of all communities are allowed to join this institution and we have 5 non-Muslim professors in our college staff. The Principal of this Islamia College for Women is a Christian lady. It is, therefore, clear that this institution is not being run on communal lines. It is open to all girl students belonging to different communities and castes. No distinction of castes and creed is made in this regard. This institution is there to benefit all the communities and it behoves the Government to sanction a liberal grant for it.

In the end I request the Honourable Minister of Education in all humility but with all the emphasis that I can command, to carefully consider this reasonable demand of the Muslims who are hopelessly backward in regard to the education of women.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Ambar (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) (*Urdu*): Sir, it is gratifying to note that in spite of the hard times through which our province had to pass and the unfavourable circumstances which the Ministry had to face, the Honourable Finance Minister has been able to present an excellent budget—a budget commendable in several respects. And I must pay him a warm tribute for his outstanding ability and watchful stewardship of our finances. He has taken particular care not to forget or ignore the legacy which this Government has inherited. What I mean to convey is that the beneficent departments have not been neglected. Increased amounts of money have been earmarked to be spent on them. This indicates that the financial position of our province is really very sound and for this the Honourable Minister for Finance rightly deserves to be congratulated. I quite agree with the remark made by the honourable speaker preceding me that he has handled the provincial finances with the typical care and acumen of an expert.

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Ambar.]

Next, I would like to express my appreciation of the services rendered by the ex-Finance Secretary, Mr. Bhanot. The memorandum prepared by him is really a remarkable piece of work. All essential facts about the financial position have been set forth in it with unique clearness. Besides, I must also place on record my entire satisfaction of the work of the subordinate officers of the Finance Department. The compiling of enormous figures in the budget is a stupendous task. This heavy volume is the result of their incessant efforts. I think we would be failing in our duty if we do not give them full credit for the labour they have put in for preparing this voluminous budget.

After this I would refer the honourable members to the budget speech of the Finance Minister. There he mentions the outstanding features of the policy pursued by the Government during the last five years. He says the Government have always kept three laudable principles before them and they are like this. Firstly, 'in the forefront stands steady increase in beneficent expenditure'; secondly, 'the determination to see that law and order are fully maintained'; and lastly, 'the policy steadfastly followed of building up permanent wealth' in the province. These are undoubtedly very laudable features of the policy of the Government. It is a matter of gratification that the ideal set before the Government is the attainment of peace and prosperity of the province. Now there are several factors which help in bringing about prosperity in the country. For instance, by setting up various modern lucrative industries, by improving the agricultural industry, by opening new factories, mills, etc., this object can be achieved because these things go a long way to usher into the province an era of abundance and plenty. But apart from this there is another very important and essential factor which helps to obtain the largest measure of success in this connection and that is the spread of education and liquidation of illiteracy from among the masses. It is heartening to find after perusing the schedule of expenditure and receipts, that the Government have been steadily and gradually enhancing its expenditure on nation-building activities. For instance, the provision made in the budget for the beneficent departments amounts to Rs. 355 lakhs and in that a sum of Rs. 15,000 has been allotted for removing illiteracy. Again, if we just glance at the same schedule, we find that the amount budgeted for the department of Education has been steadily augmented. In 1921-22 it stood at Rs. 88 lakhs, but now it has been gradually raised to Rs. 161 lakhs. I feel that so far as this old legacy is concerned, Government are trying to make the greatest possible improvement in it.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : In view of the excellent budget, why does not the honourable member cross the floor and join us ?

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Ambar : There is no question of crossing the floor.

آگے آگے دیکھئے ہوتا ہے کیا

(laughter). We are large-hearted enough to give full credit where it is due. (Hear, hear). Then, I come to the next point and that is the maintenance of law and order in the province. We find that the expenditure under the head 'police' has increased since 1937 by Rs. 41.74 lakhs. I do not deny

that police force is not essential for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity of the province. The necessity is there. But this must be borne in mind that it brings no credit to the Government to rely solely on the police for achieving this end. If law and order is maintained with the least expenditure and the minimum police force, then and then alone can this be a matter of just pride for the Government. But to increase expenditure by leaps and bounds on the police and then to claim credit for the better maintenance of law and order does not appear to me to be a matter of gratification on the part of the Government. In the same way according to the Government sufficient amount of money has been provided for education. But so far as removing of illiteracy from the province is concerned, a niggardly sum has been earmarked for this purposes. I want to enquire from the Government, since 1921 what progress has been made in the matter of spread of education in the province. It is an open secret that the percentage of literacy in our land is deplorably small. It is only 8 per cent. Again, may I know how far efforts of the Government have succeeded in eliminating disease from the country? Has any decrease in the rate of mortality taken place in spite of their much boasted claims? I am of the opinion that if the present rate of literacy is to continue, then we shall have to wait till doomsday when illiteracy would be stamped out from this province root and branch. If things are allowed to drift in this tardy manner, we would never be able to take our rightful place among the civilised nations. We are told that Government want to provide the same facilities as are available in England and other European countries in the matter of raising the people to a higher level of civilisation. In order to achieve the desired end they shall have to put in serious efforts. But I ask whether in view of this sorry state of affairs, we can ever expect to compete with the other highly civilised countries or aspire to come in line with them. What we are doing is that we want to race with the hound while moving with the pace of a tortoise. (*Hear, hear*). When this is the state of affairs what betterment and prosperity of the province can we expect? As a matter of fact agricultural industry is the only thing on which the progress of a country may depend. I should point out that by providing good implements and satisfactory irrigation to the zamindar better crops of good quality and in good quantity can be obtained. Now let us see how far the Government have succeeded in doing so. It is regrettable to remark that so far as agricultural development is concerned we are lagging behind as compared with other countries; we have not been able to produce as much grain from our fields as other countries do. What is the reason? The Government may say that they have got Agricultural Department and they have deputed the Director and the Deputy Director of Agriculture to deal with the work of this department. It is quite true. But what I want to submit is that much has been spent on ordinary items from which no benefit can be derived. For instance, the Government without receiving any benefit have been spending a lot of money on Agricultural Farms. The Government may say that it rests with the beneficent department to carry out my suggestions and that department needs money for that. I wonder that the Government even after resorting to new taxes should complain of shortage of funds. But it is worthy of appreciation that they did their best in controlling the old expenses on the exchequer and by tapping new

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Ambar.]

resources spent all they could on the various departments. It is quite true that the development of agriculture, improvement in education and elimination of illiteracy cannot be done without sufficient funds. I quite agree with the Government that they cannot interfere with old capital expenditure and the salaries of the Indian Civil Service Officers to an objectionable extent. My submission, however, is that our province should be so developed as to march parallel with other countries. I may also submit that if it is not possible for the Government to shake off the old capital expenditure they can at least adopt economical ways of spending money on the province. For instance, in villages the education system need not be as up to date as in cities and thus some saving can be effected. Similarly in the department of agriculture there are several ways by which the expenditure can be controlled. For instance, in place of the Deputy Director of Agriculture or other high officials, a petty official can have a look round the village in connection with certain matters regarding agriculture. The Government can change the old extravagant systems of spending money to new ones which are comparatively more economical. But it is regrettable that they have not done so.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup (Rohtak Central, General Rural) (*Urdu*): First of all I deem it my duty to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on the magnificent manner in which he has conducted the finances of the province. But at the same time I cannot help uttering a word of complaint against him and I would beg his pardon for that. The object of the budget, so far as I know, is that the income of the province should be distributed to the people in accordance with its receipts. Now nine crores of rupees are realised from the zamindars irrespective of their caste and creed and 8 crores are realized through other sources of income. It is regrettable that our Government which claims to be a zamindara government has not made some reduction in the realisation of the land revenue from the zamindars. I think it must be the bounden duty of the zamindara government to reduce even if it be only to a small extent the present rate of land revenue. If they have no control over it at present they must assure us at least that they would do it gradually. What I want to drive at is that the Government should see to it that the money is distributed among the people at the same ratio at which it is realized from them. In this connection I would like to make an appeal to the Honourable Minister of Revenue who happens to be one of the well wishers of the zamindars and that is this. Since long it has been the practice of the Government that if the crop is damaged on account of some calamity the land revenue is postponed till the next harvest. This is not fair. Why should not the land revenue under such conditions be entirely remitted? It has also been the practice in our province to remit the whole of the land revenue if it has to be postponed under such untoward conditions over which the poor zamindar has no control, for three consecutive years. This is most illogical. When a crop has failed once what justice demands is that the land revenue should not be postponed but remitted. The zamindar is already hard pressed owing to the failure of the first harvest. On the second harvest it is not in his power to pay the land revenue of two years. It is impossible for him to do so. My submission is that the land revenue due from a zamindar should not be

accumulated for two years when the crop for one year has failed. This system is most undesirable. I am sorry to remark that five years have elapsed and that in spite of our repeated requests the Government have not taken any step in respect of this important matter which affects the zamindar to a very great extent. If this can be amended, I submit that the Government should lose no opportunity of doing so. In this way they would be providing great relief to zamindars. The second way of giving relief to a zamindar is this. They should be granted more appointments in the Government services and in this way the money received from them will go to them in an indirect way. It is not a concession or a favour but justice demands that the Government should in one way or the other benefit the zamindars to the extent to which they contribute towards the revenues of the province. That the Government has not done anything in the matter is evident from the replies that were given to my questions asked during the present session. Asked as to how many Hindu agriculturists were appointed as sub-Registrars in the Co-operative Department during the year 1941-42, the Government replied that out of a total number of 53 appointments only 6 were given to Hindus. Again in January 1942, while 35 Muslims, and 14 Sikhs were taken, only 7 posts were given to Hindus. It means that injustice is being done to the Hindus and I would request the Government to devise means for rectifying it. Then my question in regard to the appointment of sub-inspectors of police elicited the reply that "In the Eastern Range 12 direct appointments were made". Now out of these posts only one post went to a Hindu. There is no question of its being one appointment in a single division, because with the exception of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts Ambala Division is the only tract where Hindu agriculturists are to be found. The rest of the province has only a sprinkling of Hindu agriculturists. I then asked about Public Prosecutors and from the answer I find that not a single Hindu agriculturist was appointed. Again I put a question in regard to the number of police constables and this information was handed over to me:—

"Seventy-one per cent of the total recruitment in the Police force went to the Muslims... Hindus were 13.4, Sikhs 9.8, and the others 0.1 per cent."

This also shows that the number of Hindu agriculturists in the police department is very small. Finally I asked the number of those who were employed in the Electricity Department and once more I received the information that out of twenty clerks none was a Hindu agriculturist. Here again not a single post is held by a Hindu agriculturist. There are many more instances of this nature but I have only mentioned a few of them. I would submit to the Government in all seriousness that so far as the Hindu agriculturists are concerned they do not deserve such negligence at the hands of the Government in view of the fact that they belong to a class which contributes at least nine crores out of a total revenue of 13 crores to the provincial exchequer.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu):—Sir, before I enter upon a general discussion of the budget I just want to make a few submissions. A study of the budget estimates leaves the impression that this is the work of a person who does not at all feel any sympathy for the people of this province; in other words that the person

[Ch. Mohd. Hassan.]

responsible for this budget must be one who earns a very high salary and is also a friend of the capitalist. After an impression of this nature I do not find any urge for offering felicitations to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Now, let us examine how these budget estimates are prepared. As a rule a sifting enquiry is made into the expenditure of the preceding financial year. But what do we find here? A mere glance at the note under New Expenditure in regard to the continuance of the Special Inquiry Agency, shows that its extension for another year is sought in order 'to assist Heads of Departments in the Punjab in investigating cases of corruption against officials which have considerably increased. So far as I know there is an increase of 90 per cent. There is not a single department in which corruption of some sort is not met with. Still my honourable friend the Minister of Public Works tries to defend all departments in general and the police in particular against any charge of corruption. Such is the condition of administration for which Nawab Sahib, who is unfortunately not in his seat at present, had offered his congratulations to the Government. The thing is that these big men are generally unaware of the conditions prevailing in the country. In saying so I am conscious of the fact that the Honourable Ministers of Revenue, Education and Development occasionally go on tours, but they too have little time to spare for hearing the complaints of the public in general. All their time is taken up in interviews with this Extra Assistant Commissioner and that Senior Sub-Judge. It must however be said to the credit of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram that he generally tours rural areas and addresses public meetings but he too does not listen to others. (*An honourable member*: You are wrong). No, Sir, what I am saying is quite true.

Now reverting to my contention that the administration is very slack I cannot do better than quote a few instances from my own district of Ludhiana. On the 27th February, 1942, a dacoity was committed in village Charwal at about five in the evening. In spite of the fact that a report was made, the police arrived at the scene on the 28th at six in the evening. Again, Jaspalbangar, which is at a distance of six miles from Ludhiana, was the scene of two cases of dacoity on the 15th February and 6th March respectively. The reports of both the cases were lodged with the police but they are still on their way. This is the police which has been described by my honourable friend as fearless and efficient.

I think to some extent the honourable members over there are also responsible for this state of affairs. Let me tell them that if any official is guilty of dereliction of duty it is their duty to punish him irrespective of communal considerations. In fact, whenever my friends come to know that any officer is dishonest or neglects his duty they should take strong action against him. So long as they do not adopt this procedure they will never be able to effect any reform in the administration at all.

Good many tributes were paid to the Honourable Finance Minister for introducing this excellent budget. Amongst others my honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber also congratulated him although in a suppressed tone. But his speech shows that he is not at all satisfied with the budget. Anyway we do not see any excellent point in the budget at

all. The first thing which the Honourable Minister of Finance should have done is that he should have reduced the salaries of the highly paid officers and the money thus saved could very well have been spent on providing relief to the poor zamindars. Mere lip sympathy will not help them at all. This Government have been in office for the last five years but so far they have not remitted even a single pie of the land revenue of the zamindars except in those cases where the zamindars suffered heavily on account of hailstorms or famine or such other calamity. Even in those cases the greater part of the money set apart for providing relief to the poor zamindars was wasted. The honourable members are aware of the fact that a big sum was granted for the Hissar famine in order to provide relief to the famine stricken zamindars. But what happened? Under the guise of providing relief to the famine stricken people high salaries were given to the officers who were perhaps the most corrupt people on earth. In the administration of famine relief corruption was the order of the day so much so that according to Government's own admission 186,000 maunds of *turi* flew away I know not where. These things have happened under the very nose of my friends over there and yet they took no action whatsoever in regard to them. If it was a fact, as had been admitted by Government previously, they should have instituted inquiries in regard to this matter and the culprits should have been punished. Then again, it was the duty of my friends to see whether the relief which had been given to the zamindars had really helped them or not. But they did nothing of the sort. I think unless corruption is rooted out what to say of other things neither can education be spread among the zamindars nor can any medical relief be provided for them.

Now coming to the Ludhiana district, the district of my honourable friend the Minister for Development, I may point out that all "number 10" bad characters are now licence holders of either guns or revolvers. When the Honourable Minister for Development went to Ludhiana for the first time after he became Minister at the time the person who sat on his right side was that very person who had already been convicted under sections 366 and 368 Indian Penal Code and had undergone imprisonment for four years. He is a "number 10" bad character and is the favourite of the Honourable Minister. This is one instance and thousand other instances can be quoted. (*An honourable member*: These are local affairs. Why make fuss about them?). My friend says that I should not mention these things as they are local affairs only. But I may tell him that these instances make a very bad effect on the Government officials as well as on the people in general. As a matter of fact these incidents of Ludhiana had their reflection in the shape of Mr. Henderson's behaviour to the honourable members of this Assembly. Let me tell you that these Ministers are flattered and they see the condition of the masses through the eyes of their officials only. If the officials say that the masses are happy the Ministers take their words as Gospel truths. They do not take the trouble of seeing things for themselves. In this connection I may point out that Mr. Macnabb, who was lately the Administrator of the Lahore Municipality and who was once the Deputy Commissioner of the district of the Honourable Minister for Public Works, asked me as to how the work of rural reconstruction was being carried on in my district. I told him that the

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administration of that department was very bad. As a result of that free expression of opinion I have been involved in many cases about which I will tell something more to the House on some other occasion. Anyway Mr. Macnabb told me that when he was free from official duties he did gardening and this and that thing. But I pointed out to him that he was drawing Rs. 3,500 by way of salary and Rs. 550 as travelling allowance and as against this the average income of a Punjabi was only Rs. 40 and what to speak of cultivating any hobbies he had to make his both ends meet with great difficulty. Anyway my friends are following the same method inasmuch as they see things through the eyes of their officials only. When that is a fact, how do they expect the people to come forward and tell them real facts?

Again my honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is always in the habit of saying that he is against the banias, pure banias, khoja banias and this bania and that bania. But inspite of his enmity and hatred for them the banias, pure banias and khoja banias are there in services. The fact is that he has not the guts to go against the banias. He dares not take action against even those banias who disobey his orders. He has not the courage to proceed against them. On the contrary he takes action against those banias who are honest and who do their work conscientiously. My friend does not even hesitate to turn them out of employment.

Next I come to the department of police, the department of my honourable friend the Minister for Public Works. I have often written to him that corruption is rampant in the police department and that some steps should be taken to put a stop to it. But so far no action has been taken in regard to my letters. I do not know whether they reach him or not and if they reach him whether he reads them or only deposits them in the waste paper basket. The claim of the Government that if five men submit a written representation inquiry is at once instituted is also wrong. My submission is that they institute inquiries only in those cases which are already complete and for the inquiry of which they can appoint any retired Commissioner as an officer on special duty. In this way he is pleased. Besides they appoint some one as the public prosecutor to assist him and he is also pleased with the Government. (*An honourable member*: Sometimes Government themselves ask some of their own supporters to file a written complaint against any officer against whom they want to take action). Yes, sometimes they do this as well. However my submission is that there are 11 police stations in the Ludhiana district and in all of them affairs are going from bad to worse. The Superintendent of Police of that district is wholly inefficient and he cannot manage the affairs of that district properly. This is not the proper occasion for going into details and I hope, if Government want to know these things, I will be able to throw more light on this matter on some other occasion. That is not all. If my friends make inquiries about the administration of their different departments they would find that corruption is rampant in all of them. They should take steps to put an end to that state of affairs. If they do so it is then and then alone that they can promote industries in the province, propagate education in the province and do other things. But I do not think that is possible. At least this Government cannot do these things.

Another point to which I want to draw your attention is that if dispensaries are opened they are not opened in the rural areas but they are opened in the cities, in tahsil headquarters and in those ilaqs where medical officers can go easily and where the Minister for Education can go and get reception by the students standing on both sides of the roads. My friends in fact have no consideration for the welfare of the masses at all. What to speak of doing anything for the masses the Ministers even do not allow ordinary people to see them. Whenever any person comes to see them they refuse to interview him. They should know that they are the servants of the public and not their masters. But it is a thousand pities that my friends treat the masses in a very bad way. If anybody comes to see them they refuse to meet him and say that they have no time.

Do something in order to show that you deserve the pay which you get. (*Interruption.*) I will have to use the same words with regard to you which you the other day used in reference to the honourable members sitting on this side of the House. That sentence is—

آپ کو شرم آنی چاہئے

You should be ashamed of the fact that five years have passed since you assumed office and during these five years you have not been able to achieve much. If a man frankly tells you your defects, you take it ill and put him behind the bars. There are six members of this Assembly who are at present shut up in the Gujrat Jail on suspicion that they have some relation with Russia. If you are sure of the fact that they have any such relations which I doubt very much, then it is your duty to produce them before a court of law. Institute cases against them and let a court of law judge them. I am sure if you do so those honourable members would be found not guilty and your charges against them would be judged as quite frivolous and baseless. I warn you against your highhandedness. The time is approaching fast when you will have to reap what you are sowing at present. God's punishment visits silently and takes all civil doers to task quietly. Beware of the punishment which is awaiting you in the near future. It is quite possible that you may be utterly destroyed for the evil which you have done and you are still doing. I do not mean that I in any way want to interfere with your activities, I simply want to warn you against what you are doing. Your activities are not good. And it is quite possible that your guilt may recoil on you and punish you. The Honourable Premier always says that Insha Alla I will do this or do that. But he never does anything. If he were sincere in his utterances certainly he would carry them into practice. But unfortunately he does not intend to do what he says. Chastisement of God is about to visit upon you. I warn you against it. I am not a prophet. I am only a humble man and by judging the coming events I infer that soon a time will come when you shall be punished for your ill-doings.

Mr. Guest defended the action of the police officer who misbehaved towards a boy. He took up cudgels on behalf of the police officer who misbehaved with a certain boy in the Lahore Cantonment and yet he had not the courage to go to the witness box and substantiate the allegations which he made so that the veracity of the allegations could have been tested.

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From his anxiety and restiveness I was of the opinion that this gentleman has got the courage of an average Englishman; but whether rightly or wrongly, he justified the action of that imprudent and impudent police officer who had the dishonour and disgrace to slap the boy. I wish he had been here in order to hear the honourable the Leader of the Opposition so that he would have been in a position to know the day, time and the name of the place of occurrence. I am under the impression that the misdeeds of the Government employees are being covered and sheltered by the members of the Unionist Party irrespective of the fact that these allegations have been made of their misdeeds (*Interruptions*). I was saying that conditions have become such in this province that if the Government will not pay heed to them it is quite possible that they may lead to chaos and confusion in the province. I would therefore request the Premier, the Minister for Public Works, the Finance Minister, the Minister for Education—the Minister for Development is not here otherwise I would have addressed him also—that they should consult between themselves and try to restore peace and order in the province. They should not take the initiative from the rural areas and preach class disaffection as they have been doing for the last five years. Their deeds also are liable to be misinterpreted: they have to go before the bar of public opinion and they have to stand the charge.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's time is up.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, we are lucky in having Sir Manohar Lal as our Finance Minister. He is a well known practical economist in the whole of India. The budget which he has presented to this House shows a deficit of only 10 lakhs. At present due to various causes among which war is the foremost cause deficits to the extent of crores and milliards have appeared in the budgets of the other countries of the world. A deficit of 10 lakhs in our budget compared to the deficits of crores and milliards of other countries is not much. This deficit would not have appeared had there been no grants made for air raid precautions, Peasants Welfare Fund, etc.

I also want to pay a tribute to the honourable Leader of the Opposition who offered his criticism of the budget in a very calm and dignified manner. I hope his followers also will follow the good example set by him and will abstain from importing unnecessary heat into the discussion of the present budget. If outside this House also a similar spirit is exhibited, I am sure, it will lead to communal harmony and better relations between the communities. It would be good for the whole country if people were to express their views without giving offence.

The time limit fixed for a speech to-day is ten minutes. It is very difficult for a man to express his views regarding the budget within so short a time. A man cannot say anything with regard to all the multifarious activities of the Government during such a short time as ten minutes. However, I will try to touch briefly a few of them during this short period. The first department with regard to which I want to make a few submissions is the Industries Department. This department did good work under Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal and is also doing very useful work under Mr. Hassan Mahmood. The Honourable the Finance Minister has made an additional grant of ten lakhs for this department, which I think it well deserves. This department

has done a lot of good work for this province. The department has been entrusted by the Supply Department to get blankets prepared for it. Contracts for the supply of blankets to the extent of 42 lakhs of rupees have been acquired for the people of the Punjab. In areas like Panipat which produce wool thousands of people have become employed in the work of making blankets. Similarly, the Industries Department has been entrusted by the Government of India, Supply Department, with the work of getting cutlery manufactured. Contracts of lakhs of rupees have been given to the people of this province. At Sialkot and Wazirabad cutlery is manufactured and a very large number of people have become employed in this work. Similarly, technical men and fitters are also trained under the supervision of this department. Up to this time 3,000 technical men and fitters have been trained by the department. In this way people get employment and also money comes to the province through contracts, etc. The department is also running a Store Purchase Department which naturally gives preference to the Punjab in the matter of their purchases.

The Government has provided 4½ lakhs of rupees for grants to industrial schools. By the opening up of industrial schools in the province many people will be enabled to learn various arts and crafts and the result would be that unemployment will become reduced and this will add to the prosperity of the province.

Now I would like to thank the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye for having sanctioned a grant of Rs. 6,000 to the M. A. O. College, Amritsar. I hope he would also see his way very kindly to raise the Medical School of Amritsar to the standard of a Medical College and appoint more expert doctors to work there as professors and surgeons. Furthermore, I would request him to pay more attention to the Unani methods of medicine. This should be indianised and called Hindustani instead of Unani. Vedic treatment should be revived and improved. These treatments are most suited to our requirements.

Coming to police, I confess there are many complaints against the treatment of the police. But it cannot be gainsaid that it is the most essential service for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the province. An additional sum of Rs. 25 lakhs will be spent on this. But I think this expenditure ought to be increased owing to the special circumstances caused by the deadly war that is going on. The safety of our homes and hearths depend on the maintenance of police. I would urge that the pay of the police constables should be increased so that they may be able to perform their duty honestly. I may be permitted to say a few words about the non-communal character of the present Government. The various communities are adequately represented in it and rights of all classes are safeguarded by it. In my humble opinion Chaudhri Ram Sarup should have obtained the relevant facts and figures before complaining about the under-representation of Hindu agriculturists in the services. I do not wish that any class or community should be deprived of its due share. But if a certain class has had the monopoly of services it should not be enraged at its monopoly being broken. Other communities too have a legitimate right to be represented in the services. It is the duty of the Government to break the monopoly of any class which may have hitherto enjoyed it without being disturbed.

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The time at my disposal being short, I shall try to be very brief. I must now draw the attention of the Government to the very sad problem of unemployment. The Government should make a special effort to remove the curse of unemployment from the Punjab. The poor should be helped by taxing the rich. In this regard I welcome the General Sales Tax Act. If the General Sales Tax Act had been a graduated tax, it would have been better. Even now the Government should try to introduce a graduated scale of taxation so that the burden of tax may fall on the wealthy beoparis and the poor beoparis may be relieved of it. The beoparis whose sales do not exceed Rs. 20,000 per annum should be exempted. The rate of tax may be 8 annas per hundred rupees in the case of a man whose sales exceeds one lakh. Those who have an outturn of more than 5 lakhs may be taxed at the rate of one rupee per cent. Thus the burden of taxation will be shifted from the poor beoparis to the rich beoparis.

I come now to the most important matter of atta famine. A combination of causes have led to the famine of wheat flour in this province. The first and foremost cause is the great demand of wheat for military purposes. Secondly, some of the traders have hoarded thousands of bags of wheat and do not release them for general sale. Thirdly, there has been a panic among the people. The fourth reason for this atta famine is that the distribution of wheat is very uneven in the Punjab. There are some people who have plenty of wheat with them, while some people get very little wheat for their personal use. Similarly, some districts have more wheat and in other districts there is a great scarcity of it. The Government should devise ways and means to improve the conditions. There are three practical suggestions that I can make in this regard. The Honourable Premier may be pleased to declare prizes for those people who may inform the authorities as to where and with whom stocks of wheat are to be found. That is the first and foremost method of discovering hidden stocks of wheat. Secondly, an Advisory Committee should be set up to remove the uneven distribution of wheat in the Punjab. The third suggestion of mine is that those who mix dust and saw dust in the wheat flour, should be awarded a befitting punishment for this heinous crime.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has already taken eleven minutes. He will please finish his speech.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : I am just closing my speech. One word more and I have done. I would request the traders that just as they gathered together in order to protest against the imposition of the General Sales Tax they should similarly unite in order to relieve the trouble of consumers and compel the traders dealing in atta not to mix dust in it and those who do so should be punished. The difficulties of the consumers are daily growing and the duty of the traders is to come to their rescue. I hope the traders will kindly pay heed to my request and help the poor consumers.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I offer my heartiest congratulations to the Honourable Minister for Finance on having presented an excellent budget to this House. As the time at my disposal is very short, I would like to make only a few observations in regard to internal security, A. R. P., relief to the poor agriculturists and communal harmony.

On perusing the budget I find that elaborate arrangements have been made for police and a large amount of money has been earmarked for this purpose. But my submission is that these arrangements will not prove adequate for the maintenance of internal security. Something more is required to be accomplished in this respect. You will agree with me, Sir, that no attention has been paid to the special requirements of rural areas in the matter of giving protection to them from the inroads of highwaymen. I take the case of Ferozepore district as an instance to the point. Suffice it to say that not a day passes when two or three dacoities are not committed there. Our experience in this connection has made this fact abundantly clear that those places enjoy immunity from dacoits where sufficient number of licences for keeping guns have been granted by the Government. But those places where no such licences have been given, are the frequent scene of depredations of the dacoits. I submit that an adequate number of licences to keep arms should be issued to responsible village people, so that they may be able to meet the bad characters on equal terms. Besides, during unfavourable times the services of these licence-holders can be requisitioned for maintaining internal security. But I must sound a note of warning and that is this. While granting licences particular care should be taken to avoid bad characters. They should under no circumstances, be allowed to take a licence. Only reliable persons wielding influence in the villages should be granted gun licences. Again, grant of solitary licence in a village proves very dangerous because the dacoits generally make a concerted attack on the licence-holder and snatch away his gun to the great detriment of the villagers. I am therefore of the opinion that Government should be particularly careful to grant a sufficient number of gun licences in a village.

Next I come to the recruitment of civic guards. I understand that the sanctioned strength is 30,000. Already about 20,000 have been recruited. My submission is that this number pales into insignificance when we compare it with the population of the province. The strength of the civic guards should be enhanced to a considerable extent. If there are any restrictions imposed by the Government of India in connection with the recruitment of civic guards, then I propose that national guards be organised on a large scale for the purpose of maintaining internal security. They should be armed with single or double-barelled shot guns so that their services may be usefully utilised at the time of need. Again, if guns of foreign make are not available, Government should take steps to get them manufactured in the province. We are not prepared to hear the lame excuses of lack of guns. This difficulty can be tided over, if there is a will on the part of the Government to surmount it. Then I propose that compulsory military training should be introduced in schools and colleges, so that on an emergency arising we may not be caught napping and we may have trained young men to deal with it. Even officers of the Government should be given lessons to handle arms.

Now I pass on to the subject of Air Raid Precautions. It will be in the fitness of things that Government should ask all the officers connected with the local bodies to undergo a training in A. R. P. and thus be ready to meet any contingency arising out of war conditions. I find that Government have made a provision in the budget to the extent of one crore of

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rupees. But I am constrained to remark that all these arrangements are primarily meant for the town, while the villages have been ignored altogether. Nobody can say with certainty that the villages are immune from air attacks. Besides, the girls studying in the schools and colleges should be compulsorily given training in First Aid to the Injured, so that during an emergency we may not experience shortage of persons who could look after the wounded.

The Punjab can undoubtedly take a just pride in having a large number of metalled roads. But so far as roads linking the interior ilaqa are concerned, they are in a dilapidated condition. They should be improved so that no difficulty may be experienced in manœuvring mobile forces to the interior for the purpose of maintaining law and order.

I would like to say something about the sad plight of the zamindars. I concede that the Government have done a lot to improve their condition, but I must frankly admit that they have not come up to the expectations which the zamindars had nurtured in their hearts. The abiana has been a sore point with the petty zamindars. I submit that the scale of the water rates should be debased. They are too poor to meet this present heavy demand. Any concession given in water rates will go direct to the poor and petty zamindars who till lands with their own hands.

The Government have arranged for opening subsidized dispensaries in the rural areas with a view to providing medical aid to the ruralites. But in this connection zamindars are required to defray expenses to the extent of one-fourth of the total cost of maintaining these dispensaries. Obviously this is a glaring hardship for them. Is it just and equitable that in cities a person with an income of Rs. 100 per month should be able to get medicine gratis from a hospital, while in the case of a zamindar, medicine cannot be procured free in spite of the fact that he pays land revenue? I, therefore, request the Government that no financial burden in this connection should be put on the zamindar, who is already groaning under the heavy weight of taxes. Besides, the zamindars have to bear a lot of expense in the matter of giving higher education to their children, because almost all the high schools and colleges are situated in the towns. Not even an Anglo-vernacular middle school can be opened in the rural areas, unless the zamindars collect and pay for the expenses of the English education. I submit that the Government should see their way to make liberal grants to the district boards for opening Anglo-vernacular middle and high schools in the rural areas for the benefit of zamindars. Government should thus enable the zamindar youths to take their rightful and due share in the services.

Now I pass on to the subject of communal harmony. It is gratifying to note that in the matter of services the Government have fixed a certain ratio for every community. For instance, Government have laid down that 50 per cent. services would go to the Muslims, 30 per cent to the Hindus and others and 20 per cent to the Sikhs. But I am constrained to remark that no steps have been taken to safeguard the interests of the Sikhs in regard to Government services. They are not given even their due share fixed by the Government themselves. This defect was brought to the notice of the

Government several times. In those districts where the Sikhs form a majority of the population, they get their due share in the administration, but in others where they are in a minority they do not get even one per cent representation in the services. Thus the percentage in the province as a whole does not go up 7 or 8 per cent. In 1938 the Honourable Premier introduced divisionwise and communitywise system of recruitment to the Revenue Department and it was promised to introduce this system to all the other departments if that worked well. I understand that this has proved a success in its working and it is high time that the Government made this system applicable to the remaining departments as well, so that the deficiency of representation of Sikhs in Government services might be made good. I draw the pointed attention of the Honourable Ministers to the fact that whatever circular or orders they may issue to the departments under their charge, they should see that no departure is made by the departments in faithfully carrying out those orders. Besides, I cannot help making this complaint that the block system of recruitment is proving detrimental to the interests of the Sikhs. I, therefore, request the Government that the grievances of the Sikhs in this respect should be redressed without any avoidable delay.

Then, there is the jhatka question. Sikhs have a grouse against the Government in this connection. They are not allowed to make meat in the Government institutions according to their own religious method, while there is no bar on our Muslim brethren. They should be allowed to enjoy the same privilege which the members of Muslim community are allowed in police lines, hospitals, and boarding houses attached to Government educational institutions. You will remember, Sir, the Sikhs exhibited their tolerance in the Raja Jang case though the question of *status quo* could have been raised there. The Government saw that the Muslims should say "Azan" in that ilaqa, though they had no such liberty from the very day of their inhabitation. Now it is up to the Government to assuage the feelings of the Sikhs by permitting them to use jhatka meat. This would create a sense of security in them about their religious rights and they will consider this Government as their own government.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's time is up. In view of the fact that some honourable members whose names have not been given to me by party whips wish to speak, I am obliged to reduce the time limit for speeches. So, barring the Honourable Ministers every other honourable member will get only ten minutes.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : So far as this side of the House is concerned there need be no change.

Mr. Speaker : But I cannot give twenty minutes to each member of the opposition.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : But there is no need to reduce the time limit so far as this side is concerned, because there will be no increase in the number of honourable members who will speak from this side.

Mr. Speaker : But several members, not belonging to any party, wish to speak.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : So far as members on this side of the House are concerned they have been consulted and they are all agreed about our proposal.

Mr. Speaker : I have just received the following note from some honourable members :—

“ Mr. Speaker.—Kindly do give consideration to the fact that in the Opposition there are quite a number of unattached members who are being neglected in the matter of division of time.”

This note is signed by Sardar Lal Singh, Mian Abdul Aziz and Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma. How can I ignore all these honourable members ? Again, there are some honourable members opposite whose names have not been given to me.

Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu) : Sir, I do not propose to take much time of the House. I shall try to be as brief as possible. First of all I must say a word with regard to the complaint made by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who was pleased to remark in the course of his speech that a certain naib-tahsildar belaboured a certain person and extorted from him money for war fund. I do not consider this complaint was sufficiently important to receive notice in this House by the Leader of the Opposition. If the man concerned had submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner of the district regarding that matter an inquiry would surely have been instituted long ago.

Some of my honourable friends have criticised the Government by saying that we had done nothing for the zamindar as there had been no reduction in land revenue and abiana and that we had added nothing to the income of the zamindar. As regards this complaint I would point out that it is wrong to say that no relief has been given to the peasant. There has been an annual reduction of Rs. 37½ lakhs in abiana since 1935. If my honourable friends expect further annual reductions I am sorry to say that they cannot have it, and if they insist upon it I am afraid there will be no budget to be prepared after two or three years. Now let me point out that the rate of abiana in the Punjab is the lowest in the whole country with the exception of one province whose name at this moment has slipped from my memory. Even in our neighbouring province, the United Provinces, the rate of abiana is higher than ours, and if my friends have any doubt in the matter, it is open to them to make inquiries from the honourable members representing the Gurgaon district in this House. Now I come to land revenue. In this connection I will refrain from making references to remissions given on account of calamities over which we had no control. However, my honourable friends should bear in mind that the Punjab is the only province where land revenue is chargeable at the maximum rate of 25 per cent of the net assets while every other province in the country has a higher maximum. In districts where resettlement has taken place land revenue has been fixed at less than 25 per cent of the net assets. My friends may ask the honourable members hailing from Gurgaon where under the new settlement of the Rewari Tahsil a reduction of about 42 per cent has been made. It means that we have foregone 6½ annas out of a rupee of the old rate. This should enable honourable friends to realise that we have already made reasonable reductions both in the land revenue and abiana.

Then it has been said that we have not added appreciably to the income of zamindars. This complaint is absolutely wrong. The Punjab Government have done a good deal to add to the income of the zamindars. In support of this contention I would like to draw the attention of my honourable friends to the fact that millions of acres of land have been brought under irrigation by the Haveli Project which was completed two years ago and where colonisation is making rapid progress. Apart from this a small canal has been dug in the area of Pind Dadan Khan which will irrigate many thousands of acres of land. Furthermore $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees have been spent on starting Kharif canals in the province. My honourable colleague Sir Manohar Lal may well complain against the strain caused by these canals on his finances as the working of these canals will entail an annual loss of about three lakhs.

As regards Thal and Bakhra Schemes, I am sorry to remark that the progress of work on them has had to be slackened in consequence of our dispute with Sind. The Sind Government have questioned our right to take any more water from the Punjab rivers on the ground that our action will decrease the supply in their canals. This matter is being investigated by a commission, and when a decision has been given or a settlement reached, work will start again. At present only preliminary work in connection with Bhakra Scheme is in progress and finishing touches are being given to the headworks of Thal.

My friends should not forget that the prosperity of the Punjab depends largely upon the crops of wheat and cotton. In this respect we have succeeded in evolving new strains with the result that crops of better quality giving larger yields are being grown. Moreover by acquainting the zamindars with modern ways of cultivation we have added to their income considerably, and cotton and wheat are bringing much larger incomes than before.

Another complaint made was that the Government had failed to make any arrangement for the credit of the zamindars. If my honourable friends would visit villages I am sure they would find that sahu-kars are now conspicuous by their absence, and yet zamindars have been enabled to carry on without them.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What about the pressure of population on the agricultural land? It has not been reduced so far.

Minister of Revenue : This pressure of population on the agricultural land can be reduced in two ways, first, by bringing new areas under cultivation and secondly, by promoting new industries. So far as the cultivation of new areas is concerned, I have already invited the attention of my honourable friend to the many lakhs of acres of land that have already been brought under cultivation on new canals, such as the Haveli Project and Pind Dadan Khan Scheme. In the districts of Hissar and Rohtak Kharif canals have been dug from which the zamindars of that *ilaga* will be able to derive the greatest benefit.

Besides, after the completion of Bhakra and Thal Schemes, several millions of acres of land will come under cultivation.

For the development of industries an additional provision of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for new expenditure has been made in the budget.

[Minister of Revenue.]

I may be allowed to add another word about the credit of the zamindar. His credit will increase proportionately to the extent to which he is relieved of his indebtedness. This relief has been afforded in a very large measure by the Unionist Party's debt legislation, and if any honourable member is disposed to have any doubts in the matter, I need only advise him to consult the village sahukars.

Again more land is coming under cultivation and the resultant increase in production has led to an increase in his credit. Further, the zamindars have added greatly to their credit by taking to new professions. Furthermore, the fact that their produce is fetching better prices through the assistance of the Co-operative Department, has considerably increased their credit in the market. Thus the credit of the zamindar is not a matter over which my honourable friends opposite should feel so much concerned. Lastly, if anything further was needed to strengthen the credit of the zamindar it has been done in another way. As the Honourable Minister of Finance informed the House, during the current financial year ending the 31st March, 1942, a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been set apart for forming the nucleus of a Peasants' Welfare Fund. We have also been assured by the Honourable Premier that this fund will be further increased by the addition of Rs. 55 lakhs every year. If such an amount is annually added to this fund there is no reason why the credit of the zamindars should not increase. The natural and ordinary needs of the zamindars can easily be satisfied by a judicious use of this fund. In view of these facts my friends need not worry on this score.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Do you think that income *per capita* is increasing?

Minister of Revenue : Well, I have not the 'necessary data at my disposal to prove whether the income *per capita* has increased or not. But I have reason to believe that there has been some increase, whatever its exact measure, in income *per capita*.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : If I am permitted to ask a question, may I know from the Honourable Minister that when the income from small economic holdings has been held to be Rs. 18-8-0, how is it possible, with this income, for the zamindar to save anything after paying land revenue?

Minister : I have merely submitted that his income is gradually increasing. I do not maintain that the zamindar has completely been relieved of his worries. All that I suggest is that the activities of the Government have succeeded to the some extent in increasing the income of the zamindar.

Then, Sir, it was remarked that the zamindars and I were obsessed by an inferiority complex. Let me assure my honourable friends that so far as I am concerned I am a perfect stranger to an inferiority complex. And so far as the zamindars are concerned, I have, during the last few years, tried to create a feeling of self-consciousness and self-confidence amongst them to such a degree that some of my friends began to complain of the haughty manners and high-browed attitude of the zamindars, and suggested that the zamindars neither cared for the favours of officials, nor mended their frowns and looked down upon the sahukars.

Then my honourable friend, Chaudhri Ram Sarup, decried the system of granting suspensions of land revenue. This, he said, did not in any way benefit or relieve the zamindars and suggested that in a lean year land revenue should be remitted outright. Now this is something which strikes at the very root of an important principle. In order to bring about the proposed change in the system the aid of legislation will have to be invoked. The time is not yet ripe for undertaking such a drastic step. If we can find more money then there may be a chance of doing so, otherwise there is only one way out of it. If as the Honourable Premier remarked a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs is added to the Peasants Welfare Fund next year and it is possible to increase it by even larger amounts in succeeding years complete remission in times of real distress will become a practicable proposition.

Again, my honourable friend, Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, remarked that although certain Ministers toured in rural areas yet they did not listen to the complaints of the village people. So far as I am concerned I might say that as a rule I never refuse while in camp, to see any one between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. I always try to give a patient hearing to all and sundry, more especially the underdogs. There may have been occasions on which for special reasons I might have refused to see some visitor, but such occasions must have been few and far between. I admit that I have not much patience with the old type 'baste bardars' who go about collecting chits and having entries made in their books and desire me to have a look at their certificates, etc. Then he went on to say that the members of the Government preach class hatred. There are, no doubt, certain parties a single member of which does more mischief by way of spreading class hatred than the whole Cabinet of Ministers can collectively hope to do. However we do plead guilty to a charge of creating a sense of self-respect amongst the zamindars.

After Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, my honourable friend Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh alleged that the Sikhs were not being given their due proportion, that is, 30 per cent in the services, and that they had not received any share in the new appointments. So far as fresh appointments are concerned I can say without any fear of contradiction that the principle of 50, 30 and 20 per cent fixed for different communities has been and will be scrupulously adhered to.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Do not patwaris and quanungoes belong to the department under your charge?

Minister of Revenue : With regard to fresh appointments I challenge anyone to prove that the proportion for different communities has not been adhered to in any department. I do not claim to possess a second sight and unless I am apprised of an act of injustice I cannot redress a real or supposed wrong. But every effort is made to ensure that all communities get their due share in Government appointments. In the case of patwaris separate instructions have been sent to the district authorities as to the proportion of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Agriculturists and non-Agriculturists to be observed among them. This division has been made on the basis that if the total number of patwaris is calculated districtwise, the ratio for the whole province will remain 50, 30 and 20 per cent. The same is the case with patwaris in the Irrigation Branch.

Lala Harnam Das : Will the Honourable Minister please explain the proportion which he has fixed for the scheduled castes in his department as contained in his recent circular ?

Minister of Revenue : Out of 30 per cent share of the Hindus 5 per cent is reserved for Achhuts and Indian Christians. Out of that 5 per cent half the share is given to the Achhuts and the other half to Indian Christians. I may tell honourable members that Government have issued orders to all the heads of departments that if suitable candidates are not forthcoming from any of the different communities for appointments reserved for each of them they should report the matter to Government and take further orders as to what steps they should take. I do not suggest that individual officers never commit mistakes in carrying out these instructions, but Government have issued clear orders to all the heads of departments that if suitable Achhut candidates are not forthcoming for the appointments reserved for them they should inform the Government to that effect and take orders as to whether or not they should recruit candidates of other communities in their place. Some such cases have been referred to me in the past and the action which I took on them was that I directed the departmental heads to advertise these vacancies in the vernacular newspapers. If even then no suitable candidate came forward, I undertook to find the candidates of the requisite community myself. But if I also fail to do so that is a separate matter. In regard to canal patwaris I have issued orders recently that while recruiting them the ratio of different communities should be strictly adhered to. In the case of revenue patwaris similar instructions were issued I think 1½ years back. It is possible that before the issue of these instructions this ratio was not strictly adhered to. But this charge cannot be levelled against the appointments that have been made after the issue of these instructions. As a matter of fact we have now set up a new system called the block system. According to this system appointments go automatically to the members of every community according to their share as the posts fall vacant. If anywhere these instructions are not carried out and the honourable members bring that fact to the notice of Government that in such and such a district or a division effect is not being given to the block system, surely suitable action will be taken. But if the honourable members think that all departures from the block system will always and necessarily come to the notice of the Minister in charge, that will be expecting too much.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, so far as the budgetary side is concerned, that is, keeping of accounts with an eye over expenditure and revenue of the province, there can be no two opinions that Sir Manohar Lal has proved himself to be the best custodian of the finances of this province. (Cheers.) The Finance Minister has to follow the policy laid down by the leaders of the party in power. We find that no effect or very little effect has been given to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee. In fact we find that instead of showing economy in certain departments, more expenditure has been incurred on superior staff. The blame for this must lie at the door of the Government as a whole. One thing, however, I must say with due deference to my honourable friend the Finance Minister, that he had been conservative in his estimates of receipts for the last two years. In 1940-41, there was an excess nearly of one crore on the revenue receipt side. The figures of the budget estimate of revenue

receipt in 1940-41 were 11 crores and 74 lakhs, the actual in that year came to 12 crores and 89 lakhs. Again in 1941-42, the budget estimate shows the revenue receipts at 12 crores and 60 lakhs. The revised estimate shows them at 14 crores and 19 lakhs. Even if we take away 68 lakhs received from the Central Road Fund, there is still an excess of 91 lakhs on the revenue side. On the other hand there is a decline of 17 lakhs in expenditure on beneficent departments from the budget estimates. These under-estimates of receipts deprive the tax payers of securing the necessary relief and offer an excuse to the Government to put more burden on the people and sometimes lead to extravagance on the part of Government. Now, inspite of the good points in the budget, and the big amounts that Government have set apart for the Peasants' Welfare Fund and the Special Development Fund, the policy underlying the budget is open to serious criticism from different points of view. The Budget is characterised by the absence of any planning on the part of the Government. Surplus budgets or the well-balanced budgets are no indication of the general prosperity of the people of the province or of the existence of a better and a happier society. The main factors which are the touch-stone in this regard are first, whether the people have become more enlightened and literate so that they may be able to satisfy the desire for a nobler life, and second whether the purchasing power of the people has increased and the people are more contented. Now, so far as literacy is concerned, I find that a paltry sum of 15 thousand has been set apart for the promotion of this highly important object in this province. I do not know the exact figure, but I say that the percentage of literates is very low in this country. It is not higher than twelve. The percentage of literacy has been very low and no special steps have been taken and no earnestness or enthusiasm has been shown by Government to remove illiteracy in this country. The Government should have learnt a lesson from other countries, like Russia and Japan. Three or four decades back both these countries were as backward as we are in this province, but now they have become as advanced as some of the most advanced countries in the world. While I am on this subject I must enter my protest against the policy of the Government in not satisfying the desire of the people to learn Punjabi or Hindi. The position in this province is peculiar from that of the other provinces. In the Punjab Urdu is the court language and Punjabi is not even an alternate court language, although the strong minorities of Sikhs and Hindus forming a percentage of 48 in the population are in favour of Punjabi being given the chance of being an alternate court language. But if we look to other provinces, in Bihar where the Muslims are only 11 per cent, there the Government has conceded their demand and has allowed Urdu to be an alternate court language. The House would remember that while the Primary Education Act was being considered on the floor of this House, a minor demand for allowing the students to learn Punjabi or Hindi in the primary schools, if a certain number of students were desirous of learning those languages, was turned down by the Government. I have got a copy of a letter from the Director of Public Instruction of the Bihar Government, dated 16th December, 1939. In that province, there is a provision for the appointment of an Urdu teacher in a primary school, if 6 pupils are desirous of reading Urdu. There is also a considerable laxity in adopting the medium of instruction in that province.

[S. B. Ujjal Singh.]

3 p.m.

Similar facilities exist in Bombay and other provinces. The Honourable Premier, while having a talk with a deputation that met him in February, 1941, was pleased to remark that the policy of the Government was to maintain *status quo*. If the Government does not want to promote Punjabi and wants to adhere to its policy of *status quo*, may I ask the Education Department why they took certain steps by which Punjabi and Hindi were discouraged in the schools? The first step that was taken by the department was during 1938. They issued a notification No. 18423, dated 7th September, 1938, to the effect that the examination may be taken through the medium of Urdu, Hindi or Punjabi at the option of the candidate but the medium of examination must invariably be the same as the vernacular taken by the candidate. The result of that notification was that those pupils who took Hindi or Punjabi as first vernacular were obliged to answer all papers in Punjabi or Hindi but it became rather difficult for them as all the subjects were taught through the medium of Urdu and they were anxious to learn Punjabi in order to advance their knowledge in that subject. If they were allowed to have Punjabi or Hindi as medium of instruction from the very beginning, then it would not have been difficult for them to answer all questions in that language. As a result of that circular, the number of students that took Punjabi or Hindi as the first vernacular in 1940-41 fell very low. In answer to my question No. 8040 given on the floor of the House, it was stated that in 1939 the number of candidates with Punjabi as first vernacular was 287. It fell to 96 in 1940 and 80 in 1941. The Government took another step. A Syllabus Revision Committee was appointed by the Government in 1938. That Committee unanimously recommended the teaching of a second vernacular as an alternative subject to the classics. Although some members of the Committee wanted that option should be given to schools to start Punjabi or Hindi at the primary stage, the majority stuck to the old practice of starting second vernacular at the seventh class. But for unknown reasons the Education Department while issuing the detailed syllabus for Primary and Middle Departments in 1941, omitted altogether the provision of a second vernacular as an alternative to the classics for the 7th and 8th classes. Urdu occupies the privileged position of being a court language and State language for revenue records. It must, therefore, be learnt by all for political and economic reasons. If there is no provision for the teaching of a second vernacular, no student would be able to learn Hindi and Punjabi. That would be a great blow to the culture of Hindus and Sikhs. I am glad to say that while I had a talk with the Honourable Minister of Education this morning, he promised to consider my second suggestion in a sympathetic manner and I hope that he will also favourably consider the first suggestion because that circular is standing in the way of encouragement of Punjabi and Hindi.

The second point is whether the Government have done anything to raise the purchasing power of the province. This province is primarily an agricultural province. The total area under crop has not kept pace with the increase in population and I can say that even the total yield has not increased in the same ratio as the population has increased. At one time it

appeared that wheat would become an entirely unprofitable crop to grow. But for the War the prices of wheat and even of cotton would not have been remunerative. Up to the entry of Japan in the War the prices of cotton were favourable to the zamindars. Since the entry of Japan, the price of cotton has again fallen considerably and it will become a difficult proposition for us to dispose of our cotton, particularly *desi* cotton. We in the Punjab have exportable surplus in wheat and cotton and we depend on markets either in India or outside. We are faced with a serious problem of disposing of our cotton during the War and our cotton and wheat after the War. Unless we plan now for post-war problems the situation in the Punjab will become very serious. I would like to refer to the remarks of the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. He said that it was idle to hope that India's traditional export trade would be revived to anything to pre-depression level of 1928-29. "It follows from this that rapid development of Indian industry with a view to creating alternative or additional markets for the traditional exportable surpluses of raw material such as cotton, oil seeds, etc., within the country itself has become more a matter of necessity than a matter of choice." Punjab is a great producer of cotton, wheat and oil-seeds. So we must plan now. Arrangements must be made for disposing of our raw produce by the development of industry and the finding of markets.

I must say a few words about the fruit industry which is closely allied to agriculture. The Department of Agriculture has got a fruit section which is doing excellent work, but fruit gardens cannot come into existence without irrigation facilities. The fruit growers set up a Fruit Development Board which persuaded the Government to accord some facilities. The Government while granting those facilities imposed some conditions. One was that only half per cent of the culturable area on each canal would be allowed for fruit gardens. The second condition was that twice the volume of water allowed for ordinary crops would be allowed for fruit gardens. This is far too insufficient. Fruit-growing is a costly business when it is remembered that owners of gardens have got to pay *abiana* and water rate twice a year on the whole area, from the day the fruit trees are planted even though they may not bear fruits. Besides this *kharaba* is not allowed on fruit gardens. We are living in abnormal times. We must remember that our soldiers are fighting in far flung battle fields. We must be prepared to suffer inconveniences but it is the duty of the Government to see that the people are not put to any unnecessary inconvenience or harassment as a result of this situation. It is the duty of the Government to make every effort to alleviate the sufferings of the people. Food shortage is creating problems of its own. Government must tackle it in a sympathetic manner. There is a great scramble for *atta* every day and complaints in regard to that matter are given a deaf ear. I hope the Government would try to appoint special officers in every town and district to see that the people do not starve. In these critical times the need for communal harmony and goodwill is paramount. (*Hear, hear.*) Although we may continue to differ on certain matters, controversial questions must be set aside for the time being, at least for the duration of the War. Let us all realise the gravity of the present situation and the danger that lies ahead of us. We should stand united to face the coming events boldly and manfully for the common good of our motherland.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh): Sir, I join wholeheartedly in the praise that my esteemed friend Nawab Muzaffar Khan gave to the Leader of the Opposition on account of the high level of tone and spirit that he maintained in criticising the policy of the Government. He is a gentleman and everybody has great regard for him. The tradition that he founded and the example that he set for the members of his party so far as the high level of tone and spirit of his criticism was concerned, is really praiseworthy. But it is a matter of great regret to me that my honourable friend from Ludhiana ignored the example that has been set for the guidance of those who are given to indulging in a language which ill becomes a legislature. I am really sorry to see that he is not present here. He mis-stated facts and tried to censure me where he should have given me the highest praise. He referred to a man who used to be a *badmash* 30 years ago. He had been my client for a long time. I saved him many a time and to my knowledge—and I have much better knowledge about him than my friend from Ludhiana—he has no conviction against him and the very serious charges that he levelled against him does not at all stand against him. Not only is there no conviction against him, but he is a man who is doing a lot for the Government. He is the man who has supplied more than 200 recruits and he stands first in Ludhiana so far as supplying of recruits is concerned. (*Hear, hear.*) Then there is another thing. There were very many absconders in the Ludhiana district and he rendered very great service to the Police department during the last several years. He is responsible for having many of those absconders caught, fired at and even killed. He has got many certificates, many *sunads* and many awards and prizes from that department to his credit. He is doing a lot of useful work and simply because he may have had some sort of suspicious career many years back my friend wants me to shun him. The verdict should go against him who shuns him. He should have given me credit for making a very good citizen out of a man who was going a wrong way. In spite of doing that, my honourable friend tried to indulge as usual, in mud-throwing and saying things which have absolutely no foundation.

I would like at the very outset to say a few words in reply to what my honourable friend Sardar Harnam Singh has said. He says that Sikhs are not getting their share of service. I would submit that he is entirely wrong there. During the last five years the regular proportion is there so far as the Sikh share is concerned and so far as the fixation of it is concerned it is favourable to us and our share is greater than our population even though the ratio has been fixed on the basis of population. Our population is 13 per cent while our share is 20 per cent and for that we are thankful to our Muslim friends because this share to us comes out of their share. Therefore, so far as the fixation of that proportion is concerned we have no reason to grumble. So far as the block system is concerned, my honourable friend has not studied it properly. It is not there to do injury to any community. It is there to adjust the claims of every community in the best of ways, and the working of block system, to my knowledge, is no hardship to our claims. (*An honourable member:* Even in the case of other departements.) I firmly believe that in none of the departments, whether my departments or my colleague's departments, is this proportion lost sight of. This ratio is not ignored in any department. If there is any stray case here and there,

it may be pointed out to us and we are always prepared to remedy the injustice if it exists anywhere. Even as regards the subordinate services the proportion has been fixed. Formerly it was fixed for various Divisions and now it has been fixed for various districts roughly on population basis so that no injury may be done to any community even so far as the district establishments are concerned. It is very easy to launch such a vague sort of attack, but if there were any definite instance of any injustice done to the Sikhs and if my honourable friend had quoted it then I would have thought it proper to meet that definite criticism, but in the absence of any definite instance, it is difficult for me to say more than what I have said that the proportion that has been fixed is being adhered to in the letter and in the spirit.

Then, so far as the Honourable Leader of Opposition is concerned; apart from his tone which was really praiseworthy, he was stingy so far as our due of praise was concerned. I think, by nature he is generous enough, but he had to please his friends like Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan of my own district. He had to pay some regard to the wishes of those who share the views of my honourable friend to whom I referred just now. The Honourable Leader of Opposition said that we had done nothing for the poor peasants. A part of this criticism has been met by my honourable colleague, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram in his own strong and emphatic manner. But a part of it is left to me and that is that so far as adding to the income of agriculturists is concerned, we have done a lot. No other province has done anything like it and no other province comes near us and in the whole of India ours is the province which stands very high so far as the addition to the income of agriculturists is concerned.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will the Honourable Minister please give details ?

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a dialogue to go on. Please address the Chair.

Minister of Development : I would ask my friend to listen to what I say. I hope these facts, in spite of his unwillingness, will percolate into his head. The first is that during 1940-41 there were five million acres under improved varieties of wheat. My honourable friend knows, and if he does not know he should study all these facts, that we have given to the peasants improved varieties of wheat and in the case of these improved varieties the additional yield is very considerable. That additional yield counted per acre and its value counted, the additional income to the entire peasantry of the province on account of improved varieties of wheat comes to 1½ crores. Now this is so far as wheat alone is concerned. In 1941 alone we have given an additional income of 1½ crores to the agriculturists of the province.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Which part of the province ?

Minister : The entire province including my honourable friend's village.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : May I ask one question ? Will the Honourable Minister point out the names of the agriculturists in the Ludhiana district who have been given improved variety of wheat ?

Minister for Development : More than half the area of the Ludhiana district is under improved varieties of wheat. My honourable friend should know that. We are distributing seed of improved varieties by thousands of maunds (*hear, hear*).

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Will the Honourable Minister kindly give the names of the varieties of wheat ?

Minister : I am prepared to give the names of the various varieties of wheat, but I am sorry my honourable friend will not be able to understand them. (*Laughter*.)

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Does the Minister himself understand ?

Minister : During this short period I have studied a lot : I can speak about things which it will take years and years for my friends to understand (*laughter*). Then I come to cotton. Fourteen lakhs of acres were under cotton crop during the last year and the additional yield on account of better varieties of cotton is 6·7 maunds per acre and the additional income that one derives from the long staple American cotton—I hope my friends understands what long staple cotton means—is at least Rs. 4 per maund and the additional value to the cultivator per acre is Rs. 26-12-0. By a process of multiplication—I hope my honourable friend is no exception to the general rule and that he knows very little of mathematics.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Minister : It is a matter of pleasure for both of us. The additional money that the agriculturists gained from long staple cotton by improved varieties given to them by the department comes to about 9½ crores, i.e., a little less than 4 crores. For your benefit I am going—

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : For my benefit or for the benefit of the House ?

Minister : I am a little bit more favourable to you (*laughter*.)

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister should address the Chair.

Minister : I am addressing the honourable member through you. You will excuse me because I have an extra attraction for him. (*Interruption and laughter*.) For the benefit of the House I submit that I will give you something very important which will show you the extent of the benefit conferred on the agriculturists.

Mr. Speaker : Will the Honourable Minister please wind up his speech ? His time is up.

Minister : I hope my friend will be attentive : I am going to give you something worth having. My friend should try to grasp the facts thoroughly and I am sure that in spite of the various drawbacks my friend is subject to, he will try to visualise the full significance of it, and it is this that during the last 36 years we have spent—

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Did you spend ?

Minister : My honourable friend should be patient, reasonable and sensible.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : The Honourable Minister should not lose his head.

Minister for Development : We have spent on the Agricultural Department, three crores and 75 lakhs of rupees in 36 years and during 1940-41 alone we have conferred benefit on the agriculturists of the province to the extent of this entire amount that is, the entire amount spent on this department during the last 36 years has been given back to the agriculturists of the province during the period of one year as additional income from long staple cotton alone. This is how you should judge the benefits that we have conferred on the agriculturists, so far as working of this Department is concerned. In one year so far as cotton crop is concerned, the additional income derived from the new varieties of cotton covers the expenditure incurred by the department during the last 36 years. This should serve as an eye-opener and I hope my honourable friend would not open his lips against us in future.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I ask a question from the Honourable Minister ? It is perfectly all right that better seed has been provided for greater yields. But may I know how far this increase has kept pace with the increase in population ?

Minister : I will answer that question at the end. Next I come to sugarcane. I will not be able to give details. There has been an additional income of Rs. 1½ crores from sugarcane to the agriculturists in the province during the last year. Coming to wells. In one year we have bored 495 wells which have resulted in the increase of yield up to 30 per cent in the area irrigated by the these wells. So far as fruit cultivation is concerned, we have sold 48,300 plants from our nurseries. (*An honourable member :* In what year ?) In the year 1940-41.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I ask the Honourable Minister what is the *per capita* increase in the income of agriculturists ?

Minister : The honourable member may rest assured that I will answer his question before I resume my seat. I come to sericulture. I do not know if my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan is acquainted with this term or not.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the honourable member to avoid personal remarks.

Minister : He enjoys them. (*Laughter.*) So far as Berseem culture is concerned, that is something which may be unknown to my honourable friends. We have distributed 15,844 tins of Berseem culture which is very useful inasmuch as it improves the yield to a very considerable extent. We have sold in one year improved seed of wheat amounting to 205,600 maunds ; improved cotton seed amounting to 88,800 maunds ; improved selected, disease-proof gram seed amounting to 22,700 maunds.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I ask the Minister—

Minister : This subject of Agriculture is foreign to my honourable friend and he need not stand up while I am speaking.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The Honourable Minister should at least listen to my question. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition asked

[L. Deshbandhu Gupta.]

a question as to whether there has been any increase *per capita* in the income of agriculturists. That question still remains unanswered. Does he understand that question?

Minister for Development : I understand these things better than my honourable friend. Then, Sir, we sold in one year improved seed of rice and Berseem amounting to 6,930 and 2,830 maunds, respectively. Over and above these activities of the Agricultural Department, there is something else which has been done and that has done a lot of good to the agriculturists. It directly affects the yield and consequently the income of the agriculturists and that is consolidation of holdings. We have added very considerably to the income of the agriculturists by taking very seriously to consolidation of holdings.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister was given 15 minutes and he has already taken 25 minutes.

Minister : I will take only five minutes more. (*Interruption.*) I hope those who have any love for the agriculturists will hear me with ears wide open. Those who have only lip sympathy may not be prepared to do so.

Mr. Speaker : These side remarks should be avoided.

Minister : Then I come to the subject of anti-erosion and land reclamation. Any of my honourable friends who have any misgivings or doubts may take the trouble even at my expense of going to the Hoshiarpur district and seeing for themselves what useful work has been done there. Sheer wilderness has been changed into veritable gardens. A lot of good work is being done and where a blade of grass would not grow before, now things are being grown which bring thousands and thousands of rupees to the agriculturists. I am sure my honourable friend could not even dream of the benefit that is being conferred on those people. Now what is called babbar grass is grown there and I do not think that my honourable friend knows that this grass can be of any use to the agriculturists. The Jagadhri Paper Mill alone wants thousands and thousands of maunds of this grass for paper manufacture and consequently thousands of rupees go to the agriculturists every year by the sale of this grass.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask the Honourable Minister one piece of information? Is it or is it not a fact that the average income of a peasant in the Punjab is less than two annas per day?

Minister for Development : So far as this question is concerned, I will say only this much. All the facts that I have given to the House show that we are adding considerably to the income of the peasant. So far as the actual figure is concerned, I do not know whether it stands at two annas, three annas or one rupee or two rupees. My submission is that we have added to his income very considerably. If my honourable friend will only look upon the facts which I have placed before the House honestly and sincerely and try to calculate the benefits conferred upon the agriculturists, I hope he will ungrudgingly give the meed of praise to the Government. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, it is only during the discussion of the budget that we can invite the attention of the Government to various matters. The object of this discussion is not merely that the honourable members should criticise the Government but also that the Government should attentively listen to such criticism and give it their fullest consideration. Much has been said about various departments but at this stage I intend to make a few submissions in regard to the multitude of taxes that have been recently levied. Instead of imposing one tax after another, cannot the Government devise ways and means to stop taking recourse to further taxation measures? In the early days of their accession to office they had declared with a blare of trumpets that they would appoint a Resources and Retrenchment Committee. The Committee was constituted and after much labour they even submitted a report some four years back, but up to the present moment their report has not been presented before the House. All the public money that was spent on that committee has proved a dead loss to the province because no effort has so far been made to put the recommendations made by them into practice. If at all, the only recommendations made by them that found favour with the Government were those in which fresh taxation had been proposed. The ones which had strongly urged reduction and retrenchment were conveniently ignored, and instead of making reductions and retrenchments the expenditure has been increased. For defraying these expenses which have unavoidably or dishonestly been increased, there must needs be taxation. It is not only now that I am going to make this suggestion but I have made this submission even previously that the industries in this province should be developed. It is now five years since this Government came into office. During this period how many big factories have been started? What have the Government done to solve the unemployment problem which is the cause of so much misery and trouble to-day? On a previous occasion I had suggested that if a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs is set apart for each of the five divisions every year with the express purpose of starting and developing industries, within 5 years the Government can have crores of rupees for starting large-scale industries which would not only yield income for the Government but will also help to decrease unemployment. Our Department of Industries has so far been able to set up a few handlooms, hosiery factories, etc. You can by all means keep this work up, but salvation lies only with starting large-scale industries and at greater cost. Had that been done five years ago, Punjab would have now been making great strides industrially. The prosperity of the people would have reflected upon the provincial revenues and new taxation would have been unnecessary. This is a matter which requires the special attention of the Honourable Minister of Finance. I believe whenever he has an occasion to preside over the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce he sincerely feels that something ought to be done but when it comes to actually doing something, he reverts to his stereotyped budgeting. A man of his attainments and ability should seriously ponder over this matter and think of ways and means whereby the industries can be encouraged and developed. So far Japan had been dumping our market with her goods but now when she is unable to do so we have the chance to extend and enlarge our industrial activities.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani: We should not follow bad examples.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is it? Do you believe in it? By making only a side remark you cannot get away.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member will please proceed with his speech.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that if he cannot spare any big sum at least he should set apart some funds for the opening of factories in the Punjab. (*Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :* What kind of factories?) I am not here to answer questions of raw and inexperienced people. It has become a habit with some to make such interruptions and remarks. Anyway if Government set apart some funds for this purpose in that case we will consider as to what kind of factories can be opened in different divisions and what articles can be manufactured there. At this stage I do not want to enter into the details as to what kinds of industries should be started. What I want is that Government should set apart a pretty good sum for this purpose. If Government have not spare funds at their disposal, in that case let them take the initiative at least and private persons will also come forward to buy shares of such factories. My next submission is that many small industrial schools have been opened in Lahore and for them also funds are not sufficient. The funds that have been provided for them so far are too little to meet their needs. I would therefore request the Government to see that they are also provided with ample funds. I can say without any fear of contradiction that so far the funds that Government have set apart for the promotion of industries in the province are not much, in fact too poor. Rather I would say they are not even a tenth part of what they should have been.

Much stress has been laid on the fact that a good deal of money is needed for the police. No doubt Government require a good deal of money for the police in order to maintain law and order in the province, but I ask whether the maintenance of law and order means that if Government pass obnoxious measures like the General Sales Tax Act and people gather to protest against them they should declare such public assemblages unlawful. Is this what is called 'maintenance of law and order'? Is it for such purposes that my friends are incurring so much expenditure on the police? It is often urged by the members of the Ministerial party that they have to maintain additional police for coping with the activities of the mischievous elements. Let me tell them that it is not the people who make mischief; on the contrary it is the Government that by enacting such taxation measures want to encourage such mischief in the country. As a result of the enactment of such measures people have to adopt such methods in order to register their protest against them. If my friends do not bring in such mischievous and hard measures, they would not be required to maintain additional police at all. (*Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :* Is it not contempt of the House?) When such stringent measures are passed by this House naturally mischief will be created and therefore I say that these measures are mischievous.

Mr. Speaker : Those Bills which have been passed by this House and which have been enforced, however unfair they may be from the honourable member's point of view, an objection to their propriety is a contempt of the House.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Sir, I bow to your ruling but at the same time I want to make one very respectful submission and that is this : when on account of such measures the expenses of Government increase, am I not entitled to make a reference to them at the time of the consideration of the budget ? In my opinion I am perfectly entitled to do so and that is what I want to place, through you, before the House.

Mr. Speaker : What is the object of the honourable member ?

Mian Abdul Aziz : It is said that in order to maintain law and order in the country Government have to keep additional police as well. My submission is that if Government do not pass such measures which disturb the peace of mind of the people they will not be required to maintain any additional police and this expenditure which they have to incur can very easily be avoided. By criticising this policy of Government I want to impress upon them the advisability of avoiding such measures which necessitate extra expenditure.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's time is up. He may wind up in two minutes.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Well, Sir. I will try to finish my speech in two minutes. My submission is that six years have passed since the Lahore Municipal Committee was superseded. But so far nothing has been done to revive it again. In fact hopes were held out to the people of Lahore that the Lahore Corporation Bill would be introduced in this House, which after four years was enacted only recently. So far we do not know as to what action Government have taken in that connection. The people of Lahore are very much agitated in regard to this matter. I have already made this request to the Honourable Premier and to the Honorable Minister in charge and I request them once again that if they think that some time will be taken before the enforcement of the Corporation Act, they should revive some sort of Municipal Committee even though it may wholly consist of nominated members. Let me point out that under the provisions of the Corporation Act as well as the old Municipal Act they have ample powers to nominate members of the municipal committees. For God's sake revive the Lahore Municipal Committee even though it may consist of nominated members only and save us from the rule of one man who cannot even understand the problems of our city. (*Hear, hear.*) It is a matter of great regret that Government have not thought it fit to end this autocracy of one man.

Before I sit down I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education to the point raised by my friend Nawab Muzaffar Khan in his speech. I hope he would give his careful consideration to this matter and would try to encourage female education amongst Muslims in the province. Hostels for female industrial schools are very necessary.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's time is up.

Minister of Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hyat Tiwana) : Sir, I am glad that this year the discussion on the budget has been on a high level (*hear, hear.*) I think credit for this is due to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who put this case with great moderation. He is a practical politician and a practica

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businessman. Therefore we can follow his views which are of a realistic nature. But I did not follow the force of his arguments when he criticised the expenditure on police. It is an insurance that the citizen has to pay for peace and tranquillity. There is nothing more precious which a State or a Government can give to the citizen than peace and tranquillity. In fact a Government is judged by the sense of security that it brings about in the end. Therefore any expenditure on police should not be grudged by law-abiding citizens. It was this tendency which prevailed with certain classes of politicians when they criticised the expenditure by democracies on armaments that is responsible for their unpreparedness in the present war and for which they are facing great difficulties to day. Though we are not in charge of defence and are only responsible for law and order, we should not do anything for which we may later on be accused that we did not spend enough on forces kept for maintaining law and order and preserving the peace and tranquillity in this province. Therefore we must make adequate provision for such essential services.

The honourable the Leader of the Opposition next went on to say that we were starving the nation-building departments or the beneficent departments. I think that if there is one great feature of this year's budget, it is that it serves a dual purpose and how this miracle has been performed by the wizard on my left, I cannot say; it is a nation-building as well as a nation-saving budget. By nation-building I mean that the beneficent departments have not been starved and by nation-saving I mean that adequate expenditure has been provided for the police, the A. R. P. and other kindred measures. A crore of rupees is being spent on A. R. P. and police.

These are disturbed times and great calls are being made on the police, not only with regard to law and order but in regard to guarding of strategic points and bridges. There are also permanent factors which necessitate an increase in the police force. The most important of these is the increase in population leading to an increase in crime. As is well known various colonies have sprung up in places in the province which were jungles and on account of that also we have had to add to the police. The old methods of investigation are being discouraged and we are insisting on more scientific and more legal methods of investigation. This also entails more expenditure on police. With regard to crime though we have not been able to keep it down to the extent we wanted still there is a well marked decrease—a welcome factor. I cannot say how far this is due to the extra care of the police and to what extent it is affected by recruiting, because many hot heads have gone abroad. All the same there is a welcome decrease in crime. Then illicit possession of arms is also a great factor which disturbs the peace and tranquillity of the province. Special staff has been put on duty and a lot of illicit arms have been recovered as the honourable members know. The counterfeiting of coins which was once prevalent to a great degree and was giving much trouble to the ordinary citizen is also being effectively checked by extra staff. These are the reasons, why I maintain my honourable friends opposite should not have criticised the increase in police expenditure.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition next criticised the behaviour of the police force. He said they were not behaving properly as they should.

as guardians of law and order. There I am prepared to say that perhaps we have not achieved the ideal but if my honourable friend means that there has been no improvement, I differ from him. There has been a great improvement recently. Old troubles take long to cure. Further, a country gets the sort of service it deserves. We have not brought in anybody from any foreign land. These policemen are our own brethren and they can improve as the standards of society improve. Anyhow every effort is being made to improve their behaviour. The honourable member quoted particular instances and he specially referred to an unnamed officer who behaved in an objectionable way. No such case has been brought to the notice of the Government. A member present here (Mr. Guest) gave certain facts. I am, however, not in a position to say one way or the other. But if the name of the officer and the details are brought to the notice of the Government, I will be only too glad to look into the matter. Another allegation was made that some people were beaten and left naked in the Bargodha district. Allegations to this effect were made and I have instituted enquiries. I have not so far learnt anything officially. The information I have received from other sources is that the mal-treatment was not meted out by the police. It is to the effect that some of these people who had been left at a certain place by the police were maltreated by wandering Mussalis on their return.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What is alleged is that the police took these people and left them in a jungle and they were beaten to the knowledge of the police.

Minister of Public Works : I am glad that my honourable friend has corrected himself. He says that they were only left by the police at a certain place. The mal-treatment may have been by some wandering Mussalis. He alleges that this was within the knowledge of the police. I can say that no such thing could have been done by any responsible policeman and certainly no officer can be a party to a conspiracy of this sort.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The allegation is that those persons were arrested and taken to a jungle where goondas have already been kept by the police. These people were left at the mercy of these goondas who subjected them to all sorts of molestation.

Minister : No responsible police officer will do anything of that sort.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Hold an enquiry.

Minister : Yes. We are instituting enquiries. I cannot speak about facts until official version is received.

Then the honourable member asked as to what was being done about A. R. P. arrangements. After I had dealt with specific criticism about the departments, I will make a brief statement about what is being done as regards the A. R. P. For the present I will deal with a few observations made by the honourable member from Ludhiana against the police administration of that district. Without going into the details, I would merely like to say what the state of relations is between the district police administration there and the honourable member. A number of cases are pending in law courts against the honourable member and I will refrain from saying anything on the merits of those cases.

Mr. Speaker : Are these cases pending ?

Minister of Public Works : Some of these are decided and others are pending. I am only giving information.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : No case is decided. All cases are pending.

Minister : The honourable member has been challaned under section 420, I. P. C., by the Ludhiana police and a charge has been framed against him in the court.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not refer to the charges.

Minister : I am not saying anything one way or the other on merits. He is also standing his trial for having trespassed into the canal inspection road.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : True. Please yourself.

Minister : This is the state of affairs there. I will now reply just briefly to the remarks which he has made. He said there was a lot of corruption in Ludhiana district and no action had been taken. I have got a list of six cases in which orders of dismissal or suspension were passed against corrupt officials whose conduct was brought to the notice of the Government. The names have been given in reply to a question asked by the honourable member himself. So I refrain from giving the names again. Then he said that there was lawlessness rampant in the district. I would only say that there has been an all-round decrease in crime in the Ludhiana district this year as compared with last year. Murders have gone down from 58 to 50 ; burglaries from 418 to 367 and all reported crimes from 1,644 to 1,585. The honourable member mentioned that the police was late in arriving in a certain case. I have got a file here which shows that the police was as prompt as they could be in the circumstances.

Then he said that the Honourable Minister for Development had been guilty of having arms licence issued to a badmash on register 10. As I had pointed out the other day, bad characters can be reformed and can become very useful citizens. And if a particular bad character has been reformed and has become a useful citizen, why should a license be refused to him ? The honourable member further said that the Superintendent of Police was corrupt and that 11 Assistant Sub-Inspectors were also corrupt. I cannot give a reply to such a vague statement. I can only endorse the reply given by the Honourable Minister of Development that the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, has done very creditable work. He was granted the Indian Police Medal for capturing and bringing to book notorious dacoits. The state of affairs in the district is very satisfactory, but the honourable member has very good reasons for complaining against police. He has developed a special technique for criticising the police. Whenever the police do not listen to him, he has got plenty of allegations against them, otherwise they are all very good people.

Then he said that the officers of Government do not hear him. He sends representations, but they are not cared for. I can assure my honourable friend that representations sent even by ordinary persons, let to say of the honourable members of this House, receive our best attention and consideration.

Now, Sir, I would refer to a criticism made by my honourable friend, Chaudhri Ram Sarup. He said that there was a paucity of Hindu agriculturists in the police. No doubt in Ambala range there is a paucity of Hindu agriculturists among Assistant Sub-Inspectors. Steps are being taken to set this right.

Sodhi Harnam Singh referred to civic guards. I may inform him that at present we have got sufficient numbers.

Before I sit down I shall say a few words about the A. R. P. There is a provision for this in the present budget. My fear is that before long, if the situation does not improve, we will have to increase it. In these days of war there is considerable anxiety amongst all classes of citizens about matters pertaining to civil defence and a number of questions on the subject have been asked, but there is great difficulty in answering these questions as one cannot give details as to the work accomplished, equipment provided, what has been done and what is yet to be done, without giving away information which will be of use to the enemy. Consequently, I can only give a general idea as to how matters stand. The House can be assured that all aspects of A. R. P. are receiving the attention of Government and that organisation is being developed in the light of experience elsewhere. Government hope that if any place in the Punjab becomes liable to attack, the population in congested areas will disperse and Government intend to provide shelters in the form of trenches for those who must remain. The experience of Rangoon shows that a good place of shelter is an inside room of one's house away from doors and windows. The usual A. R. P. organisation is being built up and the House may wish to know some thing about the organisation. The basis is the sector comprising about 500 souls for which a number of wardens is provided. Several of these sectors constitute a post which is expected to be the local reporting centre for about 2,000 to 3,000 inhabitants. These posts are under a post warden with several assistants. In the large towns the posts are formed into groups under a head warden and if there are more than a certain number of groups they are organised into a division. The system is that if any sector suffers from attack, the sector warden and police or some other person carries immediate information to the post and the post immediately reports by the quickest available method to the control centre. The control centre orders help of the necessary kind to be despatched from conveniently situated depôts. The only departure from this system is that the warden can summon the fire service direct, but of course he must inform the control centre that he has done so. In congested areas with poor communication it would take longer for help to arrive from depôts and so the posts themselves are self-contained units or small depôts capable of rendering immediate assistance.

The Auxiliary Fire Service is being recruited and trained and it is hoped that there will be a fire brigade in every town liable to attack. A fire brigade cannot function effectively without an adequate supply of water and so arrangements are in hand for improving water supplies and for storing water. It has already been explained in answer to questions in the House that it is not in the public interest to indicate in what towns

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arrangements are being made nor to indicate the scale of equipment supplied. The House may rest assured that these matters are receiving attention.

All the other services required to deal with the situations following a raid are being organized, the Casualty Service together with the expansion of existing hospitals and the earmarking of emergency hospitals, the rescue, demolition and salvage services as well as arrangements to look after the homeless. As has been stated, these services are being organised and developed on the basis of organisations that have proved efficient elsewhere and in the light of the experience of those organisations. The resources of all departments of Government are being mobilised and adapted to deal with this problem.

Whatever organisation Government may create and however much money Government may spend on the organisation it will avail nothing if the people do not co-operate. A. R. P. work chiefly consists of the organization of the people to defend themselves, their families and their property and if the public do not join the A. R. P. service, no amount of organisation or expenditure will produce any results. Deputy Commissioners as A. R. P. Controllers and their A. R. P. Officers want volunteers for all the services and the public are free to choose whatever service they wish to serve in Wardens, personnel for First Aid Posts and First Aid mobile parties, for rescue and demolition squads, Communications Service which covers the Messenger Service, work in control centres and reporting rooms, service in depôts and elsewhere. Experience has shown that there cannot be too many helpers in an emergency, but if a helper is to be of any use, he must be trained or he is only in the way. Members of the House are, therefore, requested to urge their constituents in the various towns to join the A. R. P. services and help to defend those towns against the enemy.

When A. R. P. measures were first begun, the War seemed very far from India and it was thought that the financial implications would not be very heavy. The Government of India, therefore, shouldered the burden. As the burden grew and as the Provincial Governments clearly were also responsible, it was arranged with the Central Government to pool A. R. P. expenditure on approved schemes. The most recent suggestion is that A. R. P. expenditure should be on a slab system, the first slab of which would be paid entirely by the Provincial Government and the second slab would be paid equally by the Provincial and Central Governments. In the third slab the Provincial Government would have to pay only about 33 per cent. This latter proposal is under consideration. I have given the outline of the scheme, but as I have said no such scheme can be a success unless the public co-operate. We might have our political differences. We might differ on other matters but in civil defence there should be unanimity between all sections of this land of five rivers. I would appeal to all including my friends opposite to join this organisation.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I ask a question ? May I know if the Government have taken any steps to provide arms to the able-bodied adults of the province who could be useful in times of emergency ? Have any steps been taken in that direction ?

Minister of Public Works : If the honourable member means defence against external aggression, that is a central subject but if he refers to the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the province, honourable members know, Civic Guard has been constituted and every citizen can join that Civic Guard. A portion of that Civic Guard will be armed later on, if necessity arises. But to arm the people at random will not be safe. They must be under proper control and discipline to be effective in an emergency.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : My question was simple, that is, whether members of Civic Guard have been provided with arms or not.

Minister : No.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Even members of Civic Guards are not provided with rifles!

Minister : Certain sections of Civic Guards are already armed. Others will be armed when it is deemed feasible but all are not armed at present nor is it necessary at this stage.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is it a fact that arms licences are being cancelled every day ?

Minister : Yes. Cancelled in case of undesirables only.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : It is a set policy. They are refusing to renew licences.

Minister : I have one more word to say before I wind up. A remark was made about the Lahore Municipality being deprived of its rights. We are as anxious as the honourable members there to bring about an elected body which should be responsible to the citizens of Lahore. The Corporation Bill has been amended recently and I hope it will receive the Governor-General's assent at an early date. As soon as circumstances permit, the desire of the Government is to hand over the municipal administration of the city to the people unless there are any further technical difficulties or the war situation makes postponement inevitable. But the policy of the Government is to hand over the administration as soon as possible. With these words I would wind up my remarks.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : Has it come to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Public Works that cases of dacoity are registered under sections 457-458 of the Indian Penal Code ?

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) : I desire at the outset to join in the appreciative reference made by the Honourable Finance Minister to the services of the outgoing Financial Secretary Mr. H. D. Bhanot. I have had occasions of coming into direct touch with Mr. Bhanot in the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and the one impression that I obtained throughout was that Mr. Bhanot was really a master of his Department (*Cheers*) and that his knowledge of the affairs of the Finance Department and its technique was really unrivalled. I trust that his successor will maintain the high standards left by Mr. Bhanot and judging from his Memorandum, which I have read with minute attention and care, I have not the least hesitation in saying that we have in Mr. Chandra an officer of outstanding ability and great promise. Sir, last year when I

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was dealing with the budget, I drew the attention of the House, on the 11th of March 1941, to certain facts and figures which I had taken from the budget speeches of the Honourable Finance Minister. My object on that occasion was to draw the attention of the House to the very impressive and outstanding fact, emerging from these figures which was that the framework of the financial system which the Honourable Finance Minister has inherited from his distinguished predecessors was so very sound that without even the necessity of having to impose fresh burdens, he succeeded in reaping fabulous surpluses. I propose to lay those figures again before the House not with that object but with the object of showing that the Honourable Finance Minister is suffering from that old habit of some Finance Ministers, namely, of unduly under-estimating revenue so that when the year comes to a close, he presents a fabulous surplus to the House and people begin to wonder. Some have gone even so far as to describe him in their ignorance or perhaps in a spirit of abject adulation as a wizard of finance. I must say, as I study these figures, that I fail to see how or where that wizardness comes in. On the contrary I find that year in and year out there has been a deliberate underestimating of the revenue receipts which cannot be justified by any canons of financial rectitude. I will first of all draw the attention of the House to the year 1937-38—the very first budget of the present Finance Minister. He announced at the time of presentation of that budget a surplus in ordinary revenue account of two lakhs and yet what do we find? After the accounts had been closed, we find that he actually succeeded in harvesting a surplus of one crore and six lakhs as against the original two lakhs in ordinary revenue account and about nineteen lakhs in capital account, altogether a surplus of 22 lakhs. Out of the total surplus of 1 crore and six lakhs, he put 55 lakhs into the pocket of the Special Development Fund, and announced a net surplus of 51 lakhs. If you study the figures, you will find that it is not that all this surplus has fallen suddenly from Heaven and dropped into his hand as some gift from above. It is not that the surplus is the result of the application of the retrenchment axe to the various heads of expenditure. Nothing of the kind. The only explanation of this is that the revenue receipts are disproportionately under-estimated. I have before me the Finance Accounts prepared by the Accountant-General, Punjab, in regard to this year 1937-38 and at page 9 of this Report it is stated that there was really an increase of 74 lakhs in revenue receipts over and above the budget. This means that 74 lakhs were really under-estimated. It is really this under-estimating which gave him the bulk of his surplus. I will now deal with the next year 1938-39. He announced a surplus of five lakhs and closed actually with a deficit of 25 lakhs. The House will remember that that was the year when famine began to afflict the south-eastern districts of the Punjab. But on the floor of the House in the course of his speech he himself explained away that deficit as really a paper deficit of 25 lakhs and said that actually he would have realised a surplus of 35 lakhs. He said he could not realise that surplus of 35 lakhs because he had to spend 19 lakhs more on famine and another 16 lakhs on expenditure of a wholly non-recurring and exceptional nature, so that if you take into account these 35 lakhs and add to it the 25 lakhs deficit which he thought he could wipe away, we have a surplus of 60 lakhs

according to the statement of the Finance Minister himself. Compare this surplus of 60 lakhs with the original anticipated surplus of five lakhs ; you will see that there is a great and wide disparity between the budget estimates, the revised figures and the actuals. I will not stay long on this year. I pass on to the year 1939-40. He announced a deficit of 29 lakhs. What do we find ? He actually realises something like one crore and fifty lakhs. Fancy a deficit of 29 lakhs in that year when there was unprecedented famine, yielding him, according to his own figures, a surplus really of one crore and 30 lakhs made up as follows. He actually announced a surplus of 16 lakhs, add to that 13 lakhs which he put in the pocket of the Special Development Fund. That becomes 29 lakhs. He says, 'I had to spend 60 lakhs more on famine.' This would raise the figure of surplus to 89 lakhs as he himself calculated in his budget speech. Add to that 37 lakhs which had to be spent on absolutely unanticipated expenditure. That would make up a crore and 21 lakhs and if you add to this his budget deficit of 29 lakhs which he succeeded in wiping off, it really becomes one crore and 50 lakhs.

I now come to the next year, 1940-41. I have studied the accounts of this year as completed by the Accountant-General. I will give the figure as given in his report. In regard to this year we find that as mentioned in the Finance Accounts of 1940-41, according to the budget, there was anticipated a surplus of 21 lakhs but the Honourable Finance Minister actually, according to the accounts, succeeded in reaping a surplus of one crore and 51 lakhs. Surely an anticipated surplus of 21 lakhs going up to one crore and 51 lakhs requires some explanation. What is the explanation ? The explanation is given by the Accountant-General, but not by the Honourable Finance Minister in the course of any of those speeches that he has been making on the floor of the House. The Accountant-General at page 11 of this report says :—

The revenue surplus amounted to 1 crore 51 lakhs against 21,32 lakhs anticipated in the budget. As explained below this increase of 1 crore 29 lakhs was the cumulative result of a net increase of 97,31 lakhs in the ordinary revenue account.....

It follows that this sum of 97 lakhs was under-estimated. I do not mean to say that there must be an exact tallying between the budget figures and the actual figures or the revised figures. Nobody can possibly suggest that. A budget is after all an estimate and a rough estimate at the best, dependent, always on the vagaries of the weather. There can be no such thing as complete tallying or agreement of figures. With regard to the accuracy of my figures the Honourable Finance Minister never questioned them. I challenged him to deny the accuracy of my figures and to give his explanation of the wide disparities I had brought to notice ; but it fell to the lot of the all-knowing Premier to give an explanation, and what is the explanation that he has given ? I would read out the explanation to the House in order to show how utterly irrelevant and silly is that explanation which the Honourable Premier at the spur of the moment took into his head to offer. This is what he said on the 11th March, 1941 (page 392 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume XVI) :—

"How can one anticipate, in the absence of final accounts, whether the estimated figures of the previous year would tally with actuals ?

[**M. Barkat Ali.**]

I never suggested anything of the kind. Obviously the Premier hopelessly misunderstood me. My objection was that there was a wide and unusual disparity between budget figures, the revised figures and the actual figures and that the Honourable Minister was under an obligation to give an explanation to the House as to why there was this great disparity. Again, I had quoted from the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister delivered on the occasion of the presentation of the budget of 1941-42. This House is aware that every budget speech gives a summary of three years, that is, the year that has come to a close, the year that is running and the year that is coming. Look up the budget speeches from 1937 up to date and you will find a retrospect on the part of the Honourable Finance Minister of three years, viz., of the year that has come to a close, of the year that is running and his budget of the year that is coming and yet what did the Honourable Premier say? He said:—

"He (referring to me) was reading from the Finance Minister's speech but that portion of the Finance Minister's speech dealt with the figures of the coming year, i.e., 1941-42, while my honourable friend quoted those pertaining to the years 1938-39, 1939-40 and 1940-41....."

The Premier seems to be under the impression that a budget speech relating to any particular year, say 1941-42 cannot possibly contain figures relating to the two preceding years, 1940-41 and 1939-40. He does not know even this elementary thing. He is very intelligent otherwise, but I do not know what mood he was in—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is making personal remarks against the Honourable Premier.

Malik Barkat Ali : I am trying to examine his explanation.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member has said that the explanation of the Honourable Premier was silly. The word silly is objectionable and should be withdrawn.

Malik Barkat Ali : I gladly accede to your wishes. All I want to say is that his statement under reply cannot stand even a moment's examination.

Now, Sir, I will pass on to the year 1941-42. For 1941-42 the accounts have not yet been gone into, so we do not know the actuals for this year. But according to the budget estimates there was a surplus of 4 lakhs and according to the revised figures there is a surplus of one crore and 59 lakhs. The House can from this form an idea of the under-estimating to which the Honourable Finance Minister resorts on the occasion of the budget. These figures tell their own tale.

I will now come to another matter connected with the budget and that is this. It appears to me, and I wish to draw the attention of the House to it, that the Government is really pursuing a nook and corner policy of trickery when presenting their budgets and there is a total absence of planning in their methods. I will give an instance of this habit on their part of keeping the House completely in the dark as to the details of their expenditure. We know that in the year 1939 when the war broke out, the Honourable Finance Minister came out with a supplementary demand of 75 thousands, and what did he say when he asked the House to sanction

this supplementary demand? He simply said that this sum was required for war propaganda. There was absolutely no indication whatsoever given to the House of the details of that expenditure. This House will remember that after that supplementary grant had been sanctioned, all kinds of rumours set afloat and one of the rumours was that a good deal of this sum of rupees 75 thousand was being paid to certain newspapers. As soon as this rumour reached the ears of the honourable members, questions were put in this House. The first honourable member to take up this question was my honourable friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, who on 21st November, 1940, put a question asking the Honourable Premier to state the names of those newspapers and the amounts that were being paid to each one of those newspapers, out of the sum of 75 thousand that had been sanctioned by this House for war propaganda. What was the answer? My honourable friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, with his habits formed in the atmosphere of Indian States Diplomacy, got up and said that presumably the honourable member wanted to know if Government was giving subsidies to newspapers. The answer was that Government was not giving any subsidies at all. That was certainly not the point of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma's question. This question gave rise to a number of supplementaries on the day following in which a number of honourable members, particularly my friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, took part. But notwithstanding this volley of supplementaries the House could get no information. Apparently these supplementaries on the 22nd November, 1940, proved uncomfortable and we find that on the 25th November, 1940, the Honourable Premier of his own motion made a rather lengthy statement on the floor of the House relating to the Press, but even in the course of that statement he mentioned neither the names of the newspapers nor the amounts paid to them. All he said was that an excellent bargain and an excellent deal had been made by the Government. On the 2nd of December, 1940, Lala Deshbandhu again reverted to the attack but failed to elicit any information from the Premier. On the 3rd December, 1940, I too made an attempt but could not get anything out of the Premier. In the course of the sittings of the Public Accounts Committee we learnt that a sum of 33,000 and odd had been paid out of the 75,000 to these papers, the *Hindu*, the *Inqilab*, the *Shahbaz*, the *Ishat* and the *Zamindar*. It was pointed out by me in the course of the minute of dissent which I had attached to the report of the Public Accounts Committee but which later on the Premier got expunged from the proceedings of the House, that this was really an attempt to corrupt the press of the province. I will read out what I had said :—

"The monies are public monies and not private monies to be distributed as charity among friends. As the late Maulana Muhammad Ali once said in regard to expenditure of public monies for private ends, it is pre-eminently a case of '*hawaai ki dukan aur nana ji ka fatiha*.' The money thus distributed does not achieve its professed purposes, as nobody reads the stuff so distributed. The object is really to corrupt the public press of the province, and I must say that this object is being steadily achieved. This system has been for the first time introduced in this province by the present popular Government and probably on the advice of the present Director of Public Information who is taking the fullest advantage of the control he thus exercises over that part of the Press of the province which has fallen a victim to this practice ;

This was about the year 1939-40. As regards the year 1940-41 we put repeatedly a number of questions to find out the extent of this payment. I myself put a question.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's time is up : he is repeating what has already been said.

Malik Barkat Ali : We find in 1941-42 a sum of Rs. 60,000 set apart for the purchase of the weekly war editions of these papers. In the year under discussion for 1942-43 a sum of Rs. 80,000 has been put in the budget for the purpose of paying these papers. One of these papers has come out of the trap. I cannot say who is going to be entrapped in its place. Out of 5 one has gone out and is now a very strong critic of the policy of the Government. All I say is that this Government should not spend out of public monies for corrupting the Press of the province.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's time is up.

Minister of Education (Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) : Sir, I have very little time at my disposal and I assure you that I shall be very brief in what I have to say because I realise your difficulty. Throughout the life of this House this is the first occasion when, on account of circumstances over which we had no control, we have been allowed only one day for general discussion. It can well be said '*waqt tang ast wa muqarraran bisiar*'. At the outset I must join my colleagues who sit on my right and on my left and some other honourable members, in paying my humble tribute to my friend the honourable Lala Bhim Sen Sachar for the manner in which he has acquitted himself today as the Leader of the Opposition. He spoke with restraint, moderation and with a high sense of responsibility. He did not import any heat into the discussion and I wish that the noble example set by him is emulated by other members sitting on the backbenches. I regret I cannot congratulate my honourable friend from Ludhiana. (*Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan* : Thank you.) He as usual spoke with lack of sense of responsibility and he did not verify the facts before he stood up on his legs. So far as I am concerned he had very little to say. The position he took up today was : here is this Government which calls itself the zamindara government and is never tired of proclaiming from the house tops that it exists for the benefit of the poor zamindars and yet it continues to open hospitals and dispensaries not in the outlying places of the countryside for the benefit of the poor zamindars but in big towns. If my honourable friend had taken the trouble to study the budget, he would have found that ever since this Government came into power all dispensaries that have been opened have been opened in the villages and for the benefit of the zamindars (*hear, hear*). I am indebted to my honourable friend Nawab Muzaffar Khan for drawing my attention to one very important fact. He said that Government must provide more money for encouraging institutions belonging to backward classes and communities. I am at one with him. He tried to pillory the Government for not helping a particular institution, the girls' college that has recently been opened by that Anjuman to which he has the honour to belong. This Anjuman has been doing very useful work in the domain of education since the last more than 50 years. While criticising me he quoted a verse from Saadi and said

Harkas az daste ghair nala kunad

Saadi az daste kheshtan faryad

I would remind him of another Persian saying—

عجب در حمله بغلی غریب در دلو

While drawing my attention to this particular institution he forgot all we had done in the past. He said more money should be given for those who are educationally backward, especially for women's education. I can say without fear of contradiction that of the amount that we have spent during the last five years by way of new expenditure, more than 80 per cent (so far as Education Department is concerned) has gone for the benefit of women's education. May I remind my honourable friend sitting opposite that not long ago, I think it was a little over four years back, that we made a very handsome donation of Rs. 25,000 to the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : A distant State gave us Rs. 30,000 and I am sure we have better claims on you.

Minister of Education : I do not contend what the honourable member has said. It is only fair to mention, when the Government is being criticised, what the Government have done in the past.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : A drop in the ocean.

Minister : It may be a drop in the ocean, but that sum was given in a lump sum to the Anjuman as an impetus to start that new institution for girls. May I remind my honourable friend that a sum of ten thousand rupees was given to another excellent institution, Madrisa-i-Binat, Julundur? It was an unusual grant. According to the rules then existing relating to the grants-in-aid, that grant could not be given. But the Government thought that rules were made to enable the Government to serve the people and where the Government saw that they would be in a position to serve better by relaxing and ignoring the rules, they did not hesitate to do so.

A couple of years ago another difficulty arose. The Anjuman had a middle school for girls which was in receipt of a grant-in-aid. The Anjuman decided to make it a high school. It was apprehended that the then existing grant-in-aid which was meant for middle school was liable to be discontinued. The Government relaxed more than one rule in allowing that grant to continue. The Government went a step further and gave some money by way of a special grant to the new high school.

So far as the institution to which reference has been made by Nawab Muzaffar Khan is concerned, I dare say that money is very badly needed and I am here to give an assurance that if circumstances allow and finances improve, every possible effort will be made to give this institution every help.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : You have given Rs. 55,000 to the Ghora Gali institution.

An Honourable Member : That is Ghora Gali! (Laughter).

Minister : I do not deal with such cases. There are, however, some statutory obligations which the Government have to fulfil.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : I do not mind that. You may give anything to any community, but give us something.

Minister of Education : My honourable friend criticised the Government for not giving any grant for building purposes. But he very conveniently forgot that we are giving his institution at least 5,000 rupees as annual grant and I would again remind him of :

عرب مع جملة باغی مدرس نور بط

Anyway, I am grateful to him for having brought this matter before the House. I will not be giving out any secret if I tell him that we had practically decided to grant the request of the Anjuman; we had the money in hand, but it was snatched away by Hitler in the west and Nippon in the east.

I now come to the speech of my honourable friend, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh. He has again raised the question of Hindi and Gurmukhi. He mentioned three specific points. So far as the first point, namely, the position of Hindi and Gurmukhi as media of instruction is concerned, I may remind him that the position was made abundantly clear by the Honourable Premier last year in the various statements that were issued and I have nothing to add. He next referred to the notification of September 1938 which relates to the medium of examination. All that the notification says is that once a student has declared his first vernacular (it may be Urdu, Hindi or Gurmukhi), he is to answer questions in the middle school final examination in that language. (*Lala Bhim Sen Sachar* : Has he to make that declaration in the 5th class ?) When that declaration is made I am not aware, but once that is made the department requires him to answer his papers in that language. From a purely educational point of view, it is a sound principle that a student should be required to answer question papers in his own first vernacular.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : May I point out that it is only at the 7th class that a student has got to take up a second vernacular. If he has been learning all his subjects say in Urdu up to the 7th class, it is only after that that he is required to take up Punjabi or Hindi as his second vernacular or vice versa. The notification lays down that once he declares Punjabi or Hindi as his first vernacular, he must answer all his papers in the examination in that language. That makes all the difference.

Minister : So far as the first vernacular is concerned, the proper occasion to declare it should be earlier and not in the 7th class. But it should not be open to a student who started his instruction in one particular vernacular and read up to the 7th class to turn round suddenly and declare that that was not his first vernacular.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I hope the Honourable Minister will make himself clear on that point, because it is only at the seventh standard that a student has got to take up Urdu and Punjabi in two ways, either as the first vernacular or as second vernacular. Before that he has got to learn all his subjects in one language which is the medium of instruction. His medium of instruction is fixed from the very beginning. The difference starts only from the seventh standard.

Minister : Such complaints have been received even from outside the House. So far as this notification is concerned we have got a mass of papers lying in the Director, Public Instruction's office. I

have on two or three previous occasions discussed this matter. I am prepared to discuss again. I am open to conviction. If after further examination I find that this notification should be cancelled or withdrawn I shall be only too glad to do so.

The third point refers to the detailed syllabus that has been recently issued. I need not dilate on that point. I have discussed this matter with my honourable friend outside the House and I think that unwittingly some mistake has been committed. But that mistake as it stands does not affect Gurmukhi or Hindi alone. It equally affects Urdu also. I have asked the Education Secretary to look into this matter and I am prepared to discuss it with my friend or any other gentleman who cares to discuss it with me; and if I find that a mistake has been made I shall not hesitate to rectify it.

Mr. Dev Raj Sethi (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the Honourable Minister for Finance has been much praised for presenting to this House this year's budget. I have been listening to all the speeches that have been made today in praise of him, but I have failed to understand how he deserves all the praises that have been showered upon him. I will refer to a few basic principles of economics relating to this subject and call upon the Honourable Minister for Finance to explain how certain aspects of his budget are justified in their light. The question whether the Honourable Minister has been successful in preparing this budget will depend on the questions which I will raise now. The first question relates to the burden of population on land. In 1937 when the present Government assumed power the *per capita* average acreage of land was 5.8. But according to the report on the subject submitted in 1940 this average has fallen to 5.4. In 1931 these figures stood at 6.4. These figures show a gradual decrease since 1931. The Honourable Minister of Revenue had stated that *per capita* the average of cultivated land was on the increase but these figures show the reverse. This year's report shows that there has been a decrease of 37,000 acres in the total area under cultivation. These figures which I have quoted from the report amply prove that the burden of population on land has considerably increased, and nothing has been done to increase the acreage of the cultivated land. It was a reasonable expectation that for the irrigated lands these figures should have been between 12 and 13 *per capita* and for unirrigated lands between 24 and 25 *per capita*. The Government ought to have undertaken a programme of converting the present uneconomic holdings into economic ones. But they did little in this direction. On the one hand, the burden of population on land is gradually on the increase and on the other the pace of industrialization is very, very slow. This state of affairs is very sad.

Next, I would like to submit a few words with regard to the *desi* cotton. The production of *desi* cotton is almost equal to that of long staple cotton. But the price of *desi* cotton has considerably decreased. This is bound to hit the poor agriculturists very hard. I do not know what the Government have done in this behalf.

Next, I come to the question of scarcity of wheat and wheat flour. People are put to lot of trouble to secure this necessity. They cannot even get flour worth two annas at a time. This trouble is specially acute

[Mr. Dev Raj Sethi.]

in Lahore. Previously there was a local mill and it supplied to the people of Lahore flour but for the last two days it has been closed. The district magistrate has ordered that 40 per cent of oat flour should be mixed with wheat flour and the mixture should be sold to the people, but unfortunately no proper arrangement has been made to supply even this mixed flour. Sometimes back a meeting of the Price Control Committee was held at Delhi. Our Ministers also attended it and pressed upon them the necessity of fixing the price of wheat at Rs. 5 per maund without making arrangements for storing stocks of wheat. There are six mills reserved for grinding thousands of bags of wheat for the use of the military while in the city of Lahore itself people are crying for wheat flour. Even in Amritsar there is dearth of wheat flour. But thousands of bags of wheat are daily sent to the army. One cannot describe the misery of the people. People are crying for atta and cannot get it. If they get atta, it is adulterated, that is, mixed with not only maize and barley but also with dust and sawdust. It was expected that the Government would attend to this. But the Honourable Finance Minister has not even hinted at this uncomfortable position. Honourable members of this House have showered praise on him while he has done nothing to alleviate the sufferings of the people. They say that he is an expert economist. But what has he done to foresee or control the economic upheaval that is threatening the people of the Punjab in general and Lahore in particular? Nothing at all. Yet he is considered to be the greatest economist of his time. Lahore itself is starving under the very nose of this great expert of economics and all the available wheat is being exported from Lahore, Amritsar and Multan Cantonment as if all is well here and the situation is quite normal. In 1940 the production of wheat in this province was 37,600,000 bags, while in 1941 it was 33,000,000. This clearly shows that there is decrease of 4,600,000 bags of wheat this year as compared with the last year. In addition to this the demand of war supplies has been growing and yet no arrangements have been made by the Government to control the situation. All that the Government has done is to commandeer stocks of wheat wherever found. Another thing done by the Government is to fix the price of wheat at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund and later to raise it to Rs. 5-5-0. There being no stocks of wheat, the price control has become meaningless. The Government ought to have maintained stocks of wheat with it. But nothing of the sort has been done. The result is that people cannot obtain atta at any price. The District Magistrate of Lahore has allowed to mix 40 per cent of barley flour with 60 per cent of wheat flour. This has given a free licence to the sellers of atta to mix any amount of dust in the flour because there is no instrument to find out the exact proportion of different kinds of flour. Hence the people are free to sell anything in the name of wheat and barley mixture. The poor people are being hit hard by this. The Government should come to the rescue of the poor people who are standing face to face with imminent ruin.

Adverting to the lip-sympathy of the Government for the depressed classes, I may mention that nothing solid has so far been done by the Government. Only a few wells for drinking water have been dug for the depressed classes. That is not enough. Their long standing demand about

the grant of house sites to them has not yet been met. Further, they have not been declared agriculturists in spite of the fact that they depend mainly on agriculture. They are landless agriculturists. But the Government does not recognize them as agriculturists. There are about 23 lakhs of such landless tenants in the Punjab.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Mr. P. H. Guest (Punjab Commerce and Industry): Before I speak on the budget itself, I ought to make a little explanation with regard to my interruption earlier in the day. I am confident that the incident which the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition referred to is the incident which I saw. It occurred on the Mall just where the Canal crosses the Mall. I was seated there in my car waiting to take a friend down to work about half past nine in the morning. I saw a young man coming up from Lahore towards the Cantonment swaying across the road very like a young boy of ten. I thought that was dangerous. As I was thinking so a small car went by me, the occupant of which was a European in civilian clothing, and as he just went by perhaps no further than where the Honourable member's sit from me he probably said something to the boy to stop zigzagging across the road. I saw the boy deliberately spit on the person in the car. I felt angry not because the person was a European but because—

An Honourable Member: What is the name of that European?

Mr. Guest: I cannot say.

An Honourable Member: How do you know whether the incident is the same?

Mr. Guest: I leave it to the Leader of the Opposition to find out. All I know is that I got angry thinking that a person should behave like that, and I called the policeman on duty there and when I saw that he had stopped the boy or the young man, I noticed the other car was turning round to come back. I then went on to my own business, but I did see that young man definitely spitting at the individual whoever he might be in the other car.

I wish now to speak in regard to the budget proposals. Had we been living in times of peace, I would have been the first to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Finance on having produced a very orthodox and proper budget. But even had I congratulated the Honourable Minister, I would have found fault with the various proposals made by the Government. Today, however, we are not in times of peace. We are at war. It is a world war: it is a total war, and my one preoccupation has nothing to do with the petty matters of this province, but it is the one preoccupation of getting on with the war, and it is from that stand point that I will make my criticism of the budget proposals.

In the Honourable Finance Minister's admirable speech he makes these comments. He explains that the provincial Government has nothing to do with actual defence, "but", he goes on, "it could not fail vitally to influence the whole economic life of the country, and it has deeply affected our finances". He further goes on to state that "in assuring

[Mr. Guest.] security and in making provision for air raid precautions, heavy expenditure has had to be met." When the Honourable Finance Minister made those remarks I thought that perhaps we were getting somewhere. But I am afraid that we did not get very far by the end of his speech. The result was that I had to do some investigation of my own and I found everything set out for me very clearly—and we have to thank the Honourable Finance Minister and his finance staff for this in this memorandum. It is set out very clearly—what was alleged to be the additional expenditure in consequence of war. I do not propose to go into a lot of figures, but I can put it fairly briefly. We will first study this "utmost effort" which the Finance Minister says is being made to keep down for es of disturbance and disorder, that is to use his own words. That is the additional expenditure on police. Now, my thesis is that the police force is understaffed and underpaid and it had been so for many years. Probably some of the honourable members recollect that in 1925 a committee called the Lumsden Committee was set up to investigate the strength and the pay of the police and on that committee the Honourable the Premier was a member. I believe that the proposals put forward, or the recommendations put forward, by that committee were generally accepted but financial stringency has been the excuse from that date until practically today for not implementing those proposals, and the position now is that the Government is now showing that much of the expenditure or the additional expenditure is in consequence of the war. Now we remember that from the standpoint of the police, that is our security services, there are three groups which we have to consider. One is referred to as the Duplication of the 1st Armed Reserve. The permanent police plus the duplicated Armed Reserve probably comes up to that strength which was recommended by that committee of which the Honourable Premier was a member in 1925, sixteen years ago, and it is only an incidental fact that this year they have attained a strength which was considered necessary in 1925 and I cannot say that this has anything to do with the war. The expenditure cannot be considered as having been incurred in consequence of the war. The second group required for the purpose of civil defence is the Provincial Additional Police. There of course I do agree that it is dependent and consequent on the war. But the additional police is a temporary phase and it is under-paid. Many people leave the force when they are trained and I would like the Government to realise that they must strengthen the police, and we cannot go on with all these beneficent departments at present, or these nation-building departments as I believe they are called. This is not the time for nation building but the time for nation saving.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I would like to follow the honourable the Leader of the Opposition and import no heat into the discussion, but that should not deter me from offering the severest possible criticism against the regime of the present Government for the last five years. I am thankful to Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das—as I was out of the show to-day—for giving me his allotted ten minutes to offer my remarks.

One thing which struck me most and which I wanted to point out if I ever got an opportunity, was the wrong budgeting. Undoubtedly the

Honourable the Finance Minister is a master of finance and economics and has done his best during the last five years to steer the finance clear and in an able way under the circumstances surrounding him. But he has been rather conservative and very old-fashioned in so far that he has not been able to change the method of budgeting. I do not agree with him that our budget, as pointed out by him in his able financial speech, is a deficit budget. I am going to prove my statement from facts and figures placed before me in this big book. From these very facts and figures I shall prove that it is a surplus budget and not a deficit budget. He says on page 6 of his budget speech that we are faced with a deficit of 10 lakhs, probably because they want to follow the old antiquated policy of taxation, they want to levy further taxes. But if you see the budget it will reveal that it is really a surplus budget. I hope the Honourable Finance Minister will lend me his ears and turn over to pages 4 and 5 of the budget. You will find that the total revenue stated there is Rs. 14,49,18,000. Then if you refer to the previous page you will find that an amount of Rs. 1,66,08,000 is deducted on account of working expenses. That should have been added to the revenues of the province. Again there is an amount of Rs. 26,48,000 which is deducted under the Receipts from Electricity scheme. The receipts come to Rs. 40,19,000 and after deducting this amount they show a net receipt of only Rs. 18,71,000. That is quite wrong. These amounts should have gone to the expenditure side and not shown as deduct entire on the receipt side. So, if you add all these items the total receipts will come to Rs. 16,41,59,000. On the expenditure side the amount shown is Rs. 18,68,50,000. Under this head what they have done is, they have shown a minus amount of Rs. 46,95,000 against interest on debt and other obligations and a plus amount of Rs. 28,38,000 against appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt and shown a net minus balance of Rs. 18,62,000. Now the rule is clear. Two negatives make one positive. Minus entry on the expenditure side means a positive entry on the receipt side. So really the amount of Rs. 46,95,000 should have been shown on the receipt side. Therefore, adding the previous figures that I have given, you will find that our total income that is, the total amount that the province pays into the exchequer comes to Rs. 16,88,69,000. If you collect the expenditure side it will come to Rs. 15,76,48,000. Therefore, according to my estimate there should be a surplus of Rs. 75,78,000 and with this surplus they should have given the necessary remission that is long over due to the poor zamindars. (*Ironical hear, hear.*) I am sorry that nothing has been done in this respect.

Now, I want to say on behalf of my honourable friend, Lala Gopal Das, a few words with regard to the Sales Tax Act. From this tax, the total receipts for this year and the next year, as anticipated in the budget, are only 8 lakhs and the expenditure on the Urban Property Tax Act and the Sales Tax Act is over Rs. 8,27,000. Even if you divide the expenditure half and half, the expenditure on Sales Tax Act will come to about 4 lakhs. The balance that you will get from the Sales Tax Act will be only 3 to 4 lakhs. Why all this trouble and agitation for this small sum of money? For this paltry sum do not spoil the fair name of the province. The war efforts have been seriously impeded and there has been a lot of trouble and lathi charges and many other things against the interest of the province for this small sum of 3 or 4 lakhs.

[Nian Mohd. Nurullah.]

Another point that my honourable friend, Lala Gopal Das, wanted me to press was about industries. If you will refer to page 477 of the budget, you will find that you get revenue of 24 lakhs from industries, and the total expenditure is about 26 lakhs. The money actually provided for the development of industries is practically nothing and that is the worst of it. I think our greatest need at the present moment is the development of industries in this province. In the development of industries lies our salvation and the Government has done nothing yet to industrialise this province. I protest most vehemently against this paltry sum that has been provided in the budget for industries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member's time is over.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, before I sit down, I will just say a word. What has been the net result of the 5 years regime of this Government? I will take only one minute to say that the net result of the 5 years' regime of this Government, has been a policy to refuse reduction in land revenue, to refuse reduction in abiana, hardly any retrenchments, to follow the policy of favouritism and nepotism, a policy of further taxation, a policy of interfering in the affairs of others, a policy of repression and lathi charges, a policy detrimental to the communal harmony and the future progress of this province. Sir, this has been the net result of the five years' regime of this bureaucratic and imperialistic Government. It is time that they changed it.

Premier The Honourable (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir. Sikander Hyat Khan) : Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to speak in the usual strain or to touch on all the various points raised by my honourable friends on this side of the House and by the honourable members on the opposite side of the House. But I must congratulate my honourable friend opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, on his very steady and very balanced speech, his first speech as the Leader of his party on the budget. I think that his initiative was responsible for steadying other members also during the course of the discussion and I think the House certainly should congratulate my honourable friend for the lead which he has given to his own members, and I might say, to the members on this side of the House also, and I hope that example will be followed later on during the course of the discussion which we will have on other subjects in the next few weeks. On several points more or less stereotyped criticisms of a hackneyed type again have been levelled against Government from the opposite benches; I do not propose to enter into controversial topics, because I think that, in these abnormal times, controversy does not pay and brings no relief. I propose, therefore, to confine my speech to some salient features, not of a controversial nature, which will be of interest to the province as a whole. Therefore, I hope that they will forgive me if they do not find that vehemence and kick in my speech which should be there in replying to the speeches in the general discussion of the budget. My honourable friend, the Minister for Finance, always makes a very well balanced speech, and his oration stood head and shoulders above all others from both sides of the House. As I said, it is not the time for controversial things. It is time for us to put our heads together to see how best we can improve the present situation which is causing a great deal of anxiety to every sane person. Not only

the Government, but every citizen ought to feel that we are passing through abnormal times, and during these abnormal times, all the various subjects also require abnormal treatment and an abnormal attitude. In the first place one of my honourable friends said that there has been a large increase in police expenditure. In reply to that criticism I might only point out that those who are now blaming the authorities concerned for not making India war-minded and for not preparing our people here for protecting their own country, should not have criticised this expenditure. What happened in other countries? They were caught napping. What happened in England might happen in our country. But there again I would remind my honourable friend that before the War broke out, it used to be one of the usual practices during the budget debate in the Central Assembly to criticise the Defence Budget and ask why a country like India was spending crores and crores on Defence and demand that this expenditure must be reduced, with the result that the budget came down from 60 crores to 42 crores. At that time naturally nobody could foresee that we would have to face a situation like the present, and the criticism may have been justified purely from the academic or economic point of view because ours is a poor country. But we find ourselves to-day in the position that if this additional 18 crores had been spent for three or four years, India to-day would have been prepared to face any aggressor from outside. But there it is. We missed the opportunity just because those who criticised the budget expenditure never visualised the situation that would arise.

With regard to Police also my honourable friends, if they give the matter calm consideration, will not only stop criticising us, but I am sure that they will congratulate the Government because we foresaw all these conditions; and during the last three years, since the outbreak of War, we have been gradually increasing and strengthening our security services in order to be able to meet any contingency which it is within our power to meet having regard to our resources; and it is for that reason that I have gradually been increasing our security services so that the people should have confidence and if, God forbid, anything untoward should happen, we are prepared for it, and will see that no mischief maker anywhere in any part of the province is able to raise his head in order to disturb the peace and tranquillity of the province. (*Hear, hear*). It is for that reason that the police budget has gone up. It will certainly go down after the War, and I will be the first person to say that it should be reduced to normal requirements, but it will never be reduced to the pre-war requirements for the simple reason which my colleague detailed to you that there are other factors which have to be kept into consideration in regard to the security services, one of them being increase in population and another better service to the public. I am not going to enter into details with regard to the present behaviour of the Police, but I am told by both friends and opponents that there has been a considerable improvement throughout. (*Hear, hear*). There may be black sheep—there are black sheep in every society and in every service—but on the whole I have been assured, as I said, both by our supporters and our opponents, that there has been considerable improvement in the demeanour of the police as also with regard to their efficiency. If you look at the crime figures, you will find that during the last three years they have been going down and if you see the figures of this year—and I

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saw them only a week ago—they show that there has been a further gradual decline. (*Hear, hear*). That in itself is a very satisfactory indication of the way in which the police are doing their duty and also a satisfactory indication that this additional police has had the desire of at least checking, if not altogether reducing, crime. Therefore, I would request my honourable friends to look at it from the point of view that we are passing through abnormal times. Whatever little precaution that we have been able to take costs money, but it will be money well spent if that 41 lakhs can keep the province peaceful and tranquil during this critical period. It is (*Inter-ruption*) as my honourable friend says, insurance. Some of the members opposite asked what Government has done during this period to give relief to the poor zamindars and what direct relief it has given. So far as indirect relief is concerned, I am sure my honourable friends will agree with me that we have done more than any other part of India during these five years. (*Hear, hear*). Our legislation, which has been criticised by a section of our co-citizens here has also been criticised, I am sorry to say, by the Congress which in practically all cases supported the same kind of legislation in other provinces. But we are satisfied that what we have done is more than anybody has even attempted in other provinces. (*Hear, hear*). That is the indirect side. Now this question can be asked of me, "What have you done directly?" Here again, you will all probably remember that the Finance Minister in his budget speech last year mentioned the figure of direct relief which had been given to the zamindars during the period of four years. We have now finished five years but during those four years direct relief in the shape of remission in land revenue and abiana alone amounted to 7 crores of rupees. (*Hear, hear*). It is not a mean achievement. It is a thing unheard of before in this province or anywhere else. I challenge anybody to find a parallel in any other province in India for four years. If you include the fifth year also you will find that that 7 crores is now very nearly 7½ crores or say 8 crores of relief to the zamindars in five years. What does that mean?—that we have given at least 98 or more per cent direct relief in land revenue and abiana to the zamindars of this province. (*Loud applause*). Therefore, if my honourable friends here and the honourable members opposite would just study the speech and see the figures in the present budget, they would come to the conclusion that we have done more in five years than any other Government could have been expected to do in ten years. Eight crores is not a small sum. It is a very big sum considering that our total revenue is not more than 13 crores. Therefore, I am afraid that that charge is not only unjustified, but it shows the ignorance of members of the opposition or else malice because where credit is due it must be honestly given. In this I can assure you that, so far as I myself and my colleagues are concerned, we keep before us on every occasion the interests of the smaller man whether he is from the urban poor classes or from the zamindara classes. (*Hear, hear*). That has been our objective throughout and I think that our five years' budget, if it is put down before an unbiased judge and an expert, will reveal that one thing which these budgets clearly indicate is that our policy throughout has been to uplift the smaller man, to bring him out of debt and bring him on the level of more respectable people and raise his self-respect, comfort and amenities.

to a level which he never dreamt of five years ago. (*Hear, hear*). That is what we have attempted and what I think we have to some extent achieved. With regard to other relief, you are aware that we have during the current year put 90 lakhs in the Special Welfare Fund. I have already indicated in this House that we have not worked out the details, but the object of that Fund is to give relief and assistance to the smaller man, the man who pays five rupees, ten rupees, fifteen rupees, twenty rupees or more land revenue. We will give indirect help to them because, as I have pointed out on more than one occasion, if you give them direct relief of five rupees or so, it means only three pies a month per head in a family. That is not going to help them in the matter of clothing, facilities for education, better food or better standards of living. That is not going to do it. But we will have to devise a scheme whereby this money will not be thrown away or frittered away, but is so utilized that they get the maximum possible benefit from it and, in time to come, if we can devise a scheme of that nature, it will I think be possible, to give direct relief to the smaller man out of the income of this Fund. That is the ambition which I first voiced in 1926 but unfortunately I had no control over the affairs of the then Government. If my advice had then been accepted, with the sixty lakhs of contribution which was remitted by the Government of India, you would have had a fund which would have been able to provide relief by direct release of taxation of the smaller man up to say ten rupees land revenue. But we need not cry over spilt milk. That time is gone. We have now done this, and it is in pursuance of the undertaking which we enunciated when we took office. Then I gave an undertaking that we will, before we finish our term of office, do something to give relief to the smaller zamindar and we have in a small and humble way perhaps done our best to redeem that pledge, and this thirty lakhs of rupees is a token of redemption of that pledge which this Government gave when it took office. (*Loud applause*). Next year, or during the current financial year if we find at the close of the War that money is available, we will further augment that fund and eventually our aim is that we should have a figure of 55 or 60 lakhs every year for this purpose so that in ten years you may have a fund not only to help them indirectly and raise their standard and purchasing power, but also help them directly from the income of that Fund.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar: May I have permission to say just one word? I am afraid I was not clear or I could not make myself clear. I never disputed that this remission has been given; I never disputed that money has been spent on beneficent activities. The Government has to do it and has been doing it. But my point was that the income of agriculturists *per capita* has not gone up. The only complaint was that we have not succeeded in putting more money into the pockets of ordinary peasants and raising their standard.

Premier: As a matter of fact I was going to meet that criticism levelled by another honourable member. It is very important and I quite agree with my honourable friend that their standard should be raised. But I think there again, so far as the income of agriculturists is concerned, I cannot agree with my honourable friend's criticism for the simple reason that if you look up the statistics, you will probably find that we are growing more crops per acre than was the case 10 years ago.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Population is going up.

Premier : Yes, I entirely agree with my honourable friend. If the population had not gone up, the standard would have already gone up. But in spite of rapid increase in population we are trying to raise the standard and it is a matter of congratulation that we have not allowed the standard to go down. As a matter of fact we are trying to raise the standard in spite of the fact that we have expended at the rate of 15 per cent during the decade and we are still keeping our head above water, and that is because we have been able to increase the yield per acre and also we have been able to provide better seed, better irrigation facilities and also co-operative societies to help us. But it does not satisfy me. We are far from satisfied. I want to see that every peasant here is as well clothed and well fed as my honourable friend opposite. That is my ambition. But the question is how we are going to do it.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : That is exactly what I want to know; otherwise there is no difference amongst us.

Premier : That is a problem which has baffled all the experts in the world. I am not an economist, I am a layman, so I would not dabble in that matter because I might adopt a wrong course. My honourable colleague is an economist of repute and he will throw some light on it. The whole world at the moment is in a chaotic condition because of that difficulty which he has pointed out. It is nothing else except that difficulty and experts have failed to solve it. They have tried to control the price of wheat; wheat conferences were held, linking of world sterling, fixation of gold standard and everything has been tried but they are still in an experimental stage. Who knows that after the war we may be able to find some device which will solve this difficulty and I still hope that we will. At the moment what we have done is all that we can possibly do. There was no lack of will on our part. We have done our best with the opportunities and in spite of limitations, and I claim that we have done more than any other province in this country has done or even attempted to do.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Could you not reduce the expenses?

Premier : So far as the administration is concerned, my honourable friend must agree that in order to reduce the expenses you have to reduce the salaries. The percentage is given in the total budget. It is quite a formidable percentage. There again, you are in a vicious circle. You have touched the economic question which is very difficult to discuss in an Assembly like this. There again if you reduce the number of posts you increase unemployment straightaway. It is a vicious circle.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Reduce the salaries.

Premier : Perfectly correct. But we can reduce the salaries only when we are free agents. But at the moment what do we find? We see that our people are paid less and a Britisher gets more. Standard must be raised according to one's means. Unfortunately some of us have now come to this high standard. We must cut our coat according to the cloth. Vested interests must come forward and help us. We have adopted a standard beyond our own requirements and that standard has to be reduced so far as the salaries are concerned and that will be reduced when we are masters in our own homes.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I am sorry to interrupt my honourable friend. Could he not do something voluntarily ?

Premier : I have every sympathy with my honourable friend. But he again merely talks in theory. I cannot possibly reduce the salaries of smaller people. As a matter of fact I should like to increase their salaries and see that their standard of living goes up. If he looks up the budget he will find that if the higher salaries are reduced, then the reduction will be a drop in the ocean and will not be of any help. I do not mean to say that we should not do it. But his object as well as mine will not be achieved thereby. We must increase our resources first, and secondly, we must level our standard according to our requirements. Once we do it we shall be able to solve the problem or at least mitigate the present disparity between the lowest and highest salaries. In any other country the disparity between the smaller and the bigger man is not so great as in this country. It is more or less on account of subordination to somebody else. I think we need not go into this abstruse system. I leave it to my honourable colleague to deal with it, and probably my honourable friend will find time to discuss the matter with him and that he will have a little leisure to do so.

My honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hassan, drew my attention to the problem of unemployment. I was surprised that there should be unemployment at the present moment. I believe that there is no unemployment amongst certain class of people. It is quite possible that in his city there is unemployment. It is quite possible that it may be so in other cities also. But so far as rural areas are concerned there is no unemployment now, because my honourable friend perhaps does not know that in several very large tracts and in several districts of the province 80 per cent of the villages have got no eligible able-bodied men left in them. They have joined the army. But in the cities there is unemployment. But why do they not join the army now ? There is opportunity for everybody. There are doors wide open for everybody who wants some kind of occupation. He can get a very honourable occupation. He can join the army and defend his own home, earn an honourable living and also do an honourable act in trying to defend his own country. (*Hear, hear*). It is possible that there are some who from the purely physical point of view or for some other reason are not fit for combatant service. For them there are other services. There is the A. R. P. and Pioneer Corps. They want hundreds and thousands to help the demolition squads. Why do they not join them ? If they sit with folded hands in their homes, they cannot get rid of unemployment. It is impossible. At the moment there is that opportunity, an opportunity which perhaps they may not find again. Why do they not join up ? There are technical services. There again people are wanted in large numbers. People there are getting their training and earning good salaries and doing work for their country. When they come back after the war, they will be of great help to their own country. Why should they not come forward ?

I should be grateful if my honourable friends would encourage young men and middle aged men, who are fit, to join the combatant services. Those who are not fit may join the Pioneer Battalions, the Technical Corps and the A. R. P. Services. There is no dearth of work or employment, and if there is the will, people

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can find jobs. As I have said, joining the Army is not only honest living but honourable living because it would be in the interest of their country.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : May I put a question in order to be enlightened on a point? In the Unemployment Committee report we have the size of an average family and on this reckoning it will appear that at least one-third of the agriculturist unemployed have been enlisted. Do I take it that one-third have been employed?

Premier : My honourable friend is again looking at this question in a superficial way. The average family consists of five members, that is, the father, mother and three children. Out of the five the father is employed, the mother does all she can to help in agriculture and the children when they grow join their father, and when they are married they form a separate family. At the moment, so far as rural areas are concerned my honourable friend can take it that there is no question of unemployment. We find it difficult to get able bodied men because none are left. Taking the case of the people in urban areas, whose mentality is different, they have, for some reasons, not taken up this job. They have been crying themselves hoarse about the distinction between the martial and non-martial classes. There is no such distinction during the war. Let them come forward and join the army and prove their worth. They make claims in peace time but during the war they sit at home with doors shut. If they claim to have a share in the army in peace time, I will be the first to protest because now is the time for them to prove their worth. The door is wide open. If you want to make the army a career, then this is the opportunity to do so. I will give you an instance. It was with the greatest difficulty that I persuaded the Government of India to agree to raise urban battalions so that we may be able to give an opportunity to the people in urban areas to join the army to serve in their own areas. It was merely to create an interest for them in the army. I was told that there had been a great deal of feeling with regard to the urban classes not being given an opportunity for training. It was to be a sort of auxiliary force. It was after a great deal of difficulty that I persuaded the Government of India and it was decided that there should be one company from Multan, one from Rawalpindi, one from Amritsar and one from Lahore, that is, four companies were to constitute the urban battalion. I asked the Deputy Commissioners to give wide publicity and to ask young men to come forward to join. After all it was only a part time job, getting training during certain hours, and then serving as volunteers within their own areas. Will you be surprised to know that during ten months after a great deal of canvassing and a great deal of trouble and worry 184 applications were received. Out of these 184, 182 were for commissioned ranks and two only for other ranks. That is not the way to create military mindedness among the people. Look at the Home Guards in England. There boys of big aristocratic families and people holding highest jobs serve as privates. That is the spirit in which living nations work.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar ud-Din : In free countries.

Premier : You cannot achieve freedom merely by shouting slogans. No country has achieved freedom by shouting slogans. You can only

get freedom if you are capable of maintaining it. If my honourable friend thinks that by begging they will get freedom he is living in a fools' paradise. You will be able to get freedom only if you are prepared to risk your life like other free countries when they are in danger.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : Not by joining the rulers.

Premier : If somebody else comes to rule over you—

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : We will not join him : we will oppose him in the same way.

Premier : In the same way by non-violence and by presenting an address. That is not my conception of freedom. My conception is that we should get control of our own affairs and we should be able to defend ourselves and not rely on those who will leave us in the lurch. My conception is that every able-bodied man should come forward and defend his country.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : To suppress his people along with the foreign invader.

Premier : My honourable friend keeps talking of the foreign invader ! My honourable friends have been waiting for a declaration of freedom : they believe that they will get freedom merely if Mr. Churchill declares that India is free. They will not be able to get freedom unless my honourable friends like myself come forward and join the army. (*Hear, hear.*) Another question was raised by one of my honourable friends opposite. He said that Russia had joined the war and that both Russia and Britain are allies, and asked why some of the people who were *pro-Russian* were still in jail. I can assure you that they are not in jail because they are *pro-Russian*. They are in jail for other reasons. My honourable friend said that they have changed their views and are prepared to help in the prosecution of war. These people are communists only in theory, because every intellectual person must have some intellectual hobby. These young men had the intellectual hobby of communism. I call it a hobby because when it comes to actual practice it is entirely a different matter and you can sift the chaff from the grain. I tried to do so. I said to some of my socialist friends "Russia has come into the war, my friends, come along, why are you now holding back ?" They said if we join the British army we would be helping the imperialist power. That was a very cogent argument from their point of view, but it did not appeal to me. If you want to help a friend there are many ways of doing it and this point of theirs was only a matter of argument. It was perfectly correct from their stand-point and I quite appreciate it, but I cannot be convinced. I think they are considerably embarrassed as up to this time they have been opposing imperialist power, and if they wanted to help Russia, they could not do so through this channel. But what about going direct to Russia and helping them ? That too was not possible, they thought. And Russia does not stand in need of man power ; they are better and physically more fit. But even so, if those gentlemen are prepared to offer themselves for service, I for one would be only too glad and will do my best to see that they are exported from here direct to Russia. I have received no application so far. A suggestion was made for sending

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an ambulance car to Russia and as far as I am concerned, I am prepared to send hundreds of ambulance cars.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din : They took this promise of yours at the same worth as the previous ones.

Premier : Yes, these people, this handful of gentlemen took my promise at the value that they themselves placed, but my honourable friend forgets about those half million brave men who have taken my word and who will get you freedom and will maintain that freedom when your men tried to wriggle out. As I said I will not enter into any controversies as this is not the time for controversies, but these are some facts which my honourable friends made me reveal. So far as I am concerned, I will be grateful if my honourable friends will give wide publicity to the fact that there are now several kinds of openings for those who want to work. They can join the combatant ranks, the non-combatant ranks, the Pioneer Corps, the A. R. P. organisations and so on, and I think there should be no possibility of any able-bodied person remaining unemployed. Of course if he does not want to do any work and prefers to sit idle at home, it is beyond my power and beyond anybody's power to help him.

I should like to say something about the *Ata* situation. I may point out to my honourable friends in this House and to the public outside that the situation is serious. Our stocks at the moment, visible stocks according to our survey of wheat, are indeed very low. These visible stocks, which we have requisitioned, according to our computation, will not last for more than a week or perhaps two weeks. But these stocks are visible stocks and there are other stocks about which we have no information. I want to point out that the situation is serious, and how best we can meet it is the issue before us. The first step that the Government is going to take is to see that all stocks, visible or otherwise, come out, and then to distribute them in such a way that the poor man gets his share of *ata* first. This is a sound policy and I am sure that all sides of the House would agree with me that this is the right thing to do. I hope that this will carry us through for five or six weeks, as after that the new harvest will come. It may be even earlier, as the United Province wheat will be ready. During this period of five weeks we have to make the best of the stocks that are available to us. The other thing that we should do is to persuade people to eat other grains as far as possible. Even people like my friends the President of the Congress and the Leader of the Opposition should try maize; they will find it very palatable. Similarly we should try to persuade other people also, as it is no use trying to hide it from them that they cannot have all the good things they had during peace time. It is the duty of everybody to do his bit to ease the situation. If you cannot eat other grains alone, you can mix them with wheat.

There is one thing more. We should try to persuade those middle class and rich people, who may have more wheat than they require, to release it. For instance, if a family requires say 5 maunds of wheat, they might have stored 10 or 15 maunds. It is human nature. It is the duty of every one of us to see that surplus stocks are released and it would be a public spirited action on their part. I am sure that by taking these steps, the difficulty will be overcome. I may also point out to those people who have

extra stocks that they will be keeping those stocks at grave personal risk. At the same time, I will ask the Deputy Commissioners to enlist the sympathies of non-official advisory committees in this connection, irrespective of political or other considerations, to do propaganda work. These non-official advisory committees will advise the Deputy Commissioners as well as the people, and unearth any hidden stocks. The Deputy Commissioners will offer rewards to those people who give information about any hidden stocks. I am sure that patriotic and public-spirited people and zamindars who might have any surplus wheat will come forward. They will get the full value for it. They should hand over those stocks to the Deputy Commissioners and not to the traders so that poor people may be able to get some food. Those people who do not release their stocks voluntarily cannot expect to get the same price as those who voluntarily release them.

These, Sir, are the steps that we can take and if any honourable member suggests any other method, I will consider his suggestion and adopt it to mitigate the situation. I am sure my appeal will not be in vain and it will spread throughout the province, and public-spirited citizens will help to allay the troubles and miseries of the poor.

I have kept the House already for half an hour and more, and I therefore do not want to take up any more time except to say in conclusion one word about my colleagues and myself. As the House is aware we have completed our five years' normal tenure. In the ordinary course we would at the present time have been re-elected or rejected by the electorate. Normally, we should have gone to the electorate last autumn and sought their suffrage; but on account of the war and abnormal and critical conditions, it has been decided not to put the country into all the expense and turmoil of a general election, and therefore it has been decided to prolong the life of the present Assembly, of you all as well as of your Ministers on these benches. We feel that five years' normal tenure has been wisely fixed. Why? Because after all every machine, including the human machine, after working for a certain period gets into a certain rhythm or groove. To put it in plainer words, the machinery becomes stale after a certain time. Therefore you want a jolt to rouse you from your slumber or drowsiness, or you require to be replaced by fresh people with fresh energy and fresh ideas. I for one would have been happy if we had been allowed to go to the electorate last autumn and seek the suffrage of our fellow citizens, because that would have put us on our mettle, but on account of the war we have not been given that opportunity of testing the views of the people with regard to the present Government. All that I can say now therefore is that we may have made mistakes. Every human being is liable to err. We do not claim that we are not capable of mistakes. But I can assure the House of one thing and that is, that if we have made mistakes they were not deliberately made. We gave careful consideration to every problem as best as we could and as I have already said our main objective is to see that the level of those people who are lower down should be brought up nearer to those who are higher up, in order to give the people lower down a feeling that they have a right to all the good things of the world just as anybody else. It is the main objective of every government which considers itself to be the servant of the people, that it should do everything possible to secure the happiness of the poorer classes in order to bring them more or less on a level.

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with the more affluent classes. That has been the ideal which our Government has kept in view. How far we have achieved that ideal I do not make any claim at present. Our work is there and if our friends to-day do not appreciate it we will leave it to the historian of the future, and to future generations to judge whether our work has been of any use to the province or whether the claims which we have made as servants of the people, as friends of the poor are justified or not. It is not for me to make that claim, but I can assure you that after this period of five years I have got a feeling that I can go up before my God with a clear conscience that so far as we are concerned we have honestly tried our best to do our duty by the people of the province. (Cheers).

Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Minister for Finance on having presented a remarkable budget to the House. But I am constrained to remark that at the time of allotment of money to the various districts and departments, step-motherly treatment is invariably meted out to my district, namely, Mianwali and talsil Bhakkar, my constituency which is extremely poor. I may point out that this is an extremely backward and far-flung district. It deserves the greatest consideration at the hands of the Government. I will not be exaggerating facts when I say that this long distance has always stood in the way of the Honourable Ministers paying a visit to this unfortunate district. You will be surprised to hear, that the Honourable Premier has been endeavouring for the last five years to find an opportunity to tour Mianwali with a view to seeing things in their true perspective. But so far he has not been able to grace that district with his presence. I, therefore, submit that if the Honourable Premier himself cannot afford time to go there, the Government should at least pay attention to the grievances of my district which I ventilate on the floor of the House, and take steps to redress them.

Next I must express my gratitude to the Government for having sanctioned a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs for the execution of Thal Project. But I feel that this amount is inadequate for this purpose. I would request the Honourable Minister in charge to raise it to at least one crore by transferring funds from other unimportant heads, so that instead of 10 miles the work of the scheme may be executed up to 20 miles. This action on the part of the Government would go a long way to encourage the zamindars of the ilaqa and raise high hopes in their minds with regard to the prospects of the Thal Project.

Then, Sir, I have to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that all the sufedposhes and fauji pensioners have been deprived last year of the land which was granted to them by Government on temporary cultivation basis. As a result of this action of the Government, they have been put to great hardship. It has created grave discontent and much indignation in the whole of the district. I may point out that during the last great war these persons rendered and have been continuously rendering meritorious services for the administration and even in the prosecution of the present war they have never hesitated in helping Government with

money, men and material. The relatives of some of them are even now fighting in different theatres of war. So their contention is that it is as a reward for their services that they have been deprived of the lands given them for temporary cultivation. This leads them to think that the Government does not even consider them as tenants, although they pay the fixed rate of *malka*. I would like to make this point clear that by giving expression to the difficulties of these military pensioners and *safedposhes*, I have no intention to convey that the lands should not be granted to the poor people. I am rather of the view that the poor zamindars must be given lands. (*Hear, hear*). In fact they have prior claims to these grants of lands. But my submission is that in that district there is a huge area of Government *rakhs* which can easily be distributed amongst them. I hope my appeal would not fall on deaf ears and the Honourable Premier and the Minister of Revenue would see their way to accede to my request and make grants to all these deserving people. I made this submission last year also that as a result of inundation in the river Indus the houses and huts of people living in village Musiwali, tahsil Mianwali, submerged in water and collapsed. The people of village Kalur Kot, tahsil Bhakkar, met the same fate this year. Consequently those people were rendered homeless. Many of them are so poor that neither they possess even one marla of land nor can they purchase land to build their houses. As the Government land is just near by those villages I submit that a part of it may be granted to those homeless people. (*Interruptions*). Those poor people have no money to build their houses. It would, therefore, be very unwise on the part of the Government to provide money for gardening and such other work and not help those who have been rendered homeless.

The next submission that I want to make is in connection with scarcity of water in the district of Mianwali near the Salt Range. Particularly the people living in village Chhidru are in great trouble on account of scarcity of water. It is a great pleasure that at least the Education Minister, though by mistake, paid a visit to the Mianwali district after five years of this Assembly. I placed the same complaint of the people of the said village before him. He told me that he would consider it sympathetically. As far as my information goes the money exists for the construction of a well in village Chhidru but its maintenance will have to be borne by the people of that village, which is absolutely impossible. These people are so poor that they are quite unable to afford it. For instance, I would bring it to the notice of the Government that the Deputy Commissioner of my district, who is very keen to remove their troubles, obtained the average of 5 years land revenue of that village, the yearly average of which is Rs. 28,000 only while the cost of maintenance of the well is Rs. 3,000 per annum. Besides the District Board is also so poor that no help can be expected from it. In the circumstances, I fervently hope that the Government would kindly render necessary help to the poor people of that village who are in great trouble.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member's time is up.

Khan Bahadur Captain Muzaffar Khan : Sir, I am very sorry that there are many other grievances in my district but as the time is up, I cannot do so but I am confident that the Government will very kindly give due attention to what I have already said.

Khan Shaib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan (Hissar North Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Unfortunately I belong to an ilaqa and represent the class which is not only in a minority in population but which is educationally and financially a backward one. As we are passing through war days I think I must not say a word which may create any sort of bitterness. (*Hear, hear*). But there are certain things to which, I think, the Government should pay their full attention. None can deny the fact that the foremost duty of a Government is to protect the lives, property and honour of its subjects—maintain peace and tranquillity in the country. And if the Government fail to do so they are not worth the name. It is very unfortunate that in the district of Hissar the number of murders particularly of Muhammadans has increased and all the time I have been drawing the attention of the Government to this fact by putting questions in the House. You will be surprised to know that 58 Mussalmans were murdered during the last three years out of which 49 cases were registered, 40 cases were challaned out of which 7 resulted in conviction, 12 were pending and 9 were acquitted. It is said that law is no respecter of individuals. It treats the rich and the poor alike. The Indian Penal Code and the Evidence Act know no discrimination. But it is most regrettable that these laws are tampered with in the courts so far as Muslims of Hissar district are concerned.

Premier : Please do not refer to courts.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : What I want to convey is that lawyers spoil cases by citing wrong case law. Now I would like to say a word with regard to services granted to us. There was a candidate for the post of Inspector in the Co-operative Societies who was M. A., LL.B. and a graduate of Economics, but he was not accepted while the qualification required was a simple B. A. Now let me tell you the reason. He was rejected for one reason that he was a Mussalman Rajput of Ambala Division and secondly our community has no approach to higher authorities. As far as our religious liberties and representation in Government services are concerned I am sorry to remark that we are already hard pressed and under-represented. It is deplorable that Hindu Jats and Rajputs of Hissar district are not represented proportionately in Government services. For instance, no Mussalman Rajput has ever been taken as Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police in spite of the fact that there are qualified candidates. Our community rendered meritorious services to the Crown in the last great war but it is a tragedy that when we ask for an appointment to be given to our young men, no importance is attached to our past services. Even to-day the bulk of recruits belong to our community alone in that district and if things are allowed to go on like this, I have little hope that the local authorities will come to our help if any emergency arises.

Premier : My friend should rest assured that safety and protection of minority comes first and the local authorities will protect his community.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Now I trust the words of the Honourable Premier and I think he will not go back on his words.

My next submission is that the Government are spending a lot of money on two white elephants. One is the Cattle Farm at Hissar and the second is the Jogindhar Nagar Electric Scheme. I do not know why the Government are enamoured of these two elephants. I had put questions about Government Cattle Farm and showed their answers to the Honourable Premier. I hope he will order rectification of certain things. I have to submit many other things but due to the limited time at my disposal, I close my remarks with these words.

(At this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair and Chaudhri Suraj Mal of the panel of chairmen occupied it).

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I am grateful to you for affording me this opportunity of having my say in spite of the fact that the time at the disposal of the House is very short. I am thankful to the Honourable Premier for the appointment of an enquiry committee which will go into individual cases of the detainees and decide whether they are to remain in *duress vile* or are to be set at liberty. But there is one thing which seeks to set at nought the whole object of this committee and it is the inclusion of the Inspector-General of Police among its members. I fail to understand how a person who is responsible for their arrest can sit in judgment over matters so vitally concerning the detainees. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Premier not to include his name among the members of the enquiry committee but to replace him by some other person.

Premier: My honourable friend is mistaken in thinking that the Inspector-General ordered the arrest of these detainees. He had nothing to do with it. It is the duty of the Intelligence Bureau to recommend the apprehension or the prosecution of political suspects. The Inspector-General has been purposely included in the enquiry committee, which was otherwise composed entirely of non-officials, who are mere laymen in so far as the working of the Police Department is concerned. The Inspector-General will advise the committee on technical matters. He is a gentleman of independent views and has absolutely no concern with the detainees. He is there to acquaint the committee with the extent to which the atmosphere in the country is going to be affected by the release of these persons, without prejudicing their cases.

Sardar Ajit Singh: If, as the Honourable Premier has assured us, the Inspector General has been included for giving advice on technical matters, then it is all right and I thank the Honourable Premier for allaying our misgivings.

Now, Sir, my second submission is with regard to the Nili Bar Circle.

Chairman (Chaudhri Suraj Mal): Order please. The honourable member's time is up.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I am sure our Finance Secretary and the staff of the Finance Department would much value the kind words that have been said about them in the course of the budget discussion. I also personally appreciate the compliment that has been paid to us by the Leader of the Opposition in taking the trouble of initiating this discussion. This is a very happy practice

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which has not been always observed in the past and I hope that it may be adhered to in the years to come. Before I come to the criticisms that have been advanced regarding the budget itself, I might make one suggestion and that is, that in future instead of the poor Finance Minister coming right at the end to reply to the budget discussion, he may be permitted to make his humble say in the course of the discussion at any convenient and suitable time. Otherwise, as you have noticed, I find myself always in—shall I say—the absurd position—of one who has to collect his thoughts during the last ten minutes or so in practically an empty and impatient House.

About the budget itself many things have been said. An honourable member from the opposite side of the House tried to enter into a series of figures and said that the Punjab budgets during the past five years had indicated a series of under-estimates of revenue and that the whole thing, one might say, had been misconceived. "Otherwise" said he, "how do you account for these tremendous surpluses?" Now, Sir, I put it very carefully before this House that while we have on the whole been fairly lucky in the matter of our expenditure during these five years not to have gone beyond our revenues, I may point out in two short words that our surplus, taking the five years together, amounts to no higher figure than 45 lakhs which works out at 9 lakhs per year on the average. Would any one say that a provincial budget that displays an average of 9 lakhs shows complete indifference to the principles of proper estimation of revenue or is otherwise defective?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : It is over one crore in one year.

Minister of Finance: I go further. The principles which underlie a provincial budget are often misconceived. I am not prepared to endorse the general idea that a provincial budget must conform to the same principles as apply to the central budget or the budget of a country. We have a large amount of expenditure to meet and the demands on our resources are always increasing. The principle that ought to guide a province in estimating its revenues or to guide provincial finance should be "the development of revenue." I said so on a former occasion but it has not been, if I may say so with all respect, fully understood by the House. Some people run away with the idea that a provincial Finance Minister should see what his expenditure is and what his immediate revenues are, and then—say if there is a gap and a deficit is apparent—and only then, impose some sort of taxation. This is an entirely erroneous idea. (*Hear, hear and applause*). What the honourable members here have to see—and the duty is cast heavily on the Government—is this, that the revenues are properly applied to expenditure. Expenditure is the thing to watch. Revenues must be developed as much as possible. Those are the two essential principles. (*Hear, hear*). Consider a provincial Government finding itself in the position of the Finance Member of the Government of India who suddenly discovers that the expenditure jumps up as in this year by 47 crores because of the heavy defence expenditure, and then tries to fill the gap by raising taxation that particular year, that is not the principle which should guide or influence a provincial Government. The finance ministers in the provinces should ever apply

their minds to this issue, and I say that without any fear of contradiction. Those who do so have had no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that their first duty is to see that their revenues develop and equally their first duty is that not a pie is thrown away but expenditure is incurred on proper objects. (*Hear, hear and applause*). I am quite sure that, judged thus, our finances would stand the strictest scrutiny. Reference was made to the surplus of 45 lakhs. Even this surplus that has resulted in the course of five years, if you properly investigate it, you will notice that this very year our revenue account shows that we have secured from the Government of India alone an increase of 25 lakhs in their contribution to the provincial exchequer. I could not, this time last year, see that the Government of India would probably give us 25 lakhs more. If you take that one item of increase in Government of India contribution alone, the so-called total of surplus during the five years completely disappears. It cannot be said, taking the revenue and expenditure both into consideration, that we have had any inordinate and improper surplus. In addition to that you have to remember that we are liable to strong pressure on our finances beyond our power, involving heavy expenditure: we have had the famine and we have had other difficulties. I must let the matter rest here because time at my disposal is short.

It was said—I regret to say it was said by no less a person than the Leader of the Opposition—that this is a routine budget. Now, Sir, can any one say that a budget, a provincial budget, with the narrow compass within which it lies, and all of a sudden in any one year is called upon to meet so heavy expenditure as 61½ lakhs on air raid precautions, is a routine budget? And then we must remember that 61½ lakhs is not the only sum which we had to provide suddenly within the strict limits of our budget. We have increased our police expenditure very substantially and made heavy provision to ensure internal security. I remarked during the course of my budget speech, our total expenditure directly necessitated by this war comes to more than a crore of rupees. Could any one say that that is a routine matter? You have to think further that during this year for which the budget is being presented, I have had to find in this a sum of 14 lakhs for grain compensation allowance in order that Government's poor servants may not suffer, or at any rate, we, within the limits of our finances, may be able to afford them as much relief as possible. Can it be said that this is really a routine budget? Does it not indicate a desire on the part of your Ministry that the utmost should be done within our resources to meet the defence, not the defence directly, but the civil defence and to see that no forces of disorder which are likely to raise their heads at times like this, in crises of extreme emergency should be able to assert themselves in the smallest measure possible? That, Sir, is the shape that our budget has to-day. Now, an honourable member sitting behind us said that the police expenditure, though it has gone up to the extent that it has, though it has gone up appreciably has not done so adequately, and he attacked our attention to our beneficent activities. Now, we could not retain our position as Ministers for a moment, let me say in the clearest terms, if any heavy attacks were made on our beneficent activities. (*Cheers*.) I think it is the one great justification of us being here that whatever be the circumstances, so far as lies in our power, we shall help forward steadfastly our beneficent activities.

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And, in this year of extreme crisis of extreme emergency, when we have had this additional burden of one crore thrown on us, I feel a sense of pride that the Honourable Ministers about me had been able to proceed with their beneficent activities, and when they came forward with their projects for these beneficent activities, it has been possible for me to accommodate them in the demands which they made. The beneficent activities in this province are on the increase and during the current year a sum of 30 lakhs has been put into the Special Development Fund to ensure that we shall have money available in case of pressure or otherwise on our finances, so that the beneficent activities should not cease or suffer any kind of check. A budget so conceived and so presented, cannot be described in any sense a routine budget. Then, I must ask you to cast a further glance on the budget. Our activities on the building up of further strength for the Punjab have not been arrested and you have heard the story of the Western Jumna Canal and the progress of our works on the Thal, though slowed down. We propose to complete the Headworks of Kala Bagh, and much in connection with this project has been done. And I am sure that any dispassionate member, who is aware of all these, would come to the conclusion that this is not a routine budget. This is a carefully thought out and planned budget. Now, the word "plan" reminds me, what one or two honourable members said that there is no planning and asked where were the industries. I am sorry I have no time to enlarge on the subject of industries—it is very dear to my heart—but it should be admitted that the possibility of planning particularly at a time like the present is not great and still the honourable members expatiated at great length on the absence of industries in this province. They have unfortunately not advanced any valuable suggestions as to what they exactly want and what exactly they propose or wish. May I inform the honourable gentlemen, who have no doubt read the speech of Sir Jeremy Raisman in presenting the Central Budget, that 20 projects with a capital value of 12 crores are going to be started in India. That is good news, and if I may say so, a very good news, because it may lead to the settlement and establishment of first class heavy industries in India. I do not see any immediate prospect of heavy industries in the Punjab, because as I view the Punjab, and study the situation, our resources are comparatively limited in the matter of development of those industries on which the equipment, the real power of modern warfare is built up. I wish we had the necessary resources in the Punjab. We are prepared, and that is all the Government can do, to give every help and encouragement to people who propose to start new industries in the province. But to say that the provincial Government should start new industries, directly, immediately and straightaway, during this period of crisis when machinery and other things cannot be obtained from abroad and which we ourselves cannot produce, and the Government has failed, because it has failed to establish new industries, is to speak in a language that carries no meaning.

It was said that we have a *bhar mar* of taxes. That I have not understood. It is now the recognised canon of taxation all over the world and particularly in India and the Indian provinces that some of the taxes which have been imposed in the Punjab are the very ones which alone can give us added revenue. I do not wish to enter into this sphere of controversy.

If I had time I might enlarge on that theme. I will now refer to a professor of Economics—I will not refer to the politicians with whom I am surrounded, and who are in front of me—in such abundance. I will refer to Professor Vakil of Bombay. In his recent work on provincial finances he said that in order to raise the finances and revenues in India, the Sales Tax must be regarded as a well-established and desirable method of taxation. (Cheers.) This tax, as in Madras, will bring 66 lakhs during the current year and is estimated to bring 60 lakhs during the year 1942-43.

Chairman (Chaudhri Suraj Mal): It is 7 o'clock now. Is the House prepared to sit longer? (*Honourable members*: Yes).

Minister of Finance: I do not wish to enlarge on the subject at all. What I was saying was that our own estimates lie with a very much restricted field so far as this tax is concerned, but if for any reasons our estimates are falsified and we get instead of about 24 lakhs, 30 lakhs or 40 lakhs or 50 lakhs, I shall certainly welcome it because I am not aware of any principle—I am not referring to all the points of detail which have been discussed by the Opposition with the Premier for I am not concerned with them—which even remotely touches that tax. May I refer to one word in Professor Vakil's book? One of the headings there is "The popularity of this tax since the last War". Some reference was made with considerable insistence on the fact that the population of the Punjab has grown and the area under cultivation has not grown, it remains practically the same. It has been said in reply—and rightly so—the only way in which economists have been familiar with the term—that it is not correct to say that the area in the Punjab has not increased. The line of argument which was taken by the other side was that while the population of the Punjab has grown to a great extent there has not been much increase so far as the cultivated area is concerned. But as I hear from my left, both the processes have come about. Merely to say that as the population has increased therefore wealth has decreased is not a sound reason. I can carry the matter further if I had time to go into it in detail. It is not correct to say that the *per capita* wealth in the Punjab has fallen. As I said, it is a very delicate, intricate and difficult problem. So far as the whole of India is concerned, the latest estimate is by Professor Rao, this is generally accepted by economists, that the average *per capita* wealth in India is about 80 rupees. This calculation was made on the basis of circumstances as they existed in the year 1929, and thereafter there has been to my mind no fall; but I cannot here enter into Punjab figures in any detail. It has never been our particular function and I do not think we are competent in this heavy work-a-day world with our disabilities to have entered into any such examination but I am,—for all that it may be worth, every body would not accept it—personally prepared to say that I shall be very much surprised if it were found that our average *per capita* wealth has not increased. That is my short answer at this time. I am prepared to enter into any elaborate investigation of it with any honourable member who feels inclined that way. I think I ought not to go any further into this matter, but one fact was omitted by the Honourable Minister of Public Works when he was speaking and that is this that so far as the amelioration of the landed classes is concerned the Government has made a particular study of the matter. It has been the

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subject of many a speech by Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and our Premier. Further one circumstance, a matter of recent Government decision, should be referred. So far as the soldiers' sons and the help in the way of scholarships is concerned, the Punjab Government has taken on itself, the burden of 80 thousand rupees for this purpose. (*Cheers*). This is a small indication of their solicitude for what they wish done in that particular line. This is a substantial indication of what they propose doing. I beg to submit that in presenting this budget and attempting a retrospect of what has been done during the past five years, I have not made any extravagant claims for the Punjab Government and I am sure we can claim with the completest confidence that the policy which has inspired this Government under the leadership of our Premier is open to no cavil or criticism. (*Loud applause*).

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 12th March 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 12th March, 1944.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FAMINE IN FATEHABAD TAHSIL.

***8023. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that rains in Fatehabad tahsil of the Hissar district came after the time of sowing of *rabi* crops had passed ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that famine is still raging in that tahsil ;
- (c) whether the relief works continue in that tahsil still as answered to question No. 7299,¹ on the 18th February, 1941 ;
- (d) relief of any other kind granted to the inhabitants of that tahsil during 1941 ; and if no other relief has been granted, the action that Government intends to take to help the inhabitants of the tahsil ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Rainfall was deficient for *rabi* sowings.

(b) Yes, in certain barani villages.

(c) and (d) Relief works closed down in the Hissar district, including Fatehabad tahsil, in September, 1940. Since then relief has been given and is at present being given in the form of gratuitous relief distributed once a month to all those considered to be in need.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether any relief to the villages of Fatehabad tahsil has been granted this year also ?

Minister : I believe that some relief has been given, but without notice I cannot give full information.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware that rain has not fallen in many villages of the Fatehabad tahsil ?

Minister : I have no exact information about any particular village. But I think on the whole that what the honourable member has said is not correct.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : The Honourable Minister's supposition is that it is not correct. May I know whether he has made any enquiry after I tabled my question ?

Minister for Revenue : If my honourable friend gives notice of a fresh question with regard to specific villages in respect of which he wants this information, I will make an enquiry and supply the information.

MUNICIPAL ENGINEER, LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

***8021. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the date on which the present Municipal Engineer, Lahore Municipality, was appointed as Municipal Engineer ;
- (b) his technical qualifications ;
- (c) the pay which he was getting before his present appointment ;
- (d) the pay which he is now getting ;
- (e) whether the post was advertised before he was appointed to the present job ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) 5th July 1941.

- (b) Civil Engineering Class of Thomason College, Roorkee.
- (c) Rs. 580.
- (d) Rs. 580 plus 25 per cent deputation allowance.
- (e) No as it was considered advisable to obtain an engineer from the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.

SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL OF MALIS AND OTHER MENIAL STAFF OF LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

***8022. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) number of malis and other menial staff members dismissed or suspended since the time the present Municipal Engineer, Lahore Municipality, assumed charge of his duties and the number of years of service put in by each one of them before his dismissal with the reasons for dismissal in each case ;
- (b) whether each one of them was given a charge sheet and given an opportunity to explain his conduct before dismissal ; if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) One mali. He has fifteen years' service and was dismissed for bad work.

- (b) No charge sheet was given to him as he was borne on 'work charged establishment'.

DACOITIES, MURDERS AND ROBBERIES.

***8187. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he would be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing separately the number of dacoities, murders and highway robberies committed during the period between January, 1941, and February, 1942, in the Ludhiana district ;

- (b) how many murders committed between the aforesaid period are untraced ;
- (c) the number of cases among above-mentioned offences which have ended in acquittals ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :

	<i>Murders.</i>	<i>Dacoities.</i>	<i>Highway Robberies.</i>
(a)	49	8	12
(b)	7	..	..
(c)	6	..	..

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE,
LUDHIANA.

***8188. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowance drawn by the present Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, separately, each year between 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941 to 15th February, 1942 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The following amounts were drawn by the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana, under Travelling Allowance during the years noted below :—

	Rs. A. P.		
(1) 1937-38 1,340 15 0
(2) 1938-39 2,611 0 0
(3) 1939-40 1,986 5 0
(4) 1940-41 3,562 11 0
(5) 1941-42 3,779 0 0

COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.

***8189. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the names, designations and home-districts of the police officers of the Ludhiana district against whom complaints of corruption have been received from the public during the last three years ;
- (b) whether any action has been taken so far on these complaints by the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :

(a)

(b)

Year.	Name and designation.	Home.	Action taken.
1939	Bhagat Ram, Foot Constable.	Hoshiarpur	Dismissed.
1939	Hassan Khan, Foot Constable.	Ludhiana	Dismissed.
1939	Abdul Ghani, Head Constable.	Ludhiana	Censured. He was sent up judicially but discharged for want of proof.
1939	Aziz Bux, Head Constable.	Jullundur	Dismissed.
1940	Dina Nath, Head Constable.	Ludhiana	He was suspended and sent up judicially but the case was withdrawn for want of proof and consequently reinstated.
1941	Abdul Majid, Foot Constable.	Patiala State	Dismissed.

*8210, *8211 and 8212*.—*Cancelled.*

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY MAGISTRATES.

***8191. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the Magistrates in Ludhiana monthly during the eight months beginning from the 1st January, 1941 ;

(b) the cases decided by each of them while in camp from 1st January, 1941 ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) and (b) The statements giving the required information are laid on the table.

Statement showing the cases decided by the Magistrates of Ludhiana in Camp during the period from 1st January, 1941 to 31st August, 1941.

Name of Officer.	No. of cases decided in Camp.
1. Kanwar Shiv Singh, A. D. M.	19
2. Chaudhri Mohammad Ishaq, G. A. I.	1
3. Lala Badri Parshad, G. A. II	82
4. Lala Sardari Lal, Treasury Officer, 1st January, 1941 to 9th April, 1941 (Transferred).	Nil
5. Sardar Udham Singh, Treasury Officer, 10th April, 1941 to 31st August, 1941	Nil
6. Nawab Mansur Muzafer Khan, District Taxation Officer, 4th May, 1941 to 31st August, 1941	Nil
7. Sardar Jaswant Singh Uppal, Extra E. A. C.	2
8. Khan Tariq Ismail Khan, Magistrate, 1st Class, 1st January, 1941 to 16th August, 1941	4
9. Sardar Atta Ullah Khan, Magistrate, 1st Class	Nil

Travelling allowance drawn by each of the Magistrates at Ludhiana, monthly during the eight months beginning from the 1st January, 1941.

Month.	Kanwar Shiv Singh, A. D. M.	Chaudhri Muhammad Hamid Lehaq Khan, G. A. I.	Lala Badri Parabad, Puri G. A. II.	Sardar Jas- want Singh, Uppal, Addi- tional E. A. C.	Sh. Ata Ullah, Special Magistrate.	Khan Tariq Ismail Khan, E. A. C.	Lala Sardari Lal, T. O.	Masoor Mu- saffar Khan, D. T. O.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
January, 1941	67 5 0	68 0 0	90 0 0	82 0 0	..	36 12 0	12 6 0	..
February, 1941	54 5 0	86 0 0	84 12 0	..	13 11 0	45 0 0	4 11 0	..
March, 1941	110 1 0	9 0 0	66 0 0	..	..	67 5 0	6 0 0	..
April, 1941	58 10 0	38 3 0	40 4 0	24 0 0	55 2 0	28 8 0	3 9 0	..
May, 1941	47 8 0	42 9 0	38 0 0	78 0 0	..	73 7 0	7 2 0	..
June, 1941	36 7 0	14 4 0	67 0 0	74 0 0	..	56 7 0	..	..
July, 1941	101 7 0	..	8 0 0	59 2 0	..	22 15 0	56 2 0	..
August, 1941	23 8 0	21 11 0	34 0 0	62 0 0	51 0 0	..	25 15 0	68 5 0

S. Udhana Singh

ACCOMMODATION FOR SATYAGRAHI PRISONERS.

***8192. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of prisoners and under-trial prisoners confined in the District Jail at Ludhiana in the months of January and February, 1942 ;
- (b) the average number of prisoners and under-trial prisoners who can be accommodated in the said District Jail ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in these days of satyagrah by the traders, accommodation is not available for all those who have been arrested by the police and that there is no accommodation for them in other jails of the province ; if so, the arrangements made for accommodating them ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(c) Tent accommodation was provided for the surplus population where necessary.

Statement.

(a)

Date.	MONTH OF JANUARY, 1942.				MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1942.			
	Convicts.	U. T.	Civil.	Total.	Convicts.	U. T.	Civil.	Total.
1st ..	346	173	1	520	296	171	1	468
2nd ..	343	158	1	502	266	173	1	440
3rd ..	365	177	1	543	265	175	1	441
4th ..	372	177	1	550	284	173	1	458
5th ..	381	177	1	559	288	174	1	463
6th ..	407	169	1	577	290	179	1	470
7th ..	405	166	1	572	286	176	1	463
8th ..	404	166	1	571	287	176	1	464
9th ..	404	167	1	572	289	196	1	486
10th ..	396	164	1	561	282	267	1	550
11th ..	396	164	1	561	281	315	1	597
12th ..	393	171	1	565	279	407	1	687
13th ..	356	170	1	527	284	429	Nil	713

Date	MONTH OF JANUARY, 1942.				MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1942.			
	Convicts.	U. T.	Civil.	Total.	Convicts.	U. T.	Civil.	Total.
14th ..	360	164	1	525	281	421	Nil	702
15th ..	360	159	1	520	279	452	Nil	731
16th ..	321	159	1	481	278	448	Nil	726
17th ..	307	158	1	466	278	451	Nil	729
18th ..	306	151	1	458	275	446	Nil	721
19th ..	302	154	1	457	282	447	Nil	729
20th ..	297	155	1	453	282	437	Nil	719
21st ..	293	162	1	456	289	435	Nil	724
22nd ..	301	155	1	457	289	435	Nil	724
23rd ..	300	158	1	459	292	432	Nil	724
24th ..	297	160	1	458	292	434	Nil	726
25th ..	293	162	1	456	296	427	Nil	723
26th ..	296	172	1	469	278	427	Nil	705
27th ..	290	174	1	465	280	425	Nil	705
28th ..	288	175	1	464				
29th ..	286	173	1	460				
30th ..	286	172	1	459				
31st ..	294	171	1	466				

(b)

Permanent accommodation available .. 320

Detail.

Under-trials	104
Civil Prisoners	16
Convicts	177
Europeans	2
Females	21

Total	320
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LUDHIANA DISTRICT JAIL.

*8193. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any jail visitors inspected the Ludhiana District Jail in January and February, 1942 ;
- (b) the remarks, if any, made by the visitors with regard to the arrangements in the jail for the prisoners ;
- (c) whether any improvement has been effected in the light of the remarks made by the visitors ;
- (d) the names of the non-official visitors who visited this jail and also the number of visits paid by each of them from January, 1941 to the end of February, 1942 ;
- (e) whether all the visitors or a majority of them belong to Ludhiana town ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that wheat flour was not available in the Ludhiana District Jail for its inmates in the months of January and February, 1942, and whether it is also a fact that instead of wheat flour gram flour used to be provided ; if so, whether Government has now made arrangements for the supply of wheat flour in sufficient quantity for the use of the inmates of the jail ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A copy of the remarks recorded by Rai Sahib Sheo Parshad, non-official visitor, in the Visitor's Book of Ludhiana District Jail on the 18th February, 1942, suggesting certain cooking arrangements for the Satyagrahi prisoners together with the remarks of the Superintendent, District Jail, Ludhiana, thereon is attached.

(d)

Name of the Non-official visitors.

Nos. of visits.

(1) Lieutenant Aziz-ud-Din ..	.. 10
(2) Sardar Bahadur Kartar Singh ..	.. 17
(3) Sardar Bahadur Mit Singh ..	.. 12
(4) Rai Sahib Sheo Parshad ..	.. 4
(5) Dr. Browne ..	.. 2

(e) Majority of the visitors belong to Ludhiana town.

(f) No.

Copy of remarks recorded on 18th February, 1942, by Rai Sahib Sheo Parshad, Non-official visitor, in the Visitors' Book of the District Jail, Ludhiana.

I visited the jail to-day at about 11.45 a. m. At present the jail is very much overcrowded and especially on account of about 238 Satyagrahis who are all so far under-trials and have recently come in the jail. I also saw most of them and all seem happy and satisfied except that some are accommodated in Shoolbaries. The other grievances they had was about the

same kitchen from which they are having their food along with other prisoners. The number thus becomes much more than what one kitchen can easily supply food. It will be much better if a separate kitchen is somehow or other, created for the Satyagrahis and some of the Satyagrahis are asked to look after the cooking arrangements. The same ration may be issued to this kitchen as is allowed under the Jail Rules. I am certain good vegetables and pure oil will be supplied for this kitchen. In this way great satisfaction would prevail all round regarding food.

The cleanliness and other arrangements were good. In the Factory only khaddar is being manufactured at present.

Copy of remarks by Sardar Soban Singh, Superintendent, District Jail, Ludhiana.

Arrangements for a separate kitchen are not possible in the jail. The under-trial prisoners moreover cannot be put on kitchen work.

DIET FOR PATIENTS IN MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8125. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the complaint so often repeated by public men that diet of inferior quality is supplied to the patients in the Mayo Hospital for lack of supervision has come to his notice ; if so, the action taken to remove it ;
- (b) whether Government have fixed any scale of articles of diet for the General Ward patients in the Mayo Hospital ; if so, what is that scale, and, if no such scale has been fixed, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) No. On the other hand it has come to the notice of Government that the food supplied there is wholesome and well prepared.

(b) Yes. A statement showing the scale of diet fixed by Government for Indian patients in the Private and General Wards of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, is laid on the table.¹

INTERVIEWS WITH PATIENTS IN THE MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8126. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the time fixed for interview with patients in the Mayo Hospital by their relatives and friends both in summer and winter ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the House Surgeons are off duty during the time fixed for interview which causes great inconvenience to the visitors anxious to enquire about the health of patients ;
- (c) the arrangement made by the Government for supplying the required information to the visitors ; if no such arrangement exists, the reasons therefor, and the action that Government intend to take in the matter ?

¹Kept in the Assembly Library.

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a)—

Winter .. 4 p. m. to 6 p. m.

Summer .. 5 p. m. to 7 p. m.

(b) and (c) It is laid down in the rules under the heading "Period of duty" that each House Surgeon and House Physician is responsible for his ward and patients throughout the 24 hours and must not absent him self from wards or his house without the special permission of his medical officer. This permission is accorded only on the clear understanding that arrangements are made with one or the other resident medical officer on the staff to answer for him in case of emergency. Instructions are, however, being issued for the rigid enforcement of these rules in future.

M. RAJ SINGH.

***8124. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that M. Raj Singh, Sub-Inspector, Banks, Dharamsala, has recently been posted on a higher grade of Rs. 60 per mensem over the head of his seniors ;

(b) the position in Bank service that M. Raj Singh held before his posting to Rs. 60 grade ;

(c) the special qualifications which M. Raj Singh possessed for being given this preference ;

(d) the pay which he was getting before his promotion ;

(e) the number of Sub-Inspectors who have been superseded by his promotion ;

(f) the action that Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) *First part.*—M. Raj Singh, an accepted candidate for the post of Sub-Inspector, Co-operative Societies was selected for the temporary post of Sub-Inspector, Forest Societies at Rs. 50 per mensem in the grade of Rs. 50—1½—65 plus fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem.

Second part.—As it was a case of selection from among accepted candidates and not of promotion, the question of supersession does not arise.

(b) Sub-Inspector under the Punjab Co-operative Union.

(c) The Kangra Village Forest Scheme, on which M. Raj Singh has been employed, is an experiment in co-operative organization on new and unprecedented lines and the posts of Forest Sub-Inspectors had to be filled by selection from among the Sub-Inspector candidates who were considered fit both physically and otherwise for the arduous duties involved and who were likely to prove influential and successful in organizing this new type of society.

(d) Rs. 40 per mensem plus fixed travelling allowance at Rs. 25 per mensem.

(e) As in second part of (a) above.

(f) None.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know from the Honourable Minister whether he is aware that this M. Raj Singh has been favoured by the Deputy Registrar only because he was his brother ?

Minister of Development : I have no information.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know from the Minister what special qualifications are required for selection of candidate sub-inspectors for permanent posts ?

Minister : The work that is required of a sub-inspector of these special co-operative societies is that the new work undertaken is to be established on voluntary basis. People who have got influence or who belong to the Kangra district, know the hill people, know their habits and ways, they also know how to get into their hearts and persuade them properly and thus they are the best fitted persons for the job.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know from the Minister whether there was not a single person superseded by M. Raj Singh, who belonged to the Kangra district and possessed the same qualifications for which he had been selected and superseded so many persons ?

Minister : I should like to have notice ; I have no detailed information about this matter.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know from the Minister whether it was not a case of nepotism on the part of the Deputy Registrar who gave promotion to this man on the pretext of selection ?

Minister : I have no special information. No complaints were ever made to me, and if there had been any complaint made to me in time I would have gone into the matter thoroughly.

Mr. E. Few : May I know whether this man from the Kangra district was recommended by Rai Bahadur Gopal Das ? *(Laughter).*

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether the Minister had a chance to peruse my question, which I put in the first instance ?

Minister : I do not remember, but I came across this matter only a few days back. The Deputy Registrar, whom my honourable friend has in mind, has been transferred to another division.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether the questions to be put were not sent to him for answer ?

Mr. Speaker : Cross-examination should be avoided, if possible.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I want to know whether it is not the practice to send for perusal questions to the Ministers when they are to be put by honourable members in the first instance.

Mr. Speaker : The next question please.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I want to know the practice.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may ascertain it from the Secretary.

DETENTION OF MESSRS. HARI SINGH, SOHAN SINGH JOSH, HARJAP SINGH AND RUR SINGH M.L.A.s.

***8215. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the period of detention without trial of Messrs. Hari Singh, Sohan Singh Josh, Harjap Singh and Rur Singh M.L.A.s.
- (b) whether any judicial or executive machinery has been set up for periodical examination of their cases and if so, when were their cases examined last and by whom ;
- (c) the monthly allowance allowed to each one of them by the Government ;
- (d) the present state of their health ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) They are detained since 26th June, 1940.

(b) A committee has recently been appointed to examine such cases and will start its deliberations about the middle of this month.

(c) None.

(d) Satisfactory.

DETENTION OF S. TEJA SINGH SWATANTARA.

***8216. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the period of detention of S. Teja Singh Swatantar without trial ;
- (b) how many times his case has been examined and reviewed with a view to deciding the question of his release and when his case was examined and reviewed last and by whom and with the result of that examination ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Since 1936.

(b) His case is examined by Government from time to time. It was last considered in the summer of 1941.

INDUSTRIES IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT JAIL

***8194. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of income derived from the various industries carried on in the Ludhiana District Jail during the period of last twelve months and also the expenditure incurred during the same period ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that there is a great scope for the expansion and improvement of the hosiery and the cloth industries in the said jail, whether any steps have so far been taken by Government for the expansion and improvement of these industries in that jail ;

[Ch. Md. Hassan.]

(c) whether any wood-industry, i.e., making of furniture is carried on in that jail ;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and if this industry is carried on, the number of orders placed by various customers during the last one year ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) :

Name of industries.	Expenditure.			Profit.			Loss.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Cotton textile industries.	18,857	11	1	4,218	7	5	..		
(2) Oil industries ..	571	5	0	190	0	6	..		
(3) Miscellaneous industries.	395	12	2	..			33	2	2

(b) Textile industry already exists in the jail. Hosiery industry cannot be a success because of the competition of professional hosiery workers in Ludhiana.

(c) No.

(d) The inmates of this jail are mostly agriculturists who have no aptitude for this kind of work.

LUDHIANA DISTRICT JAIL DISPENSARY.

***8195. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of in-door patients in the Ludhiana District jail dispensary in January and February, 1942 ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that there are no separate rooms in the said jail dispensary and all the indoor patients are huddled in one barrack and the result is that the patients who are seriously ill suffer great inconvenience ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ;

(c) whether any compounder is placed on night duty in the jail dispensary ; if so, whether any allowance is paid to him and if not, how calls during the night by the indoor patients are attended to ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(b) There has never been any complaint about it. Besides the hospital barracks, 4 cells near the hospital are used for the patients in case of necessity.

(c) No. In case of emergency the Sub-Assistant Surgeon is sent for to attend to the prisoners, and whenever there is a serious case, the Sub-Assistant Surgeon remains inside the jail to look after it.

Statement.

(a) No. of Indoor Patients in
Ludhiana Jail Dispensary in
January, 1942.No. of Indoor Patients in
Ludhiana Jail Dispensary in
February, 1942.

Date.	JANUARY, 1942.			FEBRUARY, 1942.		
	Convicts.	U.T.	Total.	Convicts.	U.T.	Total.
1	3	NH	3	1	2	3
2	3	..	3	1	2	3
3	4	..	4	1	2	3
4	4	..	4	2	2	4
5	5	..	5	2	2	4
6	5	..	5	1	3	4
7	2	1	3	1	3	4
8	2	2	4	1	3	4
9	2	2	4	2	3	5
10	3	4	7	2	3	5
11	3	4	7	3	1	4
12	3	2	5	3	1	4
13	3	2	5	3	1	4
14	3	2	5	1	1	2
15	3	2	5	1	1	2
16	3	2	5	2	2	4
17	3	2	5	2	2	4
18	3	2	5	2	2	4
19	4	2	6	2	2	4
20	5	2	7	2	2	4
21	5	2	7	3	1	4
22	3	2	5	4	2	6
23	3	2	5	4	2	6
24	2	1	3	4	2	6
25	2	1	3	3	2	5
26	3	1	4	3	1	4
27	1	2	3	3	3	6
28	2	2	4	..	3	3
29	2	2	4			
30	2	2	4			
31	2	2	4			
Total ..	93	50	143	59	56	115

ARRESTS DURING THE SALES TAX ACT AGITATION.

*8196. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- the number of arrests made in the Ludhiana District during the Sales Tax Act agitation during the month of February, 1942;
- the names of those who have been arrested under Section 151/107, Criminal Procedure Code, at Ludhiana;
- how many of them were released at a distance of a few miles from Ludhiana;
- whether the persons who have been arrested under Section 107/151, Criminal Procedure Code, were released on trial by the Magistrate;

[Ch. Md. Hassan.]

- (e) before which Magistrate they were produced within 24 hours after arrest ;
- (f) the approximate number of people assembled at meetings in which satyagrah was offered at Ludhiana in Kaiser Ganj on various days after the agitation ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that the fruit, vegetable and milk-sellers also observed Hartal in sympathy with Beopari Hartal ;
- (h) whether it is also a fact that even the private medical practitioners including *Hakims* and *Vaids* closed their shops and halls as a protest against the Sales Tax Act ;
- (i) whether Government have ascertained the number and names of the zamindars in the Ludhiana District who closed their shops in connection with the Traders' Hartal, and the reasons for which they closed their shops ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Anjad Ali Shah) : Now that the hartal has been called off, I do not consider it to be in the public interest to collect the detailed information required by the honourable member.

ADMISSION INTO ALBERT VICTOR (GENERAL WARD), MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8127. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in Albert Victor (General Ward), Mayo Hospital, the Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians alone can be admitted ; if so, the reasons for the social discrimination ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : No. Only European and Anglo-Indian patients are admitted to the general wards of the Albert Victor Section of the Mayo Hospital. Similarly Indian patients are admitted to the general wards in the Mayo Hospital. The distribution of wards is not based on any social discrimination, but is due to the fact that the habits and customs of the two classes are different and bath rooms, lavatories and kitchens in the two sections of the Mayo Hospital have been designed to meet the needs of the particular classes.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether those Indians who have adopted the western mode of living are admitted to this ward ?

Minister : Such Indians are admitted.

Mr. E. Few : Are arrangements made for the general condition of people admitted in the hospital or for exceptional conditions ?

Minister : For general conditions.

Mr. P. H. Guest : Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Albert Victor Ward was erected by public subscriptions for the sole purpose of accommodating European and Anglo-Indian patients ?

Minister : I have no information at present, but if the honourable member puts a question on paper I will collect the information.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether Indians also contributed for its construction ?

Chaudhri Sumar Singh : May I know whether there is any colour distinction in admitting patients in the hospital ? If so, will Government take steps to remove this distinction ?

Minister for Education : I have already stated that there is no such distinction.

OPERATION THEATRES IN INDIAN PRIVATE AND FAMILY WARDS,
MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8128. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government have provided separate well-equipped operation theatres with necessary staff in the Indian Private and Family Wards premises in Mayo Hospital ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that before the present senior Surgeon took over charge of his duties the patients in the Indian Private and Family Wards used to be operated upon in the operation theatres in their respective wards ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that now when any of these patients are to be operated upon they are removed to the operation theatre meant for the General Ward's patients which causes great inconvenience and unnecessary exposure ;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that there has been no reduction in the staff employed for these wards ;
- (e) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for discontinuing the old practice ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) The Operation Theatre in the Indian Private and Family Wards is not so well equipped for major surgery as the operation theatres in the Mayo Hospital, ; but the facilities of the latter are always available for the former when required. The Operation Theatre in the Indian Private and Family Wards, is, however, fully equipped for majority of cases with the necessary staff except for nurses, anaesthetists and assistants to give sufficient help to surgeons in operation.

(b) Yes. The majority of operations of patients in the Indian Private and Family Wards were done in the Operation Theatre of these wards, but the services of nurses and House Surgeons of the general wards had to be requisitioned for helping in the operations. Operations in the Indian Private and Family Wards are very few and it would mean unnecessary expenditure if special nurses are provided for this theatre.

(c) Does not arise. There is no question of exposure as proper care and precautions are taken. Besides as stated in (a) above, much better facilities are available in the Mayo theatres for patients of the Indian Private and Family Wards.

[Education Minister.]

(d) No reduction is possible in the staff for Indian Private and Family Wards as the services of all members of the staff sanctioned for the Operation Theatre are required to help the surgeon when he is operating on cases of these wards whether in the general theatre or elsewhere ; and in dressing cases morning and afternoon in the wards after operation and preparations for which cannot be carried out without this staff.

(e) Does not arise.

MEALS SERVED TO PATIENTS IN GENERAL WARDS IN MAYO HOSPITAL.

***8129. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that in the General Wards of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, Indian patients are served with loaves of bread either on their beds or on the lockers and not in plates ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether this is due to want of sufficient number of plates or due to mismanagement or discrimination, and, if it is due to mismanagement or discrimination, who is responsible for it and the action that Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye (a) : No, the patients in the General Wards of the Mayo Hospital are served their meals—chapatis in the *thalis* for Hindus and in plates for Muslims, and milk is served to Hindus in *batis* and to Muslims in *piyalas* (bowls).

(b) Does not arise.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know from which source the Honourable Minister has received this information ?

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : I am a non-official visitor and I can say that what the honourable Minister has said is correct.

Minister : So you have an independent source.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I lay on the table the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure (Second Instalment) for the year 1941-42 authenticated by the Governor under section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

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 1941-42, which specifies :—

- (a) the supplementary grants (second instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March, 1942, 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.
1	7—Land Revenue	6,960	..	6,960
4	10—Forests	3,91,300	..	3,91,300
6	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts.	..	1,660	1,660
6	13—Other Taxes and Duties ..	3,07,150	..	3,07,150
8	Charges on Irrigation Establishment	50,100	..	50,100
..	22—Interest on Debt and other obligations .. ..	..	2,76,900	2,76,900
12	28—Jails and Convicts Settlements	4,51,590	..	4,51,590
13	29—Police	9,78,320	..	9,78,320
22	43—Industries	55,560	..	55,560
24	Charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment	61,440	..	61,440
25	XLI—Receipts from Electricity Schemes—Deduct—Working Expenses other than Establishment ..	2,52,400	..	2,52,400
32	56—Stationery and Printing ..	1,72,200	..	1,72,200
33	57—Miscellaneous	71,28,510	19,200	71,47,710
34	Deposits and Advances—Advances not bearing interest ..	14,85,780	..	14,85,780
7	18—Other Revenue Expenditure ..	10	..	10
9	68—Construction of Irrigation Works	10	..	10
10	25—General Administration ..	10	..	10
14	47—Miscellaneous Departments ..	10	..	10
17	38—Medical	10	..	10
19	40—Agriculture	10	..	10
23	50—Civil Works	10	..	10
	Grand Total ..	1,13,41,380	2,97,760	1,16,39,140

LAHORE :

The 10th March, 1942.

BERTRAND JAMES GLANCY,

Governor of the Punjab.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE.

Minister for Finance : I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,67,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,67,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Land Revenue.

Land Revenue Policy.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) :
Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

My object in moving this cut motion is to discuss the land revenue policy of the Government. Now this subject is very vast indeed and it seems as if I have to jump into an endless and boundless ocean by beginning to speak on this subject of land revenue. I do not know where to begin and where to close my remarks about this problem of manifold aspects. Every aspect of it is equally important and noteworthy. I hold here in my hand a book that is, the Report of the Land Revenue Committee, and I would like to go into it chapter by chapter so that the whole subject may be detailed before the honourable members of the House. It has a direct bearing on the life of the peasantry and zamindars of the Punjab. As a matter of fact the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has all along been laying stress on the importance of this problem and I have no hesitation in confessing that we are all his disciples. The only difference between him and his pupils is that whereas the latter are still continuing to follow his previous suggestions, he himself has turned his attention to other channels. We are still working and waiting for the realisation of our dreams which we have in common with the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. Zamindars want the principal of income tax to be introduced in the assessment of land revenue in the Punjab. Ever since the year of 1930 when I became a member of the Legislative Council, the question of applying the income tax principle to land revenue has been under consideration of the House. But it has been hanging fire since that time without any appreciable results. When the present Ministry came into power it appointed a Land Revenue Committee under the presidentship of Sir Malcolm Darling to devise ways and means for reducing the land revenue and exempting uneconomic holdings from the payment of land revenue. In the first instance, the Government took a long time to decide whether such a committee should be appointed or not. At last it was decided to appoint this committee and it submitted a report which is now in my hands.

Then, Sir, a good deal of expenditure was incurred in connection with this committee. After going into the problem with meticulous care and thoroughness, it submitted its report and placed before the Government all the facts connected with land revenue. But the Government after having

received the report, slept over the matter and almost shelved it. When interpellations were made concerning the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the report, we received evasive and indefinite answers. At last the Government was goaded to allot a day for the discussion of this report on the floor of the House. But this discussion proved to be a waste of breath because the Honourable Premier, whose opinion in any matter is taken as a final word, practically shelved it by putting forward a new scheme. I did not agree with that proposal at that time. Even the Government have never cared to consider it in all seriousness with which it was put forward.

Well, Sir, after five years of their normal term of life, the Government have been forced under the stress of war to present their sixth budget. We were hopeful that this time Government would do something remarkable for the betterment of the zamindars. But no provision has been made in the budget to afford relief to the zamindars. I ask whether they have thrown their election pledges to the winds. What are their intentions? whether they want to give them a practical shape or allow them to pass as sugar-coated words. I expected that this budget would usher a new era for the zamindars, particularly the poorer section. And the Government would be able to claim before the electorate that they really did something substantial for ameliorating their condition. Alas, it was a vain hope as the Government did nothing worth the name in regard to the grant of remission in land revenue to the zamindars. But in one respect they have moved in the matter, though in a niggardly manner. They have constituted a Peasants Welfare Fund to the extent of Rs. 80 lakhs. As regards the recommendations of the Land Revenue Committee 90 per cent of them were ignored. They were not even considered. Only ten per cent were taken into consideration and perhaps a few were translated into action. The result was that cold water was thrown on the high hopes which the zamindars had entertained about the labours of this committee. The zamindars were, as if, left looking blank into the air. They were disillusioned and received a rude shock only to know that the constitution of this committee was a farce or a mere eyewash by the Government. Now I would like to point out to the Government that if they do not see their way to assess land revenue on the income tax basis, even then they can do a lot for a large number of petty zamindars. I maintain that if they had intended to give real relief to the zamindars the money now set apart in the form of the Peasant Welfare Fund, could be utilised to give total relief to the peasant proprietors paying Rs. 5 or less as land revenue.

Again, whenever the question of remission in land revenue has been raised, the Government have invariably expressed their inability to do so on the ground of financial stringency. But you will agree with me, Sir, if ruthless economy is undertaken and all unnecessary expenditure is cut down, sufficient money can be saved to make good the loss caused by the grant of remission in the land revenue. If my memory does not fail me, I did suggest to the Government several new sources of income. However, what I want to drive at is that I can prove to the hilt with the help of this report that even from the newly constituted Peasant Welfare Fund remission in land revenue can be granted to the small holders. I believe if out of this fund the Government had exempted the petty cultivators from payment of

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land revenue to the extent of Rs. 21 lakhs, then the zamindars would have received a substantial measure of relief, as I would presently show from facts and figures given at the end of this Land Revenue Committee Report. If you just refer to appendix I, you will find a column entitled 'Land Revenue payers who pay Rs. 5 or less'. This column is further subdivided into three columns containing the following figures. Their total number is 1,759,260. Amount of land revenue paid by them is Rs. 32,26,440. The number of land revenue payers who do not cultivate is given as 624,885. Besides, the collection charges amount to Rs. 17 lakhs. Now the last mentioned land revenue payers who do not cultivate themselves need not be given any remissions because they are landlords and enjoy the fruits of labour of others. After their exclusion the number of deserving small holders comes to, say in round figures about 11 lakhs. These people eke out their living with the sweat of their brow and yet make their both ends meet with great difficulty. But the number of those land revenue payers who do not cultivate land with their own hands, shows that they possess more lands than the actual tillers of the soil. They, as a whole, must be paying proportionately more land revenue than the remaining 11 lakh payers of land revenue. If we take into consideration the total amount of land revenue (that is Rs. 32,26,440) and their number we come to the conclusion that they must be paying land revenue to the extent of say Rs. 11 lakhs. In other words after deducting this amount from the total amount of land revenue the amount that is left (about Rs. 21 lakhs) is the amount paid by the poor 11 lakh small holders. Now if the Government had decided to forego all this money, i.e., Rs. 21 lakhs, they would have earned the gratitude and goodwill of the zamindars. It is a thousand pities that the Government have never thought of doing the right thing at the right moment. However there is yet a way out of it. Even if we take into account the old theory of Crown's right of ownership land and getting royalty out of it, Government can help these 11 lakh small peasants. Now these small holders are required to pay Rs. 21 lakhs and the collection charges incurred by the Government must amount to a few lakhs. If the latter amount is eliminated, it will be a saving to the Government or in other words the Government will be richer by this amount. How can this be done? The Government should forego the amount of Rs. 21 lakhs and in order to keep intact their right of over-lordship, levy a nominal fee of Re. 1 per holder per annum on them and also give this option that if any zamindars would pay Rs. 20 at once, he will be exempted from the payment of land revenue in future. This method is on all fours with the method of enlisting life members in certain institutions. If this suggestion is accepted, what will be the advantages accruing to the Government as well as the zamindars. The former will be relieved of the collection charges amounting to lakhs of rupees. It will be a pure gain. They will get a lumpsum of money which they can invest in cottage or other lucrative industries, adding thereby to the all round prosperity of the province and particularly to that of the zamindars. The latter will enjoy a sort of remission in land revenue and their lot will be improved immensely. They will heave a sigh of relief and get rid of those officers of the Revenue Department, who apart from realising government dues, suck their blood and fleece them in several ways. When the Governor has to pay a visit to some ilaqa, the zamindars of that

place are harassed and forced to make contributions along with land revenue, for this or that purpose. Although no law empowers them to commit such atrocities on the poor zamindars, yet the latter are coerced to pay such amounts which they cannot afford to pay. Such is their woeful tale. But if my suggestion is accepted, all these worries and miseries of the zamindars will be stamped out root and branch. (*Hear, hear.*)

My point is that the land revenue system prevalent in the province is not suited to the conditions of the zamindars. It ought to be assessed on the capacity to bear it. You would remember that in 1928 the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain amended the basis of land revenue and fixed it at the rate of 25 per cent maximum. The rate of land revenue in those days was of a fluctuating nature and it varied in different districts in accordance with the conditions prevalent in those districts. For instance, it was Rs. 40-8-0 per cent at Kangra and Rs. 42 per cent at Karnal. But after that, rules were framed and new assessment was made bringing about an improvement on the old system. Therefore the credit of all these amendments does not go to the Unionist Government. What was done by this Government was the introduction of a Sliding Scale System in the Lyallpur district. This system of assessment of land revenue operates with the rise and fall of the prices of agricultural produce. I admit that the Sliding Scale of assessment is an improvement on the old system. But it is defective nevertheless. Hence I would like to urge upon Government that the assessment of land revenue should not be based on prices but on rise and fall in the net assets. The difficulty, however, is that the net assets are worked out in a very defective manner. Instead of being worked out on tenants basis it is worked out on landlords basis due to which the poor peasant stands nowhere. Government realises much more than 25 per cent of the net assets. Let me clarify this point by saying that if the poor cultivator is given two annas out of a rupee and then his net assets are worked out, I am afraid it will come to cypher and you will find that the cultivator thus will have nothing to cover his naked body for the raising of whose standard of living my honourable friends opposite boast of. Now the principle underlying the Sliding Scale System is that the land revenue increases or decreases with the rise and fall of the prices. For instance, in the district of Lyallpur the price of wheat rose to Rs. 3-12-0 and as a result of this land revenue also increased. When time came and zamindars began to reap profit, Government fixed the price of wheat at Rs. 4-6-0 and cut down chances of profit to nil. Now it is crystal clear that even by this system the zamindar stands to suffer. Let me cite an example in this respect. From the year 1928 till 1937 the prices of agricultural produce were at a low ebb and the zamindar kept his pace with the conditions of those times. Government should not lose sight of the fact that at that time the cost of production and the wages did not fall proportionately. The zamindars had to bear them. It should not be considered that the expenditure of the zamindar was also lowered. Absolutely not. The zamindar had to spend the same amount of money on the maintenance of his bullocks as he used to do before. There was no change in the cost of production. Therefore it cannot be said that Government did any favour to zamindars by lowering the rate of land revenue. As a matter of fact the cost of production is much higher than the relief given by Government. In this connection I would like to quote an

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instance of Syed Karam Shah who was to pay about Rs. 800 as land revenue. He preferred imprisonment to the payment of land revenue. Government confiscated his standing crops, realised them but balance continued. But you will be surprised to know that even five or six crops could not pay the Government dues. The object of reference to this incident is to show that when prices are low after paying the Government dues in the form of abiana and land revenue, nothing is left with the zamindar to make even his both ends meet. This difficulty of the zamindar can only be removed by one way and that is this. The land revenue should not be adjusted on the rise and fall of the prices. But it should be adjusted in accordance with the increase and decrease of net assets. At present owing to war conditions I do not want to urge upon Government to make reduction in abiana and land revenue. But so far as the principle of imposing land revenue is concerned I cannot help discussing it. The other day the Honourable Minister of Revenue while referring to the new settlement was pleased to state that a reduction had been made in Gurgaon district to the extent of 42 per cent. Now may I ask him the reason for not doing new settlement in the Kangra district despite the recommendations of the Land Revenue Committee? It is so perhaps because my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das representing that district is sitting on these benches. It is very deplorable that Government have done nothing during their normal term of 5 years. I, therefore, pity the Honourable Minister of Revenue who when sitting on these benches was of the same opinion as I am holding now. But unfortunately he has become so conservative that he does not care to give ears to our suggestions which some time ago he himself gave to the party. The thing is that after coming into power if Government had begun to do something for bringing about changes in the old system, by now they would have achieved a lot. But the trouble is that the roots of the old system of land revenues have now gone so deep into the soil that Government feel themselves unable to shake off this repugnant system. It is so old and conservative that we have got used to it and do not feel it. For instance, if a levy had been imposed on every member of the House to contribute one rupee daily before entering the Chamber it would have become a practice with us and nobody would have minded it. But to-day if such imposition is enforced, I am sure none of us would tolerate it. What I mean to convey by citing this example is that Government should have taken time by the forelock. As I have already submitted, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was in favour of levying land revenue on the basis of income-tax until he had come into power. In those days when the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram used to sit on these benches, he criticised the land revenue policy more emphatically than myself. All the same when he is sitting on the treasury benches he is not able to do anything. He is in the same old rut of the Government which adopts the stereotyped methods and stereotyped ways without any progress.

Mr. Speaker: Please do not be personal.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: I am sorry. I have only quoted him just to confirm what I said before. I was submitting that even Sliding Scale System was defective and it should be improved.

In the year 1936-37, when the present Government came into office the land revenue administration cost the provincial exchequer Rs. 76 lakhs by direct demands. The total income from land revenue then amounted to Rs. 2,97,00,000. This shows that the expenditure was a little higher than 25 per cent of the expenditure at present, i.e., in 1942-43; we find that it has increased to Rs. 99½ lakhs, while there has been only a slight increase in revenue receipts which stand at about Rs. 3,03,00,000. It means that now expenditure is over 32 per cent of the total income. This is regrettable in view of the fact that at a time when the income stood at Rs. 2,97 lakhs the expenditure was only Rs. 76 lakhs, but now when income is practically the same i.e., 3,03 lakhs—there being a difference of only 6 lakhs—the expenditure has gone up to Rs. 99½ lakhs. In other words, it has increased by 80 per cent.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Minister of Development informed the House yesterday that there has been a considerable development of industries and the expenditure has naturally gone up. The encouragement that the industries have received in this province is too evident to be recounted but one fact which has made itself very clear is that expenses are going up with no corresponding rise in the country's income. No mention has been made of any reduction in expenditure notwithstanding the fact that the Retrenchment and Resources Committee's Report recommended a radical reduction of expenditure. I do not propose to discuss the whole of the report, but with your permission I would like to invite the attention of the House to it in so far as it concerns the demand of land revenue. If, as the Committee had recommended, the number of posts of Financial Commissioners had been reduced instead of being increased as has been done, the expenditure on land revenue administration could not have gone up from Rs. 76 lakhs to Rs. 99 lakhs. I have pointed out even before that it does not seem proper for our Government to grant allowances in addition to big salaries to its officers at a time when even pennies must be saved. Europeans who used to be granted exorbitant salaries on the plea that their prestige had to be maintained are not available now. Our fellow countrymen who are readily available have the same standard of living as we have and, therefore, it is not necessary to apply the same scales of pay to them as was the case with the foreigners. But the reason why those scales continue is that now-a-days appointments are made at the recommendations of big landlords or supporters of the Government and it is very difficult for them to refuse these aristocrats at high salaries. At present the Director of Industries is having a very uncomfortable time because few appointments have to be made in connection with the Punjab Weights and Measures Act. It was expected of a Government which boasts of being fair and well wisher of the poor that appointments be made on merits alone but it is a pity that it is otherwise. Five years of the Unionists' regime have not sufficed to bring about a healthy change in this state of affairs. You should have known that the son of the lowliest of zamindars if competent and qualified has more right to an appointment than the inefficient and incapable son of a big man. Instead of making better use of public money and reducing expenditure they are devising all sorts of means for increasing it. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh has been protesting against the payment of special pay over and above the salaries to officers who had acquired their experience

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at the cost of Government. A glance at the Budget Estimates under the head colonization and settlement would reveal that every officer is allowed a special pay without any rhyme or reason. The honourable members can easily imagine how many lakhs of rupees are thus being squandered.

In this connection I would request the Government that they would at least avoid their extravagance in respect of the administration of the Peasants Welfare Fund. From now onwards it should be made a rule that so far as the administration of this Fund is concerned, none but the sons of peasants be taken on its establishment. They would discharge their duties more efficiently and at lesser cost. Then the Land Revenue Committee has recommended the assessment of land revenue in a modified form which has not been put into practice. Paragraph 67 on page 30 of the Land Revenue Committee Report contains the following recommendations :—

“ We have, therefore, no hesitation whatever in recommending the continuance of the present system with the modifications explained in Chapters four and eleven. One of the modifications relates to the sliding scale system, which is the subject of Chapter five. This system presents some slight analogy to the Income-Tax principle of yearly assessment of net income. We have also recommended a modified form of gradation. These are the only concessions to income-tax principles that we recommend.”

Now what is that modified form? It is simply this that land revenue payable by poor zamindars should be totally omitted. Again on pages 66-67 under paragraph 134, we find :—

“ We consider that the small owner-cultivator throughout the Province requires a breathing space in which to repair his diminished resources, apparent to take but one example, in a tendency here and there to substitute the buffalo at the plough for the more expensive and efficient bullock. We recommend, therefore, in further relief of the small owner who farms his own land, that land revenue should be reduced as follows :—

For those who are paying :

(1) up to Rs. 10 0-8-0 in a rupee.

I have heard many of my honourable friends remark that a remission of Re. 0-8-0 will be absolutely useless, but I beg to differ with them. Having enough to eat they cannot possibly realize how poor people make both ends meet. Thousands may make no difference to a millionaire but a few annas mean a lot for a poor family. When both these recommendations of the committee were blown to the winds what good can we expect from this Welfare Fund. The committee also recommended the assessment of land revenue on big landlords at higher rates. It is really very unfortunate that while exemptions are given to persons with smaller incomes under the Income Tax Act even an owner of one kanal has to pay land revenue. Furthermore a small holder having 2 kanals has to pay land revenue at the same rate per acre as a big landlord like my honourable friend Malik Khizar Hyat Tiwana, who owns more than 30,000 acres. Is it because the Government are afraid that these big landlords will go over to the Opposition if they make them pay more by way of land revenue?

I think my friends over there should have given their careful consideration to this recommendation of the Land Revenue Committee and should have accepted it and given effect to it. If

1 p. m.

even now they raise the rate of assessment in case of the big zamindars according to a graduated scale, I will personally have

no objection. As a matter of fact, I do not think any other honourable member will object to it. I may tell Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram that his apprehensions are without any foundation that if Government increased the rate of assessment in the case of the big zamindars the Unionist party would break up. Apparently it is in view of this reason that he has not given effect to this recommendation of the said committee. I for one think that the rate of assessment in case of the big zamindars should be increased and be levied according to a graduated scale. I hope the Honourable Minister who has observed silence so far in regard to this matter would make up his mind once for all and give effect to this recommendation of the committee.

Then, Sir, I have given notice of three or four other cut motions and I would like to make a few observations in respect of these. The first of them relates to sanction of alienation of land to non-agriculturists. The honourable members are aware of the fact that near big cities non-agriculturists on one excuse or the other get sanction from the Deputy Commissioners for the purchase of lands from the agriculturists. This system of according sanctions for the purchase of lands to the non-agriculturists is highly detrimental to the interests of the agriculturists. A case of this nature has recently come to my notice. One Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh of Lohianwali, District Gujranwala, was practically cheated when a trustee stated on oath before an officer or the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, that his Anjuman had passed a resolution to build a school at a certain place a few miles away from Gujranwala and they had collected a sum of Rs. 22,000 for that purpose. The result was that the Deputy Commissioner sanctioned the alienation of land to that Anjuman. But for ten years the land remained vacant. No school building was constructed on it. As the area near to that land was developing the purchasers thought that if they let that land lie vacant that would fetch them a good price when it came within the developed area. Now those very persons who purchased that land have constructed their school at another place 8 miles away from the town right at the other end of the city. The zamindar who sold his land for the building of a school is now non-plussed. He says that he sold the land for the building of a school, a useful charitable institution, and also hoped that in this way price of his other lands would increase. But now he thinks that he had been made the victim of a fraud. He made a petition to the Financial Commissioner. But the Financial Commissioner dismissed his petition with the remark that the case had become old and no action should be taken. My submission is that this land was purchased for the building of a school but no school was constructed on it. As a matter of fact the building of that school had been constructed at some other place. When that is so, the land which was originally purchased for that purpose should have been restored to the owner. The question of passing of so much time does not arise at all. Under the provisions of the Land Alienation Act, the question of time cannot and should not arise at all. How could he know their intention until the school was built? I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to issue instructions to the Deputy Commissioners that they should give effect to the provisions of that Act strictly and should not try to circumvent them on one excuse or the other. Sanction, however old, must be cancelled in the case of Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.

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Then again Government have done a great injustice to the zamindars inasmuch as they have not provided any relief to them by way of remission in land revenue. In fact, we expected that Government would grant them some remission. But so far they have not taken any such action. Sir, the other day while speaking on the general discussion of the Budget I pointed out that the whole budget was wrong and the form in which it was presented was incorrect. The budget showed a deficit of 10 lakhs according to the calculations of the Finance Minister, but in fact it had actually turned out to be a surplus of 88 lakhs of rupees. I proved that by citing facts and figures from the budget itself. Now when the financial position of the province is so satisfactory, I do not know why my friends have deemed it sufficient to set apart only a sum of 30 lakhs of rupees for the creation of a peasant's welfare fund. Why do not they set apart more money and give remissions to zamindars which they urgently need? On the one hand, they have not granted any remission to the zamindars, on the other hand, they are imposing taxes after taxes on the urban people. By sponsoring such measures they have disturbed the peace of the country. Let us see as to what will be the income from the Sales Tax? After deducting the charges of administration the income in this as well as in the next year from this tax will amount to 3 to 4 lakhs only. For the realisation of this petty sum my friends have disturbed the peace and tranquillity of the province which has adversely effected the war effort. They have created grave doubts in the minds of the people about their intentions and this has resulted in lessening the war effort. They always preach that we should intensify war effort, but their own actions belie their professions. They do things which instead of intensifying the war effort lessen it. Their actions instead of benefitting the country are harming its best interests. From this my friends should not conclude that I am opposing this Act. As a matter of fact, I think that the principle of the Sales Tax Act is good and it is admitted by the urban people as well. But why make haste in enforcing such measures? If my friends wanted money they could have asked the urban people to pay so much every year and they would have paid it and the matter would have ended there and then. Commonsense required that at least for the time being they should have postponed the operation of this measure. But they have done nothing of the sort. When these taxation measures were being enacted, we were told by Government that as a result of the imposition of these taxes on the urban people relief would be given to the zamindars in the shape of remissions in land revenue. But that promise has not so far been fulfilled and the poor zamindars remain as they were. If Government had a mind to do so they would have set apart the money realized from these taxes for the benefit of the poor zamindars. But the fact is that they have no such intention at all. Their works are increasing. Their departments are increasing. New posts are daily being created which consume all the extra money. I am certain the poor zamindars will not get even a single pie remission in land revenue. The expenditure of Government is on the increase and it will continue to increase year after year. If the honourable members look up the budget of the year 1921, they would find that at that time the income of Government was 8 crores of rupees and now it has risen to 18 crores of rupees. But their expenditure has also risen in the same proportion. I think even if the

income of Government rises to 20 crores, their expenditure will go up to the same extent and they would never be able to give any relief to the poor zamindars. My friends are wasting the funds of Government and they do not care for the needs of the zamindars at all. They are realising land revenue from the zamindars all right, but so far they have paid no attention to whether on account of war situation the zamindars need any kind of protection or not. Let me tell them that in Lyallpur alone people are paying $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees as land revenue and water rates. Now the headworks of the canals which supply water to the zamindars of Lyallpur district have no anti-aircraft guns to protect it against any enemy raiders. If God forbid any enemy raider comes and bombards the headworks, that would not only mean loss to Government of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees but 10 to 20 lakhs of people would also die of hunger and starvation. In that case they would not receive any water and they would not be able to sow their crops at all. That would create unrest in the province and the whole machinery of Government would come to a standstill. So I would request the Government that they should cut down their other expenses and provide some anti-aircraft guns for the protection of the headworks of our canals. Let them not give any remission in revenue at present but they must do this in order to make the Headworks safe against air attacks. Besides in order to effect savings in the expenses of Government they should abolish all special pays and the money saved should be spent on providing relief to the poor. My friends are having surplus budgets and it is very easy for them to grant remissions to the poor zamindars. If they do so the zamindars would be very thankful to them. If, on the contrary, they do not grant any remission to them I am afraid they will become hopeless and the result may be *تاتریق از عراق آورده شد عمار گزیده مرده شود*. They should not compel them to give up all hopes of getting any relief at all. If this feeling gains ground in the hearts of the people it would be dangerous for my friends. Now is the time for them to grant some relief to the poor zamindars so that they should keep quiet and be contented. But it is a matter of great regret that instead of cutting down their expenditure and providing any relief to the poor zamindars Government are following blind-folded the policy of their predecessors. May I hope they will do something in this connection?

There have been complaints regarding colonization. I do not know whether any steps have been taken to remove those complaints. Similarly there have been complaints regarding the land reclamation. In view of those complaints I do not think that the Colonization Officer deserves the special pay which is given to him.

I may once again press upon the Government that the zamindars complain that it has not done anything so far to protect the headworks of various canals from air raids. Such a feeling among the agriculturists is certainly harmful to the interests of the Government. It is necessary that such complaints should be removed. I hope that Chaudhri Sahib will give his serious attention to these matters and remove the complaints of the agriculturists. With these words I move the cut motion for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, it is the policy of the Government not to assess land revenue anywhere more than 25 per cent of the net assets. Land revenue is assessed at some places according to this policy while there are other places which are not given the benefit of this policy. This discrimination cannot be justified on any grounds. According to the Darling Committee the rates of assessment in Gurgaon, Kangra and Karnal districts are 42 per cent, 40·5 per cent and 39 per cent respectively of the net assets. These rates of assessment are too high. The Darling Committee recommended that in view of these high rates of assessment the settlement of these districts may be taken in hand as early as possible so that the rates of assessment could be reduced. The other day the Honourable Minister of Revenue stated that much concession has been given to the district of Gurgaon in the matter of assessment of land revenue and that in tahsil Rewari the rates have been reduced by 40 per cent and that regarding the other tahsils of the district no decision has been reached up to this time. Let me tell him that the revenue collection in the district of Gurgaon is at present about 16 lakhs. In no case should it be more than 12 lakhs. The reduction that has been made in the Rewari tahsil is on the basis of previous heavy assessment and not because of the policy of fixing land revenue at 25 per cent of the net assets. According to the new assessment the rates of land revenue fixed in tahsil Rewari are 24 per cent of the net income of the agriculturists. District Gurgaon is very backward and poor as compared to the other districts of the Punjab. In this district the rates of assessment should be fixed at something between 10 and 15 per cent of the net assets. In district Amritsar the rates of assessment were fixed at 16 per cent and you know, Sir, the agitation that was made there as a protest against those rates. The people of Gurgaon are backward and loyal subjects of Government. They do not know how to agitate. They, notwithstanding their poverty and loyalty, did not agitate against the aforesaid high rates of assessment. I request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to give the advantage of their general policy of rates of assessment to the district of Gurgaon also.

The previous Government wrote to the United Provinces Government that the rates of assessment in the areas of the Gurgaon district as are irrigated by the Agra Canal may be made uniform with those prevailing in the Punjab. At that time the rates of abiana in the Punjab were higher than those of the United Provinces. The result was that the United Provinces Government raised the rates of abiana on the aforesaid canal. Later on the Punjab Government revised their rates of abiana and reduced them. The people of the Gurgaon district agitated against the high rates of the United Provinces charged from them. They approached Government also. Government have twice or thrice written to the United Provinces Government to reduce the rates of abiana on the Agra Canal. But so far the United Provinces Government have taken no steps to reduce their rates on the Agra Canal. The Government should enter into a contract with the United Provinces Government to collect the irrigation charges from the district of Gurgaon and apply there also the rates which are fixed for the other districts of the Punjab and make up the loss, if there be any from their own pocket. Moreover, the Government should not fix the

rates of assessment in the aforesaid district on the basis of *khush haisiyati*. The area should be treated as *barani* and assessed accordingly. I know the Honourable Premier or the Honourable Revenue Minister will get up and say that Government approached the United Provinces Government on the subject, but the latter did not agree. How can I believe that our Government cannot persuade the United Provinces Government to agree to a proposal which is quite justified? If this is not possible, Government of India may be approached to get the wrong redressed. The condition of the people of the Gurgaon district is very bad and Government should do everything in their power to ameliorate it.

Besides, I have given notice of another cut motion in order to point out the unscientific and unjust system of remission and suspension of land revenue in the Punjab, as laid down in Land Administration Manual, page 209 onwards. If you read it, you will find that it is highly unjust and improper. The Income Tax Department does not charge any income tax if the income of a certain factory decreases and becomes less than the fixed limit. But the land revenue is recovered even if the cultivator's crop is 12 annas in the rupee. If the crop is 9 annas in the rupee, the land revenue is not remitted but only suspended, and the suspended land revenue is collected later on. Fairness demanded that if the crop was 15 or 14 or 13 or 12 annas in the rupee, a proportionate remission should be granted in the land revenue. But this is not done. Instead of this, a crop is considered normal even if the income from it is only 0-8-0 in the rupee. Total land revenue is suspended only if the crop is worse than 0-4-0 in the rupee. This is not remission. It is only a suspension. It is recovered later on. If however a crop is Re. 0-8-0 in the rupee, then a 25 per cent remission is granted, and if it is 0-6-0 or 0-4-0 in the rupee, then a 50 per cent remission is granted. Moreover, the real power of reporting such things lies in the hands of the patwaris. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Commissioner should have some discretion in this regard. He should see the paying capacity of the zamindar, and make remissions accordingly irrespective of *jinswar*. At present he has no discretion. He is bound by the rigid rules and the reports of the patwaris. Whosoever succeeds in persuading the patwari to put in a favourable report, he gets suspension. Others are deprived of this favour. There should be some enabling clause in the rules whereby the Deputy Commissioner may grant a proportionate suspension or remission according to the paying capacity of the zamindars of the particular *mohalla*.

Another important cut motion tabled by me was that the work of consolidation of holdings should not be done by two departments. The dual system should go and yield place to a unitary system. I mean that the Co-operative Department is not quite competent to perform this job. It is the Revenue Department which can perform this duty efficiently. We have to grant an additional grant for the checking of the records prepared by the Co-operative Department. This is sheer waste of money. Moreover, the Co-operative Department has to seek help of the patwaris. Why lend the services of the patwaris to another department? Why not let the work remain with the Revenue Department? The dual system must go. My second submission in this regard is that a fee of Re. 0-8-0 per acre is charged from the zamindars for consolidation of holdings. This

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fee should be abolished and the entire work entrusted to the Revenue Department. In the first instance, zamindars have no sympathy with consolidation. In the second, a fee is levied on them. Thus the work of consolidation has been made doubly horrible to the zamindar. I would request Government to adopt a more reasonable method than this. What is needed is this. Government should create some attraction in this work, so that the zamindars may be persuaded to agree to the consolidation of their holdings. If the Revenue Department takes up the whole work and relieves the Co-operative Department from this duty, and, further, the fee is abolished I am sure some progress will be made in the matter of consolidation of holdings.

Now I come to the subject matter of another cut motion which I had tabled with regard to the Land Revenue demand. A great difficulty experienced by people both in the cities and the villages is with regard to the scarcity of grain. The best way to face this situation is to store grain under a co-operative system. We should ascertain how much grain would be required by a zamindar's family for consumption during a whole year. In the next rabi crop, land revenue should be collected in kind and it should be so collected only when a zamindar's family is left with sufficient grain to last for one year. The difficulty at present is that the Government insists on payment in cash and people are obliged to sell their crop at once in order to pay the Government demand. The result is that all the grain passes from the zamindars into the hands of the traders. Now if the traders decide to go on strike, as they have done now, Government as well as the people are helpless because the whole grain is with the traders. The zamindars sold it to the traders who are now the sole owners of it. Government has got no stocks of grain, because it never got any grain from the zamindars. The zamindars do not have it because they sold it away to the traders. Both are without grain. If Government had received grain from the zamindars, it would have had a large surplus with it. If grain to last for one year is left with every zamindar and Government receives land revenue in kind, and if further grain is stored under some co-operative system, the difficulty of procuring grain would never be experienced.

Minister for Development : Will the honourable member repeat the last part of his speech ?

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : I was submitting that in those districts which fail to have bumper crops, there zamindars should be asked to store grain sufficient to meet their requirements for at least a period of one year and the remaining grain should be stocked through the agency of the Co-operative Department. The object in view is that at the time of scarcity of grains, like the present, starvation should not stare the poor zamindars in the face. They should be enabled to purchase the necessary wheat or other grains from the stores, maintained by the Co-operative Department. This is a matter of vital importance. Daily we hear news that wheat flour is adulterated to the worst degree. The stocking of grains in the manner I have stated, would go a long way to mitigate the hardship of the poor zamindars.

Then my submission is that while realising the land revenue from the zamindars Government would be well advised to take particular care to leave such an amount of grain as may be sufficient for the maintenance of the zamindar's family for a period of one year. I am making this request in the interest of the poor kisans and not big zamindars like the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat. I advocate the cause of those petty zamindars who pay Rs. 25 or less as land revenue.

After this I would like to draw the attention of Government to another important point and that is this. We find that certain persons in the villages make encroachments on lands commonly meant for free grazing of the cattle of the village community and on road leading from village to village. They bring these lands under cultivation. The Government stand to gain because the amount of land revenue is enhanced. But this undesirable encroachment adversely affects the health and growth of the cattle. As the free grazing land dwindles in area, the amount of fodder also decreases. Consequently the cattle suffer miserably for want of sufficient quantity of fodder. Naturally this shrinkage in grazing lands presents a great difficulty to those poor villagers who do not own any land, but whose only means of livelihood is the selling of milk and the breeding of cattle. Hence these people deserve that land-revenue-free government lands, if there are any in the ilaqa concerned, should be granted to them for the purpose of grazing cattle and improving their breed.

I may also bring this fact to the notice of the Honourable Minister that no useful purpose would be served by maintaining the Veterinary Department if the cattle are to be allowed to deteriorate in breed, etc., in this way. A tree cannot flourish, if water is sprinkled only on the branches. It must be irrigated at the root. If there will be no cattle of good breed in the villages, it will be a great blow to the economic life of the zamindars. I, therefore, appeal to the Honourable Minister to grant more common grazing lands to the villages free of land revenue, as well as road from village to village.

Besides, I have to make this submission. The roads leading from one village to another are very narrow. The Honourable Minister must be aware of this because he must have experienced this difficulty while touring rural areas. The reason of these roads getting narrowed down is that certain zamindars make encroachments on them and bring them under cultivation causing thereby great inconvenience to the rural public. In order to overcome this difficulty and check this undesirable encroachment, I make this wholesome suggestion. The patwari should be made responsible to check or take necessary action in all cases of encroachment on village to village roads and on grazing common lands. He should be asked to be vigilant and watchful, and he should not wait for a complaint to be lodged with him in this connection. Whenever he comes across any such encroachments, he should take prompt action. I am sure this arrangement will prove a deterrent to the persons addicted to this bad habit.

Then I have to point out that barani villages in Gurgaon sub-division are suffering from great scarcity of fodder. When interpellations in this connection were made, Government did not give a satisfactory reply. I

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made it clear that owing to severe dearth of fodder, the zamindars of the ilaqa had been compelled to lop off the branches of 90 per cent of their tree in order to feed their cattle. Government told us that taccavi loans to the extent of 10 to 15 lakhs of rupees were advanced to the zamindars to tide over the difficulty. I may point out that the sum advanced to individual zamindar was too small to enable him to cope with the situation. I request that Government should take a bold step to provide relief to the poor zamindars whose cattle are face to face with starvation.

Then I have to bring to the notice of the Government that glaring injustice is being done to the members of the Meo community. They are much under-represented in the cadre of patwaris. You will be surprised to hear that in spite of the fact that they number more than a lakh in the ilaqa, only two appointments out of 54 have been given to them. This should be made good by Government. We are told that a list of candidates is maintained by the department and vacancies of patwaris are filled out of them. I want to know by whom this list is prepared. Government should enquire as to who is responsible for usurping and trampling under foot the rights of backward classes like the Meos—Hindu zamindars, such as Gujars and Rajputs, I submit that lists of candidates for patwaris be so prepared as to give the Meos and Gujars and Rajputs their proper share in this service. I hope this matter will receive a favourable consideration at the hands of the Honourable Minister.

Besides, I have to make a mention of another important point. We understand the collection charges incurred by Government come to 10 per cent of the revenue. But this percentage has not been fixed. It varies at different places. My submission is that even if Government have to enhance this percentage to 20 per cent, they should fix it once for all. It is only then that they can be sure of any saving. It is obvious that Government cannot afford relief to the zamindars unless they have got sufficient money in their coffers. I think substantial economy can be effected if the cost of collection is kept to the minimum and at a certain fixed proportion. Honourable members would be surprised to know that the cost of collection of revenues in connection with the Immovable Urban Property Tax Act amounted to three lakhs of rupees, while the revenue receipts were Rs. 8 lakhs. In other words, the income or the savings stood at Rs. 5 lakhs only. The collection charges were out of all proportions to the income received.

I again ask Government to accept the principle that the collection charges should in no case exceed 10 per cent of the collection. Ultimately it will prove a great help and relief to the poor zamindars. And then Government may save a large amount of money by decreasing the expenses of unnecessary establishments. Anyhow I must congratulate Government on providing Rs. 8,00,000 to the Peasants Welfare Fund. But I would submit that this amount of money is too small to meet the requirements of zamindars. Our Government which claims to be a well-wisher of the zamindars will be giving a great help to the peasantry if the amount of the Fund is further increased. With these few words, Sir, I close my remarks.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) (*Punjabi*): Sir, as this day is going to be devoted to the discussion of a subject which is closely related to those people who are considered to be the backbone of this country, I deem it my duty to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the defects and troubles faced by the zamindars in connection with the payment of land revenue. I will have no hesitation in saying that even today when different kinds of facilities are given to the zamindars to improve their crop, the zamindara profession is considered to be the worst profession on the face of the earth. This is so because of more hardships and less profit. But it is most fortunate for us all that the Honourable Minister of Revenue, as he often says, has made it his life mission to help the zamindar, to give him relief, to ameliorate his condition and consequently to raise his standard of living. It is indeed well and good. I would, however, ask my honourable friends sitting on both sides of the House not to lose this opportunity of urging upon the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to fulfil his life mission. Let me therefore point out that as the system of assessing land revenue is most defective, Government should remove it and by doing so, I am sure they would be giving a great relief to the zamindars. As regards the reduction of abiana much has already been said on the floor of the House and Government have stated that the rate of abiana has been reduced to a considerable extent and now abiana does not admit of any further reduction, I, therefore, do not want to press this proposition any longer. But what I must point out to Government is this. To record less rate of land revenue on the assessment circles is the only method for a relief to the land owners. The revenue officers say that if this is done they can tamper, otherwise not. I, therefore, submit that the rate of land revenue should be assessed on the basis of graduated scale system. In order to bring the rate of land revenue on the basis of assessment circles, what is most needed is to have correct price records for the last 20 years. The trouble however is that the correct price record is not kept, owing to defective and inefficient inspection on the part of the officers concerned. Government should make an improvement on this matter and see to it that the prices are entered correctly in the registers so that no trouble may arise at the time of assessment. What I want to convey is that work done by the Government officers in this respect is not satisfactory and therefore more attention should be paid to it. The second fundamental and essential point for the assessment of land revenue is crop inspection and I am confident that one-fourth of injustice done to the zamindars is due to the fact that correct entries are not made into the girdawari registers. The worst of it is that zamindars also do not care that crops are correctly recorded in the girdawari registers. I would, therefore, submit that Government should attach more importance to this point because it is well known to them that at the time of assessment of land revenue average of kharaba is worked out and if it is correctly worked out the zamindar ultimately receives a considerable benefit by it. If these facts which I have now placed before the House are properly looked into by Government, I can say with confidence that the zamindars may be won over. Let me further suggest the Honourable Minister of Revenue to increase the number of patwaris in congested areas and if on account of the increased work of girdawari more persons are required, Government should not hesitate to add to the number of kanungos and patwaris. I

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think if one more officer, for instance, a naib-tahsildar is appointed exclusively for this work in every tahsil it can be finished within a month. By making this ordinary arrangement the crop inspection and the average of kharaba will be correctly recorded in the revenue registers and after 20 years period it will help the authorities to a great extent in making proper and precise assessment of land revenue at the time of settlement. The whole benefit will go indirectly to the zamindars. I have drawn the attention of the Revenue Minister to the fundamental points regarding this matter and now it is up to him to pick up the suggestion and to do something substantial in reducing the land revenue at the next settlement.

The next point which I wish to bring to the notice of Government is with regard to the case of 146 auction purchasers of kamin squares of 1924 who are still seeking justice. These squares were purchased by the zamindars of the Lyallpur district. The highest bid at that time was Rs. 2,000 per acre and afterwards the prices fell down due to depression of prices. The total area auctioned out of the whole lot was 2,162 acres, valued at Rs. 1,14,84,504. The earnest money paid at the time of the auction was Rs. 1,98,960. The instalments that were paid up amount to Rs. 70,050. The money paid by those people so far amounts to Rs. 8,05,975 and if the interest on this sum is calculated to date the grand total will roughly come to Rs. 4 lakhs.

Now in the adjoining chaks which had also been sold by auction, the tenants were also obliged by the depression prices to default in the matter of their instalments. But in their case they were shown great leniency and as a special case they were allowed to retain that much of land for which they had paid through instalments. In spite of the fact that the tenants of the kamin squares submitted memorials and representations, Government did not take any action in the matter. When Mr. Kirplani went to that ilaqa on his settlement tour, the whole case was represented to him. After carefully considering the facts he said that as Government did not intend to rob them of their money and as there seemed to be much weight in their argument there was no reason why Government should not revise their case. He even recommended their case to Government but once again the matter was shelved. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to kindly consider their applications and to treat their case just as was done in respect of the adjoining chak as a special case. I am, however, aware of the fact that by returning 300 squares of land, Government will have to sustain a loss on account of the increased value of land which will have to be forgone. If the Honourable Minister were to send for the facts and figures concerning this case, he will find that this loss will not be a real loss if the money paid by instalments with interest is taken into consideration. I again beg to submit that this matter should be considered as early as possible and justice done to those poor people.

The second matter which I wanted to bring to the Honourable Minister's notice concerns Christian Chak No. 72 in the Khanewal sub-division of Multan district. This chak was given to the Salvation Army for starting a Christian Colony. The nearby chak was given to the Aryas for colonising people belonging to that community on the same terms. The Christians

started developing thier lands but the Aryas after trying their hand at agriculture gave it up. The land was therefore confiscated by Government. As Government could not find tenants on those terms for a considerable period, they had perforce to allot them on Rs. 2,500 per square basis. The position at present is this that while the new tenants at Arya Nagar have to pay Rs. 2,500, the tenants in Christian Chak have to pay at the old rate, i.e., Rs. 6,000. So far as their legal position is concerned, they are no doubt obliged to carry out the terms on which the land was granted to them. But from a purely ethical view point it does seem inequitable that those who went on undaunted with their agricultural pursuits even in the face of vicissitudes and thus fulfilled the object of the Government in granting this land were deprived of this concession, while those who abandoned the land benefited by it. It is therefore meet and proper that they too should be treated with the same consideration and this concession should also apply to them.

Now, sir, I have to refer to another matter. In the Sialkot district the construction of Narowal-Sialkot Railway line in 1913-15 cut off the natural flow of water in the Dek inundation channel. As the supply of water was stopped, the lands on the other side of the railway line were left to depend mainly on rain water. The construction of this line not only deprived the lands of their source of irrigation and turned them into *barani* lands, but it also deprived Government of the inundation revenue that they used to receive. Repeated representations were made to the Railway authorities but it was contended on their side that as 20 years had passed the matter had now been barred by time. My submission is that if Government undertake to construct a syphon, it will not only bring back prosperity to those villages which have now been practically ruined but will restore to the Government their income from inundation revenue. I appeal to the Honourable Minister to apply his mind to this matter and to remove this grievance of the zamindars in that area.

Again I beg to submit that Government should revise their policy of granting land in the new colonies to those who are already in possession of large tracts of land. Those who till the soil with their own hands are worthy of being called agriculturists. We, on the other hand, are capitalists and landlords who get our lands cultivated by these people. It is in the fullness of justice, therefore, to grant land to the real zamindars instead of giving it to those who already own thousands of acres. No doubt in politics one has to keep many aspects in view. But my submission is that if land

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is to be given to the zamindars it should be given to those who till it with their own hands. That is how we can really help the poor zamindars for whom my honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has also great sympathy and for whose cause he has devoted his whole life. If he wants to help them he should see that land is given to those zamindars who till it with their own hands and not to those who already own thousands of acres of land.

Then zamindars have to face many other difficulties also. For instance, they have to go from place to place in order to attend to their cases pending in the courts of the Revenue Assistants or other revenue officers. On paper it is laid down that the Revenue Assistant or the officer concerned, when ever he is on tour, should take up these cases and hear the zamindars

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in the villages. But in actual practice the Deputy Commissioners, Revenue Assistants or other officers concerned do not go specially on tour to take up the cases of the zamindars and hear them in villages. On the contrary, it is the zamindars who have to follow these officers in order to get a hearing. In fact many times they have to go for four or five days at a stretch after the Revenue Assistants in order to attend to their cases pending in their courts. Under such circumstances they have to take flour with them for preparing their meals or they have to beg for food from other people. This is very troublesome for the zamindars. The very object for which these officers are asked to go on tour is defeated. Instead of saving the trouble and time of the zamindars, they are put to more trouble and a good deal of their time is also wasted. Their absence from their lands leads to the deterioration of their crops as well. Just think how much trouble would be caused to a zamindar who lives at Attari in the Lahore district, if he is asked to go to Pattoki at the other end of the same district for the sake of attending to his case. This is really troublesome for the zamindars that they have to run after the revenue officers for getting their cases decided. Under these circumstances my suggestion is that tahsils should be made the headquarters for hearing of such cases of zamindars. If this suggestion is adopted it would result in a great advantage to the zamindars. In this connection I am reminded of the story of an old woman. She had a case pending before a Revenue Assistant in regard to assessment of land or about some division of land. But unfortunately for her, her case continued to be postponed for two or three years. Eventually the Revenue Assistant concerned was transferred from that place. When he was about to leave that old woman went to him and with folded hands said, "Baccha tarikoo, as if it was the name of the Revenue Assistant, do not postpone my case to another date but decide it one way or the other here and now". That is not the only case of its kind. Generally two or three years are taken for deciding such cases. This means a great hardship for the zamindars. I would therefore request my friends that they should take steps to remove these hardships of the zamindars. This is not anything which cannot be done easily. It requires only a small effort on the part of the Honourable Minister to issue a circular to this effect or ask the Financial Commissioner to issue it and the needful will be done. بس ای نکا بہ پورا ہے فیصلہ دل سے

I may tell him that like Mian Nurullah I am not crying for the moon. As a matter of fact this trouble of the zamindars can be removed by a single stroke of the pen. It is time for my friends to do so, and God knows whether they will get such an opportunity again or not. If these troubles of the zamindars are not removed in the time of Sir Chhotu Ram, I ask in whose time will they after all be removed?

Then, sir, there is another matter which requires the urgent attention of Government. That is, that the villagers regard sub-inspectors of police as the only officers who can help or trouble them. The result is that when they want to get anything done they go to the police station and seek the assistance of the sub-inspector in charge. The sub-inspector of police cannot enter such reports in his reports register, because if he were to do so he would involve himself in unnecessary trouble and labour. The result is that he usually advises the zamindars concerned to write an application

to the Superintendent of Police stating his difficulty or trouble. Often he gets such representations written in his own thana and they are despatched to the Superintendent of Police. For instance, if any zamindar has any quarrel with any other zamindar he goes to the sub-inspector of police and reports that such and such zamindar who is his partner says that he would kill him. The sub-inspector will not enter this report in his register of reports because if he were to do so he would have to go and make inquiries about it in proper legal method. So what he does is, he gets the petition written on behalf of the zamindar and gets it despatched to the Superintendent of Police. Naturally the Superintendent of Police has to send that petition to the police station concerned for enquiry. In this way the sub-inspector of police interferes in day to day administration of Government. The fact of the matter is that he is always prepared to get such reports written down in thana in the shape of petitions and send them to the Superintendent of Police concerned. That should be discouraged. There is no reason why the Superintendent of Police should be allowed to take in every petition and every application and order his thana to inquire. Whenever any such petition is sent to him, he has to send it back to his thana. But under the cover of such applications the sub-inspectors of police can play havoc and havoc is being played. I do not know whether this is within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister or not that the administration of the province is being run by the police in this fictitious manner. If he puts a stop to this system, he would be doing a great service to the poor people of the province. I hope he would see that this practice is stopped once for all.

Then again five years have passed since this Government came into office. During this space of five years they have honestly tried to enact measures for providing relief to the poor people of the province.

It is not essential that the Government should insist on demanding respect for the prestige and principles laid down by them at this particular time when the country is faced with the danger of foreign aggression. Why create internal disturbance? No one knows what may happen tomorrow. No one can say what may happen to the present Government in the near future.

اے سکرڈر لہزمی تری ہی عالمکوی
کلنے دس آپ جیا نس لئے دارا مارا

I do not find fault with the intentions of Government, so far as the measures they have taken to ameliorate the condition of the agriculturists are concerned. But what I mean is that they should not make it a point of honour to enforce all their laws under the peculiar circumstances in which the whole country has been placed due to war. They should act according to the principle of—

درشتی و نرمی ہم دیر بہ اسیت

Let the Honourable Ministers and specially the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram carry out the reform of such ordinary things as are objectionable on principle without giving offence to anybody. If they do it, it will be good for all concerned. With these words I resume my seat.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural, (Urdu): Sir, previously there were two systems of land revenue; the fixed and the fluctuating. According to the former the demand of land revenue

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

was fixed and it had to be paid to Government under all circumstances. According to the latter system the demand of land revenue was assessed according to the state of crops. Now it is assessed according to the sliding scale of assessment. Beside this in certain areas chahi rates and *kush khatiyati* are being charged. These are also land revenue charges. The policy of Government is that the land revenue should be at the most 25 per cent of the net income of the agriculturists. In other words, they charge four annas in the rupee. But what actually happens is this. Often the average of the crop in a particular area is not more than 12 annas in the rupee, but the land revenue charged on it is four annas. No heed is paid to the condition of the crop. No doubt in other provinces the rates of assessment are higher than those of the Punjab Government. But it does not mean that we should also commit the mistake which other provinces have committed. Ours is a zamindara Government and they have deep sympathy with the zamindars. Our Government should, therefore, be more considerate in this matter than the governments of other provinces who are not zamindara governments. Income-tax is assessed on incomes above Rs. 2,000. But land revenue is assessed on all incomes, whether big or small. All agriculturists, irrespective of the fact whether their income from land is more or less, are assessed land revenue. Even those who have no more than Rs. 2 annual income have to pay the land revenue. The poor agriculturists cannot pay the Government demand. They feel it very much when they are made to pay it. Land revenue should be realised only from those who can afford to pay. Usually the holdings are two or three acres each and the income from them is very small. The owners cannot afford to pay Government demand out of their small incomes from such small holdings. Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs in this year's budget for the amelioration of the condition of the zamindars, and they have promised to increase this sum from the next year to Rs. 55 lakhs a year. Government realises about ten crores from the agriculturists. Compared to this sum the amount earmarked for the amelioration of their condition is not much. More should be spent on them to raise their status and their standard of living. The zamindars' condition is so pitiable that they cannot make both ends meet. They live no better than animals. If we do not do anything to help them, we would be failing in our duty. We are their representatives and it is our duty to help them. Government have provided one crore of rupees for protection against air raids. This means that they can manage to get money when they think it is necessary. If it is so, then why not manage to get somehow or other some amount for the benefit of the zamindars? I think if Government so desire, they can provide more money in the budget for the benefit of the poor zamindars.

It can reasonably be expected that if the Unionist Government in general and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram in particular try to lighten the burden of land revenue, most of the troubles of the zamindars would end very soon. Just consider how the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has been able to scale down the rural debts. Nobody could ever imagine that such a thing was possible in so short a time. But he has achieved the impossible. Similarly if he makes up his mind to lighten the burden of land revenue, I am sure he will remarkably succeed in his object.

The question is only of his having the necessary will. If the will is there, the way is sure to be found.

Whenever we ask that holdings of less than 8 or 5 acres be exempted from the payment of land revenue, it is stated on behalf of Government that the zamindars will divide and subdivide their land in order to escape payment. But may I ask when the Income-Tax Department has fixed certain limit, whether the traders divide their capital and income into separate portions, so that the income of one person should be shown as the income of so many different individuals? The Income Tax department has never particularly complained of this. But why should the Revenue Department cry before the milk is spilt? Even if such cases take place, their number will be very small indeed. This is only a vague fear and Government should shake it off.

Another important point that I wish to bring to the notice of Government is that when any zamindar plants a garden, his land revenue for that land is doubled. That should not be done. Instead of that, some encouragement should be given to those who take to gardening in the Punjab. For some years in the beginning, there is no income from a newly planted garden. If Government cannot encourage, at least it should not punish the zamindars if they want to develop gardening. If fruit industry is encouraged in the Punjab, the condition of the zamindars will become better than it is at present. People will become prosperous and their income will be increased.

Adverting to the question of reducing the land revenue, I may be permitted to say that the zamindars are groaning under the heavy burden of land revenue and abiana. In addition to this they pay large sums of money towards the war fund. Their share in the war loan is the largest. Again, the man power is almost entirely supplied by the Punjabi zamindars. We are the sword arm of India. Yet in spite of all these sacrifices, Government does not show any consideration to us. Even if a person has very little income, say Rs. 5 or 10, he is not exempted from the payment of land revenue. But in the Income-Tax department, the minimum limit of income fixed is Rs. 2,000, up to which no tax is levied. Over against it there is no exemption in the Land Revenue Department even to the humblest zamindar. Whether our holdings are uneconomic or whether we are running at a loss, Government grants us no exemption in land revenue. The result is that most of the cultivators have to sell their trees to pay off the land revenue. They have to sell the ornaments of their womenfolk. They have to sell their other belongings in order to meet the demands of Government. I am ashamed to mention that sometimes zamindars have to sell their daughters to get money for paying land revenue to the Government. But it is a pity that Government does not try to save the cultivators from this utter disgrace and shame by lightening their burden. Thousands of rupees are being spent on air raid precautions. The same money can be spent in remissions. The status of zamindars has deteriorated. They have reduced to abject poverty. It is high time that Government did something to alleviate their sufferings. Whatever Government has done during the last five years is insufficient. Much more than that ought to be attempted now.

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Now I come to the complaints with regard to the Gray Canals of Ferozepore. The royalty received by Government from Gray Canals is over Rs. 60,00,000 and yet Government pays no attention to the mismanagement by the officers of this canal. This was not dug by Government. It was wholly dug with the finances of the people. The subordinate officials in this canal Department are inefficient, and most of them are corrupt. I filed a comprehensive complaint about this Department, and the Government appointed Rai Bahadur Muneshwar Chand as a special officer to hold inquiry and make a report, which he has done, and sent to the Financial Commissioner. I am glad that Mr. Garbett (now Sir) told me that I had not exaggerated a bit. In reality there are far more defects and corrupt practices in the Gray Canals than I had mentioned. This is the view of the former Financial Commissioner. The present provisions are that the Commissioner, Jullundur Division is to hear the appeals preferred against the orders of the Superintendent, Gray Canals. The Commissioner is always a layman and he cannot understand, rather cannot be expected to understand the technical points of Engineering, and therefore we cannot expect him to interfere even where it is desirable. Technical knowledge is necessary for the officer hearing appeals. I therefore request that some Engineer may be appointed to hear appeals, and to have a general Control over these Canals. Apart from this case, a sifting enquiry should be instituted into the conduct of the inefficient and corrupt officers of the Gray Canals and the Superintendent, who is an honest and capable man, and is there on deputation, be asked to make a report regarding them, and necessary action should be taken immediately. One suggestion that I would like to make in this connection is, that the subordinate officers of these canals should be transferred to other canals and not fixed to this very place. The defect of their remaining permanently in this very place is that they stick to their vices. If they were to be transferred, other officers would come to this place and try to improve the management. These officers should go somewhere else and give the benefit of their experience to other places. They may prove useful in other places.

Now I resume my seat in the hope that Government would consider the proposals and suggestion, made by me, and take immediate steps to carry them out.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmami (Muzaaffargarh, North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have risen to draw the pointed attention of the Honourable Minister for Revenue to a very important matter and that is the land revenue policy of the Government in regard to fruit gardening and fruit culture in this province. It is common knowledge that the population of the Punjab is increasing by leaps and bounds. It is obvious that the agricultural industry run on old, stereotyped and out-of-date methods, cannot meet the requirements of the ever-increasing population. In fact we would never be able to raise our standard of living if we were to continue cultivation of our land on antiquated lines. Unfortunately this province mainly depends upon agriculture. No such industries or avenues for earning livelihood exist here, which the increasing population could usefully adopt. Under the circumstances, it is but natural that with the increase in population, the pressure on land should also increase.

This is exactly what is happening in the Punjab. But unless ways and means are adopted to enhance the productivity of the soil and thereby the agricultural produce of the land, I feel our province is heading fast towards a major disaster. If we just look at the improved agricultural methods adopted by other countries and the facilities provided by their governments to the agricultural community, we are constrained to find that the land revenue policy of our Government does not compare favourably with them. Then, Sir, the predecessors of our Government while laying down the land revenue policy of this province, altogether ignored the fact that if the people could take to fruit gardening, the yield from land could be raised ten-fold as compared with the yield got from growing other crops. I may point out that fruit industry or fruit culture is not only a source of income, but it is also extremely useful from the point of view of public health, because production of fruits helps to raise the standard of the diet of the people. As you are aware, Sir, Punjab rightly takes pride in the physical strength of her people. The man-power of this province is unique. That is an undisputable fact. Besides, she claims to be the sword arm of India. But if the present state of affairs continues and Government do not take steps to make the diet of the people more nutritious, then in view of the ever-increasing population, I have serious apprehensions that we shall have to forgo this claim. It is evident that due to lack of nutritive elements in the diet of the growing population, the energy of the people will be sapped and a general deterioration will set in. Hence it is high time that Government changed their policy and directed their undivided attention to the promotion of fruit industry. Besides, this industry is more lucrative and yields more profit than the growing of other crops.

Then, Sir, I am constrained to remark that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to this industry by Government. "Fruit growers have a genuine grouse against Government because they are made to pay abiana and land revenue both for rabi and kharif crops of fruit trees. Government try to justify their policy by giving this unconvincing reply that fruit trees yield crops twice a year. I maintain that Government are labouring under a misapprehension as I will show just now. There are certain fruit trees which bear fruit during kharif days, while there are others which give their yield during the rabi. While assessing land revenue both on kharif and rabi yield of fruits, Government lose sight of the fact that the trees which bear fruit during the rabi, yield nothing during the kharif. Similarly the trees bearing fruit during the kharif do not yield any fruit during the rabi time. It is crystal clear that each tree yields its crop only once a year. Hence I see no reason why Government should assess the land twice on which fruit trees are growing. Now we daily hear that the Government have increasingly begun to feel that they ought to adopt such measures as may result in the enhancement of the income of zamindars. I am of the opinion that Government should translate this growing realisation into practice without any avoidable delay. If they fail to solve the problem of increasing the purchasing power of the zamindars, I am sure their whole economic structure would crumble down. Now what are the means for adding to the income of the agriculturists? First comes the industry. But there are several difficulties which must be overcome, before any industry can be established in a country. For instance, we must educate the public to take

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to industry or in other words we should make them industry-minded. Then arrangements for imparting industrial education and training to the people are necessary in order to equip them with the knowledge of a particular industry. Besides, capital is a pre-requisite for setting up an industry. Then experience is also equally necessary. In its absence nobody can start an industry or do business efficiently and successfully. I strongly hold the view that Government should do their utmost to promote and establish various industries in the province as early as possible. They should also prepare the people to take to them in right earnest. This fact should be brought home to the public that they should not make a fetish of agriculture and refrain from entirely depending upon it. But there is one particular industry by encouraging which we can certainly increase the income of the zamindars of our province in a much shorter period. That is the fruit industry. I may point out in this connection that I have deep-rooted conviction that if we resort to intensive cultivation, we can convert our uneconomic holdings into economic and profitable holdings. This can be achieved through promoting fruit culture.

An honourable member : What about the water-supply arrangements ?

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : Water will be supplied and Government should see that it is supplied. As I have already stated if we want to enhance the income of the zamindars and thereby safeguard the present economic structure, Government should seriously think over the problem of water-supply to areas under fruit gardens. I was submitting that the holdings of our zamindars are uneconomic because they grow ordinary crops in them. But if these lands are brought under fruit gardens, they will no longer remain uneconomic. Apart from this fruit gardening will open a new field for allied industries, foundation of which has already been laid in this province. I had an opportunity to pay a visit to the Indian Mildura Farm. Twenty years ago a small fruit garden was laid and now it has developed into a colossal garden covering 20 squares of land. Now the owner has set up a factory to make the best use of the fruit he is growing in abundance. For instance, jams, sharbats, etc., are prepared. These articles were previously imported from foreign countries. If fruit industry receives encouragement under the patronage of Government, these jams, etc., will be manufactured in our province to the great benefit of the zamindars. I, therefore, feel that fruit gardening will go a long way to help the zamindar in enhancing his income.

If my honourable friends opposite really desire that uneconomic holdings should become economic holdings and that the petty zamindars should stand shoulder to shoulder with the big landholders, I submit that this is possible only, if the zamindars take to fruit growing. I may also point out that the value of holdings would rise if fruits are grown there. Besides if my honourable friends sitting opposite are in favour of maintaining public health, they should not stand in the way of facilities being given to fruit culture. I feel certain that fruit gardening will not suffer if this long range policy is maintained by Government. My friends perhaps do not know that the expenses in connection with fruit orchards are double those of other

commodities. It is, therefore, highly expedient that fruit culture should be encouraged. It can be done if Government do not realise land revenue until the fruit trees bear fruit. It means a remission of land revenue for 5 or 6 years only and I can say with full confidence that Government will be able to make up the loss within a period of ten years. But there is every possibility that Government may get more amount of money in the form of land revenue than the remission given by them for a temporary period. Then, Sir, it is not in the power of a small landholder who is already unable to earn his livelihood from *zamindara* to grow fruit gardens and to give land revenue at an enhanced rate. If he does so, the fault is not of Government whose policy with regard to the land revenue in case of fruit culture seems to be quite obvious. We can never blame Government for that. (*Interruptions*). The policy of the present Government with regard to this matter is not their own creation but it is a dirty inheritance thrust upon them by their predecessors whose demerits and defects are now being removed gradually by them. Let me tell the House that I am giving expression to my feelings with a view to intimate the Honourable Minister in charge with the present conditions existing in fruit cultivation, in the hope that full support will be given to my convictions and proposals with regard to this matter. My point is that no delay should be made in providing facilities to those who have started fruit cultivation in their lands.

Then, my honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali while referring to *abiana* in the course of his speech said that water was not available to *zamindars* on account of its being consumed on fruit gardens. I may point out that he should have kept the fact in view, while blaming the fruit gardens, that Government themselves have taken the responsibility of gardening on their shoulders. My honourable friend should also bear in mind that now a greater change has taken place in the functioning and working of the policy of Government in connection with fruit culture. It is true that water and land on which our social order depends belong to the country itself. But it is we who have to decide how to make the best use of it, whether this water should be wasted on a poor crop of barley or grain or whether it should be used on a rich crop like that of fruit orchards. It is up to us to find out the best way to utilize it. It is well known to every one of us that a fruit garden is three times more productive than land producing any other crop. Naturally the return of a fruit garden will be greater than that of any other crop. Government therefore, I think, will not be taking a wrong step in providing more concessions and greater facilities to fruit culture. Hence I may submit that those big *ilaqas* where fruit gardens are not grown despite the land being favourable for that purpose, should come in line with the fruit growing *ilaqas*. In this way, as I have already submitted, it will be more economical to grow orchards and while it will add to the income of the peasants, Government revenue will also increase, and as a result the land holders will learn the economical use of their lands. My friends, therefore, should get ready to make the best use of their lands by enjoying the present and proposed facilities with regard to fruit orchards. As it is not a proper time for departmental criticism, I would ask my friends to look at things with a broader outlook. I am perfectly confident that if Government adopted a bold policy in this connection, it would not only be a financial help to Government but even the handicaps

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and difficulties now existing in fruit growing would be legally removed. Apart from this, further concessions would be conferred on fruit culture and this would prove a great encouragement for its future development.

Then it has been said by the Opposition that Government should make a remission to petty zamindars. But I would like to tell my friends opposite that the majority of zamindars pay Rs. 10 as land revenue to government exchequer. If this is remitted, it would amount to 2 crores of rupees. It is, however, emphasised that a total exemption should be granted to those zamindars who pay less than Rs. 10. Now let us see how much benefit they would derive by this remission. It comes out a remission of 18 or 14 annas per mensem, and if it is divided by the number of the members of the family, it comes to a few pice for each individual. It means that even the total remission if granted to petty zamindars would not exceed a few pice. On the other hand, if such ways and means are adopted by which their income may be increased to a great extent, I feel sure this would do a lot for them.

Lala Harnam Das : May I ask what has been done by Government to increase the income of petty zamindars during their term of 5 years ?

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : I think my honourable friend should not have asked this question. He ought not expect Government to do such things overnight. Naturally these things take time and my honourable friend seems to have ignored the fact that even Mahatma Gandhi has not been able to root out the evil of "Chhoot Chhat" from this country in such a long period as 60 years. That will be achieved by and by. Age-old customs and usages like old laws do not change overnight. All these defective laws will be got rid of gradually, and Government is doing all it can towards this end. Can any one deny that the condition of the zamindar is not the same as it was five years ago ?

Lala Harnam Das : It is even worse.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : It is probably the defect of the lenses which my honourable friend wears that blurs his perspective. Five years ago the poor zamindar could not even touch the crops that he raised with the sweat of his brow. There used to be a crowd of creditors at harvesting time who divided every grain among themselves, leaving scarcely anything with which the poor devil could maintain his family. He could not go to the town for fear of being seen by a creditor or a process-server. It was even difficult for him to safeguard the honour of his wife and children. But now he breathes a free air and enjoys that freedom the thought of which my honourable friends hug so dearly. This Government has made it possible for the zamindar to know and feel what freedom and liberty mean. To deny that the revenue policy of this Government has to a very great extent been responsible for liberating the poor zamindars is, apart from being a rank injustice an exhibition of complete ignorance. We are not to blame if some people have, like a caged bird, lost all taste for the free air of the outside world and still find it necessary to run after their captors. It was our duty to liberate them but ages of

slavery have probably stunted their mentality and they do not value this freedom.

Government would be doing a great service to the province if they try to increase the sources of the small peasants' income. One such method would be to revise their present policy in respect of the development of gardens, by effecting some modifications and allowing certain concessions to the small holder in order that he may also try his hand at fruit culture and thus besides increasing his income, may also be able to improve his health.

With these words I would request the Honourable Minister to give a sympathetic and careful consideration to the submissions that I have made before the House.

Sub-dar Mejor Raja Ferman Ali Khan (Gujjarkhan, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I am grateful to you for affording me this opportunity of having my say. I must thank our Honourable Ministers whose efforts and painstaking have resulted in improving the hitherto intolerable plight of the zamindars. The crushing burden of debt under which the zamindar had been smarting for centuries has been practically completely removed from his shoulders. Apart from legislation numerous other methods have been adopted to give relief to the zamindars. But here I am constrained to remark that the Land Alienation (Amendment) Act passed by this Government still requires further improvement because the Tehsildars, who happened to be the co-religionists of the majority of Opposition members, contrived to order the sale of 2 ghumaons of land in connection with the suits for benami transactions involving only 4 kanals of land.

Now Sir, I wish to make a few submissions in regard to my own district. The conditions prevailing in my district and the sad plight of the people of that ilaqa can be summed up in the words of the poet, as :—

روزگار ما غریبان ہے، داغ ہے کئے
 ہے، روزگار کے درد ہے، درد ہے، درد ہے

Those of my honourable friends who have had the opportunity of visiting that God-forsaken land know that the nature of the terrain as also of the soil is such that nothing can grow on it. Half of the area in that district is comprised of hills and the other half consists of deep ravines. In other words it means that there is little or no land to be found in that ilaqa, which can be used for growing cereals for the ever-increasing population of that district. In this connection I am reminded of the advice, which Mr. Darling, who was the Commissioner of our Division at that time, once gave me. He said that in view of the annual increase in our population we must do something to check it. I told him that the only way to put a stop to this increase was to legalise infanticide in our ilaqa so that we may kill all the babies that were born in the district. He replied that the Government could not permit such a thing.

The holdings of the zamindars of my ilaqa are very small so much so that in other ilaqa's lands are measured in acres and gamoun but in my ilaqa lands are measured in kanals and marlas. That is the reason, why the zamindar of this ilaqa have to find employment in the Army & soldier. Many of my relatives are also serving in the Army. Out of them, 6 or 7, who are holding official

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ranks, have either been killed or wounded in Malaya and many others have been captured by the Japanese. From this the honourable members should not conclude that service in the Army is a bad thing. On the contrary it is a good thing to do service in the Army. If they go to England they would find that sons of lords and big business magnates do service in the British Army and thus they defend their country against the attack of aggressor nations. But my submission is that there is one section of people in this country, who not only want us to protect them from the attacks of aggressor nations, but also want to make merry by depriving us of our bare living. So our complaint is that we are not protected from the attacks of such people. The reason for this is that we have no leader. Those people who become our official leaders, they do not pay any heed to our needs. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition benches*). Sir, my submission is that the people of our ilaqa are very poor. It is their poverty which compels them to find out other means of livelihood for them. Naturally they enlist themselves in the Army. The honourable members may give whatever name to it they like. They may say that these people enlist themselves in the Army for the defence of India or that they do so in view of their patriotic feelings. Anyway the fact remains that they do so in order to pass their lives. As I have already submitted, the reason for this is that our lands do not support us. The lands of other ilaqa are fertile and wells and canals are also to be found there. But as against this our lands are mostly saline and there are neither wells nor canals in our ilaqa. Yet often we see that the representatives of the former ilaqa lay great stress on the difficulties and sufferings of the people of their own ilaqa. But we keep silent, because nobody listens to us. That is not all. Neither have any satisfactory arrangements been made for imparting education to the people of my ilaqa nor any medical aid is provided to them. In short nobody cares for the poor people. Sir, if we go to any bazaar, we find that the shopkeepers also attend to the rich customers and they treat the poor with scant respect. Then, Sir, Government have not provided any pastures where we can graze our animals. As I have already submitted our holdings are very small and they are not even sufficient for tilling purposes. We can either till them or keep them as pastures for grazing our animals. Then we use cows or asses in place of bullocks for ploughing our lands. They are generally very weak animals and they do not help us to plough our lands in the best possible manner. Besides we do not get manures for our lands. Whatever refuse of cows and asses we have, we use it for making dung cakes and then after drying those dung cakes we use them in place of firewood. Consequently how are we to get any manure for our lands? That is not all. The lands of our ilaqa are uneven. The result is that when rain falls all the water flows down and our lands remain as dry as ever. Now the affairs have come to such a pass that lands which previously yielded a good deal of corn are at present yielding a small harvest, which does not even suffice for our bare needs. We usually grow bajra, the bread of which when cooked becomes hard like a wood. If the honourable members eat that bread, I am sure that they would not be able to swallow it. But we people eat such bread. Now what amount of land revenue have we to pay in respect of our lands? Here are the details. If any zamindar possesses two kanals of land, he tills only one kanal during

the whole year because the other kanal of land cannot be brought under cultivation at all. But that poor zamindar has to pay land revenue for both the kanals of land. In this way as against other ilaqas where 25 per cent of the net assets is realized by way of land revenue, this ratio amounts to 50 per cent in our ilaqa. Moreover previously we used to sow even kharif crop in our ilaqa, which provided fodder for our animals. But for the last some years a worm which we call kutra destroys our kharif crops. The result is that now we do not get any fodder for our animals and we grow only one a crop a year. But we have to pay land revenue for both the crops. This is a great burden on us. In this connection I may point out that I reported this matter to the Inspector of Agricultural Department at Gujarkhan that a worm called kutra destroys our kharif crops. He raised some fund from the people and purchased some kerosene oil and lamps. He asked some men to take those lamps in that ilaqa and light them at night. The result was that the worms of the ilaqa, where the lamps were lighted at night, gathered round those lamps and died and the kharif crop yielded a very good harvest. The fact of the matter is that although this matter relates to the Department of Agriculture, still the officers concerned have never considered as to how the troubles and especially of the people of our ilaqa can be removed. Besides, when the report of this incident reached the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Rawalpindi, who is a Sikh, that a Musalman Inspector had helped the zamindars in the manner referred to above, he at once transferred him. I reported this matter to the Director of Agriculture, but he took no action in the matter at all. Then once a Mukaddam brought five seers of corn to me at the time of sowing of crops and said that I should sow it in my lands. Along with that he said that I should divide my land, which amounted to one kanal only, into four parts. But I expressed my unwillingness to do so, because the time of sowing of crops was very short. Perforce he went back and I sowed that seed in one kanal without dividing it into four parts. In the other kanal I sowed seed of my own. But when the Assistant Director of Agriculture visited my lands and found that I had not divided the land into four parts, he inquired from me the reason for that. I told him that the land was my own and I did not like to divide it into four parts. But as a result of this, he severely dealt with the Mukaddam, who came to hand over seeds to me and ultimately transferred him. My submission is that this ilaqa is mostly populated by Muslims but it is very much regretted that Sikh officers have been posted as agricultural officers in it, with the result that the people cannot become familiar with them. Some attention should be paid to this matter as well. I made a report in regard to this matter to the Director of Agriculture as well, but he has so far taken no action in the matter at all. Please listen to me and do not leave the Chamber at the present moment.

Minister for Revenue : You have finished your remarks about the departments under my charge.

Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : You have become very popular. In the locality to which I belong you have constructed wells and have also built a bund. The people are very grateful to you for these good works. They have also set up a stone bearing your name. You should, therefore, show consideration to them and live up to your reputation.

[Raja Farman Ali Khan.]

Sir, the Patwaris submit wrong reports regarding the crops. They show such crops which are very bad as worth 18 annas in the rupee. In my districts the crops were bad, but the Patwari showed them on the papers as worth 18 annas in the rupee. The Government had granted one lac rupees for the Jhelum district. But at the time of the realization of land revenue nothing was remitted. At that time Mr. Darling was the Financial Commissioner. I enquired of him the reasons for not giving remissions worth one lac of rupees to that district as promised. In reply he stated that according to the Patwari's report the crops were quite good and that as the Patwari was our brother he could not go against our interests and that he had to believe his report and to stop the grant of one lac to the district of Jhelum. People of my district enlist themselves in the army and shed their blood and what they get from the Military department as their pay, they pass it on to the Government as land revenue. This means that they are paying their land revenue by their blood. The Tahsildar scold the Patwari for entering Kharaba in his report. I requested the officer concerned to remit some amount of land revenue just to help the district. The reason which led me to make that request was that during the previous three years there had been no crops and only Rabi crops matured while the Kharif crops did not mature. But he did not pay any heed to my request. In Tahsil Gojar Khan on account of Khasra the crops suffer heavily. If something is done to remove Khasra, it would result in an increase in the income of the zamindars. But unfortunately these people have got no leader who could raise a voice in their favour. I did not allow the setting up of political organizations in the aforesaid district. I did it because I thought that if our areas also became political minded, the people will lose their military spirit. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why the people of that district do not know how to make propaganda. I hope you have seen this locality. It is a hilly tract. In case there is rain, crops grow up at the most to 5 or 6 annas in the rupee. But most of the rain water flows down the hills and sometimes on account of rushing waters the bunds become damaged, with the result that we remain famine stricken as much as we had been during the previous years. Our children get very little food but they grow up into strong men. They never get milk. They cannot afford to keep a cow or a buffalo. If they were to keep any of these milch animals, it eats up all their crop which is not much. In case any one has a cow or a buffalo, his wife and children have to cut grass in order to fill its belly. The people of this district conquered Africa. They fought in Burma and also shed their blood in Singapore. But their children are under-fed. You should arrange to see that their children and wives are properly maintained.

If we go to a rural dispensary, medicine is not available there. In the first place, dispensaries are rare in the rural areas. If there is a dispensary, the Doctor refuses to give us any medicine. There is a dispensary in my ilaqa—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should not make irrelevant remarks.

Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : As the Honourable Speaker interrupts me over and over again in spite of the fact that I am

perfectly relevant, I beg to close my speech. - We villagers are not even permitted to ventilate our grievances. We are helpless. Where should we go? We zamindars are very backward. The Government should pay special attention to our lot.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, the condition of the poverty-stricken peasants of this province is better untold. It is daily growing from bad to worse. This sad plight of the humble peasantry reminds me of the following famous lines of an English poet :—

Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.
Princes and Lords may flourish or may fade
A breath can make them as breath has made,
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride
When once destroyed can never be supplied.

I am afraid the condition of our peasantry is no better than the one described in the above mentioned lines. The lot of the peasants in the Punjab is daily deteriorating and if things are allowed to take their own course, ruinous results will follow. A tragedy, the like of which the world has not experienced so far may take place in the Punjab. I would strike a note of warning to the Government in general and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram in particular that if timely action is not taken, the fair land of five rivers will be destroyed. I am not exaggerating. The cultivators are groaning under the heavy burden of land revenue and other Government dues. Even Lahore is threatened with famine. Flour of wheat, which is the main food of the people is scarce. The people are crying for bread and bread is not to be found. If immediate action is not taken, a great catastrophe will overtake this land. On the one hand, the peasants are required to pay heavy sums as land revenue which they cannot pay from their income of the land, and, on the other hand, no step is taken to help them to add to their meagre income by encouraging cottage industry. Does the Government stand in need of being told that the cultivators of this province have not the capacity to pay the exorbitant sums of land revenue? It goes without saying that the whole policy of land revenue ought to be overhauled. If Government insists on demanding its pound of flesh, we humbly submit that it should enable the peasants to put on flesh first and then Government may take it. I mean let the cultivators have some additional income so that they may be able to pay to Government what it demands. For this purpose cottage industries ought to be encouraged. But Government has done nothing in this behalf with the exception of having passed the State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Act. Government may also claim that it had provided a certain sum in the last year's budget for the promotion of cottage industries in the Punjab. But I ask if that money has been spent for the said purpose. I go a step further and challenge Government to say if it has spent this sum in the district of Kangra where there was a great scope of cottage industries being promoted.

Chaudhri Tikka Ram : Is the honourable member relevant?

Mr. [Speaker] : Will the honourable member please speak to the motion?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I was only saying that the present Government has not done anything to increase the *per capita* income of the *kisan*. I was developing that argument.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : We are discussing the land revenue demand.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : That is why I am saying that the zamindars should be enabled to pay land revenue. Their income is too little at present and they are required to pay more than their paying capacity warrants. In this connection, I was stressing the need of encouraging cottage industries in the village, so that the zamindars could add to their income. I was perfectly relevant. I will now quote facts and figures from official sources in order to prove that the cultivators do not possess the capacity to pay the land revenue. The Land Revenue Administration Report of the Government shows that the total number of processes issued for the realisation of arrears of Land Revenue in 1939-40 was 21,038, and in 1937-38 it was 20,462. My point in giving these figures is to prove that since the advent of the Unionist Ministry in the Punjab, the paying capacity of cultivators has steadily decreased. More and more persons are arrested and imprisoned every year for not being able to pay their land revenue. I give below the total number of processes issued for the realization of arrears of land revenue since 1938 :—

Year.				<i>Number of processes issued for not paying land revenue.</i>
1937-38	..	..	..	20,462
1938-39	..	..	..	24,095
1939-40	..	..	..	21,038

Now you can very well judge that thousands of people are arrested and imprisoned every year for not being able to pay their land revenue. If the Government had lightened their burden or increased their paying capacity by encouraging cottage industries, these poor cultivators would not have been punished for their inability to pay the land revenue. The pity is that the number of such poor peasants is increasing every year under the Unionist Government.

Then, Sir, I would like to cite figures in regard to the owners of land against whom coercive processes were issued during these years.

Year.				<i>Number of processes.</i>
1936-37	..	..	..	12,942
1937-38	..	..	..	15,974
1938-39	..	..	..	18,539
1939-40	..	..	..	15,141

The number of persons who were placed behind the bars for non-payment of land revenue during the same period is as follows :—

Year.					Number imprisoned.
1936-37	..	..	..	..	30
1937-38	..	..	..	..	42
1938-39	..	..	..	..	78
1939-40	..	..	..	..	62

During the same period the number of coercive processes issued against lambardars for non-realisation of land revenue was like this :—

Year.					Number of arrests.
1936-37	..	..	..	..	4,269
1937-38	..	..	..	..	4,488
1938-39	..	..	..	..	5,556
1939-40	..	..	..	..	5,892

The number of lambardars who were imprisoned on this account was as under :—

Year.					Number imprisoned.
1936-37	..	..	..	..	18
1937-38	..	..	..	..	27
1938-39	..	..	..	..	38
1939-40	..	..	..	..	78

These figures speak volumes. It is crystal clear that in order to realise the land revenue Government had to take the severest possible steps against the *kisans* as well as the lambardars. They had to issue a large number of processes of arrests against the poor zamindars. They attached their property and put it to auction and yet the Government failed to realise the full amount of land revenue. What does this state of affairs indicate? It shows that the conditions in which the zamindars lived before have not been improved and have rather gone from bad to worse as is signified by the figures just quoted by me. As a matter of fact the figures for 1940 indicate the woeful tale of the zamindars. Their financial condition has deteriorated to such an extent that they are unable to pay their land revenue and other government dues.

Well, Sir, the Government have always boasted that they are the champions of the cause of the zamindars. They cry themselves hoarse that they are the true representatives and well-wishers of the peasants and that they are prepared to do everything in their power to ameliorate their condition. But what is the result of all these tall talks? The poor zamindars are as poverty-stricken as before. Then, Sir, Government have enacted a law exempting the residential house of a debtor from attachment and sale in execution of decree providing protection from imprisonment for not paying

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

debts. I ask why do they not legislate to the effect that in future no zamindar would be imprisoned in default of payment of land revenue, specially when he is not able to do so on account of illness or due to some other calamity or stark poverty. I, therefore, plead the cause of the poor zamindars and impress upon Government the desirability of making this provision that no zamindar would be arrested or his property attached for his inability to pay government dues. I am sure, if the heart of Government sincerely goes out in sympathy for the poor tillers of the soil, they would lose no time to rectify this glaring injustice.

Then, Sir, I have to draw the attention of the Government to another important matter and it is this. In the whole of the province and particularly in my own district of Kangra, I find that the officers of the Revenue Department compel the zamindars to make contributions towards the war fund, along with the land revenue. They tell the zamindars that they are doing so under orders of the Government. I may point out that all the officers of the Revenue Department from top to bottom, i.e., from the deputy commissioner to the patwari, have been instructed to collect contributions from the zamindars as aid to war fund. In fact every one of them has been apportioned a certain amount to be collected by him in his own sphere of service. The result is that these officers coerce the zamindars to give money for war purposes. Honourable members would be pained to hear that since 1939 not a single crop has been spared. The zamindars were forced to make compulsory contributions towards war along with the land revenue for every crop. The revenue officers stood to very mean tactics in order to squeeze out money from the poor peasants. They enter their houses and take away certain articles which they refuse to return unless and until the zamindars, by whatever means, contribute some money towards the war fund. I want to make it perfectly clear that since the breaking out of hostilities, the revenue staff functioning in the villages, has been realising money from the zamindars for the prosecution of war, in the form of a government demand. They have not stopped at that. The Deputy Commissioner of the Kangra district has adopted a novel method for coercing the people to make war contributions. He refuses to grant interviews to the visitors. He has issued instructions to the effect that the visitors should indicate on their visiting cards the amount of money contributed towards the war fund. Consequently the highest bidder or the person who has already given the largest amount as war contribution, is given priority to other visitors. Well, Sir, this is how the land revenue administration of the Punjab Government is working. Then persons who are too poor to contribute large sums towards the war fund, but want to see the Deputy Commissioner with a view to bring to his notice certain irregularities and atrocities committed by the subordinate officers, are denied the opportunity of seeing him. Is this the even-handed justice of which my honourable friends feel so very proud of. Is the criterion set up by the Deputy Commissioner admirable or justified?

Then vast powers have been centralised in the revenue officers, for instance, the tahsildar not only performs the duties of his own office, but he acts as a registrar also. Consequently when entries about lands are to be made, the kisans are told that they should pay Rs. 5 each if they want

the work to be expedited. Is this state of affairs creditable on the part of Government?

Besides, when Sir Chhotu Ram was entrusted with the portfolio of Revenue Department, I thought that being a sworn enemy of the banias, he would stamp out baniasm root and branch from his department. But what we find is that from one end to the other all the officers of the Revenue Department have become banias in the true sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should speak to the motion.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : I am perfectly relevant, Sir, I was submitting that right from the petty officials to the highly placed responsible officers, all are doing the work of the much despised bania. The methods employed by them to realise money from the zamindars are no better than those of the banias.

Then, Sir, I have to make this submission that Government should take steps to help the owners of uneconomic holdings. None can gainsay the fact that these small-holders are in a miserable plight. The income which they derive from their uneconomic holdings is always a minus amount. No profit accrues to them from the cultivation of their lands.

Now I would like to refer to the Farm Accounts of 1937-38 prepared by the Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab. On pages 40-41 you will find Statement No. 8-A under which a table with regard to accounts of holdings is given. Statement 8-A shows gross income, expenditure and net income per acre of irrigated area. On pages 42-43 you will find Statement No. 8-B showing the same thing per acre but of the irrigated area. As to irrigated area the land has been divided on four assumptions. First assumption is (A) with regard to that kind of land and capital which is owned by zamindar and workers being members of one family are permanent. In (B) land owned Permanent workers, family members, Capital borrowed which means that interest on Capital has been included in expenditure. (C)—Land taken on rent—Permanent workers, family members, Capital borrowed. (D)—Land taken on rent, Permanent workers, hired labourers, Capital borrowed. One is simply surprised to see that in this part, that is (D), the net income in no case is plus but it is minus in every case. Now let us look at Statement 8-B which is with regard to Barani area. You will notice that people who do not own capital or land have nothing but to lose and lose. But in certain cases where capital is not borrowed, the land is not taken on rent and the permanent workers are the family members of the farmer, you will find zamindar receiving profit, otherwise there is entire loss. When this is the state of affairs that in canal irrigated area and as well as in barani land the zamindar stands to lose every year, we cannot say that this Government, which claims to be a zamindars Government, has done anything substantial for the poor peasantry during its term of five years. The poor cultivator who works in the scorching heat of summer and the extreme cold of winter gets next to nothing after a year's labour. The poor fellow finds himself unable to pay off even the government dues. Keeping these hard facts in view, the great poet of the Punjab has said :

جس کہیت سے دھقاں کو میسر نہ ہو رزوی
اس کہیت کے ہر خوشگہ گندم کو جلا دو

(Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma.)

My next submission is with regard to land revenue assessment. I may point out that it is fundamentally defective and the Honourable Revenue Minister despite the knowledge of this fact has not taken any step to remove its defects. Now in connection with the basis of assessment of land revenue I would like to quote section 48-A of Land Revenue Act which reads as follows :—

48-A. The assessment of land revenue shall be based on an estimate of the average money value of the net-assets of the estate or group of estates in which the land concerned is situated.

The Honourable Revenue Minister should mark the words 'money value of the net assets of the estate'. I wonder why, in spite of Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram being very wide awake in these matters, this fact is being ignored that the cost of cultivation and the expenses for the maintenance of family should not be included in the net assets. So far as the assessment of land revenue is concerned it is imposed at the rate of 25 per cent. My honourable friends are well aware of the fact that the Land Revenue Committee was formed with an exclusive view to look into the troubles of zamindars and to suggest better ways to ameliorate their condition. It has been stated in the report of that committee that there are certain districts in the Punjab where land revenue is being charged at a higher rate than 25 per cent. Such districts have been named in the report and they are Hissar, Rohtak, Kangra, Gurgaon, Rawalpindi, Gurdaspur, Karnal, Simla and Ambala. I wonder which districts have been left out. Now let us look at the loss of revenue if the demand in each assessment circle were reduced to 25 per cent of the net assets.—

					Rs.
Rohtak	..	..	..	..	4,47,257
Gurgaon	..	..	..	..	5,31,573
Karnal	..	..	..	..	5,62,137
Simla	..	..	..	..	2,425
Ambala	..	..	..	..	64,239
Kangra	..	..	..	..	4,00,606
Hoshiarpur	..	..	..	..	88,100
Ludhiana	..	..	..	..	1,41,800
Ferozepore	..	..	..	..	71,380
Lahore	..	..	..	..	69,769
Gurdaspur	..	..	..	..	4,86,227
Montgomery	..	..	..	..	1,06,450
Sialkot	..	..	..	..	3,60,939
Shahpur	..	..	..	..	76,142
Jhelum	..	..	..	..	2,28,170
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	1,57,904
Multan	..	..	..	..	6,69,317
Muzaffargarh	..	..	..	..	3,01,094
Dera Ghazi Khan	..	..	..	..	81,011
Amritsar	..	..	..	..	87,725
Mianwali	..	..	..	..	17,395
Total	..	..	..	..	51,32,677

Now this is what this Government, which claims to be the champion of the poor zamindars of this province realized from them over and above the lawful 25 per cent of their net assets. Do we take it that during all these five years Government did not find time to put the recommendations made by the Land Revenue Committee, at such high expense to the public funds, into practice? We refuse to admit this plea for levying land revenue at rates higher than 25 per cent of net assets. In spite of the fact that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram declares in every public meeting that he is doing so much for the agricultural classes, he has not even lifted his little finger to stop this fleecing of the poor zamindars. If, as Government declare, they have done much to relieve the zamindar may I know from the Honourable Minister of Revenue as to how it comes to pass that the assessment of land revenue is being made at a rate higher than 25 per cent of net assets? From Kangra alone, which is a very poor district, you are realizing in round figure about Rs. 5 lakhs. I beg to submit that so far as that district is concerned it is criminal on the part of the Government to charge such a colossal sum. There may be some justification in realizing enhanced rates of land revenue from areas under canal irrigation but to charge the same rates from *barani* districts where the produce does not even suffice for the maintenance of the zamindar's family is wholly unjustifiable. Again Rohtak and numerous other *barani* districts are suffering the same fate. I respectfully beg to submit that in so far as the *barani* districts are concerned, charging rates above 25 per cent. of the net assets is nothing short of exacting a pound of flesh. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to give this matter his sympathetic consideration and to reduce the rate of assessment prevailing in practically the whole of the Province to 25 per cent of the net assets fixed by the land revenue committee.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I have very carefully listened to the speeches of my honourable friends opposite and also of some of my honourable friends who have spoken from this side. I may also refer to some of the speeches which I heard day before yesterday, although they were not connected with land revenue but referred to the increase of income of the peasants *per capita*. I have listened to those speeches and all of my honourable friends who have referred to this subject of the increase of the income of the peasant have not given us any concrete suggestions or any schemes by which this increase could be brought about. (*An honourable member* : Industrialisation). We feel that the income of the Punjab peasant is not what it should be. We all realise that and I assure the honourable members opposite that this Government has had that point very prominently before it. But that is not a very easy question, because there are various handicaps with which I will deal later in my speech. My honourable friend just now referred to industrialisation. I put this question to my honourable friend, Mian Abdul Aziz, when he was speaking and was impressing upon Government the question of industrialisation. I asked him what industries he wanted to be established in the Punjab and his answer to me was that he was not prepared to give a reply because he happens to be senior to me by a score of years. That was the answer which I received from him.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Are we to understand that Government find themselves absolutely unable to do anything in the matter of industrialisation even after a very careful investigation for the last 5 years? Is that the contention?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : No, Sir. What I was trying to point out was that this question is a very difficult one and as honourable members had referred to it, it was expected from them that instead of indulging in generalisation, they should have given some concrete facts which would help this House and also Government.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What has the Government done? That is my question.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I was just submitting that no answer was given to me by my honourable friend, Mian Abdul Aziz and the reason which I gave was that he had not studied this question carefully, otherwise I am sure he would have replied to me. I ask my honourable friends to apply their minds and think in what way we can increase the income of the Punjab peasant. The agriculturist in this province grows food grains. Now, food grains at the moment are fetching very good prices. Before the war the price level was low and therefore the income comparatively speaking was also low compared to what it is to-day. But apart from food grains, the main crop of the Punjab is cotton. My honourable friends from the opposition will say, why should we not have textile mills in this province. I will welcome textile mills. We have got two and probably there is room for another 3 or 4 at the utmost. But how much cotton can these 3 or 4 mills consume? There will be still hundreds of tons of cotton which will have to be exported outside the Punjab. My honourable friend says that we have to open more mills. But the point is that if you

4 p. m.

convert all that cotton which is produced in the Punjab into cloth, to whom are you going to sell that cloth? If my honourable friend would read the statistics of the yardage of cloth which was manufactured in India before the war, he would know that some of the Indian mills of Ahmedabad were not working even one shift. Some of them closed down because there was no market for them and some were working one shift only.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Does my honourable friend think that there is no market for cloth in this country?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : There is and we are still importing textiles but we were importing finer counts from Lancashire which are not manufactured in India.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does my honourable friend know that India was importing from 18 to 42 counts? All these counts were manufactured in India.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Does my honourable friend know that even in the Punjab we are producing varieties of cotton that can spin up to 40 counts?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I do not deny that we do not grow cotton which would not spin 30 or 40 counts; that was not the point. I know

that we grow cotton which can be spun into as many as 40 counts and even higher. What I was saying was this that the mills in India were not manufacturing finer counts; when I said finer counts I meant 60 counts and higher.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does my honourable friend maintain that our imports were of finer counts of 60 ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I am not aware that they were the only cloth imported in India, but I would certainly say that lower count was not imported in India.

Sardar Bahadur Saradr Ujjal Singh : May I ask my honourable friend whether he knows that Japan was exporting to India cloth of very coarse counts like dhotis ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I was answering my honourable friends about Lancashire, when I mentioned finer counts imported : I was referring to the cloth obtained from Lancashire. I know that Japan dumped cloth in India.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Lancashire was sending to India rough and coarse counts like dhotis and we are importing cloth from Lancashire and Japan. Surely if my honourable friend does not know this he should look up the debates on this subject in the Central Assembly and he will know all about it.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : For the last four years these coarse counts have not been imported from Lancashire, but previously they were imported. What I wanted to suggest was that in the Punjab we have cotton but there is room only for 3,4 or at the most 5 mills. Mills of Ahmedabad and Bombay in peace times produced cloth to meet the requirements of India. My honourable friend Sardar Ujjal Singh has told me that in peace times we were importing large quantities of coarse cloth from Japan. I know we were doing it and the reason was that the price of the Japanese cloth was far less than the cost of production in the Indian mills. That was the reason why we were importing cloth from Japan. If my honourable friend would examine the position now, in spite of the heavy demands on the textile mills in connection with the war work and the material required in connection with civil consumption, he will find that India is clothing the vast population of this country. Of course now every mill in the country is working three shifts. If he will compare the condition of the textile mills before the war taking into account all the cloth imported from Japan he will see that on the one side our production was curtailed, not because of the paucity of mills but due to competition with Japan. Our mills could not compete with Japan. Some of them worked one or two shifts and some closed down because there was not a very heavy duty. My honourable friend said that Japan imported cotton from India and sold cloth at a much cheaper rate, because we did not have enough import duty on cotton goods : they were able to compete successfully against the production of our mills.

May I refer to another crop which we are growing in this province, i.e., sugarcane ? Unfortunately we have not had the same natural facilities as are enjoyed by our sister provinces, the United Provinces and Bihar

(Syed Amjad Ali Shah.)

where production is higher than that in the Punjab on account of the higher contents of sucrose. That is the reason why you find so many sugar mills working successfully. On the other hand, our experience of sugar mills in this province has not been very happy. Then take oil seeds: we grow oil seeds. As my honourable friend knows we have crushing mills in this province. We have also started manufacturing oil from cotton seeds. As far as the manufacture from raw materials is concerned we have gone a long way, but as I said there is still a great deal to do but this you cannot do haphazardly unless there is some detailed planning.

Lala Bhim Sain Sachar : When will that planning come ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I am trying to reply to the argument of my honourable friend opposite with regard to increasing the income *per capita* of the peasant; how are you going to increase it? What happens in countries which are primary producers? I will only refer to Australia. That country is mainly engaged primary production. There are of course secondary and tertiary industries as well but their mainstay is primary production. Why is that country able to have a minimum wage law of 4 guineas a week? The reason is not that the country is heavily industrialised but.

Sardar Bahadur Saradar Ujjal Singh : Does my honourable friend know the population and the area of that country?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Yes, I was coming to that. The population of Australia is about 6,620,000 while its area is bigger than that of India. The population density is something like 2·2 per square mile. On the other hand, the population density of India is 211 to 240 per square mile and at places it is as high as 646 per square mile. That country is, as I have said, a primary producing country with industrial advantages which we do not enjoy in India. A peasant grows there as much wheat as probably a thousand peasants here. Therefore we cannot compare ourselves with such countries and it cannot be said that since that country has such a high standard of living, it must be due to its industrialisation. The point that I was trying to make was that an increase in the income of a peasant in India can only come about if we have other means of putting money in his pocket besides what he gets from land. What those ways and means could be, it is very difficult to decide. My honourable friend suggested cottage industries. It would have been of some help if he had suggested what cottage industries we can start. The moment you start a cottage industry, it comes in competition with the industries which are functioning with the help of large factories and mills. After all a buyer is not so much of a philanthropist; he will buy where he can get the thing cheaper. So this question is a very difficult one to solve.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What solution do you propose?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I am afraid I cannot give you any solution off-hand.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : There is no other solution, but complete independence.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : The honourable member is welcome to that.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Why not follow other countries in this matter ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : For instance ?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Japan and Russia.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : We will not follow a bad example.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I will impress upon the Honourable Minister for Revenue and the Honourable Minister for Development to have a complete plan made out. Sir, we have seen the advantages of planning. We have seen that no other country in the world has stood the Nazi aggression as Russia has. That is due, I think, primarily to planning. They have planned not only their industries, not only their education, their defence, their constitution, but their whole method of life. That has been responsible for this great achievement of Russia.

My honourable friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani made a very eloquent speech on the growing of fruit. If I may say so, you have also, Sir, taken a great deal of interest in that branch of agriculture. I welcome all suggestions of growing more fruit in the province. Apart from the fact of its being utilized as a secondary industry in the form of jams, fruit juice, squashes and so on, it will give every person a chance of eating what a few years ago only hundreds and thousands could enjoy. Now every Punjabi can eat every fruit of the season. So far as this particular industry is concerned, I would very emphatically say that this industry can live and flourish if a very heavy import duty is levied on articles made from fruit and vegetables that are imported to India. Take the position before the war. There were only a few fruit preserving factories in India. They were all struggling to exist. I know of one factory—a European managed squash factory—which flourished. It flourished not because they had any better method of production but for other reasons. (*Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :* There is no other canteen factory.) I know, that was the reason why they were able to sell their products. The reason why no other factory could flourish was that the products imported into India from other countries were very cheap as compared to what our factories were able to produce. Take for instance, jam—Australian jam—this was being imported at 4d a lb landed at Karachi. It is physically impossible to sell jam produced by our Indian factories as cheap as that. The cost of producing, tinning, labelling, freight etc. comes to so high a figure that it possibly cannot compete with Australian jam. So, if we want that these industries should flourish, we must have a very heavy import duty. In this connection I would ask the Honourable Minister for Revenue to approach the Commerce Member. I know there has been some sort of undertaking that industries which come into being during the war will be encouraged to exist after the war.

My second point in this connection is the manufacture of tin. Before the war there was no tin making plant in the country. No tin of any description was produced in India ; and all the containers which were used for canning jam and other allied products were imported into India. Now I understand that the Tatas are manufacturing tin plates. Now that tin manufacturing plant has come to India, I hope the Government of India

(Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.)

will see that the company continues to make tin in this country and also see that after the war the door is not opened to foreign tin interests to dump their tins in India and kill this indigenous tin making industry of India.

Another point I should like to refer to is wheat. The Honourable Premier the other day made a statement with regard to wheat here. We have had notifications of the Government of India and I would request our Government to come to some sort of settlement with the Government of India with regard to wheat. We are the primary wheat producing province in India. I would suggest to our Government that they should come to some undertaking with the Government of India so that the wheat which is normally consumed in this province is retained in this province. Any surplus that may remain after reserving for our consumption may be given to the Government of India for disposal in whatever way they like. I would, however, submit that the Government of India should utilise this surplus wheat for export to the soldiers of India who are fighting abroad. It might also be brought to the notice of the Defence Department that the wheat which is surplus after use by the people of this province should be earmarked for the soldiers of India. At the same time I would urge that the Government of India should be very strongly requested by our Government not to export any wheat from the Punjab at the present moment, because we are all aware of the complaints that are daily pouring in of the seriousness of wheat situation in the province. Honourable members have voiced it in the House and we have been reading in the Punjab dailies of the great difficulties which the people are meeting with in getting their supplies of wheat. Therefore, whatever little supplies we have at the moment whether under ground or over ground, this stock of wheat should be retained in this province for the use of people here.

Lastly, I would refer to the point made by my honourable friend, Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma in which he gave figures of persons who were arrested and imprisoned for non-payment of land revenue. He drew attention to the fact that the number had increased during the last five years. I would ask him to apply his mind to this question bearing in mind the fact that for the Punjab peasant it is not so easy to borrow now as before. Could this increase in the number of peasants arrested and imprisoned for non-payment of land revenue, be not due to the fact that previously he could borrow easily and pay land revenue, whereas it is not easy for him to borrow money now-a-days and so he is not able to pay land revenue? The honourable member attempted to prove that the income of the peasant had greatly decreased during the last five years. My contention is that formerly he could easily borrow from the sshukar and so he used to pay the land revenue out of the borrowed money and because he cannot borrow money so easily now, therefore, he is not able to pay the land revenue promptly. It cannot be that the non-payment of land revenue is due to the decrease in income from land.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Which of the two alternatives is the happier ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Neither. I would be the last person to see any one in this province not being able to pay land revenue and going to prison on that account. But I would ask my honourable friend, if the people do not pay land revenue, how is the administration to be carried on?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : What are they to do if they have not got the capacity to pay land revenue?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : That is what I have been attempting to explain. My point is that it is not because their income from land is less that they do not pay land revenue. I hope my honourable friend appreciates my point. In the past he could borrow money easily and he paid land revenue readily.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Does it not really show that the peasant has not got the money to pay land revenue and that if he was paying it before it was out of borrowed money? Is that not a reason why the land revenue of these people should be immediately reduced or remitted?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I have been trying to refute the point raised by Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma that during the last five years the income of the peasant has decreased. That is not really true. I may also remind my honourable friend that where there are genuine cases of failure of crops there remissions are promptly granted.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 2-30 p. m. on Friday, 13th March, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 13th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 p. m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS,

LICENCE-HOLDERS OF GUNS, RIFLES AND REVOLVERS.

*8198. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- how many of the present licensee-holders of guns, rifles and revolvers in the Ludhiana district were on register No. 10 or (bundle B) before October, 1937 ;
- how many of them were convicted under sections 866, 868/876, Indian Penal Code, before the present Superintendent of Police took over charge of the Ludhiana district ;
- the names of the persons mentioned in (b) together with their antecedents, place of residence, property owned by them and their educational qualification ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) (a) Two.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

TRADERS' HARTAL AND SATYAGRAHIS.

*8217. **Lala Duni Chand** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- the number of Satyagrahis in connection with the Traders' Hartal who have so far been convicted and also the number of Satyagrahis who are yet under-trial in this connection ;
- whether the Government intends to publish any official communiqué periodically as to the treatment meted out to them ;
- whether the Government has received any information through the press or otherwise as to the ill-treatment, such as hand-cuffing, classification, refusal to allow food to them provided by their relations or friends while detained as under-trial prisoners and if so, what steps the Government has taken to remove these complaints ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : As the hartal has now been called off, I think it is not in the public interest to collect the detailed information required by the honourable member.

WHEAT STOCK IN MANDI BUREWALA.

***8218. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that wheat stock in the Mandi Burewala, district Multan, has of late depleted and there were about 8,500 bags of wheat in the Mandi at the beginning of this week commencing from 16th February, 1942 ;
- (b) whether he is aware that this stock includes 6,000 bags of wheat acquired by the Government which are lying there undelivered ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that 750 bags of wheat out of the stock of 8,500 bags have been permitted by the Government on 21st February, 1942, to be despatched to other places leaving the balance of about 1,750 bags of wheat at the disposal of the public of that place ;
- (d) whether he is aware of the fact that the daily consumption of wheat in this town is about 150 bags ;
- (e) whether he is also aware that according to simple arithmetical calculations eight to nine thousands of bags of wheat will be required for local consumption during the next two months and before the yield from the next *rabi* crop arrives in the market ;
- (f) if the answers to (a) to (e) above be in the affirmative, the steps that Government contemplates taking to avoid serious dearth of wheat in this town ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) The visible wheat stock in the Burewala market on 21st February 1942 was 8,800 bags.

(b) Yes.

(c) Permits Nos. 42 and 43 were issued on the 17th February, 1942, for the export of 450 bags and 600 bags of wheat respectively from Burewala to the Calcutta Flour Mills.

(d) The population of the town is 7,318. Calculating half a seer per day per head, the total consumption comes to 91 maunds and 19 seers or 87 bags daily.

(e) 2,220 bags will be required for two months according to above calculations.

(f) The situation is not serious.

LALA SADHU RAM.

***8221. Chaudhri Jugal Kishore :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Lala Sadhu Ram, a political worker of village Shergarh, pargana Bilaspur, district Ambala, was handcuffed on his transfer from Ambala to the Ferozepore Jail on 8th October, 1941 ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that he was made to carry his luggage on his shoulder on his way to the Ferozepore Jail ; if so, the reasons for according such a treatment to him ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, to the extent that his entire luggage consisted of one blanket, apart from a few books.

DETENUS IN SUB- JAIL, GUJRAT.

***8222. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the medical arrangements for the detenus in Sub-Jail, Gujrat ;

(b) the date when Professor Tilak Raj Chadha, a detenu in the above jail, was examined for the first time by a medical officer after he was repatriated from the Deoli Camp ; whether any medicine was prescribed for him by him or any other physician ; if so, the date when the medicine was supplied to the detenu ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that there is no wholetime medical officer for the said jail and medical arrangements there are worse than those in the Deoli Camp ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) There is a Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to the New Sub-Jail at Gujrat, who is also Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of Police Lines, Gujrat. The Civil Surgeon attends the jail for 2 to 3 hours daily. The Sub Assistant Surgeon attends in the morning and evening and also all emergency calls and where necessary sends for the Civil Surgeon. There is also one permanent and one temporary dispenser.

(b) Professor Tilak Raj Chaddah was examined for the first time on the 29th January 1942 by the Civil Surgeon. He was suffering from leucoderma on the lips, etc. As a temporary measure a mixture was prescribed for him but he refused to have it. The best treatment for leucoderma is oil of *bouchi* which is ordinarily not stocked in the jail hospital. The disease is neither acute nor painful. Oil of *bouchi* was ordered from Calcutta and was received on the 22nd February, 1942 and supplied to the prisoner immediately.

(c) The question of the appointment of a whole time Medical Officer for the jail is at present under the consideration of Government.

SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT.

***8223. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the kitchen arrangements for the detenus in the Sub-Jail, Gujrat ; the diet given to them and the class under which they are being treated ;

(b) the amount paid to the detenus as food allowance ;

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma,]

- (c) whether it is a fact that they are not given any choice of diet according to their taste and requirements as they were given in the Deoli Detention Camp ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that milk, eggs, and meat were supplied at a much cheaper rate in Deoli than in the Gujrat Jail by the contractor ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the detenus have asked the Government to increase the food allowance owing to the rise in prices of commodities on account of the war ; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the prices of various articles fixed by the jail contractor are much higher than the market rates and the detenus are asked to pay annas two per rupee as commission for the foodstuffs supplied by him ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) There are eight fly-proof kitchens for the use of security prisoners confined in the New Sub Jail, Gujrat. They have been given 'A' class diet in accordance with paragraph 920 (III) of the Punjab Jail Manual. They are being treated as 'A' class prisoners.

(b) Nine annas and three pies per diem.

(c) Arrangements have been made whereby they will be able to indent for their food according to their choice up to the value of nine annas and three pies per day from the 9th March, 1942.

These arrangements could not be made earlier due to the traders hartal.

(d) Government have no information as to the comparative rates of foodstuffs in Deoli and Gujrat except the prisoners' own representations sent from Deoli that the prices of foodstuffs there were far higher than in the Punjab.

(e) Yes and the request has been rejected.

(f) No. There is no jail contractor. The jail authorities make local arrangements for the supply of various articles to the security prisoners through various suppliers. Only market rates are charged for foodstuffs supplied to the security prisoners.

SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT.

***8224. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that fruits, sweets and other eatables are not allowed by the Government to be delivered to the detenus in the Sub-Jail, Gujrat, by their parents, sisters, brothers and friends who go to interview them in the jail ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that no such restrictions existed in the Deoli Camp ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the interviewers are required to supply a copy of their photograph to the Government before they are allowed to interview the detenus ;

(d) whether it is a fact that no such restrictions are placed on interviewers in any other Jail in the Punjab ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

SELECTION OF OM PARKASH FOR THE POST OF PATWARI.

***8220. Chaudhri Jugal Kishore :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Om Parkash, son of Lala Sita Ram, Jain, resident of village Naraingarh, District Ambala, has been selected this year to fill in the vacancy of a Patwari reserved for a member of a scheduled caste ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above-mentioned selection was made in spite of the fact that several members of scheduled castes had duly applied for the appointment ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : Enquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when complete information becomes available.

SADHU SINGH, HEAD CONSTABLE, POLICE STATION, KAITHAL.

***8130. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the complaint of the Muslim public of Kaithal, district Panipat, made to him and other authorities concerned against the behaviour of one Sadhu Singh, Head Constable, Police Station Kaithal, who during the investigation of a theft case called the suspects of the town and those persons who were near the spot of occurrence and subjected them to all sorts of torture and indignity in order to extort confession on 26th September, 1941 ;

(b) the action that Government has taken or intends to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) The complaint against Sadhu Singh, Head Constable, Police Station, Kaithal, was enquired into by a Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kaithal, and the allegations were found to be false.

(b) No further action is required.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that this person, namely Sadhu Singh, Head Constable, not only used insulting language against those who were suspected but he also uttered very objectionable and undesirable words against *Sunnate Rasul*?

Parliamentary Secretary : Investigations into those very allegations were made and no one came forward to substantiate them.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that the enquiry officers were of the same creed and caste as the head constable?

Parliamentary Secretary : That does not preclude them from holding an independent enquiry.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state whether the Muslims of Kaithal repeatedly applied to the authorities to hold an independent enquiry?

Parliamentary Secretary : As far as I am aware the majority of witnesses who deposed in favour of Sadhu Singh were Muslims.

SURPRISE VISITS TO MUNICIPAL GIRLS' SCHOOLS, LAHORE, BY LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

***8132. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has come to his notice that the Lady Superintendent, in charge Municipal Girls' Schools, Lahore, accompanied by the Administrator, Lahore Municipality, has paid several surprise visits to some Municipal Girls' schools in Lahore during the last 6 months without giving due notice to the Mistresses and girls in those schools, who observe strict *purdah*, thereby causing dismay and inconvenience to the *purdah* ladies concerned;

(b) whether it is a fact that protests were made orally by the school mistresses and girls concerned against the attitude of the Lady Superintendent and the Administrator, upon which the Lady Superintendent told them that, as subordinates, they should not be expected to be treated otherwise, and, that if they were so sensitive about such visits, they better leave the schools and find places elsewhere;

(c) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, whether under the rules the Administrator is authorised to pay surprise visits to these girls' schools and also what action it is intended to take to put an end to the practice adopted by the Lady Superintendent in this matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

SICK LEAVE TO MISTRESSES OF MUNICIPAL GIRLS' SCHOOLS,
LAHORE.

*8123. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications for casual leave supported by medical certificates obtained from registered medical practitioners sent from home by the mistresses of Municipal Girls' Schools in Lahore, since the present Administrator took over charge of his office, which were returned by the Lady Superintendent of these schools with the remarks that such leave could not be granted unless supported by a medical certificate obtained from Dr. Taj Mahal Begum, and that the applicants could not absent themselves from duty till orders sanctioning the leave had been issued and also the rule or law under which an application for leave supported by a medical certificate obtained from a registered medical practitioner other than Dr. Taj Mahal Begum cannot be entertained ;

(b) the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) There is no record of any such case. If however the honourable member will particularise any case the matter will be looked into.

(b) Does not arise.

PROCLAIMED OFFENDERS.

*8197. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) how many proclaimed offenders were at large in the Ludhiana district till 1st January, 1941 ;

(b) how many of them were arrested by the Ludhiana Police from January, 1941, to January, 1942 ;

(c) how many proclaimed offenders and absconders out of them are still at large ;

(d) in how many cases proceedings were taken under section 87/88 Criminal Procedure Code ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) 156.

(b) 84.

(c) 72 Proclaimed Offenders. No absconder was at large.

(d) 156.

ARREST OF KUNDA.

*8199. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many attempts have been made to arrest Kunda, a notorious out-law, by the Ludhiana Police ;

[Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan.]

(b) the result of those attempts ;

(c) in how many raids the Superintendent of Police himself joined the raiding party for arresting the said Kunda ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Fiaz Muhammad) : Numerous raids for the arrest of Kunda have been carried out by the Ludhiana Police. Some of them have been led by the Superintendent of Police himself, but none has yet proved successful.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT.

IMPORT OF WHEAT INTO LAHORE.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat Khan) : Yesterday when I saw the District Magistrate's notification prohibiting the import of wheat in Lahore it appeared to me that it was apt to be misconstrued. On making inquiries I was informed that the intention was to prohibit the import of large consignments of wheat which were likely to go underground. I however asked the District Magistrate to clarify his order so that people importing small quantities of wheat for personal use may not be put to unnecessary bother and trouble. My honourable friends may therefore rest assured that wheat imported in small quantities for use at home would not be subject to this restriction.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Does all this go on without any reference being made to you ?

Premier : No, normally the Wheat Controller is consulted. In this case the wording of the Deputy Commissioner's order prohibiting the import of wheat by rail has been misconstrued. The impression has somehow gained ground that even small quantities of wheat say 10 or 20 seers even if imported for personal use, is subject to this restriction. That, as I have explained, is not the intention.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

EXPORT OF WHEAT FROM THE PUNJAB.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) : Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the inability of the Punjab Government to prevent the export of wheat from this province at a time when the province is faced with serious wheat famine.

Mr. Speaker : Chaudhri Suraj Mal has asked for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the inability of the Punjab Government to prevent the export of wheat from this province at a time when the province is faced with serious wheat famine.

Premier : No objection.

Mr. Speaker : The motion will be discussed at 7 p. m. to-day.

MEETINGS ON 18TH AND 25TH MARCH, 1942

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly shall meet on Wednesday, the 18th March and Wednesday, the 25th March, 1942, at 12 noon and that the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 4-30 p.m. on these days.

The reason for this is that we have got one or two Government Bills which I should like to get through quickly. One of them is the Badshahi Mosque Cess Bill which I propose to introduce in order to reimpose the small levy provided in the previous Bill for a period of two more harvests so that the work in connection with renovation and repairs which is now in progress may not be hampered. I hope the House will have no objection to taking up that Bill on Wednesday. It is being published, and it is a non-controversial measure. The present Bill is similar to the one passed by the House two years ago.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved :

That the Assembly shall meet on Wednesday, the 18th March and Wednesday, the 25th March 1942, at 12 noon and that the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 4-30 p.m. on these days.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Has my honourable friend talked over the matter with the Leader of the Opposition ?

Premier : I have spoken to him and he is agreeable.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : May I propose an amendment to this to the effect that two Saturdays may also be taken for non-official Bills and resolutions ?

Premier : I shall keep it in mind that the honourable member is prepared to sit on Saturdays also. (*Laughter*).

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : Yes, for non-official business.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Assembly shall meet on Wednesday the 18th March and Wednesday, the 25th March, 1942, at 12 noon and that the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 4-30 p.m. on these days.

The motion was carried.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

LAND REVENUE.

Land Revenue Policy.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Land Revenue.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, yesterday I was mentioning the textile position in India and my honourable friends Sardar Ujjal Singh and Diwan Chaman Lall, interrupted me and asked me various questions. Now I would like to give a few figures which are very interesting and I am sure my honourable friends will support the point which I was making yesterday. What I was saying yesterday was that the cotton position in the Punjab is such that we cannot consume

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.]

all the cotton we produce in this province and I was also saying that before the declaration of the war the cotton textile mills of India were not working three shifts. Some were working only two shifts and some only one. The reason was that the consumption of textiles in India did not warrant the working of the mills the whole time. My honourable friend interrupted me and asked me, what about the imports of textiles from the United Kingdom and Japan? I would just ask them to lend me their ears and hear these figures. The import of textile piecegoods into India in the year 1939-40 from the United Kingdom was only 145 million yards and from Japan it was 398 million yards.

Diwan Chaman Lall : That is, after the war?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : The war was declared in September 1939 and for the first six months there was no appreciable difference in imports into India. In 1939-40 the mill production of India was 4,018 million yards while all the imports were 579 million yards. The consumption in India was 4,384 million yards. We exported out of India 221 million yards. Now I come to the consumption in the Punjab. The *per capita* consumption in 1938-39 was 18.7 yards and in 1937-38 it was 16.67 yards.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Where does my honourable friend get these figures from?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : From the Industries Year Book.

Diwan Chaman Lall : For the Punjab?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : These are for the whole of India. I have worked out the consumption taking the population basis of 1941 of 277 lakhs and worked out at 16 yards per person living in this Province it works out to a total of 4,414 lakhs yards against which the production in the Punjab was in the year 1939-40 only 560 lakhs yards. The province of Delhi is next door to us and it produces 1,440 lakhs yards. Now, Sir, you will see that against 4,414 lakhs we have got 2,000 lakhs yards. This is the output, as my honourable friends know, of only 4 mills — two in the Punjab and two in Delhi. If we treble this you will get 12 mills in the Punjab. So you can put 8 more mills and all these 12 mills will produce 6,000 lakh yards against 4,414 lakhs, provided no cloth comes into the Punjab from elsewhere. But, Sir, as I have just stated this position would lead us to competition with the existing mills in various parts of India. As my honourable friends know those mills are there in Ahmedabad and we know that almost all the textile industries of India are localised there and in Bombay. If we start as many mills as can produce our needs here, then naturally we will have to compete with those mills.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Those mills do not cater for the needs of the Punjab only; they supply cloth, besides the Punjab, to the North Western Frontier Province, Sind and some parts of the United Provinces also.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : If the honourable member will look to the population of the North West Frontier Province, and Sind he will see

that their consumption is not very much and moreover with 8 more mills we will have a surplus of 1,586 lakh yards.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Does my honourable friend know that if the whole of the Punjab population is clothed with only Punjab made cloth, the Punjab will be able to consume more than half if not the entire crop of cotton produced in the province ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : No, Sir. I shall refer to cotton presently. But let me first tell the House of one item which has been bought in connection with the defence services and that is, 174 million yards of one type of cloth which has been bought by the Defence Department. Now, Sir, referring to the cotton position, the consumption of cotton in the year 1940-41, was 3,679,874 bales and the production of the Punjab during the same year was 7,46,000 bales. This was American cotton, and the production of desi cotton was 7,11,000 bales. The consumption in the Punjab and Delhi of Desi and American cotton is only 1,44,000 bales. Even if we consume 6 times of what we are consuming today, even then we will have to send out of the Punjab not less than 7 to 8 lakhs of bales.

Diwan Chaman Lall : What does the honourable member mean by the consumption of cotton in the Punjab ? Does he mean consumption of cotton by the mills in the Punjab ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : No, no. My honourable friend knows that consumption is apart from the mills consumption which include hand-looms as well. The figures that I have quoted are from the Punjab consumption, including the consumption of Delhi also.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : Is the honourable member aware of the fact that till recently there was an agreement by which Japan was allowed to export into India certain quantity of cloth, against which Japan had to buy Indian cotton to the extent of a million to a million and a half bales ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Sir, the next point which I beg to bring to the notice of my honourable friends is this. Since the advent of the war a large number of industries have been started, which use raw materials also grown in the Punjab. I may refer to oils from various oilseeds. This oil is used in great quantities by the various chemicals which are required in connection with the war. I will here particularly refer to the production of stearic acid and oleic acid which are made from vegetable oils. These were imported from abroad. Now, the Government of India is encouraging the start of some chemical industries in this country which will make effective use of the oils, which we get from the oilseeds produced in India. Similarly our Province can utilize oilseeds produced here.

The next point which I want to raise is this. My honourable friends know that we have very large number of troops in India at present. Apart from our own troops we have a large number of foreign troops. The food consumed by these prisoners is not a small quantity. As my friends know, we in the Punjab have such prisoners. If the agriculturists are made to grow vegetables and fruit near the localities where these prisoners are kept, it will mean that

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.]

the agriculturists would get very good return, and, similarly, if the agriculturists are also made to interest themselves in poultry, it would be good for them because the position of poultry farming is deteriorating every day. The demand for eggs and poultry has increased by at least 200 per cent and the price of eggs and poultry has also increased by 100 per cent. Therefore, if the farmers are helped by the Government in the matter of raising poultry, it would surely add to their income and relieve the misery of the Punjab peasants. There is only one other point which I should like to state. That is with regard to wool. We have made a great deal of improvement so far as wool growing is concerned.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : But no land revenue is charged on wool. How is it relevant to the land revenue demand?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Unfortunately, we in this country cannot compete with a country like Australia. (*Interruptions*). I was referring to the superior position of Australia with regard to wool. There on the average one acre is allotted per sheep for purposes of grazing. In Queensland, where grazing is not so good as in New South Wales, the acreage per sheep is from 1 to 5. Here we have very few pastures at our disposal (*Interruption*) for grazing the sheep and, therefore, we cannot compete with them. I would very humbly request the Honourable Minister that he may kindly bear this fact in mind. If sheep-stock in this Province is improved, there is lot of possibility of improvement in wool industry because the North-West Frontier Province and ours are the only provinces which consume this wool. With these few words I wind up my speech. (*Cheers*).

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : I would confine my remarks to one or two points. I should first of all like to draw the attention of the Government to the supreme importance of making early arrangements for protecting the irrigation headworks against aerial bombardment. (*Cheers*). As we all know, irrigation is perhaps the greatest national industry of the Punjab and practically fifty per centum of our land revenue is derived from areas irrigated by the canals. If, unfortunately, anything happens to the headworks, not only our revenues will tremendously suffer but the whole countryside will be converted into waste land and there will be chaos and confusion in the province. For this reason I would like to stress the importance of protecting these headworks.

The second point to which I would like to invite the attention of the Government is the desirability of developing the fruit industry. I need not give any reasons why fruit industry is required to be promoted here. Suffice it to say that this Province offers the most favourable conditions and there is a great scope for the development of this industry. We have a varying climate and the soil is best suited to fruit gardens. Besides, we have a hardy peasantry and the Punjabis love fruits. Given all the conditions, there is no reason why, if a slight encouragement is given by the Government, the fruit industry should not flourish here more than in any other country. But, unfortunately, with all these favourable conditions in the Punjab, with a population of nearly 2½ crores, we have only

65 thousand acres under fruit gardens. As against this, I would like to quote some figures of other countries with smaller population which, under the patronage of their governments, have developed fruit industry to a very great extent. Take the case of Palestine. It is a very small and backward country, with a population of 5 per cent of the Punjab. It has an area of 1,50,000 acres under fruit gardens as against our 65,000 only. Another country, California, part of America, with a population of hardly 25 per cent of the Punjab, has an area of 20 lakhs of acres under fruit gardens. Take the case of Italy. It has a population of nearly 75 per cent more than the population of the Punjab but has an area of 1.25 crore acres under fruit gardens as against 65 thousands in the Punjab. How have those countries developed their fruit industry? In Egypt the Government itself has been supplying annually lakhs of nursery plants free of cost. The Italian Government has encouraged fruit industry by giving facilities such as the remission of land revenue for a certain number of years and by supplying nursery plants free of cost and also by giving concessions in transport charges. These are some of the methods by which other countries have encouraged the fruit industry. On the other hand, in this Province, instead of getting any encouragement, the land revenue is charged from the very beginning that a garden is planted. The plants may not start bearing fruits for a number of years but the garden area is charged land revenue from the very start and on the top of it land revenue is charged on the whole garden area twice a year, whereas it is charged once a year for other crops. That is a point on which my honourable friend the Revenue Minister expressed his surprise the other day when the point was brought to his notice. Undoubtedly it is a matter on which surprise should be expressed because it is unjustifiable that fruit trees in a garden area which bear fruits once either in Kharif or in Rabi should be charged land revenue twice.

I do admit that the practice varies in different districts. On the Lower Bari Doab Canal, at any rate, of which I know definitely, all garden areas are charged land revenue twice a year. But in certain districts the practice is to charge it once a year. I would request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to go into this problem carefully and sympathetically. There is no earthly reason why these garden areas should be charged land revenue twice. Now, Sir, another point with regard to the garden areas is that even *kharaba* rules do not apply to garden areas. The entire fruit crop may be damaged, still not a single pie is remitted; whereas the *kharaba* rules apply to every other crop these do not apply to garden crop where the cultivator might have spent a lot of money and might have suffered a tremendous loss. There is another point to which I would invite the attention of the Revenue Minister. Sir, as some of my honourable friends know, *abiana* is also charged twice a year on entire garden area. There may be some justification of charging *abiana* twice because extra water is given to gardens. The previous practice was to give three times the normal supply of water for garden areas. (An honourable member: It is not practicable.) How is it not practicable? Perhaps my honourable friend is not following what I am saying. Perhaps he means to say that it is not the practice now. The previous practice was to allow three times the normal water for garden areas. On that basis *abiana* was charged twice. But the Government stopped giving extra water to gardens for some time

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and it was at the request and insistence of the Fruit Development Board that the Government agreed to give extra water again to fruit gardens ; but while issuing orders, the Government laid down that only twice the normal supply of water will be given to garden areas. They reduced the supply of water for garden areas but continued to charge twice the *abiana*. On the face of it, it seems unjust. On the Lower Bari Doab Canal the ordinary supply is 66 per cent., that is out of 100 acres of culturable commanded area, a zamindar is expected to cultivate 66 acres in both kharif and rabi and is charged *abiana* on 66 acres cultivated. But with only twice the supply of water on 100 acres of garden area the fruit grower has to pay *abiana* on 100 acres in Kharif and 100 acres in Rabi, that is, on 200 acres in a year. Those who are interested in gardens can well realise that twice the ordinary supply of water is insufficient for gardens and that unless the Government give three times the normal supply of water they are not justified in charging twice the *abiana* on the whole area and this is the question which I would request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to look into.

Now, Sir, the last point that I would like to touch is the question of giving relief to the small landholders. Of course, I do admit that if you take away a little burden from him by giving up some land revenue, say five rupees a year, you will not be giving him any great relief. The best way of giving relief to the small landholder is undoubtedly to provide further amenities for him and adopt means by which his purchasing power may be raised. But it must be admitted that the small landholder is put to great strain and difficulty when he has got to pay even five rupees land revenue. His means are so limited that even in order to pay five rupees he has to knock at the doors of some *sahukar* as he has seldom any cash at his disposal. He consequently runs into debt. I was rather surprised to hear from my honourable friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani in his otherwise excellent speech that if the Government were to remit land revenue of all landholders who are paying five rupees or less land revenue, the Government will have to suffer a loss of nearly 2 crores. Perhaps my honourable friend was not aware of the correct figures. Let me quote from the Land Revenue Committee's Report that the total amount of land revenue paid by those landholders who are paying Rs. 5 or less is only Rs. 92,26,440. So the total amount of land revenue that is paid by those who are paying Rs. 5 or less is Rs. 92,26,440 and not rupees 2 crores. If the Government were to give direct relief to that extent, I am sure my honourable friend the Finance Minister, who is known as the financial wizard, can find out this sum annually from the savings or possibly by effecting economy. The point is that if you remit this 92 lakhs a year, you would be giving relief to 50 per cent. of the landholders. The total number of landholders who will be benefitted by this would be 1,759,260. The total number of landholders in the Punjab is 3,470,000, out of whom those who are paying Rs. 5 or less land revenue are 1,759,260. This direct relief to small landholders is likely to be much appreciated by them. I would request the Government to consider this question in a sympathetic manner.

Then the other point is about the prevention of holding from becoming uneconomic. As we know, this province has small holdings and with our

laws of succession, the holdings are being subdivided every day. Unless means are adopted to stop the sub-division of holdings we will never be able to stop the creation of uneconomic holdings. It has been found that a holding nearly of 10 acres on irrigated areas and of 20 acres on unirrigated areas is an economic holding and below that the holding would be considered uneconomic. I would suggest that some method should be adopted and if necessary laws should be made to prevent the sub-division of holdings below 10 acres.

Of course another method is to consolidate the holdings through the Co-operative Department and the Revenue Department. It is not possible to carry on the consolidation beyond a certain point. Along with the consolidation of holdings, Government must find out some means to stop this sub-division; unless this is done after a few years many holdings would become uneconomic.

I hope the Government will carefully consider the observations made by me.

Minister of Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasandha Singh): Sir, some of the honourable members on the opposite side said something to the effect that nothing is being done to add to the income of the agriculturists. Only the other day I dealt with this question at some length. I need not repeat what I said that day. Any honourable member who listened to it attentively can have no doubts as to what we have done for the peasant. No honourable member who studies the facts can remain unconvinced that a lot has been done to add to the income of the agriculturists and we can claim with pride that we have actually added a good deal to the income of the peasant. (*Hear, hear*). Now that was something in general. It was the honourable member from Kangra, who is not in his seat just now, who said something to this effect and I was simply surprised to hear particularly from him that nothing is being done for the benefit of the peasant. Now in Kangra particularly we are doing much more in this respect than perhaps in any other single district. So far as intensification of the produce of the peasant is concerned, we are doing there a lot in connection with potato growing and a good deal in connection with rice and also a good deal in connection with fruit cultivation. We are spending a lot of money to improve the lot of the poor agriculturists of the Kangra district so far as the increase of cattle wealth is concerned (*Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri: How?*) Perhaps, my honourable friend has never been that side. If instead of going to the more pleasant hill resorts like Simla, Dalhousie and other places, he had turned his attention to Palampur and such other places in the Kangra district, he would have seen with his own eyes that a lot is being done there. We can add to the income of the agriculturists in various ways, directly so far as the improvement of agricultural methods are concerned and also by adding to the cattle wealth of the people. Now in this connection my friend will be pleased to hear that there is a scheme for the improvement of local breed of cattle and we are going to spend about 8,000 rupees during the next year. We have made provision for it, that is, by subsidising the purchase of cows of better quality and also bulls of better origin. Similarly, we are going to give prizes to those who take to cattle breeding in right earnest. Not only during the next year are we going to spend

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4 this money, but even in the past one or two years we spent a good deal on this and we have succeeded in adding to the number of cattle and we have also succeeded in improving the quality of the cattle. There is another new scheme for the improvement of sheep and we are going to spend about Rs. 2,000 on that.

Diwan Chaman Lal : You should have a lot of experience.

Minister of Development : It will not be a surprise to my friend that it will cost him a good deal if he took to these pleasantries. We are going to improve sheep breeding by importing rams of better type from Hissar. Then there is something else which we are doing there in this connection, and that is the holding of one day cattle shows. It is a new sort of cattle show which is becoming very popular in villages. It is particularly popular in the Knagra district.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Was this started during your minister-ship or previously?

Minister : Now this is a sort of question which I need not take notice of. (*Hear, hear*). There are outlying dispensaries and we are going to increase their number in that district. Similarly there is another scheme of adding to the number of outlying stations where first aid is given to cattle. Similarly there are other schemes which are at work in the Kangra district and the notable thing we have to do this year is that we are starting a new experiment of importing Lohani breed of cattle there and that will improve the cattle wealth of the people of the district very considerably. Now if the honourable member from Kangra had cared to study these things on the spot he would not have opened his lips to say that no work was being done to improve the condition of the agriculturists. He should have felt that he was under some obligation to the Government, that we are doing much more there than in any other district.

There are one or two things more to which my attention was drawn during the debate. My honourable friend from Palwal said something about the consolidation of holdings. He said that it was better to have consolidation of holdings done through the revenue agency. I would like to submit for the enlightenment of my friend that it is the co-operative agency which is more suitable for the work of consolidation.

This work was started twenty years back and it is the Co-operative department which has done the spade work. At the beginning this work was very unpopular among the village people as they did not understand the advantages of it and they did not realise that it was exceptionally beneficial to them. They would not take to it and a lot of persuasion had to be done and it was the Co-operative department which was best fitted to do it. They did the work very satisfactorily and about one crore and twenty five laks of acres, I believe, were consolidated. It was only done because the Co-operative department people took to it in right earnest and the experiment succeeded wonderfully well. We could not have tried that experiment through the revenue agency. We had to spend something extra on the revision of the records and we shall have to spend something more on it. Even taking into consideration this additional cost, the co-operative system is cheaper and better too. This is my personal opinion

as I am in favour of having things done by persuasion rather than coercion. The work of consolidation which is being done by the revenue agency is being done under the Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1936, and therefore it is being done under some sort of compulsion. On the other hand, the co-operative societies which are formed do the whole thing by persuasion in their own way. The work of consolidation has been started through other agencies simply to see how far it succeeds. It was started at the very outset in three or four districts. It was started in Rohtak as well as Gurgaon districts. In Rohtak district the work had to be given up so far as the revenue agency was concerned. That district is quite near to my honourable friend's district and if he had cared to know it, he would not have preferred that agency to the co-operative one. Similarly, in Gurgaon district too, I do not think the work is being done as efficiently as is being done through the co-operative agency. I think my honourable friend has got some sort of prejudice against the co-operative people and that is why he prefers the revenue agency. He is very keen so far as the interests of his constituents are concerned and at times in his anxiety to help those people he goes a little bit too far. He is exceedingly anxious to do all that he possibly can for them and in doing so, he oversteps the bounds of reasonable sympathy. So far as the Co-operative department and the credit side of it is concerned, I am sorry to say that aspect of it was going to fail in some districts. The societies that were formed in the beginning were too many and the officers in charge of that work were, it seems, too anxious to speed up the work by increasing the number of societies. In fact the success of the work was gauged by the number of societies at the outset. For that reason and for other economic reasons the credit of the societies in several districts began to fail. In certain places on account of the fact that prices of agricultural produce had gone very much down—

Diwan Chaman Lall : Thereby increased the income of the peasants ! (*Laughter*).

Minister of Development : There are certain reasons which are beyond our control. We cannot control the world prices and our prices are dependent on those prices.

Diwan Chaman Lall : How do America, France and England control them ?

Minister : That is a wider question which my honourable friend may tackle. So far as I am concerned, I look upon these things from a reasonable limited point of view.

Chaudhri Sumar Singh : May I put a question to the Honourable Minister ? Has he read the report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee wherein it was recommended that the consolidation works should be done by the revenue and no other agency ?

Minister : I have read it and with greater care than my honourable friend. I am of the opinion that the gentlemen who have recommended that did not study the proposition thoroughly. Even now it has to be decided which of the two agencies is better fitted to do this work. One of the experiments has already succeeded, namely, consolidation through the Co-operative department. The other activities are only at the experimental stage and we cannot say which is the best agency. All the same after a year or two it will be seen as to which agency works better and is

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more popular with the people and cheaper from the economic point of view. This question is yet to be decided. My honourable friend said that too much stress is being laid by the Co-operative department on recoveries and realisation of debts from the poor debtors. That is a thing which requires careful consideration at the hands of the honourable members, and particularly at the hands of my friend from Palwal. I have had the pleasure of meeting him in this own constituency. That is one of the districts where co-operative credit has very much gone down, as the peasants are rather poor and the recoveries exceedingly difficult. To keep the movement going, it was necessary for us to make recoveries to the extent to which it was possible under the conditions prevailing there. We are doing it in almost every district. There were several districts where the societies had been degenerating from A to B class, from B to C class and from C to D class. Barring the central districts the condition of co-operative credit societies was not very enviable. For this reason at several places we have had to take stringent measures. But those measures are always consistent with the welfare of the creditor. We are trying to recover money from the debtor, and at the same time we are also trying to add to his income. We lend money to him to purchase cattle or to do something else by which his sources of income may increase and thus he may be enabled to repay the debt. We have by this method of increasing his income enabled recoveries to be made. The condition of the societies has been improved a good deal. Does my honourable friend know all this? He criticises the department not because the department is not doing good work, but because in his eagerness for his constituents he would not like that recoveries should be made where the debtor is not willing to repay. At times money has to be got out of unwilling hands. That is the unpleasant extent to which we have to go, but we do so only in a decent manner and in a manner which may not be pinching to the debtor. In that way not only in his district but in other districts also the condition of co-operative societies has been improved a good deal. (*Cheers*).

Sardar Kartar Singh (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the land revenue grant is being discussed since yesterday and many observations have been made by my honourable friends in regard to it. Now the present system of land revenue has been in vogue since times immemorial. The zamindars have been paying land revenue, which has now become a standing source of trouble for them, since the time that any ordered government was established in this country. From that time onwards every government has been realizing it from the zamindars. Since its first appearance it has undergone no important change at all. Many other things have changed; governments have changed; their methods of administrations have changed but the system of land revenue has practically undergone no change at all. It is continued to be realised in the same manner as it was realized centuries before. The Honourable Minister for Revenue who once adorned the Opposition benches in the old Legislative Council expressed his opinion in regard to it in the following words:

Now the present system of land revenue has been in vogue from times immemorial; since its first appearance it has undergone no important change. The whole world has changed, systems of Government have changed; our society has changed; our civilization has changed; but our system of land revenue is just the same.

I will go further and say that even Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has changed but our system of land revenue is just the same. My submission is that this question of land revenue had been discussed threadbare in the old Legislative Council and after a good deal of discussion it was decided in the year 1929 that instead of 50 per cent only 25 per cent of the net assets of the zamindars should be realized from the zamindars by way of land revenue. At that time the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was in the front rank of those who criticised the Government for realizing as high a rate as 50 per cent of the net assets of zamindars as land revenue and I think he was the first person to suggest to Government to realize it on the basis of income tax principle. That suggestion of his was severely criticised in the press and he was dubbed as an extremist and a Bolshevik. At the time he used to boast a great deal that he had put forward such a fine suggestion for the welfare of the zamindars. But now when he has himself come into power he has done nothing to alleviate the hard lot of the zamindars. Anyway my submission is that it was before the coming of the Unionist Party into power that it was decided that instead of 50 per cent only 25 per cent of net assets of the zamindars should be realised by way of land revenue. But so far, this rate of land revenue assessment has not been enforced in all the districts.

Now the second point which was urged on the floor of the old Legislative Council was that relief should be given to the small peasants. Even in advancing this argument, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram headed all others. At that time he was the member of the Zamindara League. His love for the zamindars was so much that he used to go to different districts with the banner of the Zamindara League in his hand, and make speeches in which he pleaded the cause of the poor agriculturists. The Unionist Party had not yet been formed and we also worked side by side with him in the Zamindara League. We were then under the impression that when Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram would go over to the Government benches he would remove all the hardships of the zamindars who had helped him to occupy the pre-eminent position which he is occupying to-day. But so far he has done nothing to relieve the hard lot of the poor zamindars. Five years have passed since this Government assumed office, but so far they have not given any remission in land revenue to the zamindars and they have not improved the defective land revenue system. All the changes that have so far been made in the system of land revenue were introduced before the Unionist Party came into power. There is not a single thing for which this Government can take any credit. Even the sliding scale system that has been introduced in some districts was introduced before the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy. Before the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy land revenue was a reserved subject and at that time the person who was in charge of that department was very influential and he made the Government agree to his suggestion and thus it was under his instructions that the sliding scale system was introduced in some districts. But even this system cannot benefit the zamindars unless and until new settlements are not made in every district. Anyhow in the regime of the Unionist Government neither any relief has been given to the poor zamindars nor can we hope to get any. The only relief which this Government have given to the zamindars is that which they

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gave them at the time of hailstorms or other heavenly calamities when the crops of the zamindars had totally failed. At the time of such calamities, when the crops of the zamindars fail, Government cannot realize anything from them. So they gave remission to the zamindars not because they wanted to do so but because they were forced to grant them that relief. This is not anything for which my friends can take any credit. Except this they have not granted any relief to the poor zamindars.

Then Sir, when this Party assumed office it was announced that a Committee would be appointed under the presidentship of Mr. Darling and that it would find out ways and means in which expenses of Government could be reduced and relief could be provided to the poor zamindars.

The Unionist Party has always claimed that the betterment of the lot of the zamindars is their first and foremost concern. But on that committee not a single member was a zamindar. All the members of the said committee were either non-zamindars or officials. Non-officials were not made members of that committee. The official members could not have been expected to uphold the cause of the zamindars. Had there been any agriculturist member, he would have certainly presented the view point of the zamindars and would have shown concern for their interests. But what a pity that even the recommendations made by that committee have not been carried out in practice! One of the recommendations of that committee was that the land revenue of those agriculturists who pay up to Rs. 10 be reduced by annas 8 and that of those who pay between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 be reduced by Rs. 5. But the Government did not accept this recommendation. If we request the Government to accept that recommendation, they will say that it is not possible, exactly in the same manner as their predecessors said. They will say that a relief of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 *per capita* will not be of much help to the agriculturists individually but it would mean a great loss to the Government. The condition of the agriculturists is as bad to day as it was many years ago. Rather I should say it is worse than before. The reply of the Government that a relief of a few rupees per head will not help the agriculturists much has become quite hackneyed. Let them understand that the average income of the agriculturists in this province is very small and a reduction of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 in their land revenue would mean much to them.

The second request that I want to make to the Government is that in all such areas where the preliminary settlement has been accomplished the agriculturists may be given a reduction of 25 per cent in their land revenue.

The third point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is this. Sometime back there was a proposal that a surcharge may be levied on the big holders. The proposal was that those zamindars who pay land revenue between Rs. 250 and Rs. 500 may be charged one anna per rupee as surcharge, while those who pay between Rs. 500—Rs. 1,000 and between Rs. 1,000—Rs. 5,000 may be charged surcharge at the rates of annas 2 and annas 3 per rupee of the amount of their land revenue respectively. The zamindars paying land revenue above Rs. 5,000 may be charged at the rate of annas 4 per rupee as surcharge. Even the members of the Unionist Party like Sodhi Harnam Singh have agreed to this recommendation of the said

committee. All public spirited members of the Unionist Party agree with this proposal but the Government do not look at it with favour. They do not want to enforce the surcharge. The only thing which the Government has done for the poor agriculturists is the establishment of a fund for their benefit. The amount earmarked for this fund is Rs. 80 lakhs. All have liked this praiseworthy act of the Government. But the Government have not explained the definition of the small agriculturist. The definition of a poor agriculturist should be such as to mean an agriculturist who pays less than Rs. 25 as land revenue. I request the Honourable Minister to define the poor agriculturist in his speech.

Then it has been asked how this fund should be spent for the benefit of the agriculturists. I would submit in this connection that agriculturists should be given relief out of this fund tahsilwise and according to the amount of land revenue collected from each of the tahsils. The underlying principle of the grant of relief should be uniform for all districts. If the Government will not grant relief to all the areas according to some uniform principles it will be said that the Honourable Ministers are more favourably inclined to their own districts than to others. If uniform principles of grant of relief are adopted for all the areas there would be less scope of levelling any such criticism against the Ministers. In the absence of any such principles relating to the grant of relief there is every possibility of the central districts going without any relief and the western and south-eastern districts getting more than their due share.

The next point which I want to stress on the attention of the Government is that there is no justification for charging chahi rates. The agriculturists sink wells at their own cost and also spend for other facilities relating to irrigation. The Government do not help them in any way. As such there is no reason why the Government should make them pay chahi rates. I think it was the Honourable Chandhri Sir Chhotu Ram who first raised the question. In the previous council a resolution was moved to this effect and it was passed by a majority of one. But the Government did not do anything to carry out the recommendation made in that resolution. The present Government is now free to act according to the recommendation embodied in that resolution. Charging chahi rates from the agriculturists is not justified under any circumstances. The agriculturists spend from their own pocket in order to sink wells to increase their yield from land. Burdening them with chahi rates amounts to putting obstacles in their way of adding to the prosperity of the province and their own. Chahi rates in the

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Punjab are highly unjust and the Unionist Party has all along been claiming to be opposed to them. I request that they should be abolished forthwith especially in the Doaba. The reason for my desiring the abolition of chahi rates, particularly in Doaba is that the level of water in the wells of this ilaga is going down at an alarming rate. Most of the wells have dried up. The zamindars are not deriving any benefit from them and yet the Government go on charging the chahi rates according to the assessment made in the old settlement. No doubt the Land Revenue Manual gives some discretion to the Deputy Commissioners as Collectors to exempt deserving zamindars from the payment of chahi rates, but this discretion is seldom used by them. The result is that the poor zamindars are hard hit and are crying under their

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heavy load. The time has come when the Unionist Government should pay heed to this most urgent problem and remove this long-standing grievance of the zamindars by amending the law on the point so that chahi rates may be abolished or reduced considerably.

In this connection I would like to raise my voice against the kharaba rules which are calculated to harm the best interests of the zamindars. They should be amended without any further delay. Remission is granted only when the crop is 4 annas in the rupee while full remission ought to be granted even when the crop is 8 annas in the rupees. This necessary amendment must be made very soon. There are also some steps which the Government can take without incurring any expenditure at all. Certainly it does not lie in the mouth of the Government to say that they cannot show even such small mercies which cost them nothing. A case in point is the harsh provision in the Land Revenue Act which lays down that the whole of the property of a zamindar can be auctioned in order to recover arrears of land revenue, while in the case of recovery of other Government taxes only that much portion of a defaulter's property can be attached and sold as would suffice to fetch the required amount of money outstanding against a defaulter. Now the Government can easily remove this harsh and unjust provision without having to spend any money on it. The amendment of this would undoubtedly endear the Government in the eyes of the public. I admit, as the Premier is trying to point out, that this harsh provision relates to those who refuse to pay land revenue wilfully. But there is no such penalty in the Income Tax department for a man who refuses to pay his quota. This is an unduly harsh measure and ought to be amended.

Another grievance of the zamindars is that the sums due from them as land revenue are written by the patwaris in *pacca hindas* which neither the zamindars know nor are they taught in the schools now a days. Either they should be taught in the schools or they should be abolished from the revenue records and other kinds of digits written instead.

Now I come to a most serious matter of accounts of the land revenue. Even if the patwaris commit mistakes and enter wrong and more sums in the Dalbachh than are due from a man the same are recovered but excess recoveries are not refunded to the zamindars. If it be said that they are adjusted in the next year's accounts, I would reply that justice should not be delayed because justice delayed is justice denied. May be the man who has paid in excess of his demand this year, dies before the coming year. In that case it will constitute a great hardship to him. Let us be fair in the matter of accounts at least.

Another rampant evil in the villages is the maintenance of too many *chaukidars* at the cost of zamindars while they do not need them. Most of these *chaukidars* remain busy serving the Government officials, and also prove a source of trouble to the zamindars in various ways. Their number should be reduced by the Government after due enquiry.

Now I come to the low paid patwaris. Their case certainly deserves our careful and sympathetic consideration. They are not entitled to any

pension after long and hard service. All they get is a reward at the end of their long and chequered career. They are not given the benefit of provident fund, and their salary reaches the figure of Rs. 30 per month after 30 years of service. Their salary should be increased.

Next I would like to point out that a good deal of difficulty is being experienced in the district of Lyallpur and in several other districts as well about acquiring residential sites and their proprietary rights. The rates have been raised beyond the paying capacity of the people. May be the Honourable Minister of Revenue himself being a dihard Jat would not like to allow Achhuts to acquire proprietary rights of their houses in the villages. But that hardly fits in with his tall talk about the sympathy of the Unionist Government with the poor and down-trodden people of this province. The backward communities have special claim upon the sympathy of the present Government. This is a longstanding grievance and demand of the poor achhuts in the Punjab and I hope the Government will try to satisfy them by meeting their demand in a most sympathetic way.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House to another important matter and this is the price control over wheat instituted by the Government of India. Honourable members might remember when the price of wheat began to soar high, the Government of India resorted to this action. But the results of this control have not been wholesome. They have rather proved disastrous to the public. Although the price of wheat was fixed at Rs. 4-8-0, yet the results obtained were not favourable. Firstly, as the price control was announced, the people became panicky and everybody wanted to hoard wheat. There was tremendous rush on the grain market and consequently signs of scarcity of wheat became visible. So far as the present state of affairs with regard to wheat is concerned, it is an open secret. I do not claim to be an expert in this matter. But I do hold the opinion that the imposition of control over wheat was not a wise step. Now the Government have fixed the upper limit of Rs. 4-8-0. That is, the producer or for the matter of that the seller of wheat cannot charge more than Rs. 4-8-0 per maund. If he does so, he is to be penalised. Now you will agree with me that this province has seen great ups and downs in the matter of rise and fall in price of wheat, but never were the zamindars so hard hit as now, particularly since this control has been instituted. I fail to see what observations the authorities made when they fixed the price at Rs. 4-8-0 per maund. However, I want the Punjab Government to ask of the Government of India, whether, when they have been pleased in their wisdom to institute a control over wheat and fix the upper limit at Rs. 4-8-0, they will also prescribe the lower limit in the price of wheat. Justice and equity demand that they should at least guarantee the minimum price to the zamindars so that when there is a slump or an unprecedented fall in the price of wheat, the zamindars may be assured of the minimum price. The zamindars are very much agitated over this question. I hope the Punjab Government would impress upon the Central Government the desirability of redressing the grievances of the zamindars in this connection. They should see that the tillers of the soil receive the full fruit of their toils. It is this class of people who helps the Government through thick and thin and stands by them in times of need. I will not be exaggerating when I say that the zamindars constitute a unique

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class of people. They are excellent fighters and soldiers. They possess fine martial traditions. To cut short, in every walk of life the zamindars are the hardest worked individuals. The Government should take steps to ameliorate their condition and afford relief to them in land revenue. If the Government put forward the excuse of financial stringency, they can overcome this difficulty by effecting economy in their administration. They should cut down their unnecessary expenditure by making a reduction in the fat salaries of the officers. The Honourable Ministers should refrain from leading a luxurious life and draw salaries at reduced rates. In this connection I am reminded of an anecdote which aptly applies to them. A rich man engaged a servant and asked him if he knew cooking, etc. He replied that he was well versed in cooking pulses, vegetables, rice, etc. But when he was asked whether he could prepare *pullao*, he promptly replied

جناب یہ تو امیروں کی ہرامزدگیاں ہیں۔ شریفانہ کھانا تو دل روٹی ہے

(Laughter).

The Honourable Minister should take to simple living and eschew luxuries. The money thus saved from their salaries should be utilised in exempting the zamindars from payment of land revenue.

Then, there is another class of people which is very loyal and devoted to the Government. They are the lambardars. I want to draw the attention of the Government to their difficulties. This is a class which silently suffers but does not complain. You will agree with me that there are several honourable members in this House belonging to that class, but they have never opened their lips to ventilate their feelings in regard to the hardships experienced by the lambardars. I may point out that they constitute the back-bone of the land revenue system. They render every sort of help to the officers of the Government. I know in Lyallpur, if the Remount Officers want certain help in connection with the horse-breeding, it is the lambardars who help them in this matter. In fact they have to cater to the needs of all the officers right from the Deputy Commissioner and Revenue Officer to the patwari. The result is that they cannot afford to bear the expenses which they have to incur from their own pocket during the tours of the officers of the different departments in the rural areas. But to overcome the financial difficulty, the lambardars, under these circumstances, are tempted to take bribes and thus they help other officers to accept illegal gratification from the poor zamindars. When they are demoralised then their services are utilised by the officers of different departments in doing all undesirable things. If the police stand in need of a person to appear as a witness against a certain political worker, the services of the lambardars are requisitioned. Besides, the lambardars are harassed and put to great inconvenience when they go to the treasury offices for depositing revenue money. Unless they tip the petty officers, money is not accepted in the treasury. There is not a single lambardar who has not been forced to offer bribe in order to save himself from unnecessary inconvenience. Government should take effective measures and issue instructions that in future the lambardars should not be harassed or put to trouble by the touring officers.

Then there is another important matter. It is about fruit culture. Much has been said on this subject on the floor of the House. None can gainsay the fact that fruits help to build up the health and physical strength of the people and that fruit gardening will be a source of income to the zamindars. Hence zamindars should take to this industry. Even the Government have appointed a Fruit Specialist and set up a separate department to encourage this industry. Concessions in water supply have also been granted by the Government. But the question that is on the lips of all small-holders is as to who derives the real benefit of all these facilities. I maintain that all these advantages are enjoyed by the big capitalist zamindars. They have a lot of money to invest in raising fruit gardens. In fact it is they who cry for more facilities. The small zamindars no longer benefit from the concession of increased water supply.

The fact is that the proposition in regard to water supply for fruit orchards is being raised by those honourable members who are mainly concerned with it. If the Government are really desirous to help the small zamindar by granting him concessions in fruit cultivation, I would like to suggest to the Honourable Minister in charge to issue instructions to the effect that the whole of the surplus water should be given to zamindars possessing 5 or 10 acres of land and that fruit plants may also be supplied to them free of charge. For this purpose the Peasant's Welfare Fund can be utilized. But in spite of all this, I am afraid, the small zamindars having no approach to the Government and less voice in this House, would not be able to derive benefit out of it. It is well known to every one of us that Government nurseries give plants to influential people only and small zamindars can never have any approach to those nurseries. Therefore, as I have already submitted, free supply of fruit plants should be made to small zamindars only and so far as big zamindars are concerned they are rich enough to start their own nurseries. If an inquiry is instituted as to find out the area belonging to zamindars brought under cultivation, the Government will realise that all the help has gone to big zamindars only and rather the canals are reserved for their use and the gardening facilities are entirely enjoyed by certain big zamindars who like crocodiles eat small animals on one hand and shed crocodile tears on the other.

The next point I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that in the districts of Lyallpur and Sheikhupura, thur and saonk are on the increase. As my honourable friend Mr. Dev Raj Sethi has prepared himself on this subject I need not go into the details. But I am constrained to remark that a considerable area has been spoiled by thur in the Lyallpur district. It is very distressing to say that where some time ago cultivation was in full swing, cattle-breeding was satisfactory and large number of villages were situated, now the crops are conspicuous by their absence, cattle-breeding has received a set back and villages have been turned into barren fields. It is all due to thur and saonk. In the tehsil of Jaranwala in district Lyallpur and other places in the Punjab, thur is rapidly increasing and I can say with all the emphasis at my command that the Government have not taken as much action as is required in this respect. You will be surprised to know that 50 thousand acres of land are spoiled by thur every year out of which 8 thousand acres of land are reclaimed by the Government. Now just imagine if the reclamation goes on with this speed how long this

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land of five rivers can resist the increasing evil of thur! I fail to understand the policy of the Government in this respect. When they have found out the remedy for thur, why do they not apply it in all earnestness? I am sure by providing more amount of money for eradicating this evil from the affected areas, the Government's income can also increase.

Then it has been stated by the Honourable Minister of Development that consolidation work is being done with great care and it has been developing during the last 20 years. But we are to judge the speed of its development by the activities of the Unionist Government in this respect. This work, as a matter of fact, was started five years ago, but it is still going on with a tortoise speed and that is what we object to. It is well and good for both the zamindars concerned and the Government if this work is completed within a fixed period. But the fact is that the Minister in charge being afraid of the abolition of this department, does not want to expedite it; otherwise there is no reason why the Minister should not make a programme to finish this work within a period of 10 years. I, therefore, submit that the Government ought to expedite the work of removing thur and saonk and the completion of consolidations. Let me once again point out to the Government before I resume my seat, that if they have real sympathy with zamindars, they should first of all reduce land revenue and if they are not prepared to do so I would say that they are merely hoodwinking the simple-hearted zamindars by expressing lip sympathy to them.

With these few words, Sir, I lend my full support to the cut motion.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur North, Muhammadan Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, the question of land revenue is a time worn problem. I can say it from my experience of the past fifteen years as a sitting member of this House that repeated representations for a 25 per cent reduction in land revenue have fallen on deaf ears. The honourable members who were interested in the matter tried their best to make the Government realize this greatest grievance of the zamindars. They even requested that the *chahi* lands should be exempted from *chahi* rates, because the analogy of abiana on which these rates were charged could not apply in their case as the abiana realized from canal irrigated lands was the price of water supplied to them. No such service was rendered to the lands under well irrigation and hence the levy of these rates was improper. But all such requests and representations of the zamindars were disregarded by the Government. This attitude of the Government had all along been enigmatic but now their subsequent actions have knocked the bottom out of this mystery.

Sir, before I said anything about the demand now before the House, I ought to have given a reply to the allegations made against me by the Honourable Premier but as he is not present in the House, I do not think it proper to make any reference to them.

Now, Sir, as to the reason behind this attitude of the Government, an illustration would make it perfectly clear. The relationship between the zamindars and the Government is that of the *Richh* and the *Qalandar* (the bear and the bear-keeper). Almost every honourable member must have seen the *tamasha* but I think no one has ever cared to note the most obvious

analogy that it represents. I would, through you, explain this analogy to the House. The *Qalandar* brings a baby bear from the jungle, pricks its nose and passes a rope through it and trains it to dance and do other tricks. When the bear is fully trained the keeper takes it out for giving impromptu shows to young and old alike. After attracting people by his *damroo* he starts the *tamasha*. At the close of the show he commands the bear to lie down on the ground and then asks, "what is all this show for?" The bear who is trained to do so strikes its paw on its belly as if to say, "for the sake of making a living". Those gathered round give something for the animal and the *Qalandar* pocketing all the money starts on his way back home. With that money he buys liquor, meat and other articles of food for himself and his friends. On reaching home the poor bear is tied up to a stout pole while its keeper enjoys the drinks and other delicacies in the company of his friends. When that money is gone he again takes the bear out and the whole thing is thus repeated *ad infinitum*. (An honourable member: Who is the bear?) The zamindars of course, who have to dance to the tunes of the Government. My experience is that every gentleman who aspires to be a Minister whether he is Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram or Sir Fazal-i-Hussain (May his soul find sanctuary in Heaven!) extends his influence by expounding the cause of the zamindars. All the laws that have avowedly been enacted for the benefit of the zamindars can in point of fact be likened to the passing of a rope through the nose of the bear. They are of benefit neither to the urbanite traders nor to the zamindars.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member is irrelevant.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan: I am sorry Sir, I was just giving an illustration. I am coming to the demand in respect of land revenue which is at present under discussion. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Minister had held out all sorts of promises, and that they were going to undertake legislation which would be of real benefit to the zamindars, but the whole thing has come really to what I have just described as, 'passing the rope through the nose of the bear'. Acts have been passed and taxes have been realized but like the bear-keeper the proceeds go to pay for their colossal salaries and heavy allowances and the plight of the poor zamindar remains unchanged.

Mr. Speaker: Please do not be personal.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan: I did not name anybody. I was just submitting that the analogy of the bear-keeper and his bear fits like a glove to the relationship between our Government and the poor zamindars. Although the Government cry themselves hoarse over the pitiable plight of the zamindars and are never tired of replying to their critics that they are doing everything for the benefit of the zamindars, yet the bags of money go to swell their coffers in the shape of their salaries. This reminds me of a story. The son of a certain person got employed somewhere. A friend asked the father 'what does he get for his job?' The father replied "Fifteen rupees." "And what more through *اللہ در فضل*?" (God's grace) was the second question, "Nothing" replied the father. But here in the case of our ministers besides Rs. 5,000 per mensem as salary they get a lot in addition through *اللہ در فضل* (Laughter). In this

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respect I have more to complain of the conduct of my honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. But I would like to make it clear that I do not bear any malice or ill-will towards him.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is making personal remarks. If he insists upon irrelevancy I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Sir, I was only making a submission to the Honourable Minister of Revenue that he is a Minister now. I have not called him names, nor have I offered any insult to him. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Speaker : These are personal attacks.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Sir, I was going to submit that he used to express much sympathy with the zamindars and proposed many things for their benefit in the old council and now that he has become a Minister, he should give a practical shape to all that he used to say as a member of the Opposition. Not to say anything about putting those proposals into practice, the Government are throwing a new bomb-shell every day on the zamindars. Now the zamindars have been asked to keep watch in the villages. You are aware, Sir, that the zamindars are a poverty-stricken people and at the present time when they have to work day and night for their *hari* crops, they cannot find time to act as village watchmen. This appears to be a scheme for starving them. Whenever any zamindar sinks any well in his lands he either borrows money for the purpose or procures it in some way or other. If he borrows money for the sinking of a well he has naturally to pay interest on it as well. But it is a pity that when he sinks a well in his lands by borrowing money Government increase the rate of assessment on his lands and realize land revenue according to *chahi* rates. This is sheer injustice. I would request the Government to give their careful consideration to this matter and try to change the present system of assessment in case of *chahi* lands. When Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram used to sit along with us on the Opposition benches he was in the habit of saying that the rate of assessment of *chahi* lands should not be increased. Now when himself is occupying the Revenue portfolio it behoves him to decrease the rate of assessment in case of *chahi* lands. Previously he held out hopes to us that he would provide relief to the zamindars by imposing new taxes on the urban people. Now Government have imposed new taxes as well but so far they have neither reduced the land revenue of zamindars nor have they provided any other relief to them. Then it has often been urged on behalf of Government that if anywhere the crops of zamindars are damaged to the extent of 8 annas in a rupee there relief is provided to the people. In reply to one of my questions Government admitted that in certain *ilqas* 100 per cent, 85 per cent and 80 per cent damage had been done but no relief had been provided to the zamindars concerned. The fact of the matter is that things are easier said than done.

Then Sir, some of my friends have suggested that the zamindars who pay Rs. 5 or less by way of land revenue be exempted from the payment of land revenue altogether. It is a very reasonable suggestion. I do not think that by accepting it Government will be put to any loss. On the

contrary many zamindars will be saved from unnecessary hardships and they will get a good relief. My submission is that where the average income of the people is 6 pies this much relief will be a great thing for them. With the exception of zamindars if we see other people who have been taxed we would find that taxes have been imposed only on those whose income exceeds a certain limit. For instance income tax is levied only on those persons whose income exceeds Rs. 1,500 per annum. This tax has not been imposed on those people whose income is below Rs. 1,500. But it is a thousand pities that a zamindar even if he possess a marla of land has to pay land revenue. It is therefore my humble suggestion that the small land holders be exempted from the payment of land revenue altogether. God has provided a golden opportunity to Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to do what he used to profess so loudly earlier. He should avail himself of this opportunity and provide relief to the poor zamindars.

Again some of my friends have suggested that the rate of assessment of land revenue in case of big zamindars should be increased. I think this suggestion is also very reasonable. If Government increase the rate of assessment in case of big zamindars they will be doing a great service. I think big zamindars will not object to it. After all the increased rate will not be much. As a matter of fact it will be very small and then big zamindars can bear it very easily.

Then, Sir, control has been imposed on the price of wheat which has resulted in a great injustice to the zamindars. They cannot now get increased prices for their produce. If the Government of India wanted to control the price of wheat it was proper for them to have imposed control on the prices of all other articles especially on the prices of those articles which a zamindar needs. For instance zamindar requires iron and steel for the construction of wheel for drawing water, ploughshares, etc., etc. Now the price of iron has gone up considerably. The price of wheel, which could be purchased at Rs. 150 in pre-war days, has gone up to Rs. 350. After all why should not the price of iron be controlled? In this connection I may point out that Government have given licenses to certain traders who can purchase iron from the Tata Company on the pre-war rates. If that is so why not similar facilities be provided to the ordinary zamindars? The zamindars have sunk wells in their lands but they cannot purchase wheels for drawing water on account of high price of iron. I myself have purchased a wheel for drawing water. I had to pay Rs. 325 for it which previously could be had for Rs. 130 only. Under the circumstances my submission is that licenses should be given to the zamindars so that they may be able to buy iron for their own needs. This will cost nothing to Government. If the price of wheat is to be controlled why should not the prices of other commodities be controlled so that the zamindars should also profit?

Again on account of the fall of water level in our district the people are very much hard put to. Many years ago the zamindars of my district complained that the water of their wells had dried up and that something should be done to raise the water level in that district. But it is very much regretted that so far Government have not taken action in the matter at all. Woe befall this war, it does not allow us to carry out any of our schemes. But if on the one hand this war has harmed the general public

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on the other hand it has certainly benefitted the present Ministry. As a result of this war the life of this Assembly has been extended. If there had been no war this Assembly would have terminated by this time and fresh elections would have been held. In that case nobody knows who would have been elected as members of this Assembly. In fact the real term of this Assembly has expired. Now my friends are there as Ministers as a result of this war. People are dying but our Ministers are profiting from it. Anyway Government should give their careful consideration to other beneficent departments and should try to benefit zamindars as far as possible. If they give their attention to these departments zamindars can be benefitted a great deal. The fact of the matter is that all the suggestions of Government which they put forward for the benefit of the zamindars remain on paper only. They are not given effect to at all. Consequently the zamindars do not get any benefit at all. Whatever is done only benefits the big zamindars but nobody cares for the small land-holders.

For example there is the Agricultural Department. At Gurdaspur the Agricultural Department has installed many big machineries. There are thrashers, steam engines, crude oil engines, etc., there. The department has spent nearly nine lacs of rupees on all these machines. But all these machines serve no purpose.

The same is the case with fruit cultivation. Zamindars do not get any fruit. All things remain on paper. If the Government were to control the present expenditure, even with it much can be done. Any God-fearing person would achieve much by the same amount as is spent at present and can ameliorate the condition of the zamindars with it.

Similarly the zamindars can benefit to a large extent by sugarcane. Much sugarcane can be sold if sugar factories are opened in the province. If the sugar were to sell at Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 per maund the sugarcane would sell at about annas 10 or annas 12 per maund. If the Government were to set up control in this respect, much good would result to the zamindars.

The zamindars are not only burdened with land revenue demand but there are many other burdens on them. Many people like tahsildars, thanedars and patwaris are parasites on the zamindars. A tree which is being eaten up by so many insects cannot last long. We see the war prisoners in the trains. They are very healthy. Compared to them our men are pale and weak. Our men get merely stale bread to eat. And they devour it with chillies. If the zamindars had been prosperous they would have been enjoying good health and consequently would have also been good soldiers. Had they been well fed they would have been healthy and would have also provided a large number of good soldiers.

Next I come to the question of subordinate staff. The pays of the subordinates are usually very small. They with their small salaries cannot make both ends meet. As such they fleece the zamindars. If their pays are increased it would also mean a relief to the zamindars. Then the high prices of eatables are also causing trouble. When the grain is in the hands of the zamindars it sells very cheap say 35 seers to a rupee. But when it passes into the hands of other people it becomes dear. Our trouble is this

that the prices of our raw material are not in our control. It is the duty of the Government to make up the loss of the zamindars which they suffer on account of lack of control over prices of cereals.

I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Chaudhri Sahib to one particular point. It is this. He gave pledges to the zamindars that he would do this for them and do that for them. But he has not done anything to carry out those pledges. I hope he will take pity on us. The Government do not give any remission even if the Kharaba is 50 per cent. The Government should give attention to the matter of grant of remissions. With these words I support this motion.

Minister of Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana) : Sir, I have been given to understand that some honourable members yesterday and to-day wanted to know what was being done for the protection of canal headworks against air attacks. As honourable members are aware, defence is divided into two parts. As far as the active military defence is concerned, constitutionally speaking it is no concern of ours and we presume that the military authorities are taking adequate measures for the protection of everything in this province including the headworks. They must have planned all about it. I am sure in case of emergency the civil authorities can count on the co-operation of the military authorities in this respect. So far as this aspect of defence is concerned, I cannot add anything to what I have already said for the information of the House. We are as provincial Government only concerned with civil defence and in that connection adequate plans are being made for the security and protection of these headworks. Police will be provided wherever necessary to guard and protect the headworks from damage by sabotage, etc. As far as the question of repairing any damage caused by air attack, is concerned, if ever that contingency arises, the Irrigation Branch is planning to repair such damage as quickly as possible. On the civil defence side, I can, therefore, say that adequate arrangements are being made and no apprehension need be entertained.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din (Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, some of my honourable friends have criticised the actions of the Government for the last five years and levelled objections against it. But it would be sheer ingratitude if we say that it has done nothing during the last five years for the amelioration of the condition of the zamindars in the Punjab. I need not repeat the long list of the beneficial measures that this Government has brought on the statute book with the sole object of helping the down-trodden population of the Punjab. But I really believe that the aim of the Unionist Government was to do much more than it has been able to do for the benefit of the zamindars. I am positively of the opinion that even the Unionist Government itself will never be satisfied without achieving its objective in full, and what is that objective? To raise the standard of living in the rural areas to the level of the urbanites. Nothing short of that will satisfy the zamindars. They are almost in the grip of poverty and starvation. They are unable to provide education to their children. The least that we should do for them is to liberate them from the anxiety of feeding themselves. They should be fed and clothed and then provided

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with a decent housing. That is in short the first stage. Education, sanitation and other amenities will come afterwards. In this connection I would make some suggestions to the Honourable Minister of Revenue who I am confident will carefully listen to them and try to sympathetically consider them. I am at a loss to understand whether the land revenue charged from the zamindars is a tax on their income or it is a rent based on the assumption that all lands belong to the Government and the zamindars are its tenants. There is absolutely no reason why different rates of land revenue should be imposed on different peoples living in the same locality and in the same village. If land revenue is a rent which the Government charges from zamindars in the capacity of being the real owner of all the land of the Punjab, then how is it that a uniform rate is not imposed on all and sundry? If on the other hand it is a tax on income and not a rent, how is it that the rate of land revenue does not vary with the increase and decrease of a cultivator's income from the land? The land revenue policy of the Government shows that it is blowing hot and cold at the same time. If we judge this policy on the assumption that land revenue is a kind of rent which a landlord receives from its tenant, we find that in actual practice it is not the case. This confusion reaches its climax when we find that in the case of same kind of land situated in the same village the Arain community is charged at a heavier rate than the other cultivators. The reply of the Government is that this community is more industrious and derives more benefit from the land than the other zamindar communities do. But may I ask if this does not show that land revenue is charged on the basis of income? If land revenue is not charged on the basis of income, then why punish the Arain community for its virtue of industry and diligence? I would rather say that they should be rewarded for their good work by decreasing the rate of land revenue in their case. They need encouragement. If they are rewarded, others will follow suit and the profession of agriculture will make rapid progress. But the attitude of the Government is enigmatic. If we say that land revenue should be charged on the principle of income, the Government replies, "No, it is a rent". But when we say, "Why do you charge higher rates from some communities than others?", the Government replies that these persons derive more benefit from their land than others. It is tantamount to saying, "Heads I win, tails you lose". This policy does not stand the test of reason and logic. Rather it is wholly illogical and unjust. Now take the case of a canal, which has two abadis on either bank of it. One is an old abadi. The other is a new one. The colonists bought land from the Government and settled there. Now how is it that the Government imposes higher rates on these new settlers than the rates imposed on the old zamindars living at a stone's throw from them? What makes this differential treatment plausible in the eyes of the Government? The kind of land is the same. The locality is the same. The Government is the same. The law of the land is the same. The villages are the same. What is the justification of this unjustifiable action? I would ask the Government in all humility but with all the emphasis that I can command that the land revenue administration should be cleared of these defects and it should be reformed according to the principles of justice and truth. The capacity of the zamindars to pay land revenue should be carefully examined at the time of assessing land revenue. Similarly the policy of charging abians at different rates is also untenable. If I

water my land and I have to pay rent for that water to the Government, that rent should be according to the amount of water that I receive and not according to the benefit that I derive from it. A concrete example will make the point clear. When a zamindar raises two crops with the help of one turn of water only, he is asked to pay double abiana for single water. The policy of imposing abiana at the double rates would have been justified if the zamindar had demanded more water than is needed for one crop only. But the poor fellow does not demand more water. He is content to have single turn of water that would have been sufficient for raising a single crop. Even if he does not take more water but raises two crops, the Government charges double abiana as if he had taken double the quantity of water. That is not fair. If abiana is rent of water, it should bear a definite ratio to the quantity of water consumed. But here the Government seems to be working on the principle of increasing its income as much as it can. I hope the Honourable Minister of Revenue will carefully consider my remarks and try to amend the policy of land revenue and abiana.

I would now come to the question of security of tenants. It is a great pity that even when the landless tenants go on cultivating a certain land for years and years together, they do not acquire any right over the land. They can at any time be ejected by the landlord. Some kind of security ought to be provided to these poor people by the Government. Sometimes these tenants build pacca houses on these lands and also erect beautiful mosques, mandirs and gurdwaras. But if the landlord wishes to eject them from this land, he has only to order ejection and not pay any compensation whatever for the improvement of the land. Poor tenants can be ejected even though they may not have broken anyone of the conditions of their tenancy.

My honourable friend, the gallant knight from Gujrat says why on earth the zamindars should give lands to the scheduled castes. I would politely give him this reply that only God is the owner of land and that it belongs to the person who cultivates it to earn his living. I know my honourable friend will not agree with me on this point. But we have to see that if a person who puts in his best efforts to improve the condition of the land or who has been cultivating it for the last two generations, is turned out by the fiat of the owner, then it will really be a great hardship for him because he will be rendered absolutely helpless. Just imagine his miserable plight. He is at his wits end and does not know where to turn. He is dispossessed of land on account of the whim and caprice of the landlord. If this is the mentality of the landlord zamindars who exhibit so much apathy and callousness towards their tenants, then I thank God that I am not an owner of the land. (*Hear, hear.*) I have no intention of dilating upon this point in view of the immense sympathy which the zamindars have evinced for the tenants. (*Hear, hear.*)

I would now like to confine my remarks to the speech made by my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah. I have to make one or two observations in this connection. When he was delivering his speech, it became increasingly clear that a capitalist was speaking. In fact I found him talking in the same strain in which an English capitalist talks about the trade of India. (*Hear, hear.*) If we were to accept the views put forth by my honourable friend, then this unfortunate country of ours would never be able to flourish. (*Hear, hear.*) I am sure every honourable member shares this view and I feel that everyone of us must be

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entertaining this desire that India should become self-sufficient and produce or manufacture all the articles which we have to import in large quantities from outside. (*Interruption.*) I was amused to hear the learned speech of my honourable friend. He remarked that India was not fit to manufacture cloth of high quality. These words have refreshed my memory of the much renowned Dacca muslin which was considered to be a unique specimen of Indian workmanship. That muslin was an unrivalled and unparalleled piece of skill. This was the opinion held by other countries where it was imported in large quantities. I can say without any fear of contradiction that a severe blow was dealt to Indian cloth industry with the deterioration and ultimate decay of the Dacca muslin. I have no mind to go into the merits and demerits of the case. Suffice it to say that the finest fabric in the form of muslin and other silken cloth was manufactured in India on a large scale. At present I am not concerned with this idea that we must put on such fine clothes. I sincerely feel that even if we have to wear coarse clothes, the same should be manufactured in India. (*Cheers.*) With these remarks I close my remarks.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have to make a few observations in regard to some important matters to which I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Honourable Minister. At first I have to relate the hardships experienced by the colonists of the Nili Bar Colony. There the Government have fixed the amount of Nazrana at Rs. 2,500 to be paid by the tenants. The Government have laid down that proprietary rights of the lands would not be granted until the amount per rectangle is paid in full. I submit that this is a great hardship to the tenants. They are too poor to afford to pay such a large amount. I request that the nazrana fee be reduced to Rs. 1,000 per rectangle instead of Rs. 2,500 as has been done in the Ganji Bar Colony. If the Government would accede to my request then I hold out an assurance that within one year all the tenants would pay off the nazrana money. The result of this reduction would be two-fold. Both the Government and the tenants will be benefitted. As a result of this concession, the Government coffers will be filled with money while the tenants will be able to acquire proprietary rights. I hope the Honourable Minister will favourably consider my suggestion.

My next submission is in regard to the literacy grants made by the Government in Nili Bar Colony. These lands were granted to the graduates so that on the one hand unemployment problem may be solved to some extent and on the other intelligent cultivation of land should yield better results. But these grantees suffer from many handicaps. I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister two main difficulties experienced by them. One is that they can never acquire proprietary rights of the land under the conditions laid down by the Government. Again, the Government have fixed no amount of money, by the payment of which they would be entitled to secure proprietary rights of their lands. You will agree with me, Sir, that the zamindars very often fall out on the question of distribution of water. Supposing a dispute ensues between two sections of the grantees and they are involved under section 824-825, Indian Penal Code, it is natural that they will forfeit the right to hold the tenancy of Government

lands in view of their sentence for a period of more than one year. I, therefore, request that the Government should fix a sum by paying which they may be enabled to acquire proprietary rights.

Then, there are persons hailing from Ferozepore and Gujranwala districts, who have proved themselves to be very bad colonists, as they do not take much interest in their lands. They are easy-going and do not do any cultivation. All the reports of the colonisation officers will bear me out. They come to colony, I mean the Nili Bar Colony, for a while, give their lands on lease, pocket the lease money, and then remain absent from the colony for the remaining part of the year. I submit that they should be given the right to transfer their tenancy irrespective of their castes, so that better colonists may replace them. The Colonization Officer who was posted, here last time, had arranged on a sufficiently large scale to get the transfer of tenancy rights to those persons who were eager to have them. They really proved good colonists. I suggest that Government should promptly move in the matter to get rid of the bad colonists. Besides, those who want to leave the colony should be permitted to do so. There are some very strange conditions imposed by the Colonization Officer, Nili Bar Colony, that any colonist who wants to get his tenancy transferred should tender 3 recruits to the Army. This condition is very disappointing and bad colonists will not be replaced by good tenants. Secondly the agriculturists should be allowed to get transfers without destination of religion.

My next submission is that the uncommanded area of Nili Bar remains unallotted while it has been notified by the Government that it will be allotted on well-sinking terms. But no allotment has been made as yet. As uncommanded lands of Nili Bar Colony do not bring revenue to the Government I would suggest to the Government to allot those lands at once to the peasants of those districts where the holdings are uneconomic. By doing so the revenue of the Government may increase considerably. Then there is a fifth class of land in Nili Bar which is defective itself and unproductive on the one hand and there is a scarcity of water on the other. This kind of land does not bring any revenue to the Government and the cultivators are always at a loss to cultivate it. Something must be done for removing this defect also, and such lands should be made productive or the irrigation should be stopped or it should be distributed among the old tenants of the colony free. Besides, cultivation on temporary basis is in great progress in Nili Bar Colonies. But it is most regrettable that owing to some hard rules carried out by the colony authorities the small lessees are now put to great trouble. It has been made incumbent on the part of lessees to get the land registered while $1\frac{1}{2}$ times more amount of money is already paid to the Government as advance money. The Registration penalty has been fixed at Rs. 10 for one or two squares of land, no matter if the Registration fee is only about Re. 1 or Rs. 2 and the penalty is Rs. 10. In case it is not paid in time the lease is terminated or confiscated and the advance money also confiscated. My submission is that either this fee should be totally removed or reduced to a very nominal amount of money. The other alternative may be this that the Minister in charge may kindly issue instructions to the authorities saying that these restrictions should be relaxed and if the rent is paid late by two or three months no fine should be charged as in the case of Land Revenue collections.

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The next complaint of Nili Bar tenants which I wish to place before the Government is this. Sometimes the rabi and kharif crops are late and tenants working on temporary basis find themselves unable to pay the Government dues in the month of January. The convention is that the Government dues must be paid within the fixed period, otherwise Rs. 5 per cent is charged as penalty and if the payment is late by one month the penalty increases to Rs. 10 per cent. By this unreasonable and improper convention most of the lands have been confiscated by the Government. I respectfully submit to the Minister in charge that now when the lands are being allotted in the Nili Bar on temporary cultivation, such hard and improper rules should not be enforced in the interests of the poor tenants and such abnormal penalties should not be charged from the defaulters. Before resuming my seat I must point out one fact that some lessees this year sent the kharif rents due from them to the Colonization Officer, Nili Bar, through money order but were refused by the colony authorities and the public have suffered heavily and in return, besides the loss of money order fees, they have been made to pay penalties at Rs. 5 and Rs. 10. In some cases the money orders have not been returned to the senders. May I ask the Minister in charge to look into this matter and find out the source of this trouble and the officer concerned who is at fault? With these few words I close my remarks.

Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu): Sir, I have listened to the speeches made by the honourable members on this important demand, with close attention. The reason is that this subject is connected with the prosperity of 70 per cent of the population. Besides, it is a matter of vital importance, as it mainly affects the poorer section of the population. I am afraid it will be very difficult for me to reply to those particular points raised by the honourable members which were of merely local, temporary or sectional implication. I would, therefore, express regret for my inability to reply to those points. But it does not mean that those points will go uncared for. Certainly not. If my honourable friends care to remind me of their complaints informally later, I shall be right glad to do what I can to remove them.

Some of my honourable friends while making speeches on this demand went astray and proceeded to discuss the departments of Police, Canals and Industry. I do not think any important department has escaped criticism. Let me point out that they should not expect a reply from me regarding such irrelevant criticism. Naturally I propose to confine my remarks to the limited scope of the demand now being discussed.

Then some of my honourable friends opposite while referring to my past speeches and old convictions asked me why I did not put those convictions of mine into practice. They further suggested that in view of my professed opposition to capitalism I should eliminate it from the economy of the province. But I may point out that I am not an unqualified enemy of capitalism, although I am strongly opposed to the excesses associated with it. Then it has been asserted that I used to have revolutionary ideas about land revenue. Even now as in the past I have very radical views on the subject although in one or two directions these views have undergone an appreciable change. However it must be recognised that I could not give effect to my personal views even if I wished for the simple reason that whatever

be one's personal views about a particular matter one cannot revolt against one's environments. My honourable friends must remember that before any radical views could be translated into practice the most essential and important thing is that the atmosphere both in the House and the province should be agreeable. An overwhelming portion of the population must be in favour of those ideas being put into practice. Some of my honourable friends opposite made certain observations intended to show that they were the well-wishers of the poor peasants and opposed to capitalism while the fact is that when their professions are put to the test by concrete measures initiated by Government they begin to condemn those measures. Take for instance the General Sales Tax Act. How many honourable members from the Opposition supported this measure or had the courage to openly express their agreement even with the principles underlying this legislation?

Again, it has been suggested *ad nauseum* that land revenue be assessed on the principles of Income-tax. It is very easy for my honourable friends to advance this suggestion but have they ever taken the trouble intelligently to consider whether it is practicable or not? Even if the Government were to agree to it, the first essential requisite would be to tap fresh sources of revenue which would make up for the resultant loss of revenue that the provincial exchequer is bound to suffer. But our experience shows that whenever a new source of revenue is sought to be tapped by the Government it is bitterly opposed by all concerned. However I will endeavour to rise above party spirit and will present before the House all the facts and figures which may assist the honourable members in forming a true idea of what this Government has so far done for the zamindars.

Lala Bhim Sen Sathar : Will the Honourable Minister throw some light on the fact whether any reduction in expenditure has also been effected?

Minister of Revenue : In point of fact it has nothing to do with the demand under discussion but if time permits I shall try to answer that question as well.

Lala Bhim Sen Sathar : I had to ask this question because the Honourable Minister of Revenue was himself pleased to remark just now that there were two ways open to the Government for improving the provincial revenues. One was tapping fresh resources of income and the other was reduction in expenditure. I wanted to know as to what has been done to reduce expenditure.

Minister : I am not evading a reply but I am of the opinion that as the demand for General Administration has yet to be discussed it would be better to take up this question in the discussion of that demand. However as I have already stated I will gladly answer this question towards the end if I am able to snatch a few minutes for it. At the present stage let me make it clear that I will refrain from answering the less important arguments advanced to-day, for example those concerning the number of patwaris and scarcity of fodder, small holdings of land granted to the Salvation Army and its relations with its tenants, etc., etc.

So far as the question of the issue of processes is concerned it is true that a number of them had been issued during the last three or four years. But

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this is also true that the number of processes issued in 1938-39 did not exceed the number issued in 1938-34. It has been my experience that the number of such *dastaks* varies from division to division and from year to year according to circumstances, but there has been neither any marked increase nor decrease during the last few years.

Then it was said that because land revenue is being assessed at a far higher rate than 25 per cent of net assets in certain districts, it would be better to start settlement operations in these districts as soon as possible. One thing which should be borne in mind in this connection is that assessing land revenue at 25 per cent of net assets will not necessarily result in a reduction in the *jamma* of every district. Even with the application of the reduced maximum to 25 per cent there will be districts in which there may be no reduction in the aggregate *jamma* while there will be others in which such reduction may occur. In districts where settlement was effected at a time when the prices of agricultural produce were very low resulting in low commutation prices, reduction in the total *jamma* is not at all likely to occur. Reduction can occur only in districts where the share of net assets taken by Government at a previous settlement was very high. For instance, at the time of the previous settlement Gurgaon district was assessed at a high rate; consequently in the new settlement this *jamma* rate has been reduced by about 42 per cent. I personally urged some people in Kangra which is also a highly assessed district to ask for a fresh settlement. But some one misled them by saying that I had advised them to do so because the Government intended to enhance land revenue there. The result was, we received representations to the effect that the people of Kangra did not want re-settlement of their district. But one thing which was brought to the notice of the Government was that the results of crops inspection and price inquiries should be correctly recorded in revenue papers. I agree that the suggestion is very sound.

The next question put to me was regarding the policy of the Government in respect of fruit gardens. It was contended that by resorting to fruit culture land which could previously produce one rupee worth of cereals could easily be made to yield an income of ten to fifteen rupees if Government only adopted a sympathetic policy towards fruit culture. The appeal was made in the name of 'poor zamindars'. But I would like to make it clear to those who consider that by bringing in the name of the poor zamindars they would be able to put the Government in the wrong, that they would not succeed in the attempt. Who does not know that only those people grow fruit who own large areas of land and who have plenty of capital to invest in them? Landholders owning 4 or 5 acres of land cannot and, as a matter of fact, do not grow fruit at all. I am, therefore, unable to agree with my friends that a change in the policy of Government towards fruit culture would in any way benefit the smaller zamindars. The point of complaint was that whereas trees bear fruit only once a year water rates are charged from the fruit growers twice in a year for both rabi and kharif crops. My friends should know that water rates for both rabi and kharif crops are charged from the fruit growers because at least twice the normal amount of water is supplied to them.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Why is abiana charged at double rate from them ?

Minister of Revenue : As the amount of water supplied to the fruit growers is, at least, double the normal amount of water supplied to ordinary agriculturists therefore abiana is charged from them at double rates. There is no injustice in it at all. Besides, there is one thing more which will surprise most of the honourable members. I have made inquiries about the amount of water that is supplied to owners of gardens. It has come to my knowledge that the water supplied to the fruit gardens is 6 to 24 times the normal amount of water that is supplied for ordinary cultivation purposes. In places like Lahore and Amritsar the amount of water supplied to owners of gardens is 6 to 24 times the amount of normal supply of water to ordinary crops. I am seriously considering the question of revising this water supply to the towns of Amritsar and Lahore and am thinking of reducing it so that the water thus released may be supplied to the zamindars for irrigation purposes.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I know if this applies to Shahpur also ?

Minister : So far I have been able to collect this information about the towns of Amritsar and Lahore only. In regard to other towns I have no precise knowledge. But I have started inquiries as to the amount of water supplied in all important towns for fruit gardens and pleasure gardens where the rich people grow fruits for personal use or for marketing or grow bushes, shrubbery or flowers for purposes of decoration or pleasure or maintain parks or lawns for games and recreation. My information is that in most of these towns this amount is from 6 to 24 times the amount supplied to zamindars for ordinary agricultural crops. If this information turns out true there will be a case for a decrease instead of an increase. Again, if against ordinary canal irrigated lands fruit gardens yield ten or fifteen times the income, then is there any reason why they should not be charged a higher rate of land revenue and abiana ? These are in brief my views which I have placed before the House. Let me also emphasise that, if after discussing this matter amongst ourselves, we can think of a device by which we can encourage fruit culture in the Punjab without making an unnecessary surrender of revenue, we will certainly adopt that device. But I am afraid I cannot agree to the suggestion of my friends that abiana should not be charged from the fruit gardens at double the ordinary rate. Let us not repeat the mistake of a by-gone regime under which Government was subservient to the rich and indifferent to the poor. That is exactly the view which I take of the proposal in respect of additional concessions in favour of garden owners. When I discussed this matter with some of the city people and expressed my intention of reducing their water supply they protested saying that such a course would lay waste their beautiful parks. I said, "You are thinking of your parks and refusing to take note of the numerous families of zamindars who are deprived of their very sustenance in consequence of lack of canal water." My submission is that whenever Government express their intention to do anything to meet even the dire needs of the poor at the slightest expense of the rich, the latter rise in revolt. Whenever any good idea strikes any Honourable Minister it becomes very difficult to give effect to it if it is in any way opposed to the wishes of vested

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interests. But for the opposition of powerful vested interests it would be easy enough to reduce the water allowance of the garden owners of Amritsar and Lahore and to make the water set free thereby available to the zamindars for irrigating their lands.

Mian Abdul Aziz : The Honourable Minister probably does not know that fruit growers do not get any income from their gardens for the first 4 or 5 years and then some of the fruit trees die after yielding fruit for 4 or 5 years. Has he considered these facts ?

Minister of Revenue : I have consulted the experts of the Department of Agriculture about all aspects of fruits gardens. I do not think that fruit growers have to suffer any loss in the manner suggested by my honourable friend. Those who grow fruit trees on their lands can always raise ordinary crops by interculture which does little or no harm to fruit trees. In Lyallpur I have seen with my own eyes quite good leguminous crops raised by interculture. In any case we can bear in mind the possibility of some slight loss in the first four or five years, and, if necessary, devise means to compensate fruit growers in some way for this loss. However, as at present advised I do not think that fruit growers have to undergo any appreciable loss.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah, has suggested that the cost of collection is inordinately high. According to him it verges on the borders of extravagance. He said that whereas the amount collected was only 3 crores of rupees the cost of collection amounted to 96 lakhs of rupees. When I heard these figures I was taken aback and began to feel alarmed at the impression which would be produced in the public when this report appeared in the press. But let us see what the true facts are. Our friend seems to have tripped very badly. So far as this demand is concerned the total comes up to a little more than 45 lakhs of rupees. This is the total expenditure of this department. Now what is the aggregate amount collected by this department ? The relevant figures are as follows :—

	Rs.
Land Revenue including indirect receipts ..	50,79,000
Land Revenue which is assigned in jagirs and not shown in the budget.	36,00,000
Local rates	79,18,625
Chaukidara	50,00,000
	(nearly).

Abiana (water rates) including indirect receipts 4,57,42,000

Abiana is realised through the ordinary revenue agency, there being no separate department for its collection. In this way the total collections come to Rs. 11,29,64,625. What is the expenditure that is incurred for realising this amount ? It is no more than Rs. 45,48,800. In other words the average cost of collection amounts to a little over 4 per cent. Besides collection of this huge amount there are numerous other miscellaneous duties which the officials of this department have to perform. I need

not mention the details of these duties. But even if we assume for the sake of argument that this department is exclusively concerned with these collections the expenditure on collection amounts to barely more than 4 per cent of the total proceeds.

One of my honourable friends over there has stated that on account of the imposition of control on the price of wheat, zamindars have suffered a great loss and that a great injustice has been done to them. I entirely concur with him. From the point of view of zamindars we can say with justice that on account of the imposition of this control they have suffered a great loss. I feel no hesitation in making this statement, and I may assure the House that we did not mince matters in explaining the view point of zamindars. But the power and responsibility for instituting this control rests in hands of the Government of India, not in those of the Punjab Government. If this power had been in the hands of the Punjab Government we would not have imposed any control on the price of wheat or if we had imposed any control it would have extended to the prices of many other articles also, and would have been fixed at a level higher than the level at which it has been fixed by the Government of India. (*Hear, hear.*) Moreover we would have fixed also the lowest price of wheat below which price nobody could have purchased it. But these matters are beyond our control, and my answer to this part of the criticism must rest at that.

Again, one of the honourable members observed that on account of this war the life of this Assembly has been extended and thus the members and the Ministers of the Unionist Party have got some time more to enjoy and remain in office. I ask, is there any member to whom the benefit of this extension does not apply? To my mind those persons have profited more who were elected on a certain ticket by the votes of the zamindars but who had now joined the party not of the zamindars but of their opponents.

Two or three, perhaps more, honourable members while speaking on this demand have pointed out that there was a good deal of corruption in the Revenue Department. This is quite correct. But this is not the only department where corruption is to be found. There are other departments such as the Police and the Public Works Departments where corruption is prevailing. I do not say that there is no corruption in the Revenue Department. The corruption is there and many employees of this department do accept illegal gratifications. But I may assure the House that in order to root out corruption from this department whatever steps I could take I have taken and whatever was possible for me to do I have done. I rather go a step further and claim that I have dealt with corruption with greater strictness and vigilance than many people imagine. (*An honourable member:* We congratulate you on it.)

Lala Duni Chand: May I know the number of corrupt officers whom the Honourable Minister has punished during the last five years?

Minister of Revenue: The Revenue Department was not under me before April last. There had been very few complaints of corruption in the departments which were under my charge before April last. Of course sometimes complaints regarding indifference or incapacity on the part of certain officers did come up to me but I never received a single complaint.

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about corruption in those departments except one or two in the Forest Department. On complaints about indifference I took suitable action against the officers concerned, which no doubt improved the efficiency of those departments. As regards the complaints about incapacity on the part of certain officers, I retired such of them as had completed 25 years of their service and in their places appointed persons who were more efficient and active.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Please also say something about recommendations and favouritism.

Minister of Revenue : I do not know what the honourable member means by "recommendations." In the matter of first appointments I strictly adhere to the communal proportions fixed by the Government for various communities. I fill 20 per cent of vacancies by Sikhs, 30 per cent vacancies by Hindus and 50 per cent vacancies by Muslims. Before this principle was laid down by the Government I used to give more appointments to the community which was markedly under-represented in any department under me. But after the Honourable Premier issued instructions emphasizing strict adherence to the prescribed proportions I fill up vacancies strictly in accordance with those instructions. I have never violated them. I challenge anybody to prove the contrary. As regards recommendations, the honourable member can enquire from the gentlemen sitting on these benches how far I am influenced by recommendations. Of course, I do not refuse to hear what they may have to say in favour of any candidate because I do not want to injure their feelings unnecessarily, but I always appoint the candidate who is most deserving in the light of the instructions issued by the Government in this behalf. As regards promotion I always promote those who are senior in service provided they are efficient. With me merit is the sole criterion for giving promotions. In the matter of promotions, as also in the case of selection of individuals for new appointments, I never listen to recommendations. Often my friends feel annoyed with me when I refuse to accept their recommendations. Where claims on grounds of merit are equally balanced, I accord preference to the person who belongs to the class or community which happens to be under-represented in the cadre concerned. Within the limits of communal proportions for first appointments, among candidates belonging to the same class or community, vacancies go to the best qualified men. In certain specialist posts communal considerations are entirely ignored. For first appointments if adequately qualified candidates are available for filling the share due under the prescribed proportions to a particular community, they are appointed in preference to candidates belonging to other communities, although the latter may possess higher academic qualifications. In case of there being no suitable candidate available from the inadequately represented community, the best qualified candidate belonging to any other community is appointed. To guard against cases of possible hardship in matters of promotions, I allow free access to those who may consider themselves aggrieved and explain to them personally the grounds on which they have been superseded.

(*Interruptions*). Communal proportions are clearly fixed for recruitment to services and a block system for first appointments has been devised so precisely that departures are most unlikely. And if any departures come to my notice I get them rectified even by the displacement of the person appointed in contravention of the block system. (*Interruptions*). Yes, my statement covers the ratio prescribed for agriculturists and non-agriculturists.

Then, sir, an honourable member objected to the system of uniform assessment of land revenue irrespective of the fact whether an assessee is rich or poor, a big landholder or a small landholder. I may inform him that Settlement Officers have the power to vary the rate of assessment in accordance with the economic conditions of various estates in the same assessment circle and of various owners in the same estate. At the time of *bachh*, the Settlement Officer has a very wide discretion in distributing the burden of actual assessment as between individual estates and as between individual owners.

Premier : I am not a big zamindar but my land has been assessed at the highest rate in the province. I have to pay Rs. 18 per acre.

Minister of Revenue : The Honourable Premier says that he is not a big zamindar but he has been assessed Rs. 13 per acre as land revenue.

Premier : I have been assessed at the highest rate in the whole of the province because at the time of assessment I vigorously opposed the high rates of assessment of land revenue in my district with the result that the petty revenue staff threw the whole burden of assessment on me but I have never grumbled against it.

Minister : I will now come to another thing which was mentioned by my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah. He said that the sliding scale of assessment was certainly an improvement upon the previous methods of assessment. But his complaint is that this method is not perfect. He sees some defects in it and his suggestion is that if the present method of sliding scale is improved upon, it will probably satisfy him as well as the zamindars. I confess that I have not yet been able to follow all the precise details of the working of this method. If, however, Mian Sahib has mastered all the details of the sliding scale and is in a position to suggest any amendments, I will be only too glad to consider them and adopt them if they are found to be suitable. That is all that I can say at present with regard to the sliding scale.

As to the principles of Income-tax and their application to the land revenue system of the Punjab, I need only to point out in the first instance that even Mian Muhammad Nurullah is sceptical about the possibility of their application to the assessment of land revenue. He seems to have realised the practical difficulties that lie in the way. I believe I am right in saying that I was the first person in the Punjab to raise this question. For many years and from several quarters I preached the idea and carried on propaganda in its favour. I organised numerous meetings of the Zamindara League in order to stress the necessity of assessing land revenue on the principles of Income-tax. But I know what I meant and I know what I desired. I need not explain what I meant, but I have no hesitation in

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admitting that this method is not practicable. Whether or not I have full powers to adopt this principle I do recognise the only difficulty is that it is not workable in practice. I wish it were practicable and I could adopt it to the satisfaction of all concerned. If the principle is adopted the revenues of the province will suffer a great loss. I would not, however, mind that loss, but for the fact that even the zamindars would not get any appreciable advantage from it. (*An honourable member* : Have you been lately convinced of its defects ?) No, I knew its limitations before this, too. Last year I had explained this point in some detail. I do not think I need go into the same details over and over again. Suffice it to say that it is unworkable and hence undesirable. To give only one reason out of so many that go against its adoption, I may point out that when traders with an annual turnover of Rs. 10,000 find it difficult to keep the necessary accounts for assessment under the General Sales Tax Act, how will the poor zamindars be able to maintain such accounts ? Who does not know that most of the zamindars are illiterate and cannot, though they may wish to do so, maintain any accounts of any sort of their agricultural income and everything will have to depend upon the patwari ? This reason alone is sufficient to rule out the suggestion of applying the principles of income-tax to the assessment of land revenue. It is not a practical proposition. I leave the argument there.

Another suggestion for lightening the burden of land revenue from the shoulders of the zamindars is that we should straightaway exempt from payment of land revenue all those people who pay less than say, Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 per annum. The view of the advocates of this idea is that we should lose no time in acting according to it whether or not we are able to apply income-tax principles in other respects. All that we need immediately do is to declare that henceforward all those cultivators who pay up to Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 per annum as land revenue, will be exempted from paying anything at all to the exchequer. I may add that if we were to make such an announcement to-day, we shall be immediately acclaimed as the greatest benefactors of the zamindars. In fact our position for the moment will become that of semi-gods on earth. I shall become the very incarnation of all that is good and noble in the world. But why is it that I and my party do not jump up at this idea and forthwith make an announcement ? Not that I have any doubt that the Unionist Government will be praised to the skies by the population of the Punjab. Not that. I am convinced that all kind of praise will be showered on me and my party, although some people will become mad with jealousy and will try to suppress the news and the resultant surge of praise for unionists in the hearts of the public. But my difficulty is that I am convinced that the remission of this petty amount will not be to the best advantage of the small holders of land whom it is intended to benefit. Let us consider what this remission actually comes to. If we remit Rs. 5 to a cultivator having a family of five members, it will mean a remission of 5 pice per month *per capita*. Now surely it is an insignificant remission and the petty zamindar does not stand to gain any thing substantial by it. On the other hand the Government will suffer a loss of several millions of rupees. I don't think it is a sound proposition. To my mind the best method is that which has been suggested in the Peasants

Welfare Fund Scheme. I prefer that to the cheap method of winning popularity by straightaway exempting the land revenue payers of Rs. 5 per annum. After all a remission of five pice per month per individual will mean nothing. He will not be able to buy any article of use with it. All that one can purchase with it, as I frequently say in a jocular way, is a *naukili topi* that a Congressman may wear. I do not mean any offence to anybody. I have only recalled this by way of a joke. My honourable friends sitting in front of me may not take it ill. It is just by the way. All I mean is that 5 pice is too meagre a sum to be of any significance or use to the zamindars. This is obviously a ridiculously small sum to improve his lot or that of his children. I am sure, my honourable friends must have been convinced of the futility of their demand. So far as the intrinsic value of this proposal is concerned, it is a hopeless proposition, but it has a superficial value and that is in the form of a certainty of earning popularity with the masses. But I may tell them that we are not going to be carried away by sentiments. We want to do real good to the zamindars. I feel that if my honourable friends desire to create an atmosphere which will tempt the members of the Unionist Party to persuade the Government to adopt this proposal for the sake of winning the goodwill of the zamindars, they will not be rendering any service to the province. I am not a rich man. I have been leading a poor man's life. I know the difficulties of the poor, perhaps better than anybody else. Depend upon it that I know how best to ameliorate the miserable lot of the zamindars. I fully understand what is useful or otherwise for the uplift of the poor zamindars. I have the courage of my convictions, and for this I am prepared to stand the scathing criticism of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and men of his ilk, face the fury of my own class and bear the taunting remarks of the press that I have gone back on what the press will represent as my election pledges. What I maintain is this. The zamindar never feels the pinch of land revenue, provided he gets a normal crop. I assure my honourable friends opposite who are not connected with agriculture that the rate of land revenue charged in the Punjab is the lowest in British India and is not much of a burden in ordinary times. The real hardship of the zamindar begins when he is called upon to pay land revenue in spite of a failure of his crops. Whenever famine takes place or his crops are seriously damaged, he finds himself face to face with difficulties which very often lead to his ruination.

It is common knowledge that under such circumstances he has nothing to fall back upon to meet the Government demands. The revenue system of our province is unfortunately so rigid, ruthless, harsh and oppressive that crops or no crops, damage or no damage done to them, the zamindar must pay his land revenue. Government must realise land revenue whether the zamindar gets an 8 anna or 6 anna crop. The chapter of his woeful tale is traceable to this factor. He has to knock at the door of the sahuکار. It is evident that he will be required to execute a deed before he gets any money from the sahuکار. It needs no mention that if the zamindar once gets entangled in the meshes of the sahuکار, he cannot extricate himself for the whole of his life.

Before we can effect any fundamental change in the land revenue system, it is essential that the representatives of that class which is mainly concerned with this matter, should occupy the treasury benches. That

[Minister of Revenue.]

condition is fulfilled. The second essential is that those capitalist classes which have been enjoying immunity from provincial taxes at the expense of the zamindars, should be taxed to their full taxable capacity, so that our finances may be strong enough to bear the strain that would be caused by bringing about a fundamental change in the land revenue system. It is only after this essential has been fulfilled that an exemption limit can be thought of in the case of zamindar. As I have already stated, this can be brought about only if those classes which have so far not been asked to contribute their share to the Exchequer, should now be made to bear the burden of taxes to their fullest capacity. Hence so long as a large amount of money is not assured to the provincial exchequer, there is little likelihood of any radical overhauling of the present harsh land revenue system, being undertaken or any fundamental change being made in it. I have explained the position beyond any doubt and all those who have or claim to have full sympathy for the cause of the poor zamindars, should help us to achieve that end. (*Interruptions.*) Perhaps I have not been able to make myself clear. There can be no two opinions about the fact that none is more sympathetic to zamindars than ourselves. Our keen desire to help them is there. But the difficulty is that we have not enough money. Lack of means is depriving us of a real chance to serve our brethren to the fullest extent.

Now I come to the real point. I have stated that the zamindar finds himself in trouble when his crops fail or are damaged by calamities. He has to knock from door to door to get money in order to pay the Government dues. Now to help the zamindars effectively in such a contingency, a fund is to be started with a nucleus to be formed with Rs. 80 lakhs out of the revenues of the current financial year. Next year it is proposed to add a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs to it. It is a pity that we have not got ampler funds, otherwise we would have earmarked even a greater amount to be added to it. To be frank I had suggested to the Honourable Premier that whatever might be the condition of our finances we should increase this fund by at least rupees one crore a year. (*Cheers.*) The proceeds from this fund should be utilised in such a manner that the zamindar will not suffer from lack of credit and will have his income suitably augmented. The detailed scheme for the disbursement of this fund has not yet been devised. Government will welcome suggestions in this connection from all honourable members who claim to champion the cause of the poor zamindars. (*Interruptions.*) My honourable friend need not be restive. If I get time I will refer to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee also. Well, Sir, I was submitting that so far as disbursement of this fund is concerned, no definite scheme has been worked out so far. I may make it clear that we have every intention to consult the honourable members of this House while formulating the programme. An endeavour will be made to secure the opinion of every honourable member who is genuinely interested in the proper utilisation of this fund. These opinions will be sympathetically and carefully considered. I feel it is the imperative duty of every member of the Unionist Party to put forward suggestions as to how best it should be utilised, in giving the maximum amount of relief to the zamindars paying Rs. 5 or less as land

revenue. The determining voice will, naturally, be that of the Unionist Party as a whole. I do admit that it is the bounden duty of the Government to find out ways and means to afford help to the small holders. But I do not agree with my honourable friends opposite who are of the opinion that by merely exempting from payment of land revenue those paying up to Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 15 or even Rs. 25 per annum the Government can give any real relief to them though such a course may ruin our finances. I am sincerely convinced that the exemption of those who are assessed to an annual revenue of Rs. 5 or less would afford no substantial relief to the general body of zamindars. There is little difference between the financial conditions of the zamindars paying Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 15 or Rs. 25, respectively, as land revenue. In fact if a zamindar paying Rs. 5 as land revenue has a son employed as a patwari he is much better off financially than a zamindar paying Rs. 25 with no member of his family in service. It is, therefore, incorrect to draw a line of distinction between the two. In case the crop is seriously damaged all sail in the same boat. Even zamindars paying Rs. 50 land revenue will be face to face with the same difficulties. Besides, if zamindars paying Rs. 5 are exempted then zamindars paying Rs. 10 will at once come forward with a similar claim. The fact of the matter is that their case is on all fours with that of those paying Rs. 5. I feel they will equally deserve exemption. In times of agricultural distress there is no substantial difference between the economic condition of the zamindars paying land revenue ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 or even Rs. 25. Of course there are exceptions. For instance, those zamindars who possess Chahi and Nehri lands are definitely better off. This too happens only in case where a zamindar owns a land not less than 50 bighas. So far as barani lands are concerned the zamindars paying Rs. 5 and those paying Rs. 50 are more or less on the same footing. I may even say that those paying even Rs. 100 stand in need of relief in times of distress. All zamindars who do not own fairly large holdings of irrigated land and are dependent solely on agriculture feel real hardship when they are called upon to pay land revenue in spite of the failure of their crops, no matter whether the failure is due to insufficient rainfall or hailstorm or locust raid or otherwise. I may point out that in order to help the zamindars in such a contingency a special fund is being started by the Government and now every class of zamindar, without any distinction of the amount of land revenue he pays, can, subject to certain conditions explained by the Premier, be brought within the ambit of the scheme. Now they will not be left, when seeking relief in paying land revenue, to the mercy of the patwaris and girdawars. These officials will no longer be able to grab money from zamindars for making favourable reports for remission. Such irregularities as existed before can be stopped. Patwaris, girdawars and tehsildars were under the impression that by giving remission to zamindars, the coffers of the Government would remain empty. But now as booked payments can be made out of this fund it will be clear to tehsildars and other officials that by giving reasonable remissions the Government, the exchequer, will not be affected at all. As a result of this, correct reports will be made in regard to the real nature of crops and yields; consequently the troubles which now exist under the present rigid land revenue system will disappear. I hope this will make clear to the House as to how this fund can be used to bring relief and prosperity to the zamindars.

[Minister of Revenue.]

Then certain allegations were made before the House with regard to our general policy. It was observed, for instance, that the Unionist Party had done nothing for the good of the community, particularly the humbler section of it. First of all let me make a reference to the Government's policy regarding the distribution of land. It has been said from the opposite benches that the Government oblige the big zamindars first, the ones whom my honourable friends opposite have given the title of *tura baz*. I am surprised at the audacity of this criticism. The Unionist Party declared, shortly after assuming office, that the small holders would be given preference to big zamindars and the interests of the former would be more jealously safeguarded than those of the latter. (*Interruption.*) This party decided to give away 75 per cent of the lands to be cultivated on temporary basis to those small holders who till the land with their own hands. It was not the intention of the Government to distribute their land among those people whose profession is to flatter officials. We have further made it clear beyond doubt that special consideration would be given to the claims of those peasants who have enlisted their sons since the outbreak of the war. Their rights will naturally have priority in connection with most categories of grants of land.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : This is only a temporary measure.

Minister of Revenue : No, these would be permanent grants. Let me also point out that three thousand acres have been reserved for scheduled castes for whom much lip sympathy is professed by the Opposition. Besides, one thousand acres have been reserved for Indian Christians. As against this not more than three thousand acres will be available to members of the landed gentry. But even here the grants will be open only to those who do not already possess more than 100 acres. The exclusion of those who already possess more than 100 acres is a clear indication of the Unionist Party's policy in favour of the smaller men. The policy of making large grants of, say, 50 or 100 squares, has been discarded. I have already pointed out that the distribution of land will take place in three ways. Even among the gentry grants will be mostly confined to those who possess less than 100 acres of land. Those who are helping in the prosecution of the war by sending their sons to the war fronts will have priority over all. Thirdly, grants will be made to those who are helping us in war efforts in other ways, such as helping recruitment in general.

Now let me refer to the reductions made in land revenue and abiana. From 1930 to 1941 when the prices were low, a reduction was made to the tune of 2 crores and 5 lakhs.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : Is this the actual amount ? For what period ?

Minister : The reduction granted under the sliding scale forms a separate head. I am sure that my honourable friend, Sardar Sampuran Singh, in spite of his opposition to it, will not have the courage to discard the sliding scale system.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : This is no *chhoot* (reduction).

Premier : What is it then ?

Sardar Sampuran Singh : It is merely an adjustment of the land revenue which had been levied at a higher scale.

Minister of Revenue : If my honourable friend is convinced that the sliding scale is a futile system, he should ask the Lyallpur people to repudiate it. The total *chhoot* from 1937 onwards amounts to Rs. 19,65,000. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker : Please do not interrupt the honourable member.

Minister : Again the *chhoot* in taccavi from 1929 to 1940 amounts to—

	Rs.
(1) Ordinary taccavi	39,36,739
(2) Taccavi granted for making improvements in land ..	2,83,484

The second includes an advance granted to Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, who takes a pride in making himself facetious. As the figures mentioned above go back to a period earlier than 1937 when this Government assumed office, I would like to quote figures for 1937-38 and 1939-40. Ordinary taccavi remitted amounts to Rs. 2,21,969 and taccavi granted for improvements and remitted runs up to Rs. 2,14,158. Besides this, permanent *chhoot* in the Ambala Division from the Rabi of 1935 onwards amounts to Rs. 37½ lakhs. Furthermore, the direct expenditure on famine relief which does not include remissions of land revenue, etc., amounted to Rs. 1,48,71,781. This sum was paid in cash. The total *chhoot* by way of remissions of land revenue and abiana for the three famine-stricken districts of Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon amounts to Rs. 2,38,00,000.

Fresh settlement was ordered in some tracts before the legal term of the settlement had expired. It was undertaken by the Government in view of certain adverse agricultural conditions which came to its notice during the term in these tracts. The land revenue willingly foregone by Government as a result of premature resettlement is as follows :—

	Rs.
Kaithal	14,670
Thal Circle	8,000
Pukka Circle	42,000
Kharian	7,635
Phalia	1,713
Bajwa area in Sialkot	7,770
Deg Nallah	14,188

Sardar Kapur Singh : Is Ludhiana included anywhere in this list.

Ministere : My honourable friend should pray that Ludhiana may be spared the misery and hard times through which the above-mentioned tracts passed and which necessitated this reduction.

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Then acreage rate was remitted to the extent of Rs. 44 lakhs. Again, temporary lease holders are granted certain concessions so that they may in their turn make concessions to their tenants. In all a sum of Rs. 18 lakhs was remitted.

Moreover from 1937 right up to the present time the total remissions in land revenue and abiana for loss suffered by the zamindars due to the vagaries of nature are as follows :—

	Rs.
Land revenue from Rabi 1937 to Rabi 1940 (this is a remission in <i>jama</i>).	97,81,000
Abiana,—net remission	34,21,000
Kharaba	4,78,000

These are the more important figures which I need quote. I am leaving out figures of minor importance.

Now I come to the question asked by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition as to what the Government have done so far to reduce their expenditure. He suggested that savings could be effected by reducing salaries, abolishing special pays and making retrenchment in certain departments and that there was absolutely no sense in taxing the beoparies or the well-to-do classes. According to him the Peasants' Welfare Fund could easily be started by effecting such savings and it could be utilised in increasing the pay of patwaris, constables and other low-paid servants. While making this suggestion he conveniently forgot that even the riches of Croesus could not suffice to meet all the demands which he has suggested. The demand of our opponents is two-fold. On the one hand they say that funds should be procured for the opening of more hospitals, more schools, for the constructions of more roads, for rural uplift, for increasing the salaries of low-paid employees, etc. etc. On the other hand they say that fifty per cent remission in land revenue and abiana should be granted to the zamindars. Now at present the total income of the province, which is mostly paid by the zamindars, amounts to 13 crores of rupees. If 50 per cent remission in land revenue and abiana were to be granted to them that would mean a reduction of our receipts to something like 6 crores of rupees. With this demand of reduction in land revenue my friends also want that more hospitals should be opened, more schools should be started, more roads should be constructed, low-paid employees should receive larger salaries and so on and so forth. In other words on the one hand they want the income of province to go down to six crores and on the other they want the expenditure to go up to 20 crores of rupees. I ask where is that money to come from? I personally have no magic wand by which I can reduce the land revenue and abiana of the zamindars and at the same time provide for the additional requirements suggested by my friends. Had I possessed any such magic wand none would have been happier than myself, the Honourable Premier and the Cabinet as a whole. All these things can be done by Alladin's lamp only and I very much regret to say that I do not possess it. If the honourable members of the Opposition possess any such lamp or know of any such magic by which all these things can be done, let them pass it on to me.

It has been urged times out of number on the floor of the House that vast savings can be made by reducing the salaries of the highly paid officers and that with that saving all the needs of Government can be met. I may tell them that they are living in a fool's paradise if they think so. By reducing the salaries of the highly paid officers the only thing that we may be able to do, will be to create a very thin shadow of a fund like the Peasants Welfare Fund and nothing more. If we reduce the salaries of the highly paid officers how much saving do my honourable friends expect to make? That will not be much I assure them. In 1934 we calculated the total amount of salaries which all the members of all the Imperial Services drew. It aggregated to Rs. 71 lakhs only. Now if we dismiss all these officers without replacing them which I am sure no body can contemplate we shall be in a position to save Rs. 71 lakhs only. We cannot save more than that. Now nobody will allow us to dismiss all these officers. (*An honourable member* : Why do you not reduce your own salaries?) I have more than once pointed out in this honourable House that if my friends can evolve a satisfactory scheme by which reduction can be effected in the pay of all the highly paid officers, I mean those officers who draw more than a certain limit, say Rs. 1,000 I give a guarantee on behalf of the Ministers that if all the other officers agreed to make a reduction of one anna in a rupee in their salaries we would be prepared to forego one and a quarter annas in a rupee in our salaries. (*Mr. Dev Raj Sethi* : You will make so much sacrifice?) What am I expected to do? There are many Indians, Congressmen included, who themselves earn, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000 and even Rs. 50,000, Rs. 1,00,000 or Rs. 2,00,000 a month and still do not like to pay any tax or agree to reduce their incomes. And yet they suggest that the salaries of the Ministers should be reduced to Rs. 500 a month. Let me tell them that if money-lenders agree to realise an interest an amount not more than Rs. 500 a month; if the landlords agree not to collect more than Rs. 500 a month by way of rent from their tenants; if the traders and big business magnates make a solemn vow not to earn profits of more than Rs. 500 a month, I assure them that we Ministers also will gladly accept Rs. 500 a month. Now my friends can argue that I have put forward a suggestion which will not be acceptable to anybody and so we shall never be called upon to implement our pledge. I may tell them that we have no power under the constitution to effect any reduction in the salaries of the members of the Imperial Services. If any reduction can be made in their salaries that can be done only through their willing consent. There are British as well as Indian Officers amongst them. If the British Officers who come from 6,000 or 7,000 miles from beyond the seas are reluctant to show any sympathy for the zamindars by agreeing to reduce their salaries in order to afford relief to the zamindars that is quite understandable. But if our Congress friends have any sympathies for the zamindars let them ask at least the Indian section of the Imperial service Officers their own kith and kin to agree to a voluntary cut in their salaries. The honourable members will be surprised to note that 90 to 95 per cent of the Indian Officers who draw from Rs. 1,500 to 5,000 a month by way of salaries, are the kith and kin of those very persons who repeat *ad nauseum* the demand that the Ministers should not get more than Rs. 500 a month. If they have any sympathies for the poor zamindars let them ask these officers to agree to a cut in their salaries. We cannot force the British officers to agree to a

[Minister of Revenue.]

cut in their salaries. But is there any reason why Indians should not, of their own accord, agree to a reduction of say one pice or two pice in a rupee in their salaries, ? This will easily put my offer to the test. Anyway 95 per cent of the Indian section of the Imperial Officers belong to the *biradri* of those very people in this House who are so persistent with the demand that the Ministers should draw only Rs. 500 per month. Let them ask their own kith and kin to agree to a cut in their salaries and I repeat my assurance that if these officers volunteer to agree to a cut of one anna in a rupee in their salaries they will find us prepared to forego 1½ annas in a rupee in our salaries. After this assurance I do not think it lies in the mouth of anybody to say that we do not want to reduce our salaries.

Then Sir, it has been pointed out that the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have not been implemented. I admit that we have not been able to give effect to all of them. But there are many which have been implemented. Besides it has been complained that there are many kinds of special allowances which Government officers draw and which should be at once stopped. I may tell my friends that my feelings on the point are also the same. If they feel that the money of the province is being wasted in this way I also feel the same. And what is more interesting is, as has been pointed out by my friends, that whenever any new post is created along with its pay, special pay, special allowances are attached to it. This complaint is not wrong. But I may tell them that many special allowances which could be stopped have been stopped. For instance, previously the Engineers of the Canal Department working at Rohtak, Lyallpur or other places used to draw Rs.150, Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 by way of jungle allowance. There were over a hundred of such places where jungle allowances was admissible to the Engineers. When I first saw the list of these places I was simply astonished and began to rub my eyes to see whether any idea of jungle could be associated with Rohtak or Lyallpur. To me these places seemed to be more like pleasure resorts, than jungles haunted by ghosts. The honourable members will be glad to know that now there are now only 3 or 4 places in the entire province where jungle allowance is admissible to the officers of the Irrigation Department. Similarly many other special allowances have either been abolished or substantially reduced. I may also tell my friends that many new posts have been created in connection with war activities. In respect of those posts it was urged that as compared with other posts they carried great responsibility and involve arduous duty and that it was only reasonable that such posts should carry a high pay and that in addition, special allowances should be attached to them. This suggestion was mooted and efforts were made that it should be accepted. In certain cases this suggestion was actually accepted and the incumbents of such posts began to draw special allowances as well. The honourable members will be glad to learn that the position which the Government took was that the incumbent of such posts should be actuated by patriotic rather than by mercenary motives. After careful consideration these officers agreed to the suggestion of the Government that they should not demand any special allowances for work in connection with war activities. Consequently no extra allowances

will be paid to the officers who will be appointed to these posts. Nevertheless such officers will not be deprived of any emoluments which they had been drawing in their original posts for the simple reason that they should not be the worse for having undertaken work in respect of war which is presumably more arduous and carries more responsibility. Anyhow we have tried our level best to cut down our expenditure wherever we could. But there are some recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee which cannot be given effect to because the circumstances under which the said report was written, have now changed. I can say and say it confidently that a number of its recommendations have been implemented and there are others which cannot be given effect to. At the most we can save an amount of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakhs by reduction. But even conceding for the sake of argument that retrenchments could be carried to Rs. 50 lakhs; it would not be possible to open new schools and hospitals and build new roads with an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs, as well as grant relief to the peasantry. Wherever a reduction was possible in the various items of expenditure we have effected it. If still there be any items of expenditure which could be reduced and which may have escaped our notice, it is the duty of the honourable members to bring them to our notice and to ask us to eliminate them. It is the right of every honourable member of this House to ask the Government to reduce all unnecessary expenditure. But the honourable members must not forget that by reduction of expenditure alone you cannot help the Government further to extend their beneficent activities. To do this you will have to levy more taxes on those classes who are capable of paying them. Without new taxes you cannot help the backward classes. There are some people who say that I am suffering from a mania of helping the zamindars and that I am the enemy of the urban people and the money-lenders. That is wrong. The zamindars are poor and down-trodden. No one knows the sad plight of the zamindars as much as I do. I love them passionately and want earnestly to help them. All that can be said against my love for the zamindar is that it amounts to a maddening passion. As regards the allegation that I am the enemy of certain classes, I assure you, that I am no one's enemy. I do not hate anybody. I simply want to help those who are backward. Sometimes in the heat of discussion I say things as I am saying them now, by which I do not mean to give offence to anybody but which may be misunderstood. But it does not mean that I hate anybody or that I am the enemy of anybody. What I want and expect from the urban classes is this, that they should realise that the rural people really deserve their sympathy and that they should compare their own condition with that of the poor zamindars in order to understand why it is necessary to help them. The urban classes are well off and enjoy all the amenities of civilised life which are denied to the rural people. Compared to the urban people the rural people are backward and in the grip of poverty. In view of the deplorable condition of the zamindars as revealed by any comparison between the life of the rural people and that of the urban people can any one say that nothing should be done to ameliorate the condition of the rural people? No one can object to the help which the Government wants to give to the rural people after studying the conditions prevailing in the villages. On account of their prosperity the urban classes wield so much political influence and have acquired so much political power that if the Government proceeds to take steps to improve

[Minister of Development.]

the lot of the zamindars they stand in the way of Government doing so and force them to refrain from taking any such steps. All that we are doing and intend to do in the future to help the poor agriculturists is from the purest of motives. But the urban people question our *bona fides* and allege that our beneficent activities to help the poor zamindars are not due to any patriotic reasons but are due to our malice against the urban people and our desire to avenge ourselves against them. This is most uncharitable.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,67,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Land Revenue.

The motion was carried.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

EXPORT OF WHEAT FROM THE PUNJAB.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (Urdu):
Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the present adjournment motion is an adjournment motion in its real sense. There is wheat famine in the province and all classes of people whether urban or rural, rich or poor are feeling the scarcity of wheat very acutely. People do not get wheat flour according to their need. Not only wheat flour but other cereals are also not available to them in the province. The people of such districts which are known for their bad crops are feeling this trouble particularly. When I visited Hissar a teacher of a local school of which I am the Secretary came to me and told me that there were some 200 students who live in the boarding house but there was no wheat flour for them and that their stock of flour might not last another day. I felt it very much for I thought that the same would be the condition at other places and in other schools. All people are faced with this calamity. We have been putting questions regarding it almost every day to the Government as to what steps they have taken to relieve the situation that has been created on account of wheat famine. The Honourable the Premier informed us that so much wheat was in the province and that it would last for so many days. What we require is not information about the quantity of wheat available and how many days it would last. What we require is that the Government should take action to stop the export of wheat from this province.

to other provinces. Charity must begin at home. First we should meet our own need and then whatever is left as surplus may be supplied to others. I am not against export but what I mean is that only the surplus should be exported. I do not think that the next crop would be sufficient even for our own needs. It is, therefore, necessary that whatever wheat may be available at present in the province should not be exported. I press it on the attention of the Government that they should take steps to help the people in this matter. With these words I move this adjournment motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Inner Lahore, Muslim Women, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I have risen to support the adjournment motion that has been moved by honourable friend on my right. Frightful conditions are prevailing in the Punjab generally and in Lahore particularly on account of the scarcity of wheat. Wheat flour is not available in Lahore and its import into Lahore has also been prohibited. Does the Government mean that tens of thousands of people living in Lahore should starve and those who do not possess any wheat flour, should not import it from without? If the export of atta from Lahore had been prohibited, the order would have been perfectly understandable. But the present order which prohibits import of wheat or its flour into Lahore is really beyond our weak comprehension. Only yesterday the District Magistrate of Lahore had announced that every consignment of wheat will be confiscated at the railway stations of Lahore. It is a pity that neither the Government makes arrangements itself, nor does it permit people to make their own arrangements. Thousands of women come to me crying that they cannot find any bread for their children. They ask for atta but atta is not available. What can I do? All that I can do is to convey the pathetic cries of the people to the members of the Government. Consequently I am representing the views of the people in this House and am grateful to my brother who has provided me this opportunity by moving his adjournment motion. Whether we are at home or in the Assembly Chamber or outside, people continue asking us as to what arrangements have been made about wheat. Mothers with their babies in their laps come to me while those babies are crying for bread. "Baji ji kindly make some arrangements for us", they cry. I had some wheat flour which I have been distributing among them uptil now. After all how long could I continue this way? I do not own any agricultural land nor is my husband a zamindar so that we could go on providing wheat to all the needy people. The Government has established only 25 or 30 depots for the sale of wheat flour. But they are insufficient for several lakhs inhabitants of Lahore. Moreover, in the beginning a depot would get thirty to forty bags of wheat, but now the supply has been limited to ten or twenty bags only. There is a great rush of purchasers on these depots. People push each other and women and children are trampled there. It behoves the Government to open separate shops for women where children and women may be able to purchase atta with convenience. I am grateful to the controller of wheat for his having allowed me to have ten bags of wheat for my depot. But even these ten bags were nothing as compared to the heavy demand. They were, therefore, sold off within one hour and the people had to go empty handed.

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

I would like to read out to you a letter that I recieved from someone. It will show clearly as to how bad the condition of people has become. As a matter of fact there is a great hue and cry in the whole of the city. Every where people are crying "Atta nahin milta, hai atta nahin milta. Mere bache bhuke mar rahe hain". My heart is moved with pity at the sight of crying children in the arms of wailing mothers. It behoves Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to console the people by making vigorous speeches as he is accustomed to do while on his frequent tours. He should also try to make suitable arrangements. The stocks of surplus wheat should be confiscated from those who have hoarded wheat and then distributed among the poor people for their daily consumption.

I am inclined to mention in this connection the raid which the police had made on the depot of Ujagar Singh situated on the Nicholson Road. He had gone out for some urgent business while someone complained that he had refused to sell wheat flour. In fact he was busy in serving public.

In the end I would request the Government to procure barley if wheat is not available. We are prepared to eat barley with pleasure. Quite a sensation prevails in Lahore due to the famine of wheat. My heart is full of pity. I, therefore, support this adjournment motion with these few words.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar (North-Western Towns, General, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, the object of this adjournment motion is to discuss the inability of the Punjab Government to prevent the export of wheat from the Punjab at a time when the province is faced with a serious famine. Now two points stand out prominently. Firstly, the Government should apprise the House of the extent to which they exerted their influence to prevent the export of wheat and in what circumstances they failed to achieve their object. Secondly, if the Government propose to aver that the existing laws do not vest in them sufficient power and authority to put pressure vigorously on the Government of India, then they should say so on the floor of the House. Hence, unless we hear the Honourable the Premier on these two points, we cannot say with certainty what endeavours the Government had made in this connection. As a matter of fact we cannot fully express our views on this matter without knowing whether the Punjab Government were aware of the seriousness of the situation or not. I have, therefore, to put two or three questions to the Honourable Premier. (1) Whether the Government had taken into consideration the abnormal conditions prevailing in the province and also whether they had estimated the amount of wheat sufficient to meet the requirements of the province. (2) If so, when was this done? (3) When did the Government after being fully aware of the grave situation arising out of the shortage of wheat in the province, address the Government of India on this subject or submit their forceful representation to that Government? Also if they did convey their opinion to the Central Government, whether they did so once or more than once? It is quite possible that some correspondence on this matter might have taken place between the Honourable the Premier and the Government of India. If my conjecture is correct, he might feel disposed to place it on the table of the House with a view to inform the honourable members as well as the public at large that the Punjab Government had not fallen

short of their duty in this respect. I, therefore, submit that unless we get a fuller, clearer and an unequivocal reply to these queries, we are not in a position to accuse the Punjab Government of or to exonerate them from the charge of failure to perform their duty properly.

It is very disconcerting indeed to find that things have been allowed to take such a turn as to create an unprecedented scarcity of wheat in the province. The honourable members are fully aware of the demonstrations daily made by the people in connection with the non-availability of wheat flour. The people almost shed tears bitterly when their best efforts to obtain it failed. I have serious apprehensions that this state of affairs might entail a serious disturbance of the peace and tranquillity of the province. The Government should bear this fact in mind that so far as the Congressmen are concerned, they impress upon the stockists of grains, the desirability of releasing their stocks of wheat for public consumption. (*Hear, hear*). I would like to make a request to the Honourable Premier on behalf of the Congress that the latter has already opened *atta* depôts in the city for the benefit of the poor. (*Hear, hear*). If the Punjab Government would supply it with more wheat and *atta*, it will see to the continued functioning of these depôts. I may also make it clear that if it is the intention of the Government to acquire more powers of greater authority to make a stronger representation to the Central Government, then I am sure, there will be a complete unanimity among all sections of the House to strengthen the hands of the Government in this matter. (*Hear, hear*). Every body here would like the Central Government to be told emphatically that their action in exporting wheat from the Panjab, is directed to starve out the children and wives of those brave soldiers who are fighting for their cause at the different theatres of war. I again repeat that it is difficult to hurl accusations at the door of the Government, unless we hear their case. I am sure, the Honourable the Premier would state in clear and unambiguous terms as to what passed between him and the Government of India on this matter and what efforts he made to avert this critical situation, as also the cause of the failure of his efforts. We want to know whether his Government had informed the Government of India that a serious situation had arisen in the Punjab on account of scarcity of wheat and hence no more wheat should be sent out of the province. We would also like to be informed whether the Central Government acted in utter disregard of the representations made by the Punjab Government. We feel that as the Punjab is the granary of India, she had a right to tell the Central Government that not a single grain could be moved out of her boundaries before the requirements of her people were met, so that the children of the soil might not die of starvation.

I have no mind to take much time of the House and would, therefore, request the Honourable Premier to explain the whole position so that we as well as the people at large should know as to how much this Government have been endeavouring or endeavoured to stave off this nasty famine and how far the Government of India were guilty of disregarding the reasonable representations of the Punjab Government.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani (Muzaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support this motion. According to parliamentary convention, it is unusual for a member sitting.

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani.]

on treasury benches to support an adjournment motion. My action may, therefore, look strange. But let us not forget that we are passing through critical times. We are faced with abnormal situations. The vital importance of the matter before us demands that one should speak out his real mind. It is not the time to speak with mental reservation. In view of the wider interests of the province, I have no hesitation in breaking through peacetime parliamentary conventions. Vital national interests must take precedence over time worn parliamentary conventions. The province is in the grip of a serious wheat famine. It is a matter which affects thirty million people living in this province. Unless timely action is taken, the peace and tranquillity of the province is threatened. It is under these abnormal circumstances that I have taken this unusual step of supporting this motion. The seriousness of the situation demands that we should move out of the old groove.

You are aware, Sir, that only the other day the Honourable Premier told the House that the available wheat stocks in the Punjab were hardly sufficient to meet the requirements of the province for a week or ten days. We all know that wheat is the staple food of the people in this province. They live mainly on wheat. It will be two months before the new wheat crop is ready. What will the people eat for all these days? This in itself is a serious problem. But the news published in the Press that the wheat Commissioner for India has ordered further export of 30,000 maunds of wheat from the Punjab to the United Provinces makes the situation very grave. This news has caused a panic in the province. Two days after the Honourable Premier's statement, when I saw this news in the papers, I could hardly believe my eyes. If the press report is correct then I can only say that there could not be a more dangerously foolish order than the one made by the Wheat Commissioner for India. He could not be ignorant of the wheat situation in the Punjab and knowing that there was already a wheat famine in this province, he had no justification to order further export of wheat from this province. For over two months the people of this province have not been getting sufficient supply of wheat for their daily needs. Many persons had to go without bread for days. The province is on the verge of starvation on account of a shortage of food grains in the market. People were alarmed by the statement of the Honourable Premier, but the order of the Wheat Commissioner has created a real panic in the province. The people want to know what exactly is the intention of the Government. Do they want the people of this province to starve? Is this how the Government intends to solve the problem of food shortage in this province? Unless the people are assured that the Government will arrange for their minimum food requirements till the new crop is ready, the panic will increase and we may be faced with a grave situation. The question of food supply has a strong bearing on the maintenance of law and order and our war effort depends on the internal peace of the country. It would, therefore, be dangerous to under-rate the food situation. We have got to solve this problem and solve it immediately. It is no time for red tape. An immediate and bold action is strongly indicated. I am glad that my honourable friend from Hissar by moving this adjournment motion, has afforded the House an opportunity for drawing the attention of Government to this

urgent matter of great public importance. Ordinarily this motion should have come from the Opposition but it seems that the honourable members sitting opposite are too much engrossed in petty intrigues and in pecking at matters of administrative routine to apply their minds on questions of wider public interests. During this session hardly any day passed when the Opposition did not move an adjournment motion. All these motions related to matters of day to day administration. The Opposition contented itself with criticising certain actions of individual officers or blaming the Government for its little commissions or omissions. Perhaps they do not fully realise that peace time tactics are neither suitable nor desirable in the time of war. We must discard petty squabbles and rise above the level of party politics. This is no time for stage acting. We are involved in a life and death struggle. The safety of our country is threatened. Our women and children, our mosques and temples, our hearths and homes, our faith and honour, our culture and civilization and all that is dear to us are in danger. Our very existence is in jeopardy. We must concentrate our thoughts and all our energies on defending our homeland and winning the war. There will be time enough to indulge in these peace time luxuries after we have won the war.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of wheat control I may submit that the results achieved are a sad commentary on the capacity and efficiency of the wheat control agency. Before the control on wheat prices was instituted by the Government of India, everything was going on in a normal way. There was no shortage of wheat in any particular area, and there was no complaint with regard to price. Every-one knew that there was no possibility of wheat being exported abroad for trade purposes due to transport difficulties in war time. When the Government started purchasing large quantities of wheat for export to Iran and the Middle East, the prices showed an upward tendency. Wheat merchants thought it was just the time for them to make money and they started purchasing all the available wheat at higher rates. If the Government had made it clear in the beginning that they would purchase only surplus stocks for export to other countries the prices would not have risen above a certain level. When the prices increased, Government instituted price control. The price of wheat was fixed much lower than the market rate prevailing at the time. This gave the stockists a feeling that the Government wanted to take away their wheat stocks at an unreasonably low price. The stockists had purchased some of their stocks at a higher price than that fixed by the Government and they naturally did not like to sell their stocks at a loss. They preferred to wait and large portions of their stocks went underground. They thought that as soon as there was a shortage of wheat the prices would go up. Sir, there was no justification for the Government to fix a lower price of wheat than that prevailing in the market when control was instituted. The reasons officially given for instituting wheat control were (1) to check profiteering, and (2) to keep the price of wheat within a reasonable reach of the poorer classes. It reminds one of a Multani proverb :-

بابا میرا سخا بڑا ہے۔ آزاد کرے۔

(Look at the generosity of my father. He sets free other people's slaves).
The Government of India wants to be generous to the poor townsman at

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani.]

the cost of the cultivator. But the real intention behind this move was to fix the price of wheat to suit the pockets of the British tax-payers and the commercial interests of English firms. An English firm had agreed to purchase 50,000 maunds of wheat for the army from Sargodha Mandi at Rs. 5-8-0 per maund just a few days before the wheat control was instituted. The control price was fixed at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund. The stockists in Sargodha Mandi who had entered into a contract with the English Firm for supplying 50,000 maunds of wheat at Rs. 5-8-0 per maund were, under the orders of the District Magistrate, prevented from selling wheat to anyone and so the contract was cancelled. Fifteen days later the District Magistrate of Sargodha, under orders of Government, requisitioned 50,000 maunds of wheat from the very same stockists and delivered it to the same English firm at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund. Thus the English firm got Rs. 56,000 as a free gift. This profit did not go to Government of India. It was retained by the English firm. This is just one transaction. If an enquiry was held such examples would be multiplied. Is it not a crude method of exploitation? Such actions shake public confidence in the sense of fair play and justice of the Government. Let the Government realise that at this critical juncture, it is more important to earn public confidence than to favour a few individuals or firms. People generally feel that the shortage of wheat is due to excessive exports by Government. It is difficult, in the absence of a reliable data, to determine exactly the real cause of wheat famine in the province. But it cannot be denied, Sir, that it is mainly due to the inefficient working of the control scheme by the Government of India. If it had been left to the Provincial Governments, I think the results would have been more satisfactory and the present situation would not have arisen. Provincial Governments would have retained sufficient wheat for the needs of their own provinces and placed the surplus at the disposal of the Government of India. We in the Punjab sincerely feel that the needs of our gallant men who are fighting abroad to defend their country and to keep the war away from India, are more important than our own and we are always anxious and willing to curtail our own needs in order to meet the requirements of our brave soldiers. They have a prior claim on the resources of our country. But surely we cannot let our own people starve in order to feed the people of Iraq and Iran. The families and children of our brave soldiers fighting abroad have a greater claim than the foreigners on the produce of our country. What will be the feelings of our soldiers when they learn that their women and children are starving in India while the people of Iran and the Far East are being fed at their cost? I ask the Honourable Premier whether it is not his duty to look after the interests of the families and children of those brave men who have joined the fighting forces at his bidding? Let him not follow his usual policy of accommodation in this matter. Let him frankly and firmly tell the Government of India that his first and primary duty is to protect the interests of the people of the Punjab and particularly the fighting men and their families and that he is determined to do his duty towards them. As I have already submitted, the question of food supply has a very close bearing on the maintenance of internal peace in the province. If the food situation deteriorates, it would be impossible to maintain law and order in the province. How can a provincial Government discharge its responsibility for maintaining law and order

in the province if it has no control over the food supply? Arbitrary and ill-considered actions of the Central Government in the matter of food supply will make the task of provincial Governments more difficult. Some people think that such actions are purposely taken with a view to bring about a situation which may necessitate the suspension of the constitution in the provinces, which are still being run on *quasi*-democratic lines. I do not agree with this view as I know that the British people at large will not be so foolish as to allow the extinction of democracy in this country at a time when they claim to be fighting for its preservation. But there are people in positions of responsibility whose actions bring about unhappy situations and undesirable results. Some of them I fear are playing the roll of U. Saw and there are others who through their dishonesty, arrogance or short-sightedness spread discontentment and dissatisfaction. This group of people can be styled as sixth columnists, those who help in creating fifth column and willingly or unwillingly lend support to fifth column activities. The conduct of a senior I. C. S. officer in Burma should put the Government on guard and steps should be taken to purge the administration of such doubtful elements, before it is too late. We hear that Sir Stafford Cripps is shortly visiting India and is bringing with him a formula for intensifying India's war effort. I do not know what formula he is bringing with him, but I can suggest to him one thing. If he wants to intensify war efforts in this country the first thing that he should do is to purge the administration of this country of these sixth columnists. The place of these "Khabises" is in the concentration camp and not in the high offices of the Government.

Sir, how can the Government even hope to create enthusiasm in the Indian mind for intensifying war efforts, unless they can convince the people of India that all war measures are aimed at securing the safety of India and are in the best interests of the Indian people? Let me say quite frankly that there exists a feeling among the Indian people that the present war situation is being exploited in this country for the benefit of Englishmen and British capitalists. I do not know how far this belief is justified but one does hear things which go a long way to strengthen such feelings. For instance in the matter of recruitment to commissioned ranks we hear complaints of racial discrimination. I have been told that two Anglo-Indian boys who used to ply taxi cabs on Kalka-Simla Road have been taken as Captains in the M. T. Almost every Anglo-Indian clerk has got a commission in the Army. This is not all. Even overage European and Anglo-Indians have been fixed up in one department or the other. But Indian youths of good families and good education are refused commissions on the ground that they cannot speak colloquial English. I cannot forget the remarks of an educated young man who was refused Emergency Commission. He said, some people complain that they are denied an honourable existence but my complaint is that I have been denied even an honourable death. This young man was an M.A. and a good sportsman. His father is a retired P.C.S. officer and a member of the family of Baloch Chief. Can any one seriously suggest that Anglo-Indian and English shop-assistants clerks and taxi-drivers make better officers than educated Indians belonging to good families with martial traditions? One has to cast down one's head in shame when one hears people say that Government is utilising the war situation for solving the problem of unemployment among English

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani.]

and Anglo-Indian classes in India. Retired English Officers have been re-employed for war work regarding which they had no previous experience. For instance, these highly paid retired officers engaged on A. R. P. work have no special training or experience for that work. They have not even witnessed an air raid. Barring a few honourable exceptions who refused higher salaries all other Civil Officers, majority of them being Englishmen, appointed to civil jobs in connection with war, such as appointments in the Supply Department, have been given increased salaries and allowances. Some English Officers who were not given increased pay or allowances made representations to get them. In other words they wanted a price for defending their own Empire. It appears that they do not consider this war as their own war. Is this the way in which the English bureaucrats are fighting this war on the result of which depends their very existence? Is this the example that they are setting before their Indian "subjects"? Is this the way to intensify war efforts in this country? I know these bitter truths will annoy those who stand to be exposed, but let them pause and think of the disastrous effects of their conduct. English thinkers and authors have written volumes on the causes of the downfall of the Ottoman Empire, one of the greatest Empires of the world. They are all agreed that the main causes for its decline were luxury, corruption and inefficiency. Have all these vices not crept into our own lives? Have we not forgotten the full significance and meaning of the word "duty"? The law of nature is unchangeable. It does not change to suit individual requirements or conveniences. If we want to survive, we must mend our ways and change ourselves. We can have an honourable existence only if we bring ourselves in accord with the unchangeable law of nature that only the fittest can survive. Almost every day we hear about cases of corruption in the Supply Department of the Government of India. Only the other day a typical case of an officer came to light. Before the war he was a Conductor. When war began he was made a Captain. Complaints of corruption were received against him and the special enquiry agency discovered in the course of investigation that his wife had deposited in a bank currency notes worth about two lakhs within a short period of ten months. The Captain could not account for this money. It is an open scandal that Military petrol is being sold in the black market at fifty or even twenty-five per cent below the market price. I am told that some cases of illicit sale of Military petrol have been detected. It is also alleged that Military stores and even medicines of inferior quality, much below the approved standards are passed through bribery. Can there be a more heinous crime than to supply inferior medicines and food stores to the brave soldiers who are shedding their blood in the battlefields for the defence of their country? Is it not a fifth column activity? Those who commit such crimes deserve to be lynched.

If we are to win this war, we will have to discard luxury, eradicate corruption and remove inefficiency. We will have to understand the meaning of the word "duty" and all that it implies. Those who do not know how to do their duty can never have an honourable place in human society.

Sir, the manner in which the Central Government has exercised wheat control, in complete disregard of the interests and needs of the people of this

province, makes us apprehensive for the future. After having had a foretaste of the authority and interference of the Central Government, the very idea of a strong super-imposed centre in the future constitution of India makes us shudder. Such a centre would be a complete negation of autonomy in the provinces.

It is incomprehensible that the Wheat Commissioner for India should order the export of 80,000 maunds of wheat from the Punjab to the United Provinces at a time when it is authoritatively stated by the Premier of the Punjab that the available wheat stocks in the province would be hardly sufficient to meet the needs of the province for ten days. It is a matter of common knowledge that Hapur in the United Provinces is the biggest market in India for the export of wheat. According to official reports the United Provinces has the largest exportable surplus of wheat each year as compared with any other province in India. Sending wheat from the Punjab to the United Provinces amounts to carrying coal to Newcastle.

I would request the Honourable Premier to lodge a strong protest against the order of the Wheat Commissioner and get it cancelled. The Government of India may also be requested to arrange as early as possible for the supply of wheat and other food grains to meet the needs of this province till the next Rabi crop is ready. Sir, before I conclude I would like to make a few suggestions for the future.

It is highly desirable that a higher price of wheat should be fixed at the time of next harvest to enable the cultivators to meet the increased cost of living due to higher prices of other necessities of life. With a view to check profiteering the difference between the harvest price and the price of wheat at any other time of the year should not exceed eight annas or at the most one rupee per maund.

A careful census should be taken of the wheat produce at the time of the next harvest and only surplus stocks should be allowed to be exported from the Province.

Sir, I hope that these suggestions will receive due consideration and that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated in the future.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I just want to know, Sir, for our future guidance if the word *Khakis* can be used.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : It will depend as to how it is used. It would certainly be objectionable to call an honourable member of the House as *Khakis*.

An Honourable Member : He used it for the Government of India.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : I did not use it for the Government of India but for its corrupt and dishonest officials.

Shaikh Karamat Ali : *Khakis* means evil minded.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Does it mean swinish ?

Some Honourable Members : No, no.

Premier : *Khakis* means petty minded.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, so far as the subject matter of this adjournment motion is concerned, there is.

[S. Santokh Singh.]

complete unanimity of opinion not only in this House, but I make bold to say, in the whole of the province. There is a real shortage of wheat, and nobody doubts that I will not go as far as my honourable friend who preceded me has gone in condemning the Wheat Commissioner and the Government of India in such a forceful language. My own view of the situation is that the Government of India had taken pains to send round that officer all over the country to collect statistics, and study the situation in order to be able to chalk out their line of action. With all that, however, there has been an error of judgment on the part of the Government of India in asking the Punjab Government to send out of the scanty stocks of the province, thirty thousand maunds of wheat to the United Provinces at this juncture. No Punjabee can approve of that under any circumstances. We are asked to send wheat to a province where the new crop is expected to come next month. Ordinarily new crop arrives in the United Provinces one month earlier than in the Punjab. New wheat arrives in the United Provinces in April whereas in the Punjab it does not begin to arrive before May. Therefore there was no earthly reason for the Wheat Commissioner or the Government of India to pass such an order knowing full well that the stock in the province is really so small, that it cannot take us for more than a fortnight at the utmost. I do not know whether the Punjab Government did their duty in time by making their strong protest against this order. But even if they did not, I think it is our duty in a matter like this to make known to the Government of India the strong feelings of the entire province. We know that the district officers of this Government have been at pains to collect statistics. They know more than anybody else what stocks there are at the moment in each district. I am myself connected with this trade and I am in a position to speak on this matter with some personal experience. The Wheat Commissioner did come over here and it was made clear to him both by officials and non-officials that the position of the province with regard to stocks of wheat was not such that any quantity could be exported out of the province. Ordinarily it is to the interest of the province that it should be allowed to export wheat. But we should not lose sight of the fact that we are now living in abnormal circumstances and under abnormal conditions created by the war. It is quite necessary that every grain that the province has at the moment should be reserved for the consumption of the population of this province, and this province alone. When the Wheat Commissioner was here we told him that the interests of our own province were paramount and they required that the small stocks which the province had, should be reserved exclusively for the use of its inhabitants. He was further told, that the Government had made a mistake in allowing purchases of such big quantities for military purposes especially when the stocks of military in their mills were reported to have been very large. My information is that their mills are very much flooded with wheat. Under the circumstances, when their mills today are flooded with so much wheat, instead of releasing that wheat or at least part of that wheat for consumption of the population of this province they are going the wrong way about, asking us to export wheat out of the province. I therefore extend my fullest support to the motion that has been moved. I hope that the Punjab Government

will make their strongest and most effective protest to the Government of India and the Government of India will refrain from passing such an order for the export of wheat outside the province.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, this is an established fact that at the present time there is a serious wheat shortage in the Punjab which has resulted in a great hardship to the public and particularly to the residents of Lahore. Not a single day passes when people of Lahore do not go from shop to shop, from house to house, in search of wheat or flour. A large number of people of Lahore, people of standing and good social status, have come to me, during the past few days and have requested me to make arrangements to import wheat for them from Lyallpur, Sheikhupura or any other district. I very much regret to say that much of this trouble has been created by the Government themselves because they have prohibited the import of wheat in Lahore from other districts. For the past few days I have been staying in Lahore and I do not know as to what is happening in other districts. Yet I can say that probably there the situation is not as serious as it is in Lahore. Sir, in one of the books of Sikh traditions there is a saying in which such times have been foreseen. It is as follows :

اَللّٰہِ بَانَسِ بَرِیٰی کُو

It was beyond our comprehension to think that such a time would come in the Punjab when wheat would become so scarce that people would not be able to get it for keeping themselves alive. During our school days we used to read in our history books that at one time there was such a severe famine in India that although the wheat crop was almost mature and was about to be harvested yet there was so much dearth of food grain that people were dying of hunger and starvation. Now it appears as if history is going to repeat itself. As I have already pointed out and so many other honourable members over there have observed, the people undoubtedly are feeling great hardship because of acute wheat shortage and it is in view of this that my honourable friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has moved this adjournment motion. But granting all this we have to decide as to who is responsible for creating this situation in the Punjab. So far, the Honourable Premier has not thrown any light on this matter at all. If this adjournment motion had been sponsored with his consent, as we have every reason to think, it was imperative for him to have stated the facts before the House, as to why and how this situation had arisen in the province. If he had done so we would have come to know whether the Punjab Government was responsible for creating this situation or not? In the absence of any information I am inclined to think that this adjournment motion had been sponsored in order to hide the real facts from the people so that they may not blame this Government for creating this situation in the province. After all it is the magistrates and revenue officers of this Government who had been forcibly requisitioning wheat from different wheat markets and had been exporting it. If the Punjab Government knew that there was any danger of wheat shortage they could have prevented their own officers from requisitioning wheat for export purposes. If on the contrary they were so very weak and imbecile that they could do nothing save making this

[S. Sampuran Singh.]

protest in the shape of an adjournment motion I would say that they are in this way attempting to shift their responsibility on to the Government of India. One may ask if the Government of India had requisitioned a large stock of wheat from the Punjab against the will of the Punjab Government, why did not my friends resign? (*Voices: That is the point.*) (*Hear, hear, from the Ministerial Benches.*) Let me tell them that if anybody occupies a seat of authority and finds that he cannot manage the affairs as he would have to it is better for him to resign from that place than to stick to it. (*Hear, hear from the Ministerial Benches.*) In this connection I am reminded of the story of an old woman and Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni. It is said that an old woman went to him and said that in such and such a part of his dominions atrocities were committed against her son and that justice was not being meted out to her. The Sultan replied that that ilaga was far away, at another end of his Empire, and that it was very difficult for him to see to its affairs properly. At this the old woman remarked, "If you cannot administer it properly why do you not abdicate?" Similarly if my friends cannot manage the affairs of Government properly they should resign. (*Hear, hear from the Ministerial Benches.*) But they have done nothing of the sort. They are occupying their seats of Government all right but they do not admit their weakness. If they have admitted it in the form of this adjournment motion before the House, this only shows that they want to shift their blame on to the Government of India and they want to tell the people that it is the Government of India who had brought about this situation in the province. In my opinion this is nothing short of imbecility on the part of the Punjab Government to protest in this manner. So far we have not heard the other side, in fact no information is supplied to us. It is possible that Government may have some justification for adopting this kind of attitude. But without any such justification, which so far is not disclosed to us I think the levelling of this accusation against the Government of India that they are responsible for this serious wheat shortage in the Punjab is behaving like the thief who after committing a theft was running away and when his pursuers overtook him he mingled with them and cried, "thief, thief, catch him". It is exactly like that. This adjournment is only a screen which the Government has thrown up to make people believe that the responsibility of the present situation did not rest on their shoulders. But I fail to understand how the Unionist Government can absolve itself of this responsibility. If the Government could not demur against this act of the Central Government then they should have tried to do what I have suggested to them to relieve the present situation.

It is possible that some people may have some stocks of wheat and they may be selling them. But no such case has come to my notice. I do not think that anybody can be so foolish and stock wheat knowing full well that the next crop is due after a month or so, and at the time of the new crop the present prices of wheat are not likely to be raised. At the most one can say that there may be some who may have a little more stock of wheat than what they require for their own requirements.

The Government's notifications that people in possession of more than 20 maunds of wheat per family should inform the District Magistrate of the surplus, has been misinterpreted by the people. They interpret it

to mean that the Government wants to take possession of the surplus over 20 maunds. With this impression in mind they sold out the surplus. It was a mistake on the part of the Government to issue that notification. A friend of mine who understood the said notification to mean the same thing which I have explained, wrote to me requesting me to draw the attention of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to it and tell him that that notification was not only unjustified but was also harmful to the interests of the people. With these words I support the adjournment motion moved by my honourable friend.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (Urdu): Sir, the whole House appears to be unanimous with regard to this adjournment motion. I will not detain the House for more than a few minutes. I propose to say no more beyond laying before the House bare facts that will not take long and thereafter the honourable members will be free to go back to their residences and make arrangements for their individual needs of life. I wish the honourable member from Lyallpur, Sarder Sampuran Singh, had not made his speech without ascertaining the facts, relating to the wheat situation, which I am now going to place before the House. He referred to the order regarding declaration of stocks of wheat of 20 maunds and over. If all that he has stated in his speech is correct then the purpose of the aforesaid order has been achieved. The order by which people were required to declare their stocks of wheat was passed at the instance of the Wheat Controller with the object of finding out the extent of available stocks. But it was never intended to requisition the wheat stored by zamindars for their own personal use. (*Interruptions.*) I had nothing to do with the export of wheat. As I have said the order was made because it was necessary to ascertain if there was any surplus wheat beyond the requirements of this province. It was only day before yesterday that I stated in the House that according to the latest census there were only six lakhs maunds of visible stocks of wheat in the province, whereas our consumption is something like 4 lakhs of maunds per week. You can easily work out how long this meagre stock will last. But it appears that some people in spite of that order are holding stocks which have not been declared. It may be that certain individuals are keeping more than their normal requirements, say 30 instead of 20 maunds, of course not with the intention of making any profit but merely as a matter of precaution. I may remind the House of the well known saying—

Dashta ayad bakar.

It is not easy for the Government to locate such stocks. I wish they would realise that by releasing the surplus wheat in their possession they would be rendering a real service to the poor. I appeal to them that they should release the surplus stocks and keep only such quantity which would be sufficient to meet their requirements for say about five weeks. Let them hand over the surplus wheat to the district magistrates. By doing so they will be helping their poor fellow citizens and earn their gratitude.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: But the people fear that the police would prosecute them if they informed the district magistrates about the surplus they have got with them.

Premier : The honourable member is probably thinking of the dealers. Even in their case if they inform the district magistrates, say within a week or so, I will see to it that no action is taken against them. I will have instructions issued that no case should be instituted against those who declare their stocks within ten days of the date of that order.

Lala Duni Chand : A number of prosecutions are going on at this time.

Premier : They are going on because those people were guilty of hiding their stocks. But people who voluntarily declare their stocks will not be touched provided they furnish the necessary information within the time prescribed. I will have the necessary notification issued tomorrow. Does that satisfy my honourable friend ?

It is the moral as well as legal duty of all those individuals and traders who have any hidden stocks of wheat to come forward voluntarily and release the surplus for the consumption of the poor. After this no further concession will be given and whosoever withholds stocks after the expiry of ten days shall do so at his own risk. Thereafter wheat unearthed will be requisitioned at a price much lower than the control price and the difference will be paid over to those persons who help to trace and locate hidden stocks. In addition cash rewards will be made to those who give information leading to the discovery of hidden stocks of wheat with private individuals or traders.

I can assure the House that the Punjab Government made it quite clear to the Wheat Commissioner of the Government of India that before moving any wheat outside the province he should see that sufficient wheat is left to meet the requirements of the people here. I also told him that we are supplying wheat for the army and will continue to do so as we in the Punjab place the needs of the soldiers before the needs of every one else. (Applause). We cannot possibly ignore the requirements of the army—our kith and kin—who are gallantly fighting for the honour and safety of their motherland, so that we here may live in peace and comfort. (cheers). Hence we cannot but allow export of wheat for the army. But as the Honourable the Commerce Member pointed out the other day barely 5 per cent of our wheat is purchased for the fighting forces and exports for other purposes do not exceed another 5 per cent. or approximately 10 per cent. in all. According to these figures enough wheat should have been available in the province for our normal requirements. But judging from the present acute scarcity that is not the position. You may well ask, where has this surplus wheat gone ? Since it could not evaporate into the air it is obvious that some individuals and traders must be holding stocks which they have not declared. It was to locate stocks and the quantity of wheat available in the province that the order regarding declaration of stocks over 20 maunds was made. As a matter of opinion, I consider that the Central Government should have taken steps for the control of wheat much earlier. Control should have been enforced at harvest time. I am further of the opinion that the control price should have been fixed at a higher level in order to provide an incentive to the stockholders to sell their stocks freely. We would not mind a judicious control by the Central Government. They can export the whole surplus after leaving enough wheat for our needs and the requirements

of the army. Subject to these important conditions, we will have no objection to the Government of India exporting wheat from the Punjab to any province they like, even the wheat producing province such as the Central Provinces and the United Provinces. But our requirements must be met first. After that the first claim upon Punjab wheat is that of the army. We are prepared to make any sacrifice for the sake of our brave soldiers. But we have also to feed the families and dependents of those soldiers. If necessary we will eat coarser grains and see to it that our soldiers and their families get what they need. We will eat maize and bajra, but will not allow the families of our gallant soldiers to go without wheat. (*Cheers*). That is our aim and that is what patriotism demands. Sardar Sampuran Singh would have been well advised to have ascertained facts before making his speech. Any reasonable or sensible man would have done that. But the honourable member was anxious to have a fling at the Unionist Government. It seems that the stability of the Unionist Ministry which he is anxious to shake and has repeatedly tried to undermine but without any success, has affected his sense of proportion and fairness. He and his party have been trying for the last five years by various legitimate and illegitimate means to oust the present Government. The honourable member, I know, is anxious to occupy these benches, but I am afraid he will have to wait for a long time. May be at the next elections he may not be here to aspire for a ministership (*cheers from Ministerial benches*). He knows it that I am not here for the sake of power or personal ambition. I accepted this onerous and difficult job in response to the wishes of the province. I know my limitations, but as the House is aware I was practically forced by the province to leave a pleasant and lucrative job for this thankless task. I accepted it because I could not refuse to serve the province—my own province—when it insisted on my return to the Punjab. The Premier's post is not a bed of roses.

Lala Duni Chand: Make the offer to Malik Barkat Ali.

Premier: I know what the honourable member is hinting at. But I do not wish to expose the internal bickerings and jealousies within his party. I am also aware that Malik Barkat Ali has been intriguing with the honourable member's friends. He is also ambitious and covetous as evidenced by his past record. (*Laughter*). The honourable member for Lyallpur and Malik Barkat Ali as also several other members on the opposite benches realise that so long as I am here they cannot hope to weaken the position of the ministerial Party. (*Applause*). I also know that they feel that my presence in the House is responsible for frustrating their unholy efforts. I am afraid, however, that I cannot oblige them at any rate during the war (*cheers*). I am pledged to a policy of all-out help in this war and that is also the mandate of the people of the Punjab (*cheers*). I am a servant of the people and the province and I cannot leave it in the lurch at this juncture (*hear, hear*). I hope and pray that providence may give me strength and courage to see this war through to victory (*loud applause*). It is in that spirit that I have been serving the Punjab for the last five years, and God willing shall continue to serve it to the best of my ability and capacity until we emerge victoriously from this war with credit and honour. (*Loud Cheers.*)

[Premier:]

It has been said during the course of the discussion that Government has been remiss in allowing wheat to be exported to other provinces. As I have already said I clearly explained the whole position to the wheat controller. I told him frankly that we are prepared to help the Government of India in the matter of exporting surplus wheat from this province, but that no wheat should be taken away from the Punjab until arrangements have been made to meet the requirements of the province. We placed before him all available facts and figures regarding the wheat position in the Punjab. This was about a fortnight ago. It was also made clear to him that the visible stocks of wheat in the province would hardly be sufficient to last us for more than a few weeks. I therefore cannot understand why the Wheat Controller should have ordered the despatch of 30,000 maunds of wheat to the United Provinces. But we must reserve judgment until we know the facts. I will try to ascertain facts. According to our calculation our minimum requirements are four hundred thousand maunds of wheat per week, while the total visible stocks are only six hundred thousand maunds. My honourable friends are aware that in order to tide over the difficulty arising out of the acute scarcity of wheat, we have been suggesting to the public to mix maize or barley flour with wheat flour in order to eke out our meagre stocks.

All these facts and considerations were brought to the notice of the Government of India.

Sardar Ajit Singh : What is the opinion of my honourable friend with regard to the price control ?

Premier : Our view is an open secret. Our opinion was and still is that if it is decided to control the price of wheat, the price should be fixed at a figure which would be fair both to the consumer and the grower. If a fair price is fixed no one can have any objection to the imposition of restriction and control. The honourable members opposite have criticised us for the institution of this control. It is obvious that when prices rose, the poorer classes began to raise a hue and cry. They said that while the price of wheat shot up, their wages remained stationary and no increase was made in them commensurate with the rise in price. Hence the Government of India, it seems instead of making some provision for enhancement of wages by private employers, took the line of least resistance and instituted a control over wheat, fixing the price of wheat at Rs. 4-6-0. If this price is not increased at the time of the coming harvest it would be most unfair and unjust to the grower.

Lala Duni Chand : Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram differs from you on this point.

Premier : Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram does nothing of the kind. You misunderstand him and try to misrepresent him. He agrees with me that it is not fair to keep the price at the present level. If at the next harvest the Government of India decide to continue the control over wheat and fix a reasonable price, we will not object to this control. But even then we cannot but insist on the condition that only after meeting our requirements out of the province should any wheat be exported.

An honourable member : May we know your opinion about the control over wheat ?

Premier : It appears my honourable friend was not in his seat when I answered a similar question from one of his colleagues. However, for his benefit I will repeat that we are not opposed to the control over wheat provided a fair control price is fixed. This is how we feel about it and the view point of the Punjab Government was made quite clear at the recent conference convened by the Government of India.

Sardar Ajit Singh : What about the order of the District Magistrate banning the import of wheat into Lahore ?

Premier : These interruptions break the thread of my speech. I was going to refer to this point. Only my honourable friend should exercise a little patience. To come back to the point, we brought to the notice of the Government of India, the present wheat position in the province and told them that we could not afford to allow any wheat to be exported to other provinces unless we succeed in unearthing substantial hidden stocks. The Government of India have kindly offered to supply one lakh maunds of rice to tide over the difficult period between now and the marketing of the new wheat crop. We have gratefully accepted this offer, and very shortly the Punjab will receive a sufficient supply of rice. I would request the honourable members to persuade and advise the people to adapt themselves to a diet of rice, if they have no other food grains available. This is just a make-shift arrangement and only for a short period of a few weeks. I am confident that with this assistance we will be able to tide over the acute difficulty now being experienced by the people.

As for the prohibitory order of the District Magistrate referred to by Sardar Ajit Singh, its justification lies in the fact that certain persons had begun to import wheat surreptitiously at places like Shahdara, Badami Bagh, Moghalpura, etc. to feed the black market making enormous profits. They charged prices ranging to Rs. 8 per maund. But owing to the acute scarcity the public was forced to pay that exorbitant price. The object of this order has been misunderstood. It was never the intention of the District Magistrate that wheat flour brought by a person for his own consumption, should be subject to any restriction. The District Magistrate proposes to elucidate or cancel his order shortly.

My honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani was very critical and unnecessarily vehement in his remarks. He delivered a tirade against the Government of India. If I were also to ignore my position and responsibility I could have answered back in the same strain. However I will not go into that matter in this place and during this debate. I agree that the action of the Government of India over the matter of control was belated. As I have already said it would have been far better if the control had come at the harvest time. Moreover the action of the Wheat Commissioner in ordering the export of 30,000 maunds of wheat seems to be arbitrary and unfair. But as I have said we must reserve judgment until we are aware of all the facts. It is strange that our wheat should be exported to the

[Premier.]

United Provinces which is itself a wheat producing province and grows a large quantity of wheat and exports it. This reminds me of the saying—

اللّٰہ بانس بریلی کرا (Laughter.)

However we have made representations to the Government of India and we must leave it at that for the present. I would, in these circumstances, appeal to the people to face the situation calmly and eat maize, bajra and barley. I quite realise that urban people will find some difficulty in adjusting themselves to coarser grains like maize and bajra, but they will no doubt realise that we must all share these difficulties and not hesitate to make sacrifices for the common good. They should know that in other countries no white bread is available and people are living on black bread and even that is rationed. We in this country are comparatively much better off and should not grudge the minor restrictions imposed in the interest of the province as a whole. Those who are well off should reduce their consumption in order to help their less fortunate neighbours. So far as next harvest is concerned the House may rest assured that Government will make every endeavour to guard against a recurrence of the present shortage, and I am confident that it should be possible to avoid it if all concerned co-operate in a spirit of mutual trust and accommodation. (Applause.)

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal : In view of the assurance given by the Honourable Premier I do not want to press this motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 16th March, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EIGHTH SESSIONS OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 16th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SLAUGHTER OF KINE.

***8146. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of the villages in the Ambala district in which restrictions have been placed on the slaughter of kine on *Id-uz-zuha* since 1937 and the name of the Deputy Commissioner who placed these restrictions;
- (b) the details of restrictions placed in each village;
- (c) the community which has proprietary rights in these villages showing the area of land held by each community and the population of each community in each of these villages;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Muslims and non-Muslims live in separate *mohallas* in these villages; if so, the reasons for placing these restrictions;
- (e) the action that Government intend to take in the matter to remove these restrictions?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : This question is essentially a communal one, and in accordance with the usual convention, I propose to treat it as unstarred, and a written reply will be sent to the honourable member in due course.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : A very curious reply.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is there any criterion to judge communal questions?

SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT.

***8225. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the detenus who have recently been repatriated from the Deoli Detention Camp to the Sub-Jail, Gujrat, were allowed in Deoli to have their clothes prepared according to their own choice and measurements;

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

- (b) whether it is a fact that similar facilities are not afforded to the detenus in the Gujrat Sub-Jail and the detenus are asked to select their dress from ready-made clothes whether these fit them or not; if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) The choice of material was in the hands of the Superintendent. Each prisoner was individually measured for his clothing. Any slight difference in pattern was permitted provided it cost no more than the standard pattern allowed by the Superintendent.

(b) They have been offered clothing made of khadi as an alternative—to measure, if they like.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary please state whether at the Deoli Camp the detenus were allowed to have clothing of their choice?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: Yes.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: What is the reason for disallowing this particular facility in the case of the detenus in the Gujrat Sub-Jail?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: I would like to have notice for that question.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: Notice is already there in part (a) of my question.

Parliamentary Private Secretary: If my honourable friend reads his question he will find that he has asked whether certain facilities were allowed in Deoli Detention Camp. He has not asked for the reasons.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: I have asked for the reason for this difference. I do not think it requires any notice. Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary quote the rule under which it is done?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: What is done?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: Why is this particular concession not enjoyed by the detenus in the Gujrat Sub-Jail, while it was being enjoyed by them in the Deoli Detention Camp?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: I have already stated in reply to part (b) that they have been offered clothing made of khadi as an alternative—to measure, if they like. What more does he want? Does he want to clothe them with *makhmal*?

SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT.

***8226. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no arrangement in the Gujrat Sub-Jail for the detenus to play any games like foot ball, hockey, volleyball, tennis, cricket and badminton;

(b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) and (b) Arrangements exist in the New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, for playing volleyball and badminton, but arrangements for games like cricket, hockey, foot-ball and tennis cannot be made in the jail for want of the necessary grounds.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO DETENUS IN SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT.

*8227. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount, if any, that has been given to the detenues in the Sub-Jail, Gujrat, as a family allowance;
- (b) the names of the detenues who have been given the above-mentioned allowance and the amount in each case;
- (c) the names of the detenues who refused or accepted the above-mentioned allowance;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Master Kabul Singh, M.L.A., who was given an allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem as a family allowance has refused to accept it; if so, whether he has recorded any reasons for refusing the offer; and, if so, will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The grant of allowances to the families of detenues is entirely discretionary with Government. Careful enquiries about the private affairs of each family are made and where necessary an allowance is given. I must decline to enter into details of particular cases.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: I want to know the names of the detenues asked for in part (b) of my question.

Parliamentary Private Secretary: I have already stated that I must decline to enter into details of particular cases.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: I do not want to know the details, but I want to know the names.

Parliamentary Private Secretary: I am sorry I cannot give the names of particular cases.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: May I know the reasons why the Parliamentary Private Secretary is not prepared to disclose the names?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: My honourable friend knows that in the public interest I cannot disclose those names.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: May I know the answer to part (d)? Whether Master Kabul Singh refused to accept the allowance?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: I may once again repeat the last portion of my answer in which I have said that I must decline to enter into details of particular cases. This is a particular case and my honourable friend wants to know the details of that particular case.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: Particular detail is already supplied in the answer. I am only asking whether Master Kabul Singh's family was given an allowance of Rs. 10?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: I am sorry I cannot enter into details of particular cases.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: I am not asking for details. I am only asking whether it is a fact or not.

SLAUGHTER OF KINE IN VILLAGE MALAKPUR.

***8232. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Muslim residents of village Malakpur, Tahsil Rupar, District Ambala, performed their religious ceremony of sacrifice on the occasion of the last *Bakar-Id* festival that fell on 29th December, 1941; if not, why not;
- (b) whether it is a fact that under an order of the Commissioner, Ambala division, dated 24th April, 1928, the residents of this village were licensed to slaughter kine on the occasion of the festival of *Bakar-Id* only on certain conditions, one of which was "that the parts of the kine so slaughtered that are not eaten shall be properly and promptly buried or burnt";
- (c) whether it is a fact that since this year kine have been sacrificed on the occasion of the *Id-ul-zuha* and the skins of the kine so slaughtered have been removed in cover to the town of Rupar and sold to the Khatiks, the sale-proceeds of the skins of the slaughtered kine being devoted in accordance with Muhammadan Law to charitable religious purposes;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, insisted on the Muslim residents of Rupar that, while performing cow sacrifice, they must fulfil the condition of burying or burning the skins of kine so slaughtered;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that under the religion of Islam all animals slaughtered on the occasion of *Id-ul-zuha* cannot be buried or burnt;
- (f) whether the Muslim residents of Rupar submitted a representation to Government praying that the order of Mr. Shrinagesh, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, should be amended in time to enable them to perform their sacrifice on the occasion of the *Id-ul-zuha* of 1941;
- (g) whether Government passed any orders in time on this representation or not? If not, why not, and whether Government intends to take any action in the matter or not?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : This question is essentially a communal one, and in accordance with the usual convention, I propose to treat it as unstarred, and a written reply will be sent to the honourable member in due course.

Malik Barkat Ali : Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary realise that this question is not of a communal character, but is a question which relates to residents of Malakpur on the one side and the Government on the other?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : Does it not refer to one particular community?

Malik Barkat Ali : If it refers to a particular community or communities as against another, I can well understand the point of objection of my honourable friend. But I wish to draw his attention to the fact

that the question relates to Muslims on the one side and the Government on the other. It is not a question between the Hindus and Muslims.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : My question was also of the same type.

Parliamentary Private Secretary : The Government is of the opinion that this question is a communal one.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Communal amongst Muslims.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I ask the Government to define the word "communalism" so that in future we may be careful in drafting such questions?

SHRIMATI SHANNO DEVI.

***8247. Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the order restraining Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A., from attending public meetings and processions, etc., alleged to have been served upon her in September, 1940?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : A copy of the order is laid on the table—

Order.

No. B-6685-S.D.S.B.—WHEREAS the Governor of the Punjab is satisfied with respect to the person known as Mussammatt Shanno Devi, M.L.A., wife of Daya Ram of Lahore, that with a view to preventing her from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of the war it is necessary to make an order;

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 26 (1) (f) of the Defence of India Rules, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to direct that the said Mussammatt Shanno Devi, M.L.A., shall not take part in, or make speeches in, any public procession, meeting or assembly.

For the purposes of this order, any procession, meeting or assembly which is open to the public or to any class or portion of the public, whether held in a public or a private place and whether admission thereto is restricted by the issue of tickets or otherwise, shall be deemed to be a public procession, meeting or assembly as the case may be.

By order of the Governor of the Punjab,
J. D. ANDERSON,

Joint Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab.

DATED SIMLA-E.,
The 24th August, 1940. }

***8248. Cancelled.**

DIVISION-WISE AND COMMUNITY-WISE PROPORTIONS IN SERVICES.

***8231. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the date when the division-wise and community-wise proportions for some Government services were fixed, and also the date when this decision was enforced;

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

(b) the proportions fixed for each community in every division ;

(c) the names of the Government departments now working with the division-wise and community-wise proportions in services and also of those in which these proportions have not been adhered to with the reasons for the same ;

(d) the reasons why this division-wise and community-wise proportions have not been enforced so far in the rest of the Government departments ; and when these proportions are to be applied to such departments ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Orders on the subject of the communal proportions to be observed in filling appointments were issued on varying dates by departments in respect of the establishments under their control. The suggestion that future recruitment should be made on communal proportions was first made by Government in February, 1939.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) To secure correct communal representation in divisional and district ministerial establishment the Financial Commissioners introduced a scheme worked out on a divisional basis in December, 1939. Similarly a scheme worked out on a district basis was applied in May, 1940, by the Honourable Judges to the establishments of subordinate courts which are recruited locally. Each scheme is designed to secure correct communal representation in these establishments throughout the Punjab as a whole. Neither apply to other establishments which are recruited on a provincial basis.

(d) Does not arise as the principle of communal representation has been recognised for the purpose of recruitment in all departments of Government.

Statement showing the communal percentages fixed for recruitment to divisional and district establishments.

Name of Division.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Others.
Ambala Division	30	10	55	5
Jullundur Division	30	30	35	5
Lahore Division	50	20	15	5
Rawalpindi Division	75	10	10	5
Multan Division	65	20	10	5

Malik Barkat Ali : Will the Honourable Revenue Minister kindly state whether this question is communal or not, and, if it is communal, why the Government has departed from that convention which it has been laying emphasis on and on the basis of which convention has been refusing to answer such questions ?

Minister of Revenue : It is a general question ; it does not ask for any information relating to one community and nor does it suggest the proportion as between one single community or another in a single department.

BAND IN NAKTI NADI.

***8147. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that owing to the structure of a band in Nakti Nadi flowing on the north of Sadhaura town, the stream has diverted its course and it is now flowing by the holy shrine of Hazrat Shah Qumais ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the pressure of water caused by the diversion of the course of stream is likely to cause damage to the shrine and the buildings appurtenant thereto ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Muslims of this town are upset by this ; if so, the action that Government intend to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No complaint has been received from the Muslims of Sadhaura.

SAINIS.

***8200. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- a) whether the Sainis of the Ludhiana district are members of the notified agricultural tribes ;
- (b) whether any of them have been taken into the Ludhiana district Police Force during the last five years, if so, their number, educational qualifications and home villages ;
- (c) how many Sainis of the Punjab have been taken into the Ludhiana Police Force during the last five years and how many at present serve in the Ludhiana district as policemen and officers ;
- (d) the names of the persons mentioned in (c) together with their educational qualifications, home districts and place of residence ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Seventeen. Twenty-two.

[Sh. Faiz Muhammad.]

(d)—

(d) No.	Educational qualifications.	Home district and place of residence.
1	F. A.	Lorua, District Jullundur.
2	—	Pattian, Hoshiarpur.
3	Slightly educated	Sattaur, Hoshiarpur.
4	—	Ditto.
5	9th Class	Ditto.
6	F. A.	Kheri, Ambala.
7	Middle	Gobindgarh, Hoshiarpur.
8	—	Bari, Rohtak.
9	—	Jalawal, Hoshiarpur.
10	Up to Matric	Pathial, Hoshiarpur.
11	Middle	Ditto.
12	Matric	Munak, Hoshiarpur.
13	Middle	Balram, Ambala.
14	Middle	Karala Kalan, Hoshiarpur.
15	B.A.	Gobindgarh, Khun-Khun, Hoshiarpur.
16	Middle	Premgarh, Hoshiarpur.
17	Matric	Balochaur, Hoshiarpur.
18	Matric	Chak No. 295-G.B., Lyallpur.
19	Matric	Gill, Hoshiarpur
20	—	Jia Natha, Hoshiarpur.
21	Up to Matric	Dodoana, Hoshiarpur.
22	Middle	Nurpur, Hoshiarpur.

It is not in the public interest to reveal their names.

LAHORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY.

*8233. **Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the licence of the Lahore Electric Supply Company expires ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the Lahore Municipality has expressed its inability to purchase the undertaking on the expiry of the said licence;
- (c) if the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the Government has decided to exercise the option of purchase vested in it under the Indian Electricity Act;
- (d) the date, if any, from which the Government propose to take over the said undertaking;
- (e) whether he is aware of the fact that the non-exercise of the option of purchase on the part of the Government at the proper time will automatically give the Lahore Electric Supply Company another term of 20 years;
- (f) what progress, if any, has so far been made towards the transfer of the undertaking from the said company to the Government?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) The option to purchase the undertaking is first exercisable on 26th November, 1942.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) 26th November, 1942.

(e) Yes.

(f) Measures necessary for the purpose of taking over the Lahore Electric Supply undertaking are under active consideration of Government.

Mian Abdul Rab: May I know whether any steps have been taken so far or not?

Parliamentary Secretary: Steps which ought to have been taken up to this time have been taken.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: May I know whether Government is aware that it is going to cost a few crores of rupees?

Parliamentary Secretary: I thank the honourable member for the information.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: May I know if provision has been made in the budget?

Parliamentary Secretary: When the time comes necessary provision will be made.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: Can it be possible to take private property without making the provision?

Parliamentary Secretary: Government has not so far taken any private property without paying due compensation as required by law.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: The Parliamentary Secretary has said that necessary provision will be made in the budget—at least that is what I understood. Can he express any idea as to when the necessary provision will be made?

Parliamentary Secretary: No property can be taken without making the necessary provision for the payment of compensation. I can

[Sh. Faiz Muhammad.]

assure the honourable member that provision for due compensation will be made before the undertaking is taken up by the Government.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : To be paid in cash ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Naturally, if so required by law.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Will the money be borrowed or will it be paid out of the revenues of the province ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is a matter which the Government will decide.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I want to know whether the money is going to be borrowed or whether it will be paid out of the provincial revenue or the savings of the revenues ?

Minister for Public Works : That will require examination. I do not think I can enlighten the honourable member further, however anxious he may be.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Examination of what ?

Minister for Public Works : Examination of the question of making the necessary provision ; so far Government have not made up its mind.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : As regards the source from which this money is to be provided ?

Minister : My answer was clear enough.

Mian Abdul Aziz : With reference to part (e) of this question may I know whether it is to be extended for another 20 years or less than that period ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have answered that question in the affirmative, that it will be for another 20 years.

CIVIL DISPENSARY AND GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN LAHORE.

*8134. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the city of Lahore extending over many miles there is only one Civil Dispensary for Government servants which is almost inaccessible to low-paid Government servants residing in distant quarters of the city like Ichhra and Mozang, and that this causes great inconvenience and hardship to such Government servants when in need of medical aid ; if so, whether Government contemplate taking any action for the convenience of the Government servants residing in quarters distant from the dispensary ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haya : *Part I.*—Besides the Civil Dispensary and the Mayo Hospital there are five other dispensaries situated within the Municipal limits of Lahore, viz., Mozang, Qila Gujar Singh, Hiramandi, Sanda Kalan and Shahdara, to which Government servants residing in the different localities can resort for medical aid whenever they stand in need of it. Although these dispensaries are maintained by the Lahore Municipality they are in charge of Government medical officers who are bound to render medical aid to Government servants applying for it.

Part II.—Does not arise.

ZAMINDARA SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS.

***8201. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number at present of zamindara scholarship holders in the various high schools in the Ludhiana district giving separately the number of those who belong to the notified agricultural tribes of the Ludhiana district?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) The number at present of Zamindari scholarship holders in the various high schools in the Ludhiana district | 21 |
| (2) The number of those who belong to the notified agricultural tribes of the Ludhiana district | 21 |

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ZAMINDARS.

***8202. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Government scholarships reserved for the sons of the zamindars reading in the Government College at Ludhiana and also state how many of the scholarship holders now on the roll of that college are residents of the Ludhiana district?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Government scholarships, tenable in Arts colleges are not reserved for scholars joining a particular college and there are no such scholarships reserved for the sons of zamindars reading in the Government College at Ludhiana. One of the scholarship holders on the rolls of the college, viz., Kulwant Kaur, who is a daughter of a zamindar, is a resident of Ludhiana district.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COW SACRIFICE AT VILLAGE KOTLA.

1521. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the population, community-wise, of village Kotla, tahsil Rupar, district Ambala;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rupar, went to the said village on the *Bakar-Id* day in December, 1941, on the report of the Muslims of that village to the police that there was a likelihood of a breach of peace in the said village;
- (c) if so, how many people he found there armed with *lathis*, *chhatis*, etc., and to which community they belonged;
- (ii) what action was taken by him against the armed crowd;
- (iii) if no action was taken, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said magistrate promulgated section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, in the aforesaid village; if so, for what purpose and against whom;
- (d) whether the Muslims were allowed to perform the sacrifice of cows on that day; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan :

(a) 800, all Muslims.

(b) Yes, on receipt of a telegram from the local police.

(i) The number varied from time to time, the maximum number being about 2,500. They were all outside village Kotla, armed with *lathis*, sharp-edged instruments and were all non-Muslims, chiefly Sikhs.

(ii) The crowd was persuaded to disperse.

(iii) Does not arise.

(c) Yes. Prohibiting Maulvi Shahab-ud-Din, Ali Muhammad and other Muslim residents of village Kotla, from slaughtering kine within the limits of the above said village.

(d) No. There was a danger of a breach of the peace.

COMMUNAL PROPORTIONS IN THE GREY CANAL DEPARTMENT.**1522. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Grey Canal Department is being controlled by the Deputy Commissioner, (District Board) Ferozepore ;

(b) whether it is a fact that no communal representation has so far been fixed in the services of this department ;

(c) whether it is a fact that sometime ago on this fact being brought to the notice of Mr. M. R. Sachdev, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, and Chairman of the District Board by Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh, the former promised to give his consideration to this matter ;

(d) whether, as a result of the promised consideration, any action has so far been taken in the matter of fixing communal proportions in the services of that department; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) The matter has been reported by the local officers and is under the consideration of Government. A decision is likely to be arrived at shortly.

COMMUNAL PROPORTIONS FOR SERVICES UNDER LOCAL BODIES.**1523. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number and the names of the local bodies in the province in which community-wise proportions for services have so far been fixed, giving separately the proportions fixed for each community in each local body with the population and voting strength of each community in that local body ?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : It is doubtful whether any local bodies have prescribed any fixed communal formula for the services under them. Government have never suggested to them to abide by any fixed arithmetical formula, though instructions have been issued from time to time that appointments should be made by the local bodies in such a manner as to give no cause for legitimate grievance to any particular community that its interests had been unjustly neglected. The time and labour required to be spent in collecting the requisite information from each local body in the province will be incommensurate with the importance of the subject.

**COMMUNAL PROPORTIONS IN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
FEROZEPUR.**

1524. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the communal percentage fixed for services in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur;
- (b) the date when this percentage was enforced in that office;
- (c) the number of persons employed, community-wise, in each year in permanent services, temporary services and as leave reservists, and as candidate since the time these percentages were fixed?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) and (b)—

(i) From January, 1940—

Muslims 80 per cent, Sikhs 80 per cent, Hindus 85 per cent and Others 5 per cent.

(ii) From 1st January, 1942—

Muslims 40 per cent, Sikhs 40 per cent, Hindus 15 per cent and Others 5 per cent.

(c)—

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.
<i>Year 1940.</i>				
Permanent including leave reservists ..	1	3	2	Nil.
Temporary including candidates ..	8	15	4	Nil.
<i>Year 1941.</i>				
Permanent including leave reservists ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Temporary including candidates ..	10	10	9	1
<i>Year 1942 (up to 28th February).</i>				
Permanent including leave reservists ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Temporary including candidates ..	10	11	9	1

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Speaker : I have appointed the following members to constitute the House Committee of the Legislative Assembly for the current session of the Assembly :—

Begum Shah Nawaz ;

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani ;

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi ;

Chaudhri Tika Ram ;

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal ;

Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

The Deputy Speaker shall act as the Chairman of the Committee and the Deputy Secretary of the Assembly shall be its Secretary.

The function of this Committee will be to advise the Speaker on such matters as may be referred to it from time to time.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,44,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of General Administration.

Mr. Speaker : The demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,44,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of General Administration.

General policy of the Government.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) : I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

Sir, I am glad that after all a representative from Ambala division has been fortunate enough to catch your eye. For the past five years we have been patiently witnessing how the Muslim members of the Ambala division have been subjected to all sorts of discouragements by not even allowing them to speak. We the representatives of the Ambala division have always been handicapped and prevented from giving vent to the grievances of these victims of oppression on the floor of this House. During all these five years we have been permitted to raise our voice of complaint only on two or three occasions. It is only natural that every member should wish to ventilate the grievances of his constituency in the budget session on the floor of this august House and seek redress from the Government. But I am obliged to say that we have always been discouraged in all such attempts. It is a patent fact that the Muslims in the Ambala division are abjectly poor and educationally the most backward in the whole of the Punjab. The part of the country to which they belong is unfortunately the birthplace of famine and scarcity and a large part of it is deprived of the blessings of irrigation. Still we are not permitted to speak of its

misery and to ask for relief for these unfortunate people. We have been witnessing for the last five years the Muslims in the Ambala division being put to great inconvenience and harassment. The members of the Assembly hailing from the Ambala division have been crying for the redress of the grievances of the Muslims of the division in various ways, but their cry has proved a cry in the wilderness. I have always been anxious to bring to the notice of the House their pitiable conditions and the disabilities under which they are labouring. Now is the chance for me to ventilate their grievances before this House.

It is an admitted fact that the Muslims of the Ambala division are very backward in the matter of education, and to add to their woes the greater part of the division is unirrigated; hence they have often to face famine. Not only this, they are put to all sorts of hardships and they are not permitted by non-Muslims (Jats) to celebrate and observe their religious obligations freely. All sorts of obstacles are put in their way. This has been preying upon my mind for a long time and it is under the stress of this emotion that I am moving a motion which I feel I should not have done while sitting on these benches but at the same time I am glad this would give an opportunity to the Government to look into and redress the grievances of the poor and famine-stricken Muslim inhabitants of the Ambala division. It is not just for pleasure that I am making these submissions before the House. On the other hand, my aim is to draw your attention to the hard conditions under which they are living in the hope that their grievances will be redressed. We want to safeguard the interests, which so far have been trampled under foot by the non-Muslims and ignored by the Government. Even the Muslims of other divisions are conscious of the fact that we are not being given any share in the Government services. Before the Unionist Government came into power, we were certainly better off, but since the advent of the Unionist Ministry, our condition has been worsening day by day. We are praying for those good old days, when there was no Unionist Party and no Unionist Government. There are various reasons for this apathy on the part of the Government, for example, there has been a difference of opinion amongst the members of the Government on the question of agriculturists *versus* non-agriculturists, ruralites *versus* urbanites, martial and non-martial classes. Although now every community is allowed to join the forces after the war ends in victory the same discrimination will be introduced. Perhaps they think that the residents of the Ambala division belong to some other province and that they are not Punjabis. But after the war is over, there will again arise the question of martial and non-martial races.

Minister of Public Works : There is no question of martial or non-martial races now.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : They want the roses without the thorns. They are akin to horses ready for the fodder, but chary of the curb.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : No, that is not the case. We are ready to serve the Government at all times and in all respects. These deceitful words will have no effect on us. With all that we, the Muslim members of the Ambala division, are still trying our utmost to see

[Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

that the Muslims of the Ambala division join the army in large numbers and contribute generously towards the War Fund. The voluntary collection made by the Muslims in aid of war charities and the recruitment of the Muslims of the Ambala division are a positive proof of this.

The clouds of war are gathering round India. We are now in the war zone and we are giving what we can, both in men and money, to ward off this danger from our shores. There is no doubt that our lives and property are in danger. We are being deprived of the Government services, and what is worse, our religion is also in danger at the hands of the Jats, as stated already. We are not allowed to call the *azan* and offer our prayers without let or hindrance in the villages, where the Hindu Jats are in a majority. The Government was repeatedly asked to take an effective step in this matter but they turned a deaf ear to our requests; perhaps it was all due to the predominant position of the Jats there, whom they did not want to displease at any cost.

I would further add that the Muslims of the Ambala division are subjected to all kinds of cruelties at the hands of the Hindu Jats and it is not very uncommon that they resort to *lathis* to make their over-lordship felt by the Muslims, and are assaulted unawares and murdered while they are sleeping or sitting in their homes.

An Honourable Member : Give some instances.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I can quote not one, but twenty instances. The murders committed by Jats in Bhatgaon and Barata villages of Rohtak district are glaring instances. I can quote lot of such instances. Only to-day I received replies to two of my questions notices of which were given some time back. One related to certain acts of high handedness on the part of Hindu and Sikh Jats at Mauza Malikpur, district Ambala and the other was a general question relating to the restrictions placed on the Muslims in the matter of sacrifice on the occasion of Id-ul-zuha in some villages of the Ambala district. But they were held to be communal questions. Government can call anything communal or non-communal according to their fancy, and thus get out of any difficulty that may arise in replying to our questions. My friend Malik Barkat Ali and myself were surprised to know that my questions were communal ones. Ever since the Unionist Ministry came into power, the Muslims of the Ambala division have been put to a lot of inconveniences and have to face innumerable difficulties to offer sacrifices on Id-ul-zuha. In fact since the advent of the British Government in India, the Muslim residents of the village Malikpur could perform the sacrifice in peace. For a few years back they have always been threatened with dire consequences by the Sikhs and Jats residing in the neighbourhood. I do not deny that the Government came forward to interfere but....

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : What ! What !

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Mr. Speaker, please ask Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani not to interrupt me. He is in the habit of doing so.

Mr. Speaker : I request the honourable member not to interrupt the Khawaja Sahib.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samed : But that interference on the part of the Government resulted in nothing, for the Government in order to satisfy some party, is in the habit of passing meaningless and absurd orders.

In the village of Malikpur the Muslims are in an overwhelming majority, but in spite of that the Government ordered them this year that they could perform their sacrifices if they burnt the skins of slaughtered animals or buried them. This order is a direct interference with our religion which enjoins that the skins of the slaughtered animals should be sold and the money thus obtained distributed among orphans, widows and poor beggars. The Muslims launched a protest against it, but to no purpose. Nobody paid any heed to their grievances. The Government perhaps felt ashamed of revising this improper and absurd order. I warn the Government even now that they must withdraw this order, lest some undesirable incident should occur there, for which the Government will be held responsible.

As a matter of fact the poor Muslims did not contravene that order and did nothing to oppose those Hindus. not because they were afraid of them but because the sword of a third party was hanging over their heads. I may tell my friends that the Musalmans are not afraid of the Hindus. On the contrary, it is their belief that they can defeat the Hindus even if they outnumber them in the ratio of ten to one. That is not a vain boast only. Many instances can be quoted in its support, e.g., in the year 1928 in this very village (Malikpur) nearly 100 Muslims faced thousands of Sikhs and Hindus to protect their sacred religion and beat them so very severely that they took to their heels and never thought thereafter of coming back again. When there is the question of religion Musalmans do not hesitate even to sacrifice their lives. When they come out to fight for upholding their religion, no power on earth can beat them and can prevent them from performing the rites of their own religion. Anyway these things have happened under the very eyes of Government. The poor Musalmans of Malikpur as a protest did not offer any sacrifice on Id day this year. These poor people are now maintaining 38 animals which they had brought for the purpose of sacrificing on the Id-ul-azha day. I ask the honourable Muslim members of the House whether after hearing such incidents they do not feel sorry over the woeful plight of the Musalmans of the Ambala division, who though poor and helpless are their brethren and co-religionists? No, they do not feel these things at all. They are helpless. Their own personal ends are such that they cannot bring themselves up to reprimand the Government for such things. It is a matter of great regret that they have placed their own selfish ends before their religion. As a result of the order of Government officers that Musalmans should burn or bury the hides of those animals which they had brought for the purpose, they refrained from offering sacrifice as a protest and thus have now to incur a good deal of expenditure in order to maintain those cattle. Now fairness and justice demands that Government should pay those expenses which the poor Muslims have been incurring for maintaining those cattle. But

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

what justice can be expected from this Government which is out to do injustice to the Musalmans? In fact this is a clear instance to show that religious freedom is being denied to the Muslims of Malikpur and their religion is being interfered with on account of which they could not perform their rite of sacrifice. Sir, in the same tahsil there is another village named Kotla. Its population entirely consists of Musalman Gujars. Previously they had been performing the rite of sacrifice on Id-ul-zuha. But when last year the Muslims of this village were preparing to slaughter their *qurbanis*, a police head-constable named Yad Ram asked the Hindus stealthily to gather around that village for protecting their *matas* (cows) which the Musalmans wanted to slaughter there. The result was that the Hindus and Sikhs gathered there in thousands and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Rupar, who already knew all the facts, arrived on the spot. Instead of helping the Musalmans to perform their legitimate rite of sacrifice and to preserve the *status quo* the Sub-Divisional Officer concerned promulgated Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, on Muslims there and ordered the inhabitants (Muslims) of that village not to get out of that village for a period of three days and that if anybody contravened that order, severe action would be taken against him. The Musalmans pointed out to him that that matter concerned their religion which enjoined upon them to slaughter animals on the Id-ul-zuha day and that he should not prevent them from observing their religious rite. The Sub-Divisional Officer replied that as their religion enjoins upon them to sacrifice the cows on Id day, his religion forbade him not to allow the slaughter of cows and therefore he could not allow them to do so. The result was that he promulgated section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, and thus prohibited the Musalmans from sacrificing their animals. But he took no action against those people who came there armed with lathis, chhavis, bhalas, takwas, Jellis, axes and all sorts of deadly weapons and did not order the arrest of anybody, simply because they were his co-religionists. What is still more astonishing is that when the conduct of the said head constable was reported to the Superintendent of Police concerned with a request to transfer him from Thana Morinda he instead of transferring him appointed him to hold inquiries into the matter and prepare a list of those persons who had gathered there in thousands to overawe the small population of the Musalmans.

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That is how the Musalmans are being hoodwinked by the officials and this is the treatment that is being meted out to them. Then, there is another village named Dadyana, only two miles away from the town of Ambala City, whose inhabitants with the exception of one carpenter are Musalmans. These people were ordered by the late Deputy Commissioner to perform their rite of sacrifice only for two days, viz., on the 11th and 12th of Id and not on the 10th which is the first and the most important day of sacrifice as enjoined by the Muslim Shariat. This order was communicated to Muslims nearly a week before the Id, so that they might not get this order revised on appeal. Does not this order amount to interference in religion? Do non-Muslim Government officers think that Musalmans can change the laws of their religion under the orders of Government servants? Not at

all. Now such are the orders that are being issued by the Government officials. These are few instances out of many. My Hindu friends think that by issuing such orders the lives of the cows are being preserved. They are sadly mistaken if they think so. They in fact are not preserving the lives of cows but on the contrary they by such acts make the Musalmans slaughter kine in large numbers. When the Musalmans are prevented from sacrificing one cow, they slaughter ten cows in order to preserve the freedom of their religion. Therefore they should give up this idea that by such wrong steps they are preserving the lives of cows. If they are desirous of preserving the lives of their cows, let them come to an understanding with the Musalmans. The Musalmans are by nature peace-loving, tolerant and just and they are always prepared to come to any understanding which does not affect their religion, if the other party so desires. If instead of this anybody wants to overawe them by force they will not be prepared to yield to it and they will go on slaughtering cows in thousands and no earthly power can prevent them from observing their religious rites. That is not the only instance of its kind. There are a thousand other instances which I can quote.

Then there is a village named Barota in the Rohtak district which is mostly inhabited by Balochs, all Muslims. It has been the custom of these Musalmans that at the time of festivals or marriage ceremonies they slaughter cows. According to the old practice the Muslim Balochs slaughtered a cow at the time of a marriage ceremony this year. The result was that the Hindu Jats of the neighbouring ilaqas gathered together there and set fire to their houses and killed one of the Balochs and severely injured three or four of them. The killed as well as the wounded persons were all Muslim zamindars. This is how the zamindars are being treated under the regime of the zamindara Government. I do not want to go into the details of this case lest you, Mr. Speaker, should rule me out on the ground that this case is *sub-judice*. However I know what will be the result of this case. Even if challans are made, I do not think that any effort would be made to punish the culprits.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan put a question as to how many Musalmans had been murdered in the Hissar district during the past three years and in how many cases the offenders had been punished. The answer given was that out of 56 cases, in 7 cases only the culprits were convicted and in 49 cases the arrested persons were let off. Now the honourable members can imagine as to how the Muslims are being treated in the Ambala division. In fact the Jats regard it a pious duty to murder Muslims. Nobody prevents them from murdering the Musalmans. As a matter of fact as impressed upon them they think that now they are the ruling nation and therefore they do not think it a crime to murder Musalmans. How long can they continue to do so? The blood of the Muslim *shahids* will not go in vain. One day it will bear fruit. In fact no Muslim whether he is a trader or a zamindar is safe from the depredations of the Jats. If any Muslim trader takes his cattle from one place to another, the Jats murder him in the way, so much so that now it has become very difficult for them to travel in safety. If any Muslim trader takes his cattle from one place to another in the Ambala division he is shot dead in the way. Many such cases have occurred in that

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division. (*Minister for Revenue*: Men are shot?). Yes, men are shot. If we go to the officers and place these facts before them they put us off on some excuse or other. After all they are the servants of the Ministers and just as the Ministers give evasive replies in the House so do these officers. When we make a protest against such a treatment, nobody cares a fig for our protests. The police of that division are not doing their duties properly. If they find that any culprit has some connection with any big man they let him go and innocent people are challaned and made to pay dearly for the misdeeds of others. The Muslims are murdered but the real culprits are not brought to book, simply because the Muslims are poor and there is no influential person at their back.

There is yet another very sad incident which I want to bring to the notice of the House. Last year, as the House knows, in the town of Bhiwani Muslims, who were mostly labourers were burnt to death by the Hindu mob while they were sitting in their houses with doors of their houses shut. They were attacked and their houses were set on fire with the result that a girl of eight months and an old man of 98 years were burnt to death and many had a narrow escape with very serious injuries. Stray assaults were made on Muslims on roads and in lane resulting in murder. The total number of persons who died as a result of this brutal attack was nine. I on receipt of information visited the place and staying there for 2 weeks tried to control the situation. The Government at this juncture transferred the Deputy Commissioner and appointed in his place an inexperienced youngster. He promised to let off the accused in lieu of a loan of Rs. 18 lakhs. Under such circumstances how can the Muslims feel secure in those areas? The Muslims of that locality were bent upon avenging themselves and it was with great difficulty that they were persuaded not to do so and leave the whole matter to the law courts. But when the time for trial of cases against the accused came, no action was taken in the matter and the cases were withdrawn. I approached the authorities concerned and requested them not to withdraw the cases but to let them be tried by the courts of law, whatever the result thereof might be. But no heed was paid to my request and the majority of cases against the accused were withdrawn. This was all due to the new Deputy Commissioner's inexperience. In 1938 I had invited the attention of the Government that young and inexperienced members of the I.C.S. should not be put in charge of the districts. And I again advise the Government not to put a district under the charge of an inexperienced member of the I.C.S. Under the previous Government always experienced men were put in charge of districts. But now the practice has been changed and it has resulted in a good deal of harm so far as administration of law and order is concerned. This is what I want to submit about law and order. As the time at my disposal is very short I do not want to say more than this, although there is much to be said against the way in which law and order are administered in this province.

Now I want to say a few words about recruitment in my division.

I have received many complaints from the people of Badladha and Tohana to the effect that the recruits offered by them are refused to be enlisted in the army without any valid reason. The recruiting officer in this way discourages them to join the army. These people are Shaikhs (non-agriculturists). The recruiting officers fearing that after the war they may not on the strength of war services claim some reward, discourage them by refusing to enlist them as recruits. These persons, so far as my knowledge goes, have to spend a good deal to procure recruits but their recruits are rejected on some excuse or the other. At this critical juncture the Government should try to win the sympathies of all classes of people instead of alienating them. I have in my possession a letter from a gentleman who belongs to my constituency. In this letter he has complained that the recruiting officers discourage them from enlisting recruits for the army. I request the Government to take some suitable steps in the matter.

Next I would like to make a few submissions regarding the inadequate representation of Muslims of my division in the services in the various departments. Recently the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram wrote a few articles in the *Jat Gazette* wherein with the help of facts and figures he tried to prove that the Muslims of the Ambala Division have got their proper share, rather more than what they deserve, in the services, but this is all baseless. He wants to throw dust in the eyes of the public. Let me tell him that the facts and figures either supplied to him by the departments concerned or the invention of his own brain are wrong. The Muslims are really under-represented. Even some of the people in the Revenue Department, who have been included in the figures which he gave in the *Jat Gazette*, have retired and are no more in service. In the figures regarding Education Department he quoted in the aforesaid articles the names of four Muslims who have been shown as belonging to the Provincial Educational Service. This is a farce. He has quoted their names as follows—Mr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Mr. Sher Mohammad Tirmzi, Syed Khurshid Hussain and Pir Waris Ali. It has been stated in those articles that these gentlemen who are members of the Provincial Educational Service belong to the Ambala division. I give a full detail of these four gentlemen showing that the whole story is fabricated in order to deceive the Muslims of the Ambala division. Mr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Provincial Educational Service, of Karnal, is at present on leave preparatory to retirement. He was rather forced to proceed on leave preparatory to retirement. He had certain grievances against the department. It is possible that he may show willingness not to retire prematurely, if his grievances are removed. As regards Mr. Sher Mohammad Tirmzi, he belongs to district Jullundur and not to the Ambala division. As regards Syed Khurshid Hassan, he belongs to Ambala division but is in Rs. 140--190 grade and not in the Provincial Educational Service grade. He finished this grade long ago but has not been given the next higher grade although many junior to him have been given promotion over his head. Let me tell the House that Syed Khurshid Hassan has done highly satisfactory work so far as education is concerned and has also rendered valuable services so far as war publicity is concerned. This deplorable treatment has been meted out to this gentleman simply because he happens to be a Muslim of the Ambala divi-

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sion. As regards the fourth gentleman namely, Pir Waris Ali, he is alone in the Provincial Educational Service. He is a professor in the Government College, Hoshiarpur. This is what I have to say about the facts and figures given by the Honourable Minister in the aforesaid articles. I think either the Department supplied him with wrong information or he himself tries to befool the Muslims of Ambala Division by giving wrong figures. I can name other persons who have been meted out this step-motherly treatment in Educational line. There is one Mohammad Ismail. He is the Head Master of the Gohana High School. His work is quite satisfactory. The number of students has increased in the school under his care since the time he has taken charge. He is doing the War Publicity Work also. But he is not given the next higher grade although he reached his present grade long ago. Then there is another gentleman named Karim-ud-Din. He is at present at Palwal. He has also been not given the next higher grade. Both these gentlemen are in the grade of Rs. 140—190 and waiting for the next higher grade for the last so many years. Why many of their juniors have superseded them, is an open secret. It is by wrong facts and figures that we are shown that the Muslims of the Ambala Division have more than their proper share in the services. I am so sorry to criticise Sir Chhotu Ram whom I know for the last 26 years. Both of us were on friendly and good terms and we had a high opinion about each other during my service period. I wish he had not given those wrong figures in the *Jat Gazette*. Instead of publishing them he should have informed the Muslim members of the Ambala Division of the facts and figures and should have had a discussion about the same with them so that I might not have been forced to criticise them publicly. But it is most unfortunate that now he considers it below his dignity even to talk with us. I consider that it is not becoming of a Minister.

Let us take the case of the Forest Department. When this Department was under my kind friend, ten posts in class II had to be filled and out of them only three instead of five were filled by Muslims, the remaining seven posts being filled by non-Muslim candidates. This is the actual result of the block system in which 50 per cent posts are stated to have been reserved for Muslims. Actually the Muslims are being denied their due share in the services. Similarly the late Deputy Commissioner of Ambala and the late Sessions Judge of Hissar have trampled under foot the rights of the Muslim subordinates of their offices. Muslims were turned out and Hindus recruited or promoted in their places by these officers. In the Ambala Division Muslims are retired prematurely and Hindus employed in their places. Key posts are held by the Hindus and junior posts given to Muslims. Since the advent of the British Raj no Muslim has ever been appointed to hold the post of Deputy Commissioner in Ambala. It has always been held by Hindus or Sikhs for more than two decades as is evident from the reply to my question in this Session. Unless a Muslim is now appointed for this post, Muslims will never be satisfied. Block system introduced by the Government is merely a farce. Mere eye-wash will not do. The block system is merely an attempt to hoodwink the Muslims by telling them that they are entitled to 50 per cent posts in the Government services. But in actual practice the rights of Muslims are ignored and trampled upon.

Especially my kind friend the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram is well known for his bias for the Hindu Jats in general and for the Hindu Jats of Rohtak in particular. He goes out of his way to favour the Jats. He has been trying to give key posts to his kith and kin to enable them to enlist more jats in services and to deprive the Muslims of their share of the posts. I shall now give a few instances. He has got one Chaudhri Gela Ram appointed as Personal Assistant to the Director of Veterinary Services in spite of the fact that he was receiving only a salary of Rs. 120 per mensem previously. In doing so the rights of senior Muslims and others have been ignored. Similarly, Mam Chand was appointed a Professor in the Veterinary College and when he proved unfit, he was appointed a Deputy Superintendent instead of being degraded straightaway. Thus the Honourable Chaudhri Sahib has been responsible for ignoring the rights of M. Abdul Hakim who was highly educated and in his place a less educated person has been appointed. Mehr Chand was imported from an agricultural farm of Hissar to supersede Abdul Hakim as Head Assistant while the pay of the latter was very low and the former was receiving Rs. 240 per mensem already.

Malik Barkat Ali : What are his qualifications ?

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I suppose Abdul Hakim is B.A., and Mehr Chand only a Matriculate. This is a clear case of communalism and favouritism. Muslims are not being given representation according to their rights. Nay even when Muslims are senior and fully qualified, junior and less educated Hindus are made to supersede them. When the poor man Abdul Hakim whose rights were unjustly ignored appealed against his supersession to the Government through the Director of Agriculture, the latter expressed his helplessness against the whim of the Minister and refused to forward the case. But while making the appointment order of Mehr Chand he indicated that the Minister had to be accommodated by him.

Another case of nepotism and favouritism relating to the Honourable Minister of Revenue is that when he was Minister of Education in the old Council, he recruited one Ram Sarup as Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies against the rules and regulations which forbade direct recruitment to this post. He got him promoted during his regime to the rank of an Under-Secretary over the heads of many Muslims. He is at present perhaps on leave which he took for making preparation to proceed to Bombay for training where in addition to his pay he will get special family and house allowance.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is personal. He is attacking the conduct of the Honourable Minister.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : These are facts.

Mr. Speaker : But even facts which amount to an attack on the conduct of a Minister should be stated on a substantive motion and not in a general discussion.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : All right, Sir. Chaudhri Ram Swarup, during his leave, has been, as prearranged, selected for the high post of Financial Adviser to the Co-operative Department. This man has been made to supersede Muslims who are far senior to him and are also better

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qualified than him. I can say with the fullest confidence that there are Muslims who are eminently suited for the job. But they have been ignored for reasons best known to the authorities. Whenever we raise our voice against this injustice which is being perpetuated by trampling the rights of the Muslims under foot, we are told that the person concerned was selected because the Government used their discretion in his favour. Day before yesterday in reply to my question I was told that a certain Deputy Registrar's brother was placed at the top of the list of candidates by selection. No reason was put forward in support of this action. The thing is that whenever they want to place a junior man over the head of senior men, they promote him under the pretence of selection while under the rules the appointment to subordinate posts should be made according to strict seniority and for the posts of superintendents or head assistants the selection is to be done. Whenever favouritism or nepotism is noticed, then it is said that he was promoted because he was the best man and so he was selected for the post. I submit that all this show is being put up by the Government to befool us. (*Cheers from the opposition benches.*) I feel that dust is being thrown into the eyes of the public under cover of the excuse of selection. I am of the opinion that open competition should be held to fill up such vacancies, so that everybody may have equal opportunity for appointment to those vacancies. Now the policy of Government officers is this that whomsoever they want to appoint to a certain job, they first of all call him to work there and acquire the requisite experience and efficiency. Then with a view to satisfy public opinion and to show their impartiality the post is advertised. But the qualifications and conditions of service are given exactly as the same which their minions have been allowed to acquire under their very nose, rather with their consent or connivance. The result is that no one with such meticulous qualifications as given in the advertisement, comes forward to offer his services or if any one ventures to come forward, he is rejected and thus the man in view is appointed. Similar tactics are used by the Public Service Commission. They also put up a show of conducting interview, etc., but they select that person whom the Government want to be selected.

So far as the posts of Deputy Registrars are concerned, not a single Muslim has been considered fit for appointment to any of the posts. After making interpellations I was successful in getting one I.C.S. Muslim appointed to the post. Besides, there were definite orders of Mr Darling that Mr. Iqbal Singh should not be promoted to the post of Deputy Registrar. But with the advent of this autonomous and popular Government, this man has been selected to fill the post of a Deputy Registrar. Then I tabled a certain number of questions regarding the highhandedness of S. Mohan Singh, Deputy Registrar of the Jullundur Division. A refresher course of the Co-operative Department was being held at Ludhiana. It being a Friday, when it struck 12 noon, the Muslim members requested the Deputy Registrar concerned to terminate the meeting as usual at 12 noon in order to enable them to say their Jumma prayers. But he gave a clear proof of his intolerance for other's religious susceptibilities. He delayed the matter and when the time for the Jumma prayers was very

short, he saw his way to terminate the meeting with the remark

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I submit that it ill-becomes a highly responsible officer to say such trenchant words which injure the feelings of other communities. I strongly protest against the attitude of such officers who deny religious freedom to their juniors. I request the Government to take immediate steps to prevent recurrence of such unfortunate incidents. His attitude throughout his service has been highly communal and most undesirable.

The Honourable Finance Minister was pleased to remark during the course of his speech that the district of Hissar was now quite immune from the grips of famine. This statement may be true to some extent. But I would like to tell the Honourable Ministers for Revenue and Finance that there are ilaqs in the Hissar district which have not seen a drop of rain for the last nine years. The people of that ilaqa used to subsist and are now subsisting on the leaves of trees. Now when leaves have been consumed, they have resorted to taking bark of trees to appease their hunger. The House may believe it or not, but it is a fact. This sorry state of affairs is very disgusting. The pity is that no substantial relief has been granted to the people concerned. My submission is that they should be provided with work in the Extensions to Western Jumna Canal work and thus enabled to eke out their living. I think they have a prior right to get the work because more often than not they are face to face with starvation. I am of opinion that immediate action should be taken by the Government with a view to see that relief is granted to them. Besides they should pass orders that the work in connection with the Extensions to Jumna Canal construction work should be given to them. In this connection I asked an Assembly question, enquiring as to how many villages in the Hissar and Rohtak districts would be benefited by this extension scheme. In reply I was given to understand that 16, 93 and 6 villages in the Rohtak, Jhajjar and Gohana tahsils of Rohtak district, respectively, will get the water supply while only 59 villages of Hissar famine-stricken district will be benefited by this extension. The Honourable Minister for Revenue is a resident of Jhajjar Tahsil. Therefore, lion's share of the extension has been given to the Jhajjar Tahsil. I leave it to the House to draw its own conclusion. I have no grudge against any place being provided with this facility. What I want to drive at is that the relief should go to the deserving people. A person residing in Dojana State told me that a large portion of his land measuring 50 bighas had been acquired by the Government in the execution of the Extension Scheme, but no remuneration had been paid to him by the Government. I also understand that his land was the only means by which he earned his livelihood and met the requirements of his family. He requested me to plead his cause before the authorities. I feel that he is really an aggrieved party and Government should adequately remunerate him for acquiring his land under the law. As I have already submitted the Hissar district is yet in the throes of famine. Stark starvation stares hundreds of people in their face. For years not a drop of water has fallen on those parched lands. They do not get water, sanitary and wholesome enough, to quench their thirst.

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Now let me say a word with regard to the attitude and behaviour of the Superintendent of the Cattle Farm. It is very unfair on his part that he treats Hindus and Muhammadans in a different manner. For instance, he fined Muhammadans Rs. 8 for taking wood from the ilaga under his jurisdiction while he fined Hindus only two annas for the same offence. This distinction in treatment should cease at once. Then I asked a question with regard to recent promotions given to two persons Ram Singh and Randhir Singh and I was told in reply by the Honourable Minister that these promotions were given to them after superseding as many as 38 persons in that office and the excuse was the same that they were better than other people. But they were favoured only for being the brethren of the Honourable Minister. By such promotions the rights of certain people are trampled under foot. I request the Minister in-charge to stop this way of giving undue promotions.

The next point to which I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister in-charge is the inadequate proportion of Mussalmans of Ambala Division in the Education Department. You will be surprised to know that only one Muslim is holding a post in the Provincial Educational Service. Not only this but in the grade of Rs. 200—10—250 there is not a single Muslim of Ambala Division and I may also point out that in II Class Rs. 140—10—190 grade the total number of posts held is 233 out of which 7 posts are held by Muslim residents of Ambala Division which is almost 8 per cent of the whole number. Out of these 7 appointments 5 have gone to agriculturists and 2 to non-agriculturists. Now the facts and figures collected by me in this connection are as follows:—

III Class—Rs. 110—5—185 grade—

Total number of posts held	..	..	324
Total number of posts held by Muslims	..	..	140
Total number of posts held by Muslim residents of Ambala Division—			
Agriculturists	..	..	8
Non-agriculturists	..	..	4
Total	..	..	12

IV class—Rs. 80—4—100/65—8—80 grade—

Total number of posts held	..	..	270
Total number of posts held by Muslim	..	..	127
Total number of posts held by Muslim residents of Ambala Division—			
Agriculturists	..	..	11
Non-agriculturists	..	..	4
Total	..	..	15

V class—Rs. 55—3—70/45—2—55 grade—

Total number of posts held .. 146

Total number of posts held by Muslims .. 75

Total number of posts held by Muslim residents
of the Ambala Division—

Agriculturists .. 4

Non-Agriculturists .. Nil.

Total .. 4

The last but not the least point which deserves the attention of the Government is this. In the Nili Bar Colonies the amount of interest is reduced proportionately to the payments made to the Government. But it is most regrettable that this is not the case in Rakh Pir Mahal. As we, in a year, can hardly get two or three occasions to speak in this House we do not find ourselves in a position to lay the grievances of the Muslims of the Ambala Division before the Government. Today I am highly grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me some time to express my feelings on this subject, despite the opposition and obstruction being offered from different members of the House, but I would submit that still the time at my disposal is not sufficient. Our grievances are too many. I would not be able to finish even if I go on speaking for many successive days.

With these few remarks I move my cut motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, as you are aware, on different occasions members of the Unionist Party have been praising the deeds of the Government with a flourish of honesty on the floor of the House. To-day I propose to place the other side of the picture before the House with the same honesty. The first point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is this. It is clear from facts and figures that serious crime in the Punjab has been on the increase since this Government came into power. I have got with me the Police Administration Report of 1940 and also the Criminal Justice Administration Report. Facts and figures have been given in them showing a considerable increase even in ordinary crimes. But so far as serious crime is concerned it has increased to a very great extent. What we come to know from the Police Administration Report is that an extraordinary increase has taken place in the crime from 1936 to 1940. And I think crime has also increased in 1940-41. The number of murders in the Punjab in 1936 was 898 which figure rose to 1,807 in 1940.

In the year 1940, 452 cases of dacoity were reported, while in 1936, that is a year before this Government took office the cases of dacoity on record are only 84. It is clear from this that the number of dacoities is gradually

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on the increase. Again the cases of robbery recorded in 1940 are as many as 801. Similarly crime in general—I am speaking only of crimes of a serious nature—shows an upward trend. The number of such crimes committed in the province as contained in the Criminal Report is as follows :—

Those reported by the District authorities	..	1,650
Those reported by the Police	..	1,907

Leaving aside the minor causes, it appears to one that there are three major causes of increase in crime in the province. The first concerns the economic condition of the people. The second is the relations existing between various communities and the third is the belief prevalent among criminals that they can escape punishment after committing a crime. Let us take all these causes one by one and test the veracity of the high-sounding claims advanced by the Government that they have made an all round improvement during the 5 years of their administration. If—as the Government want us to believe—they have improved the economic condition of the people of this province, why is it that crime is gradually increasing? It is being dinned into our ears that the lot of the zamindars has improved but a very large percentage of the criminals belong to the poorer section of the rural population. Had these claims any factual basis there would have been a marked decrease in the incidence of crime in our province.

Again taking up the consideration of the second cause we find that the distinctions between the rural and the urban, the agriculturists and non-agriculturists, have deliberately been given an importance during the Unionist regime by taking to a policy of discrimination. This is largely responsible for creating bad blood among the different sections of the population and undermining relations with each other. If a zamindar considers it so cheap to-day to murder a sahukar it is because of the spirit of class antagonism engendered by the discriminatory policy of this Government.

Now, let us deal with the reason why the criminals are encouraged into committing all sorts of crimes without any fear of being brought to book. If the police and the magistrates did their duty with a sense of responsibility no criminal would ever dare to imagine that he can go scot free after committing a crime. It is often the case in this province that criminals settle the *modus operandi* of their crimes with the police officers in charge of their respective police stations before embarking on their criminal pursuits. Again if somehow their cases come up for trial we know our magistracy too well to expect justice always from them. All these facts combine to encourage crime in this province. In comparison with all the civilized countries of the world the incidence of crime is the highest in the Punjab. I have been to England and know it for a fact that not more than 150 murders are committed every year in that country. But here in the Punjab at least 8,000 murders are reported annually.

Now I have one thing to say to the credit of the Government. Last year when an unprecedented number of dacoities were committed in the province and a general cry was raised against this state of affairs the Government did take effective steps which resulted in some slight decrease in such cases. But on the other hand no words are too strong to condemn

the general policy of repression against every political party in the province that this Government has carried on during the last 5 years. No other country or province can present such a plethora of whole-sale arrests in normal times. All the political parties, viz., Kisans, Ahrars, Khaksars, the Congress, the Forward bloc and the Communists as well as the purely commercial satyagrahis of the Beopar Mandal, have come in for their due share of repression at the hands of this Government. I need not mention thousands of arrests and numerous lathi charges that were made at the instance of this Government. In short the only political party which has not been badly treated by them is the Unionist Party. The late Maulana Muhammad Ali used to say of the Indian Civil Servants that they were neither Indian nor Civil and much less servants. Similarly the Unionist party in my opinion is neither a party nor have they anything to do with Union, they are the product of self-interest. This Government has meted out most inhuman treatment to hundreds of politicals. Men like late Chaudhri Afzal Haq had for a lifetime been behind the iron bars and died prematurely. What did they do to Sheikh Hissam-ud-Din who is now lying ill? How did they treat S. Ata Ullah Shah Bokhari? Even Maulana Mazhar Ali Azhar, an honourable member of this House, and scores of others were treated likewise. These are but a few examples. At this time there are hundreds of people in our jails, who are suffering from terrible diseases. Coming nearer home, you know what sort of treatment is being meted out to the members of the Assembly. It is simply unique and unparalleled in the world. Particularly I should like to mention the name of my honourable friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, one of the most distinguished members of our Assembly. How has he been treated? He was re-arrested shortly after his first release. There must be some reason underlying this policy. I cannot understand as to what this policy of the Government means except that of wreaking vengeance upon their political opponents. I know that my honourable friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt is rather a moderate man, but look at the scurvy treatment meted out to him. My honourable friend Sardar Bura Singh is also in the same boat. He came out of prison after a spell of long years and has again been shut up as a detainee. Neither the young nor the old can find themselves free from their clutches. No charge was framed against him. My honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh was honest to declare that he was a Communist and he was arrested on that ground. Sir Stafford Cripps, who is one of the greatest communists in England, is now a member of the War Cabinet and he is coming over to India to bring about a settlement between India and England. Churchill and Stalin are great friends while my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh has been arrested on the plea of being a communist. The Government should feel ashamed of the treatment meted out to my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Husain. Five charges were brought against him, for example, that he took fees from his clients while the cases against them were being investigated by the police, that in one case he took Rs. 25 and Rs. 100 in the other. These cases do not allow him even to attend the Assembly. The Government has arranged for an advocate from Lahore who has so far cost them Rs. 5,000 to conduct the cases against him. If the Government is spending such a huge sum on such a frivolous case, it is time if some public-spirited gentleman came forward and launched a prosecution against the Government for criminal misappropriation of public funds. Another

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charge brought against the honourable member was that he was found driving on the canal road without permission. This is the treatment which is meted out to the honourable members of the Assembly. Shrimati Shanno Devi, whose case is still pending in the court, has also been treated in the same unbecoming way. Even ladies are not free from the clutches of this Government. I accept the claim of the Government being impartial inasmuch as the policy of repression against all parties and all communities alike has been pursued.

Then I have to say something about recruitment to services. I do agree that in view of the present circumstances communal distribution of services according to some plan is desirable, for example they may be distributed more or less according to the population of each community in the province. But if you must keep the population basis in view you will have to look to administrative efficiency as well as to administrative integrity; so that whosoever is employed, should carry on his work efficiently and honestly. Except for some posts which are open to competition, no attempt is made to insist upon the administrative efficiency and administrative integrity of the incumbents. I agree with my honourable friend Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad, that under the present regime while making recruitment to the services, undeserving muslims are preferred to deserving muslims. I would like to add that the same is the case with the Hindus and the Sikhs. I want to request the Government that they should have a standing authority to check every now and then undesirable elements in the services. I do not grudge Jats being given their share in the services. But this does not mean that a policy of discrimination and favouritism should be observed, and that Jats should be employed merely on the recommendation of Chaudhri Chhotu Ram. The Honourable Minister is always ready to help his proteges. I will give you an instance. In the Ambala Division there is a tahsildar who had been suspended because it is said that he had committed many heinous crimes. Now for his misdeeds he had been suspended. I do not know what will be the result of the inquiry. But as he is a Jat, therefore, efforts will be made to protect him. This is one instance and I can quote many other instances of this nature. I do not say that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram should not recruit Jats. By all means he may do so. But while making such appointments he should see that only those persons are appointed who are efficient, honest and upright. At present while making appointments these things are not taken into consideration at all. Rather I would say that the policy that is being pursued by Government in regard to recruitment is calculated to demoralize and impair the efficiency of public services. As a matter of fact leaving aside the judges of the High Court and the District and Session Judges, who invariably administer even-handed justice by remaining above party politics, some of the other members of the judiciary, sub-judges and magistrates, do not do justice at all. I do not say that all the sub-judges and magistrates are bad people. Some of them are good. But my submission is that there is a large number of such sub-judges and magistrates who are influenced by the discriminatory policy pursued by Government and who give decisions in a discriminatory manner. The honourable members can find many such examples where sub-judges have given decisions in a discriminatory manner. I

can confidently assert that generally those persons who have been appointed by Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram regard it their duty to follow the discriminatory policy pursued by the executive. This is a thing in regard to which inquiries can be instituted. I would, therefore, suggest that an independent Standing Board should be appointed which should from time to time revise and check the policy pursued by Government in respect of recruitment. I know that the Public Services Commission is not doing its duties properly. When the best of the candidates appear before them for interview their members put strange questions to them. Sometimes the candidates are told that as their parents had been taking part in politics therefore no posts could be given to them. This is how the Public Services Commission is recruiting candidates for different appointments. I do not object to a fair share of services being given to every community. By all means do so. Recruit Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs according to their proportion but for God's sake while making recruitment keep one thing in view. That is, select the best persons from Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. I know that at present there are many young men of extraordinary ability in the Punjab who are going from pillar to post and they cannot get any employment to keep their body and soul together. Their condition reminds me of the words of Lord Macaulay. He said, "Where to turn my head for a morsel of bread". These young men try to get a morsel of bread but they cannot find it anywhere. This is the result of the policy pursued by the Punjab Government.

Now I would like to say a few words in regard to corruption. My friends know that some years ago an inquiry agency was constituted in order to assist the Heads of Departments in the Punjab in investigating cases of corruption against officials serving under the Punjab Government. In the budget now before the House a provision of Rs. 58,000 has been made for this Special Inquiry Agency. If my honourable friends go through the note about the Special Inquiry Agency in the "Budget (New Expenditure)" they would find that since its inauguration only 70 cases have been entrusted to it for investigation. During the past three or four years this Special Inquiry Agency has investigated 70 cases only. It has not been pointed out in how many cases the Special Inquiry Agency succeeded in establishing the corruption of the officers and in how many cases it failed to do so. The other day the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram in the course of his speech admitted that corruption was rampant in the Land Revenue Department. I am glad that he had the courage to admit it publicly that corruption is there in the Revenue Department. Similarly corruption is rampant in the police department as well. It will not be an exaggeration if I say that corruption is rampant in almost all the departments of Government. I do not say that all the officers from A to Z are corrupt and dishonest. These are many who are very honest and upright. Anyway my submission is that corruption is there in every Government department. How can that corruption be rooted out? I should like to make one suggestion in this respect. An Independent Standing Tribunal should be set up on which a Judge of the High Court or if it is not possible two or three officers of the rank of Sessions Judges should be appointed. Now the cases of corrupt officers may be investigated by the Superintendent of Police or the Deputy Superintendent of Police, as the case

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may be, but the inquiry when it is completed should be submitted to this tribunal and this tribunal should decide the cases finally. If any officer is proved to be corrupt punishment should be awarded by this tribunal, and not by anybody else. I personally do not like that the matter of punishment should rest with any Honourable Minister. On the contrary I would like the question of punishment to be decided by such Independent Tribunal. Besides people should be allowed to send reports about corrupt officers direct to this Tribunal and they should be allowed to substantiate those charges. Let me point out that the claim of Government that if five respectable citizens file a written representation against any corrupt officer enquiries are instituted against that officer, is not correct. I know personally that many such representations signed by not five but by 50, 100 or 200 respectable persons among whom Hindus and Muslims were included, were submitted to Government against corrupt officials, but no action was taken and no inquiries were instituted at all. In some cases even two to three hundred witnesses were produced but no action was taken by Government. I know that a Revenue Assistant of Sialkot reported after full enquiry about a certain zaildar that he had been looting the people of his ilaqa. But in spite of the opinion of that Revenue Assistant no action was taken against that zaildar. It is therefore my submission that though on paper it is certainly written that if five respectable citizens submit a written representation against any corrupt officer inquiries will be instituted, it is not given effect to at all. I may tell my friends that I have been taking great interest in this question and my friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram when he was a member of the Rohtak Bar Association also used to take some interest in it also. Anyway my submission is that corruption is a blot on the fair name of the Punjab. If Government succeed in rooting it out it will be a great thing.

Next, I would like to deal very briefly with the question of extravagance. It is an established fact that a good deal of money is being wasted by this Government. I do not deny that the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal is a man of extraordinary ability. But I cannot refrain from saying that his powers are limited and that he is too weak to exert any influence on his colleagues. Although he has discharged his duties in the best possible manner still I can say that he has not been able to help the Punjabis in the time of their distress in the manner in which it was expected of him. Let me point out that I have studied the budget very carefully and I can say that my friends have left no stone unturned in order to increase the number of white elephants. In this budget little has been done for the poor people. On the contrary the number of highly paid officers has been increased. Besides if my friends study the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee they would find that they have not been implemented.

The policy adopted by the Government regarding the Press is also condemnable. The Honourable Premier sometimes assumes the roll of a dictator and imposes restrictions on the press and at other times he appears in the garb of a servant of the press and claims that it is his right to advise it in that capacity. He changes colours so many times. I wish the Honourable Premier had been here to listen to what I am submitting. The treat-

ment which the members of the Opposition receive at the hands of his Government is too bad. The other day the Premier stated in the House that we come here for the sake of the daily allowance. This was an uncharitable remark. I would like to give a reply to it but I know that if I attempted it you would at once call me to order. I can only say that it is not worthy of his position to say so. I would also like to refer to the threat which he held out to Mrs. Duni Chand. He challenged her to make any such speech as she made in the House outside and that she would be hauled up for that. I fail to understand what the honourable lady member had said in her speech which was objectionable from the Honourable Premier's point of view. We know Mrs. Duni Chand was placed in the jail for six months. Similar treatment was meted out to other members of the Opposition. In an article in the *Tribune* as also in the *Civil and Military Gazette* attention was invited to the need of maintaining the dignity of this House. But dignity should not be taken to mean licence to the Government to kick the Opposition and to insult it and that the Opposition should receive the kicks and swallow the insults without demur. Dignity of the House should imply that the honourable members should treat one another with consideration and respect.

Next I come to what my honourable friend Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad stated regarding the communal tension and communal riots in his constituency. I believe in religious tolerance and complete religious freedom. I do not want that anybody should interfere with the religion of others. The honourable member referred to the communal riots at Malikpur. During the last twenty or thirty years there has never been any communal trouble except one at Malikpur. Honourable Khawaja Sahib complained that the local Hindus persecute the Muslims. Let the Government institute an enquiry and take action against those who may be found guilty.

In the end I thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to express my views in the House. All that I have said is true and from the best of motives.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, every one knows that the present Unionist Government was formed under the Government of India Act of 1935 and that it has to function under the limitations laid down in that Act on the activities of the provincial Governments. Therefore, while criticising the Government and their policy, one has to keep in view those limitations. No one knowing those limitations can go beyond them while levelling any criticism against the Government. Even knowing the disabilities under which the Unionist Government had to function on account of the restrictions imposed upon them by the Government of India Act, 1935, I can say without any fear of contradiction that they have failed in five years even to achieve that much which was expected of them and which they could have achieved if they had exerted themselves even within the narrow margin of freedom left to them under the aforesaid Act. So far as general administration goes, we find little difference between the conditions now obtaining and those which were prevalent under the previous bureaucratic Governments. Corruption is as rampant in the departments as before. The officers are as

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stiff necked and high browed as under the previous Government. They are misbehaved, proud and imperious. There is no check on them and they indulge in all sorts of excesses as freely as before. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has often said that corruption that has taken root during the last so many decades cannot be removed during such a short period as four or five years. In reply to any such complaints he is fond of repeating—

سو دن کی رام رام ایک دن کی اللہ اللہ سے نہیں جا سکتی

The Unionist Government have always made high sounding claims that theirs is a government of the zamindars, for the zamindars and by the zamindars. They have promised prompt action on all complaints against the highhandedness of the officers. So often has the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram said with pride, "Let anybody who has any complaint against any officer inform the Government about it by dropping a post card, the Government would take suitable action in the matter." But the question is, how far such claims and announcements of the members of the Government are justified and whether really that millennium has set in for which the country has been waiting so long. The facts speak differently. The poor zamindars are groaning under the heels of the corrupt officers as before. They dare not raise a voice against them. How can any one expect a poor zamindar under the thumb of the officers to dare to write and send a post card to the Unionist Government against the tyranny of the local officers? I know, rather every one knows, the deplorable conditions obtaining in the countryside. Some are silent and abstain from raising a voice against them lest by their action they should invite the anger of those who are in a position to harm them, disgrace them and insult them. Others are mum out of expediency. Even the Indian members of the I.C.S. are no exception. They are Indian by blood but English by mentality. They treat the public with disrespect. And when we complain to the Government against them we get a reply that instructions have been issued to all officers to treat the public with consideration. The Government have been receiving complaints against the conduct of such officers but let them refer me to any single instance in which they have taken action against the officer concerned. The officers' objectionable behaviour is due to the bad example which the Honourable Ministers set in this behalf. They are encouraged by the Minister's example. A little discourtesy on the part of the Ministers encourages them to go to the length of impudence and audacity. The previous capitalistic order, the condemned reactionary system of government with which the whole world is fed up and which has been rejected by one and all, is still holding the field in the Punjab. The pseudo representatives of the people are steeped in the colour of the same unhealthy and harmful capitalistic system which has been a curse for the poor and down trodden. They are inspired by the capitalistic order and their mentality is moulded according to it. Mr. Speaker, you will kindly excuse me when I say that the mentality of the I.C.S. officers has undergone no change at all.

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They do not regard themselves as the servants of the public. They try to lord over them and behave as if they were the masters of the people. For the last five years the Honourable Ministers have been carrying on an extensive propaganda throughout the length and breadth

of the Punjab that now it is the Government of the people and not the old bureaucratic British regime. But what we actually find is only a brown bureaucracy instead of the white one.

The Ministers have been indulging in tall talk of their having transformed the Punjab into a living paradise on earth. But what have they actually done for the betterment of the lot of the people? Undoubtedly some of the golden Bills have done some good, especially the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act which was calculated to benefit the public. Agricultural debts have really been scaled down. But in reality these useful Bills have been relegated to an unnoticed place. The High Court has objected to them. The Benami Act has practically been repealed. As a matter of fact the real cause of all this show and tall talk is that the present Government had set before themselves absolutely no plan or scheme. There was no programme of upliftment of the masses or of reforming the officers of the Government. All they did was that a few old persons joined together to run the Government of the Punjab on the same old line of bureaucracy as the British had done. They had absolutely no mind to raise the standard of morale of the people. The people have actually been demoralised. They had no spirit of service or love for the masses. If they had, they would have tried to deliver the people from the grip of old slavish mentality. The alien Government made zaildars, lambardars, and inamkhors of the persons who were the chiefs of certain tribes and enjoyed influence and respect in their respective Naqas. Time went on and the Government needed little help from them, with the result that their old functions have been relegated to the past and those embodiments of nobility and rightfulness have been reduced to the position of agents for corruption and untruthfulness. What has the Unionist Government done for them? I would request you either to enhance their prestige or abolish their posts. You are no aliens. They are yours, and they are your pillars of strength. The world has changed but the Pachotra of the Lambardar is the same. Simply because he is not vocal. The pledges given at the time of the general elections too have not been fulfilled by the Unionist Government. Land Revenue has not been reduced even in the case of uneconomic holdings. There is all round degradation and deterioration in the general administration of the province. Our bonds of slavery are being strengthened and slavish mentality encouraged by the present Ministry. At first we were slaves by accident. Now we are being made slaves through conviction and conversion. This is a horrible state of affairs. The public is being trained in the art of slavery. But all this is being done in the name of democracy and freedom. The Ministry is not at all interested in raising the moral tone of the people. On the other hand all sorts of devices are used to keep them contented with their lot of slavery.

I am glad that my honourable friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad has raised the question which we have been denied to discuss in the Assembly Chamber for the last five years. The rights of the Muslims have systematically been ignored and trampled under foot. But we were not allowed to raise our voice of protest against this injustice. Unfortunately Muslims are in a majority in the Punjab and we are required to show tolerance to other communities. We are glad to do so. If the other communities do not take an undue advantage of our leniency and spirit of accommodation, we are prepared to go any length to please them and accommodate

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them. There is a limit to everything and tolerance is also good only under certain limits. Beyond a certain limit, it becomes a sign of weakness and negation of self-respect. We are well aware under what conditions we are working. We are no fools. We have eyes and we see everything. But our breadth of view and liberal mindedness have prevented us from raising any voice of protest. I may quote a single instance to give you an idea. The Excise Department has for the last twenty years been under Non-Muslim officers. No Muslim has ever been appointed in charge of this department. But whenever the issue is raised, the posts of peons and other junior officials are counted before us and we are told that we are enjoying full representation. But what about the amount of money paid to Muslims as compared with that paid to Hindus? The real question is that of bread and money. If this is not to be equally distributed, the number of posts will not do. After all if there is a Hindu in a department and receives a pay of Rs. 300 per month, it would be nonsense to point out that there is a Muslim peon under him and therefore the Muslims enjoy 50 per cent representation in that department. When we come to the question of proportionate payment to Hindus and Muslims, we find that if Hindus receive Rs. 1,000, the Muslims receive barely Rs. 100. Thus in a department having equal number of Hindus and Muslims, the amount of salary received by the Hindus would come to 86 per cent and that of Muslims to only 14 per cent.

I would request the Muslim Ministers not to misconstrue the silence observed by the Muslims as ignorance of facts on their part. If the Muslim masses do not open their lips to lodge strong protests against the weak-kneed policy of the Government in the matter of safeguarding their legitimate rights in Government services, it is because of their catholicity and sense of tolerance for others. But there is a limit to everything. They cannot brook the idea that under cover of tolerance for others, they should be ignored and their rights trampled under foot. So long as they have elected them as their representatives and leaders, I feel it is our bounden duty to offer them our friendly advice, so that no injustice may be done to the Muslims and their interests may be scrupulously safeguarded. I submit that the Muslim Ministers, in their zeal to placate and carry with them the Ministers representing other communities, should not fall short of the duties they owe to their Muslim electorate. They should see that Muslims get their proper share in the administration and the other Ministers do not take undue advantage of their spirit of toleration. As a matter of fact I cannot help saying that in order to placate the minorities, the Government are sacrificing Muslim interests. I may point out, that the Muslims at large think that they are being ruled by the Non-Muslims. In other words they feel that it is the non-Muslim Ministers who hold the reins of Government in the Province. The Muslims are being used as a cat's paw and the real benefit is accruing to the non-Muslims. I submit that although the Muslims are actuated by the highest virtue of toleration for others, yet they know how to rule. The past history of the Muslims is resplendent with facts that they have been the best rulers. In fact to rule the world is a legacy of the Muslims. The tales of the spirit of tolerance with which they are imbued, are to be found in golden print. The Holy Book which gives them the

name "Muslim,". I mean the Holy Quran enjoins—

و بصر مقرر نشان قوم اعلى لا اعذر
 "When you are in power do justice"

I have to make a request to the Non-Muslim Ministers as well. They should bear this fact in mind that if the Muslims have chosen to be treated as dumb-driven cattle, as remarked once by Malik Barkat Ali "dumb-driven cattle of the Unionist Party led by noses by their leader" I say, we are neither "dumb" nor "cattle"; we are driven but it is in view of certain expedients. Our leaders have selected them as their colleagues. Hence we are in duty bound to have faith in them also. They must realise that the Muslims do not want any favour from them. They just demand their rightful representation in the services. If the Muslims cannot enjoy their rights to the fullest extent in the provinces where they are in a majority, then where can they do so? I, therefore, appeal to them in the name of humanity that they should not consider the Muslims as non-compoops. We scrutinise facts and figures. We study the annual administrative reports. We listen to the speeches made by them and by our Muslim Ministers. We have intelligence enough to see what treatment is being meted out to us. We suffer silently because—

فغان کہ مجھے غریب کو حیات کا یہ حکم ہے

مجھے ہر ایک راز کو مگر فریب کھاتے جا

But the voice of the Muslim masses cannot be suppressed. It would some day burst like a volcano. They are indignant to find that in every department justice is being denied to them in the matter of their due representation. I do not want to go into details. This may serve as a warning because—

خوشتران آن باشد کہ سر دلبران

گفتہ آید در حدیث دیگران

and further I am acting on the principle عاقل را اشاره کافیست but if and when I come to realise that all this has gone unheard I shall be obliged to take the cat out of the bag and unveil all that goes unnoticed. I, therefore, implore the Honourable Ministers to have the juster estimate of the feelings of the Muslims and give them their rightful share in the services. They are for "no favour but fair field" for all. (Cheers).

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram), (Urdu): Sir, to-day promises to be the Ambala Division day. Three honourable members from that division have already taken part in the debate and I am the fourth. The main portion of their speeches related to Ambala's share in Government service. It seems that a good deal of misunderstanding prevails among them about the representation of different communities in services. They indulged in scathing criticism of the Government on the basis of certain facts and figures which they did not care to verify at all, or verified with inadequate care. I am sure that if they had taken sufficient care to find out correct figures they would not have made the bitter criticism which they did and would not have uttered a word suggesting any doubt about the sincerity of Government.

Minister for Revenue.]

I have been accused of being responsible for favouritism to the Hindus of the Ambala Division and particularly to Hindu Jats. It was suggested that a large number of appointments, under my control, had been given to them to the great detriment of other communities. I categorically deny this charge. It is unfounded, unfair and uncalled for. I will quote just two instances to disprove the charge. I had figures collected about the canal patwaris. During the last two years the number of patwaris who were engaged in the Canal Department of the Ambala Division, stood at 99. Honourable members will be surprised to learn that there was only one solitary Hindu Jat among them. A question was put by Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri about the number of naib-tahsildars appointed directly in the province since April, 1937. It will be another surprise to the House to learn that the list prepared in answer to this question contained the name of only one Hindu Jat or none for the whole province including the Ambala division. These two instances will suffice to show the unfairness of the criticism.

Then the honourable members were very vehement in stating that the share of services, reserved for Hindus had been usurped by Muslims and that of Muslims by Hindus and Sikhs and so on and so forth. Again, it was said that there was an undue preponderance of agriculturists in the services while step-motherly treatment was being meted out to non-agriculturists. I can say with the fullest confidence that such statements bear no resemblance to truth. How can Government be unfair to every class of the population simultaneously? A well-defined ratio has been laid down and it is being rigidly adhered to. As you are aware, Sir, the communal proportion in the matter of services has been fixed as follows :—

	Per cent.
Muslims	50
Hindus and others	30
Sikhs :	20

Hence it is well-nigh impossible that the share of one community should be taken away by another. All that can happen is that the share of a community may not be evenly distributed over the various territorial units of the province. However let me make it clear once more beyond all doubt that Government are determined to see that this proportion, fixed for the distribution of services, is carried out both in the letter and in the spirit.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : What has the Honourable Minister to say about the Veterinary Department?

Minister for Revenue : Before I proceed further, let me satisfy my honourable friend on this point. This year there were 22 vacancies in the Veterinary Department to be filled by the Muslims. But the number of qualified candidates who were available at that time was only 14. Now wherefrom was the remaining personnel to be found? Naturally the remaining 8 appointments had to go to those Sikhs and Hindus who fulfilled the requisite conditions.

Then there are two more points which I would like to answer with the help of facts and figures. It has been remarked that the Muslims of Ambala Division are being treated unjustly by the Government in the matter of services. My honourable friends perhaps condemned the Government a dozen times on this point. I made it clear previously that so far as the question of services in the local bodies was concerned, the Muslims should not have any cause for grouse against the Government, and I hope they understand the situation now. But they are not satisfied with the appointments made in district and divisional establishments in the Ambala Division. As a matter of fact I had suggested to the Honourable Premier that statistics concerning the Ambala Division be collected to satisfy my honourable friends in the matter of services, so that if any injustice came to light, it might be removed as quickly as possible.

Let me tell the House that in the Ambala division the population of the Musalmans is only 28 per cent and the statistics carefully prepared under the orders of the Premier show that their share in the local establishments is 37·8 per cent. (*An honourable member*: Chaprasis included?) I am not referring to chaprasis. I am speaking about ministerial establishment. Now, so far as the share in the posts in the division is concerned, the facts given by me should clarify the position.

I am quite confident that there can be no reasonable complaint about the appointments of tahsildars and Extra Assistant Commissioners in relation to the share which has gone to the Hindus of the Ambala division. But one thing is possible and that is this. As the allotment of posts is not made division-wise, Ambala division might have got a smaller share collectively in services than Lahore—and similarly Rawalpindi division might have got a larger share than say Multan or Ambala division. But it is impossible that a Muslim's share should go to a Hindu. Khawaja Ghulam Samad questioned the correctness of certain names which I had given out in the Press as those of Ambala Muslims. In this connection he referred to a man—Tirmizi—holding a gazetted post. He said that there was no man of that name in the Ambala division. It is possible that his place of residence was wrongly entered. It is equally possible that people of Ambala Division may not consider him as belonging to that Division though he claimed to be domiciled there. This might be the reason of that misunderstanding. However, I may point out that my information was derived from a Government publication, "History of Gazetted Services". Anyway, so far as my departments are concerned, I can assure my honourable friend with complete confidence that no injustice has been done to the Muslims in General or the Muslims of the Ambala Division, in particular, and the charge of favouritism towards Hindu agriculturists or others is baseless. As regards the complaint about recruitment to the Class I service of the Forest Department, let me point out that only three persons were employed, out of whom two were Muslim graduates—one from the Agricultural College, Lyallpur and the other from the Government College, Lahore—and the third was a Hindu agriculturist. It is, therefore, absurd to say that as many as ten appointments have been made in this class of service and that any injustice has been done to Mussalmans. After hearing the Khawaja Sahib the honourable members of the House might have been led to believe that the Khawaja had made his charge after careful inquiry.

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In point of fact there is not an iota of truth in the allegations of my honourable friend, the Khawaja Sahib. No more than three persons were selected out of whom two were Muhammadans and one was a Hindu. (*An honourable member*: What about the 2nd Class?) No direct recruitment was made in Class II when that subject was under my charge. Those who were taken in that cadre came by promotion. A reference has also been made in regard to an Assistant Registrar. It was said that he was a Jat of the Rohtak district and I had appointed him by direct recruitment during my first incumbency. I have not been able to get hold of the list of 1927, otherwise I would have referred my friend to that list to see the precise situation for himself. However, so far as my memory goes there were at that time only two Hindu Assistant Registrars as against 7 or 9 Muslims and 5 or 6 Sikhs. This proportion of Hindus was obviously meagre. I, therefore, decided to appoint two more Hindus as Assistant Registrars by direct recruitment. The honourable member contends that these appointments were made in contravention of the rules. I am afraid he does not seem to be aware of the fact that in 1924, several months before I was appointed Minister, a resolution had been passed sanctioning direct recruitment. My friends should, therefore, realise that I did nothing in contravention of the rules. The truth is that precise communal proportions have been prescribed which Government tries to maintain. So, when I found in 1925 that the Hindus were markedly under-represented two Hindus were appointed by direct recruitment to the posts of Assistant Registrars. On the contrary, when I found out that the proportion of Muhammadan Assistant Registrars had gone down I ordered the appointment of two Muslims as Assistant Registrars by direct recruitment because sufficiently senior Muslim Inspectors were not available for promotion. When a community is conspicuously under-represented I do not see any reason why its due share should not be made good by direct recruitment.

Then my honourable friend made a complaint as to why a person named Abdul Hakim was ignored and a certain other person Mehr Chand was appointed Head Assistant in the office of the Director of Agriculture. There were three Head Assistants working in that office. Two were Muhammadans and one was a Hindu non-agriculturist. I suggested to the Director to invite applications from outside in order to introduce fresh blood. I had made a similar suggestion to some other heads of departments. The reason was that I had received complaints that in headquarters offices there were definite cliques which made corruption easy. I intended that these cliques should be broken and suggested to different heads of departments that candidates from outside should be brought in to break these cliques. The Director of Agriculture told me that an opportunity had arisen in connection with a post falling vacant when an outsider could be imported for that appointment. Now this post could under the rules be filled either by promotion from the lower ranks or by bringing a new person from outside. I advised him to fill this post by direct recruitment and directed that the vacancy should go to a statutory agriculturist, either a Hindu or a Sikh. I had absolutely no hand in the selection of the individual appointed. The Director of Agriculture intimated to me his selection which I did nothing to disturb. So far as selection of individuals for subordinate posts is

concerned I do not concern myself with it. What I see to is that communal and class proportions are maintained in all cases. Vague charges of step-motherly treatment have been levelled against the Government on behalf of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs agriculturists and non-agriculturists with equal indignation. But I challenge the accusers to give me a single instance in any of my departments where a departure from the rules laid down in this respect has been made. (*An honourable member*: What do you mean by a taksali zamindar?) A taksali zamindar is one who belongs to one of tribes notified as agricultural under the Punjab Land Alienation Act.

Now, whenever, the head of a department requires the services of some suitable Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs or Achhuts and is unable to get them and approaches me for help or advice, I pass on to him such of the applications from candidates of the relevant communities as may be lying with me.

Malik Barkat Ali: Are these applications from Jats?

Minister of Revenue: I receive applications from both Jats and non-Jats. But they are mostly from Achhuts and Muslims. It is common knowledge that in every office there is a predominance of one community or the other, and somehow or other it so happens that all applications received are from the members of the community which happens to be in a majority in a particular office and no candidates from other communities are available. This was invariably so before the block system was introduced. It was only when candidates of a particular community or class were reported to be unavailable that I passed on to a head of a department at his request applications lying with me. I do not invite any applications. They are sent to me spontaneously in accordance with the usual practice. If no applications are lying with me I direct the vacancies to be advertised in the vernacular papers.

Malik Barkat Ali: May I put a question to the Honourable Minister regarding the *pitari* (juggler's basket) containing these applications which he has referred to? Does he not realize that it is no business of his to pick up applications from the basket and forward them to the various heads of departments? Why does he not return them to the applicants concerned with instructions that they should submit them personally?

Minister: When a reference is made to me by the head of a department and I happen to have certain applications, I pass the applications on to him. I do not forward them unasked.

Malik Barkat Ali: Why do you not order the head of the department to advertise that post?

Minister: I certainly do so when necessary. My honourable friend should not find it difficult to understand that, if I like, I can have individual candidates appointed according to my liking without maintaining a basket. I am not afraid of opponents' criticisms; I am afraid of the criticism of my own conscience.

An Honourable Member: How do these applications come into your basket?

Minister: Well they come in because we Indians have been accustomed for generations to this practice. Some are received through my colleagues, others trickle through on account of the age-old habit of

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people to send their applications direct to the man at the top. Nevertheless, I do not forward such applications myself. I only pass them on to heads of departments at their own request.

I am being accused of appointing a Man Chand here and a Jhangi Ram there, but my honourable friends conveniently forget all the instances in which benefit goes to their own community. So far as they are concerned it is a case of—

میں نے انہیں ہی کڑا کڑا کر دیا

They are not unaware of the fact that Raja Sadar-ud-Din is neither a Hindu nor a Jat and yet he received two big lifts in a single year. He is a Muslim Rajput of the Ambala Division. From a subordinate post he was appointed to a Class II post and then to a Class I post in the Veterinary Department. Of course, the gentleman deserved the lift fully by his education and record. Again, I was told by a Muslim of the Ambala Division belonging to the tribe of Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan that he was not fit for further promotion. I thought that being a man from the Hariana tract where the manners of the people are not very courtly he might have addressed his superiors in a rustic way and given them an adverse impression. While discussing his case with the head of the department, I suggested that he might be given a trial and I believe he has been promoted on a probationary basis. (*An honourable member*: Not yet). Anyway the unmerited obstacle in his way has been removed.

My honourable friends presumably believe or pretend to believe that the principles of justice which they hold so dear are not adhered to by anyone else, much less by Chhotu Ram. They do not know that if I find that non-agriculturists to whom I am supposed to have an unreasoning antipathy are not receiving their due share in any particular department I see justice done to them. The post of Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies to which Mr. Lajpat Rai Davar has been appointed was specifically reserved for non-agriculturist Hindus who were not properly represented in the department. I reserved this post for a non-agriculturist also because the nature of the work attached to the post was such that only non-agriculturist belonging to a trading class could efficiently perform it. He is a really capable man and I am confident that he will prove very efficient and successful. Similarly when I found that non-agriculturist Muslims were under-represented I reserved one post of an Assistant Registrar and one Class I post in the Forest Department for them.

Then, Sir, on the one hand it is complained that the tahsils of Sirsa and Fatehabad have been ruined by famine and on the other hand it is being alleged that the revenues of the Punjab have been squandered in Hissar district. Of course, the truth is no more than this that we have tried to help the famine-stricken people of that unfortunate ilaqa on a more reasonable scale than any previous Government had done so far. In spite of this we are being told that the people of that ilaqa have to live on the leaves of trees, which is a white lie. I visited the tract and advised the people to go and work on the Western Jumna extension where 20,000 men were required for earth work. I told them that all able-bodied should earn their living and

that it did not behove them to sit at home and appeal for gratuitous relief. Not one, but two Commissioners complained that the people of Hissa district were unwilling to leave their homes. Two Deputy Commissioners and one Superintending Engineer confirmed the same complaint. Then I had to come to a decision that able-bodied persons who refused to leave their homes in order to earn their living on these extensions would receive no gratuitous relief and that such relief would be confined only to old, infirm and disabled persons.

My honourable friends have spared neither the High Court nor subordinate courts nor the Special Enquiry Agency from their criticisms. If justice is not done in the High Court and other courts, where else can they expect justice? Anyway Ministers cannot be held responsible for it.

An Honourable Member : Such courts should be abolished.

Minister of Revenue : We have no such powers. My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand said that in the matter of services justice was not being done in any department, except in the High Court.

Lala Duni Chand : So far as the administration of the justice is concerned, even-handed justice is done in the High Court only. This observation does not apply to services.

Minister : On the administrative side there are complaints even against the High Court. There are 59 non-agriculturist and only 5 agriculturist Hindu Sub-Judges. There are 96 Hindu clerks, out of whom 95 are non-agriculturists and only one agriculturist. The minimum qualification for a clerk in this department is matriculation. Can any one maintain that out of lakhs of agriculturists only one agriculturist matriculate was available? And even this solitary clerk is reported to be a son of a former Jamadar in the High Court. There is no other Hindu agriculturist clerk in the department barring the one exception to which I have just referred.

Lala Duni Chand : Do you think that High Court is deliberately doing it?

Minister : I do not know whether this is intentional or unintentional. Nevertheless it is a case of *قصد و اجتهاد*. The High Court is in a better position to judge whether it is intentional or otherwise.

Lala Duni Chand : Have you found any jats fit to be the judges of the High Court?

Minister : My honourable friend Khan Mhuammad Yusuf Khan says that we are big officers and may not have noticed it but there has been no change whatsoever in the attitude of responsible executive officers towards the public. He further says that the defects of the old administration are still rampant in the present administration. I fear that almost everybody would be ready to come forward with such complaints, but I may assure them that these complaints will disappear by and by. Old practices and prejudices have a tendency to persist. It is not necessary to go outside our own arbit. Even in our own House my honourable friend, Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan, who is a member of the party in power, attacked his own Government in his speech. On hearing his speech no outsider will believe that he is a member of the ministerial

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party. His speech furnished a striking example of the oft-quoted maxim that it takes a pretty long time for the old order to change. In pre-autonomy days the role of every member was to criticise the Government. Even the members of the present House have not been able to adjust themselves to the change in the constitution and cast off the old role. It was in recognition of this difficulty that the Premier permitted the members of the Ministerial Party to offer criticism on important questions in the debate on the budget. But as a result of the old practice, some ministerialists have transgressed the limits of moderation. Old methods of administration presumably display a similar lag. There has been an appreciable change in these methods, but perhaps, not sufficiently striking. A complete change can come only gradually.

A further complaint was that in the whole history of the department there had been only one Muslim in the Research Excise Bureau. The reason is that Muslims have not been keen to come forward to serve in this branch. Even if a Muslim is willing to overcome his prejudices against this job, he must possess certain qualifications which are essential for the efficient discharge of his duties. For instance he will, probably, be required to have special knowledge of chemistry or practical training, as various varieties of liquors have to be tested. Most Muslims are either unqualified for the job or are unwilling to accept it. However, long before to-day I had drawn the attention of the Honourable Premier to the advertisement of filling this vacancy, hitherto held by non-Muslims, by the appointment of a capable Muslim.

Then comes the Engineering Department, where the Muslims have a very low representation, perhaps not more than a share of 10 or 15 per cent instead of 50 per cent which is their due share. The Muslims are handicapped in many respects. But the principal obstacles in their way are two. A large number of non-Muslims are already serving in the engineering branches. They cannot be turned out just to make room for Muslims. They must complete their term of office before they retire. If they are found to be incapable of performing their duties efficiently, or if they are dishonest, there is no reason why they should not be turned and Muslims appointed in their place. But there is a greater difficulty in the way. No Muslim engineers are available. If my honourable friends instead of complaining were to ask the Honourable Minister for Public Works Department about it, they would come to know that qualified Muslims simply cannot be had. That being the case what is the use of making these complaints?

Now Hindus, Sikhs, Musalmans, agriculturists and non-agriculturists all are complaining simultaneously that they have not received their due share in services. May I ask them just one question? If these appointments have gone neither to Hindus, nor to Sikhs, nor to Muslims, nor to agriculturists nor to non-agriculturists, where have they gone? (*An honourable member: To your own favourites*). They must have gone to Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, agriculturists and non-agriculturists all the same.

Lala Duni Chand: They must be lying in your box.

Minister of Revenue: My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand will be surprised to hear that in that box I keep mostly the applications of Achhuts.

The rest, if they are sent to me I normally consign to the waste paper basket. I keep the applications of Achhuts, because for some mysterious reason, their applications do not reach the officers concerned who plead the absence of Achhut candidates. So I generally keep such applications for use to meet such pleas. Anyway I am not concerned with individual authors of these applications. For vacancies in certain offices dominated by Hindus I receive applications direct from Muslims also. But they keep lying there until some appointing officer pleads the absence of candidates of these communities. I do not forward any of these applications to the Heads of Departments concerned lest they should think that I have any special regard for any particular candidate. It is only when the absence of candidates of any particular community is pleaded that I disclose the existence of such applications if they happen to be with me. Otherwise I advise them to advertise those vacancies in the Urdu newspapers.

These are in brief the facts which should receive a calm and patient consideration on the part of critics. They should try to analyse and understand their implications in a spirit of tolerance and forbearance. If the members of the Ministerial Party, agriculturists and non-agriculturists both, display a tendency to decry their own Government the result will be that they will help in creating that atmosphere of distrust and resentment against this Government which is the natural object of the Opposition.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is it not a fact that his subordinate officers think that jats should be given preference over others ?

Minister for Revenue : As I have already submitted Hindu jats have received only a small fraction of their due share. My friends should weigh carefully the effect of the relevant facts and figures quoted by me. So far as the feelings of the officers serving under me are concerned, it is not for me to say anything. The question should be addressed to the officers themselves.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : What about the Cattle Farm, Hissar ?

Minister : If my honourable friend comes to me I will supply him all the relevant facts and figures. I am sure that after studying them he will be satisfied. I assure him that there is no matter in which any injustice had been done. If, on the contrary, my friend is able to bring to my notice any instance of unfairness I shall have no hesitation in examining it carefully and rectify it if I am convinced.

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I very much regret that I cannot agree with my honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram that the honourable members of this House criticise the Government for the sake of criticism only.

Minister : I said that they were in the habit of assigning to themselves only the role of critics and that that habit seemed still to persist.

Sardar Lal Singh : This may be true in the case of the members of his party. But I assure him that those members who speak from these benches say only things which they actually feel. I will also say only that which I actually feel. However I would like to tell him that most of the

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points that have been urged by my friends over there were correct. He has not cared to deal with them at all. He has dealt with one question only that is services. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram should not think that by throwing some light on the question of recruitment for different services he has made the whole position of Government clear. That is not so. The question before us is as to what my friends, who claim to be the well wishers of the poor zamindar, have done for his welfare during the past five years. Most of my criticism will be made from this point of view. I know that the Honourable Minister of Finance has been congratulated by the members for preparing such an excellent budget. I do not resent it. Rather I regret very much that I cannot join the other members in congratulating him. If my friends think that this Government has succeeded in ameliorating the condition of the poor zamindars let them go and put this question to those who till their lands with their own hands, and then they will hear the same thing which we have been telling them. I for one think that the following urdu verse aptly describes the feelings of the man in the field—

اب مجھے ہر دن بہار کے یونہی گذر گئے

With the coming of every year they think and hope that something would be done which would ameliorate their condition and would alleviate their miseries of the past two or three generations. But it is a thousand pities that during the past five years nothing has been done which can really afford relief to them. Nevertheless there is one thing for which Sir Manohar Lal can be congratulated. He always keeps silent and although the portfolio of new taxes is in his hands still it is Sir Sikandar and Sir Chhotu Ram who have to hear the abuses of the people. I can congratulate him for this thing only. But as regards other things I cannot congratulate him at all. Five years before the coming of this Government into power the average revenue of this province was 10 crores of rupees. In the five years of this Government the average revenue has risen to 12 crores of rupees. It means that this Government has been realizing 2 crores of rupees more than the previous Government did. This does not show that the people have become prosperous. It only shows that this Government has been squeezing more money out of the people. We know that most of the money is realized from the zamindars in the shape of revenue and abiana. In the five years previous to the coming of this Government into power the amount of land revenue and abiana realized was 6.9 crores of rupees. In the five years of this Government's regime the amount of land revenue and abiana realized has been 7.8 crores of rupees. That is, this Government have been realizing one crore of rupees more from the zamindars every year than the previous Government did. Thus in five years they have realized five crores of rupees more from the zamindars than the previous Government did.

Then, there is an item in the budget which is known as extraordinary receipts. Now it has become ordinary receipts and every year this Government sell lands worth one crore of rupees without taking into consideration whether those lands go to the non-agriculturists or to those who till their lands with their own hands. In fact they do not care as to whom they go. What they want is only money.

During these five years Crown land worth 4 crores of rupees has been sold and no one knows whether the purchasers of that land are big landlords or small holders. An amount of 4 crores of rupees has been realized by the Government from the zamindars as stated above. In all during these five years they have realized 8 crores of rupees from the agriculturists. Now let us see how much they have spent on them for their benefit out of this amount of 8 crores. According to my calculations they have not spent more than two crores for the benefit of the agriculturists. They have established a fund of Rs. 80 lakhs for the benefit of the zamindars and an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs for the Special Development Fund is to be set apart. Both these sums amount to one crore of rupees. Roughly speaking they may have given remissions of about one crore of rupees. The total amount which the zamindars may have received in this way does not exceed Rs. 2 crores. Compared to it they have got Rs. 4 crores directly from the zamindars and 4 crores indirectly as price of the Crown lands. Now if I have made any wrong statement with regard to these figures let my honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali (who is interrupting) correct me. We had hoped that as the present Government is a zamindara government, it will effect an agriculturist revolution. The Government has been declaring that they are out for the help of the poor zamindars. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has always shown himself as the champion of the cause of the poor agriculturists. May I enquire from him and the party to which he belongs, is this the way to champion the cause of the agriculturists? How is he justified to get from the pockets of the zamindars 8 crores of rupees and to spend only 2 crores on them out of it?

During the last five years three committees, namely, the Land Revenue Committee, the Resources and Retrenchment Committee and the Unemployment Committee, were instituted at the cost of about 1½ lakhs of rupees. They submitted their reports and made certain recommendations. But how surprising it is that their recommendations have not been accepted. Rather in certain cases they have gone against the recommendations of those committees. For example, instead of reducing the posts of financial commissioners from two to one they have increased their number to three. These financial commissioners get about Rs. 2,500 each and there is little work which they do. All of them are ease loving. An Indian with a pay of Rs. 500 at the most can easily cope with the work which is being done by each one of them. But no one cares to relieve this poor province of the burden of their salaries. Although our Premier is a military man and is very courageous yet he does not show enough courage to retrench the extra posts of financial commissioners. Perhaps the Governor stands in his way of retrenching the extra posts of financial commissioners. It appears that the Governor is strong and our Ministers submit to his wishes. If so there is no provincial autonomy and the claims of the Government that it is a representative Government are quite unfounded. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has said somewhere during the last few days that the Indians will miss the bus. I say it now that the present Government have already missed the bus. The zamindars have already realized the fact that the present Government cannot do anything. It is constituted by weak persons. One fails to understand why the Government are so inert and apathetic. They have not done any thing to show any improvement on the past. There

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is no advance on the previous bureaucratic government. Every officer tries to please his immediate superior officer. No difference has come over the mentality of the general public.

Next I come to the question of wheat control. The people are put to lot of trouble on account of wheat situation. The Government has done little to relieve it. The officers think that they are the masters of the people and can give or withhold supplies from them. They are as corrupt as they were before. The Government is treading a dangerous path. It is not a self-government but a *Lal* government. Let the Government say whether the restriction of twenty maunds on wheat stock also apply to the zamindars or not? The order relating to twenty maunds of wheat stock has given the officers a good excuse to put the zamindars to lot of trouble. They are fleecing them with the help of this order.

A retired commissioned officer, resident of village Dakhha, district Ludhiana, was arrested the other day by the tahsildar under the pretence that he had stored stocks of wheat while it was not a fact. Quite respectable persons are molested in this way without any rhyme or reason. My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand has thought it fit to detail such grievances before the House. But I do not entertain any hope that the Government will do anything to redress the wrong. Not at all. It is not with this idea that I am saying this. We have lost all hope in the Unionist Government. No good is expected from it. But we feel it our duty to ventilate the grievances of the public. As a matter of fact regular persecution of the freedom loving members of this House is being carried on by this Government. The cases of Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma and Sardar Partab Singh are there to be quoted as examples. A legal practitioner of Lahore is engaged on payment of Rs. 100 per diem to conduct the case against Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan. In addition to this he will receive travelling allowance from Lahore to Ludhiana and back to Lahore. Why could not the Government engage some local lawyer? Does it stand to reason that all bad characters who commit deceitful actions under Section 420, etc., have joined our party and they are not to be found on the Unionist benches? Mr. Speaker, there is something wrong in the matter. There is a regular persecution of the members of our party on account of party considerations. In fact the Government is bent upon crushing all those members who do not see eye to eye with it. Freedom of speech is denied to us, and civil liberties are ruthlessly violated by the Unionist Government. The more an officer commits atrocities on the members of the Congress, the more credit is given to him by the Government. Corruption is thus encouraged by the Ministry. Officers know that when they go out of their way to please the Ministers by disgracing and maltreating the congressmen, how can those very Ministers punish them for their sins of commission and omissions. The Ministers likewise go out of their way to protect the erring officers. Thus a vicious circle has been created in the Punjab out of which there is no deliverance. But I may assure the Ministers that we people are capable of tolerating these hardships and we are cheerfully bearing them. We are prepared to make any amount of sacrifices. We are not cowards. We have bold hearts and our aim is to serve the public as best as lies in our power. But just consider the inhuman treatment

they are meting out to their political adversaries. Sardar Gurmukh Singh has been confined in solitary confinement for years where he cannot speak to anybody. This is a brutal action. If you must confine him, confine him by all means. But why do you wish to subject him to solitary confinement? Again why and under what rules did you handcuff honourable members of this House? Take the case of Sardar Partab Singh. In reply to a question it was revealed that he was handcuffed on both hands. But when he had to take tea, one hand was released. What a kindness? The question is that under the law of the land there is absolutely no authority compelling the police to handcuff a political convict. I am positively of the opinion that the law does not permit handcuffing of these gentlemen in the circumstances in which they were handcuffed and under the law under which they had been arrested. It is a lie pure and simple that a man of the status of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din would have run away. We who court arrest and imprisonment should not be expected to attempt an escape from arrest. If we do, why should we come forward and challenge the Government to do their worst? We are not afraid. But utter lies are told by the Government to justify their tyrannies. Now Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din also was handcuffed on two hands against the clear provision of law.

A matter that would make every decent person hang his head in shame is that our Government treats political prisoners as if they were wild beasts. I challenge any member of the Government to prove if handcuffing of accused persons under section 124-A is allowed under the law of the land. On the contrary it is clearly laid down in the rules that accused under this section "shall not be handcuffed". It is a clear order. Even a duffer can understand it. But some of the police officers are too stupid to understand that political offenders are as a rule spared handcuffing as is indicated in police rules governing under-trials charged with section 124-A, Indian Penal Code. Another unreasonable action of the Government is that the Defence of India Rules are being used for those purposes for which they were not meant at all. Our Government is using them for crushing civil liberties of the people. This is a clear abuse of these powers. Scores of respectable persons with whom the Government have difference of opinion have been put behind the bars.

Premier : Even in England you will not find that civil liberty to-day that you have in view. Men like Sir Oswald Mosley are in jail in England.

Sardar Lal Singh : But there is a coalition Government in England.

Premier : Not coalition but national Government.

Sardar Lal Singh : Even if it is so, my argument holds good.

The Defence of England Rules must have been passed by the Parliament. But here these Rules were not passed by the representatives of the public. Instead of that the Viceroy of India had promulgated them through an ordinance. In England Government is not being carried by ordinances.

But a further pity is that even those lawless laws are not used for the purpose for which they were promulgated by the Viceroy. The Defence of India Rules are being enforced, not to defend India from foreign aggression, but to prevent the holding of Kisans' Conferences. As many as 98 kisans have been detained under the Defence of India Rules. I cannot help

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remarking that the Punjab Government have always been vindictive in the treatment of their political rivals. Just imagine that one Sardar Hari Singh Khanda, a detenue was driven to commit suicide. Only look at the miserable plight of Sardar Teja Singh Safri. They and their comrades have been placed under detention indefinitely. They are not to be tried in any court of law. What a justice! Then let us see what the Government have done to provide for the families of these detenues. They have on the one hand debarred the bread-winners of these families from earning a living for them and on the other they pay a few of them ridiculously small amounts of money as subsistence allowance. The detenues like Sardar Teja Singh do not possess sufficient lands for their families to till and to eke out their living. I am extremely pained to see that in such a colossal budget extending to crores of rupees, a provision of only Rs. 5,000 has been made with a view to granting allowances to the families of the detenues. This is nothing but a huge joke played by the Government.

Premier : Does the honourable member mean that the whole of the money should go to them?

Sardar Lal Singh : That is not the question. What I mean is this. You can afford to earmark a sum no less than Rs. 20,000 for holding durbars, which are a relic of the past. But you do not seem to attach any importance to the precious human lives. You cannot make any provision in the budget for giving adequate allowances to the starving children of the detenues. I hold the view that the money which is being provided for holding durbars could best be utilized for the maintenance of the families of the detenues. The children of these detenues have a right to demand from the Honourable Premier, that in case he is not prepared to prosecute their fathers openly or release them, he should make proper arrangements for their subsistence. I feel heavens would not have fallen, if instead of Rs. 5,000 the Honourable Premier had budgeted an amount of Rs. 40,000 for this purpose. These persons are making enormous sacrifices and you are reaping the fruit. Hence it ill-becomes the Premier to set apart a paltry sum of Rs. 5,000 for the maintenance of detenues' families. Just imagine, Sir, my honourable friend has offered an allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for the wife of Sardar Kabul Singh, M.L.A. The honourable member is a man of such high principles, that he would prefer death by starvation to begging from the Government. However, this brings no credit to the Government for giving an allowance of Rs. 10 to his wife. The Honourable Premier should bear this fact in mind that men like Sardar Kabul Singh are fit to hold *port folios* of a Ministry, but it is our painful experience to see this sort of treatment that is being meted out to them and to their families, by this popular Government. I am constrained to find that the Honourable Premier takes this matter so lightly. Is this the behaviour expected of any government which claims to be a civilised and humane government? I take strong exception to the indifference of the Honourable Premier which he has shown in allocating allowances to the families of the detenues. Then, Sir, I tabled a question whether the Government had made any arrangements for the refugees coming from Burma. The reply was couched in such words as astounded me. It was to the effect that if the refugees wanted to get into the police or the military service,

the Government would help them. Just imagine, Sir, these people are returning from Burma after passing through untold miseries and hardships and running grave risks. Instead of giving them any financial or other help, my honourable friend without understanding the question, gives a reply that they can get themselves recruited in the army or the police.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Premier to a very important matter. I ask, why should our children be treated differently even from those of the Englishmen in India in the matter of educational facilities provided by the Government? I am referring to the Hindi, Gurmukhi question. No suitable arrangements exist for teaching Hindi or Gurmukhi in Government schools. But just see the farce how the Government want to protect the cultural interests of the Sikhs or Hindus. Instructions are issued by the Education Department that if any scholar takes Hindi or Gurmukhi during his secondary education, then during his matriculation examination, he will have to submit his papers in that language using thereby the particular terminology even in subjects like Geography and General Knowledge. This is protection with a vengeance. It is absurd on the very face of it because our children are obstructed from learning their own language in the primary education period. An Englishman's son studying for instance in St. Anthony's school can learn his own language as well as other languages like Urdu. There is no bar that he must learn Urdu and not study English. In our case my child has not the full liberty to learn his own language that is, Gurmukhi, in institutions run by this Government. I feel that grave injustice is being done to the Sikhs in this respect. The Government will be well-advised to take immediate steps to redress the grievances of the Sikhs regarding this matter.

One word more and I have done. There is an important matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that is the question of introduction of prohibition. When this autonomous Government came into power, we, that is, men of our way of thinking including the *momins* also, thought that prohibition would be introduced into the province, and illegal distillation of liquor would be stopped in rural areas. A period of five years has elapsed, but nothing substantial has been done in this connection. What to speak of prohibition, even illegal distillation of liquor is on the increase. There is a typical instance to the point. At a village Mullanpur, District Ludhiana, the licensed shop used to be outside the village. Now the shop has gone inside the village. In Jhang the people wanted the hours of sale of liquor to be shortened but the Deputy Commissioner says revenues will suffer. If we press the Government to introduce prohibition, we are told that financial stringency stands in their way. I submit that this object can easily be achieved provided they make a substantial reduction in the salaries of their officers as well as in those of their own. If they exercise strict economy in their expenses, they can make sufficient savings to enable them to make good the loss which they will have to incur in connection with the introduction of prohibition.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Punjab): Sir, I feel that being a Punjabi I should speak in my own language. I may point out at the very outset that since this autonomous Government came into power, the crime in the province has been on the increase. If we just refer to the facts and figures, we find that with the

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passing of every year, a marked increase in every year has taken place. This is really a very deplorable state of affairs. I suggest that the Honourable Premier should convene a conference of all the officers responsible for the maintenance of law and order and also for the protection of lives and property of the people. They should join their heads to find the causes of this disease, which is proving a menace to the orderly life in the province. They should probe into the matter and find out why in spite of their best efforts they have failed to check the crime.

Premier : With your permission, Sir, I must tell the honourable member that his information is out of date. If he had looked up the latest figures, he would not have made this statement. The fact of the matter is that crime is no longer on the increase. It is rather on the decrease. It has been brought under control to a great extent. If he would just refer to the latest administration reports, he would realise that since 1938 there has been a marked and steady decrease in crime every year. I think my honourable friend should refrain from making a misstatement.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I am convinced that no decrease worth the name has taken place.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi : If an honourable member has made a wrong statement, I think it is the duty of every honourable member to correct that statement.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, if the honourable member gives way, otherwise he should wait till the honourable member has finished.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I want to know what the honourable member wishes to say.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi : What I want to point out is that in our Montgomery district, crime is on the decrease and not on the increase as my honourable friend has remarked.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : That is why in your district a police station was burgled. *(Laughter).*

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi : That does not mean that crime is on the increase.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : It is for you to see what it means. There are many cases of crimes regarding which no report is made by the police and if every case of crime is honestly reported my honourable friend will be surprised to see the enormous number of crimes. Well, Sir, I was submitting that the Government should have called a conference of certain honourable members and officials to find out the remedy for eradication of this evil from the province. But they have not done so. I think the reason for the increase in crime is quite obvious. The Indian Penal Code, unfortunately, has been the same since the days of Adam and never an alteration has been made in its provisions which sometimes appear to be most defective and impracticable. For instance, a burglary takes place, but stolen property is not restored then the burglar has every chance to be acquitted. In cases of murders, a murderer is under arrest but the dead body of the murdered is not found, the murderer is acquitted, while it should be the duty of the court to punish him for the crime which has

been proved against him. The trouble is that our law has been framed by the people living in London who are quite different from us in mentality, in mode of living and way of thinking. The law made by such people has been thrust on us to act upon. If the Government pay full attention to this matter I have every hope that crime will be controlled. There is another alternative to handle this evil, that is to say, if bad characters are convinced that to commit wrong is not a good thing crime can be stopped. If today our Government take up this matter seriously and gird up their loins to eradicate this evil from the province I do not see any reason why it should not be removed. It is most regrettable that in the presence of a zamindars' government the life and property of zamindars are not safe in villages. The poor fellows cannot sleep at night for fear of burglary. I would, therefore, submit to the Government most emphatically that instead of making any number of laws in this House if they had assured the people security of life and property they would have done something real and praise-worthy.

Then another most objectionable and unhealthy thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is the standard and criterion of giving promotions to the police officers. The promotion of a head constable mainly depends upon the number of challans made under section 109 and that of a sub-inspector depends upon the quantity of unlicensed arms recovered by him. Now under the Brand Pipe System the police department has been asked to give more attention to the restoration of arms. In connection with this kind of promotion the sub-inspectors commit many irregularities in the jurisdiction of their ilaqs. For instance, sub-inspectors ask their acquaintances in villages to get them some unlicensed arms from anywhere so that they may get promotion. You will be surprised to know that in certain ilaqs pressure has been put on zamindars by the police officers to get them arms and the poor zamindars have left their ploughed lands unattended and gone to states in search of guns so that they may make the 'Karguzari' of their sub-inspector a grand success. This is a general complaint in rural areas and it is astonishing and ridiculous all the more that in certain ilaqs the sub-inspectors by receiving mere iron pipes from zamindars and getting butts of the guns prepared by the village carpenters have tried to win laurels in the domain of investigating and restoring unlicensed arms. I may also point out that in some cases even the sub-inspectors have their arms planted in some people's houses in order to have it to their own 'Karguzari'.

Now I would also like to say a word with regard to false cases registered under section 109. What happens in villages is this. A sub-inspector visits a village and asks the lambardar to give him a few persons to be challaned under section 109. He would give two or three *Mussalis* or *paolis* to the sub-inspector who would challan them under section 109. But in courts those persons are left on bail and thus the registration of such cases is considered to be a 'Karguzari' of that sub-inspector. This is how things are arranged by the sub-inspector for getting promotion. May I ask the Government to provide us with a list of those sub-inspectors who have been given promotion on the basis of honesty only? My next point which deserves a serious consideration at the hands of the Government is this, sometimes it so happens that an able sub-inspector is posted at a certain

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police station and due to his ability, influence and tactfulness the crime decreases considerably. On his transfer a tactless sub-inspector happens to be posted at the same station and as a result of that the crime increases to a great extent. But I regret to say that in both the cases neither the tactfulness and efficiency of the former is encouraged by the Government nor the tactlessness and inefficiency of the latter is discouraged. Hence the result is obvious. The sub inspectors begin to take things as a routine and do not make serious efforts to root out crimes from their ilaqas. May I, in this connection, ask the Government to tell me the number of sub-inspectors whose promotions have been withheld or who have been dismissed by them on account of increase of crime at a certain station while remaining under their charge. As the police is considered to be the custodian of our safety and peace I would submit that a man who happens to go to a police station under the force of circumstances should not go there reluctantly. But he should go there without any hitch as if he were to visit his brethren. Unfortunately what happens in our daily life and what we experience every day is contrary to that. The attitude of sub-inspectors and other subordinate officers is not sympathetic towards the aggrieved people and that is why an aggrieved person prefers to stay at home and does not want to go to a thana. Unless a person tells him that the thief has been apprehended and the stolen property has been recovered from him, the sub-inspector will not be prepared to record his report.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

If one goes to the Police Station merely for lodging a report that a theft has been committed, there are 99 per cent chances of his being told that they cannot record his report or do anything in the matter. This is the state of affairs obtaining in the police department on which the Government are spending an increasing amount of money every year. A large majority of theft cases are left uninvestigated and untraced and the time does not seem to be far away when thieves would even deprive the Government of their 12 crores. If you are not competent to carry on the administration of this province in these days and if you go on exhibiting such weakness on your part, how will you be able to hold your office in troubled times which lie ahead?

Now Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the working of our courts. I believe nowhere in this world are the courts such a source of trouble and discomfort as they are in India. So much so that people in our province pray for immunity from disease and from having to go to a court of law. Even if you are to appear as a witness in some case you may wait for a whole day for being called to give evidence. Punctuality is a virtue respected more in its breach than observance by our magistrates. A list of cases with the time at which they would be taken up ought to be pasted outside the court room. *(Interruption)*. No such list is pasted outside the criminal courts. If a respectable person has to appear as a witness he will have to waste a whole day because no one knows when his name will be called. He cannot go to take his meals or any refreshment because of this uncertainty and yet after wasting a whole day without food or refreshment he may be told in the end that the magistrate

is unwell and the cases will be taken up again on such and such date. People who might have come from far off villages do not know what arrangements to make for passing the night and thus even those who come for appearing as witnesses, have to suffer all kinds of inconveniences.

Again, just as the Government intern and incarcerate political suspects, they would be well advised to lock up people of mean natures who are out to intimidate innocent people and thus constitute a greater danger to the peace of this province than the political 'dacoits'. I can assure the Government that if such steps are taken against them nobody will ask any questions about it. When we can tolerate the detention of honourable members of this House, why should we not endorse the apprehension of these dangers to public peace?

The next thing on which I wish to say a few words is corruption. Had the Government been able to eradicate this evil they would have achieved something. But as it is, this evil goes on unchecked and unpunished. Every I.C.S. and other big officer knows that his orderlies are making as much as Rs. 40 per day by illegal gratification but they do not care to put a stop to it. When they do not have the courage to check the corrupt practices of their own orderlies how can they be expected to control the administration of this province successfully? Indian Civil Service Officers who should be models of what a competent head of the district should be fail to check such evil and corrupt practices. I would, with your permission quote an instance of our own tehsil where the Deputy Commissioner was carrying out an inspection tour. A person who came to pay up his land revenue was asked by the *Siah Nawis* to pay Rs. 2 extra for him. The person said, "Have you no sense of shame left in you that you ask me to give you illegal gratification while the Deputy Commissioner is holding court in the adjoining room?" The *Siah Nawis* retorted, "If we desist from asking for it now when are we going to get it without any fear of exposure?" I would suggest that the Special Inquiry Agency which has so far focussed its attention on Extra Assistant Commissioners and other such officers alone should also be asked to investigate cases of sub-inspectors, naib-tahsildars, patwaris and girdwars.

Furthermore, I have also to bring to the notice of the Government that these Indian Civil Service officers mete out very scanty treatment to the members of this House. I have personal bitter experience of this discourtesy at the hands of the Financial Commissioner (Mr. Brayne) who had gone to Pakpattan on tour. I sent in my card and was waiting outside along with an Extra Assistant Commissioner when in a light-hearted manner he remarked that I being an M.L.A., would be received first. But the Commissioner called the Extra Assistant Commissioner in and sent me word that I should bring the Recruitment Officer's recommendation first if I wanted to see him. Again Commissioner King went there—such are the clear headed and sane officers that is our lot to have at the head of our administration—(laughter) fool as I was, not profiting by the previous experience I went to see him at the urgent entreaties of a tehsildar friend. After we had waited for two hours, the Commissioner came out and said, "Why are you sitting here? I have got no time. Go home". I said to myself: "Well, Mr. King, you are not to blame. The fault is that of your brain or of our Government which puts up with mad officers like you". In

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this connection I would dispel any doubt that might have arisen that I am recounting these stories, because I was not given a chance to meet the Commissioner. Not that. I was perturbed at the thought of what people would think of me when they hear of this.

Premier : You should not have listened to the counsel of your tehsildar friend.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Very well, Sir, I have learnt the lesson of my lifetime not to be misled by such requests again.

In this connection I would seriously request the Honourable Premier to note that in the pre-war days the attitude of the Britishers towards us was far more graceful and the treatment accorded to us far more considerate than is the case under the new régime. The Government are under the impression that their threats would make us more docile and more ready to obey their behests. But I would point out that this attitude on the part of Government will have a great adverse effect on the war effort of the province. The people are smarting under the treatment accorded to them. Would it not be better if in view of the present situation they mended their ways and removed such defects as are capable of eradication at the earliest possible moment?

Now with regard to the expenditure of the province I submit a few facts for your consideration. When as many as 175 members sit on the treasury benches, how can there be mutual concord among them? It is just like offering pudding to diners and asking them to help themselves to their heart's content. In such a case the rule of 'Might is right' will prevail and each one of the diners will try to take as much of it for himself as he can and each one will try to take the maximum. If the ministers are told today that the income of the province is only 12 crores and that they have to run the administration on this income and to save something from it, so that the savings might be utilised for the uplift of their province, it will be all to the good. If this could ever be conceived, then I am sure we can add much to the saving of our province. I am confident that the saving thus effected will be quite substantial. Unfortunately the Government does not take our remarks seriously. If the Government were to declare to-day that all Indian Civil Service officers drawing Rs. 1,000 or above as their pay, will be paid Rs. 500 and that if they refuse to agree they may resign their jobs, I am sure that not one of them will dare to resign his post.

Minister of Public Works : But we are not authorised to do so under the Government of India Act.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : If that is so, why do you not try this in the case of the subordinate services. If you do even this you would have done something.

Now Sir, I want to say one word with regard to pensions. Pensions may be allotted in such a way that those who draw meagre salaries should alone get them. But the case is just the reverse. Those who draw big salaries, are given pensions plus allowances and special pays, while no heed is paid to those who draw meagre salaries. These big salaried persons have already deposited enormous amounts in the banks, and it is not reasonable to further add to their resources by giving them fat pensions.

Either the ways of the Government are wrong or I am gone crazy. Does it not look strange on the part of the Government to grant pensions to these big salaried officials who have fabulous bank balances to their credit.

Now, Sir, I have one thing more to say. It is this that we the residents of Multan and Montgomery districts are considered so inefficient that we are neither given a share in the ministry, nor have we been allowed any share in the Public Services' Commission. Any honourable member who has any regard for his constituents will have to put forward this plea on their behalf. If I were the Minister of Revenue like the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, I would certainly give preference to persons belonging to my constituency.

Premier : That is why you were not given a seat in the ministry.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : So far as the Attock district is concerned, you are sailing in the same boat with the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram. You are showing discrimination and according preferential treatment to your own people as Sir Chhotu Ram is doing in the case of Rohtak, Hissar, etc. Such examples of favouritism and nepotism will be hard to find in any other province. It would have been just and proper if all the five divisions in the province had been given their due share in the ministry. In that case no one would have grudged your pre-eminence.

Munshi Hari Lal : But Multan is also the constituency of the Honourable Premier.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I wonder why one division has been given representation both in the Ministry and in the Public Services Commission. Both the Minister and the member of the Commission are helping the men belonging to their own division. If one fails, the other comes to his rescue. I wonder why the people of my division have not been given their due share in the services. Is it that efficiency is found only in Shahpur and Rohtak? Does it mean that our graduates are not fit for service, while the matriculates of other districts are more efficient?

4 p.m.

Here I may add that the standard of education in Montgomery is very low and the people of my district are neither given educational facilities, nor any share in the services. Previously when the late Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana was alive he at least used to listen to our complaints. But now as he is no longer here, we have neither got any representation in Government nor do we get any representation in services.

Premier : Let the honourable member tell us if he can find another man of the talents of the late lamented Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daulatana.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : I may tell him that Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad is there. He is as fat and as talented as the late Mian Ahmad Yar Khan was.

Premier : If Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani had needed anything he would have certainly come to me and told me so.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Previously when the late Mian Ahmad Yar Khan was alive he at least used to hear our complaints. Now that door has also been shut against us and we cannot even put forward our complaints before the Government. My submission is that the troubles

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of the Montgomery district are so many but no attention is paid to them at all. In our canal which supplies water to the Nili Bar, only 30 per cent. of water is supplied to us but abiana is charged 100 per cent from us. When we receive only 30 per cent water supply, what right have the Government to realize abiana at full rate. Then, sometimes ago it was pointed out that when the Bhakra Dam Scheme would be completed more water would be supplied to the Nili Bar through this canal. But now the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has reserved the whole of the Bhakra Dam Scheme for his ilaqa and he says that all the water from that project would be and should be given to the zamindars of Rohtak and Karnal. In his opinion nobody else has any right to use the water of the river Sutlej except the people of the Ambala Division. I may warn the Government that if after the completion of the Bhakra Dam Scheme water is not supplied to us we will have to leave these benches. With these words I resume my seat.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (North Punjab, Non-Union, Labour) (Urdu): Sir, while speaking on this cut motion I have no desire to indulge in destructive criticism of the policy of the Government underlying this demand. I would rather make a constructive criticism of the general administration and offer suggestions to the Government for effecting improvements in it. First of all I would invite the attention of the Government to an important matter and that is about the promotion of communal harmony in the province. Last year during the course of his budget speech, the Honourable Finance Minister made special mention of it and told us with a flourish that the Government had allocated an amount to the tune of one lakh of rupees for the purpose of advancing communal concord in the province. I would just refer the honourable members to the actual words uttered by him last year in regard to this particular subject.

"A further noticeable item is of a lakh of rupees for the promotion of communal harmony in the province."

My purpose in bringing this matter to the notice of the House is that although the objective which the Government had placed before them, was very laudable, yet for reasons better known to them they did not pay any attention to it. In this connection I just draw the attention of the House to page 652 of the budget. The honourable members would find that a provision of one lakh of rupees has been made for the purpose of improving communal atmosphere in the Punjab. But there is nothing new about this amount. It is the same which was provided last year. As the Government failed to utilise it, it lapsed and now a re-grant has been made. My submission is that it is not the question of money that is of vital importance. It is communal harmony which carried weight with me. This lapse of money indicates lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Government. They should have done something substantial in this respect instead of providing an amount, then allowing it to lapse and then re-granting it. Only the other day the Honourable Premier made a stirring appeal to all sections of the House and the people at large, to compose their differences and close up their ranks before the arrival of Sir Stafford Cripps, in order to make his mission an outstanding success. I am of the opinion that if we could resolve our differences, Sir Stafford would not have had to come over to India. If there had been complete communal harmony in the

country and the people had made a united demand we would have achieved our object even without Sir Stafford's visit to India. But the pity of it is that the gulf of difference instead of being bridged is widening between the different communities and hence this matter requires the immediate and urgent attention of the Punjab Government so far as this province is concerned. I appeal to them to make greater efforts in order to achieve this end. In this connection I would like to make a suggestion which would go a long way to solve this knotty problem. You are aware, Sir, the Honourable Premier had advocated the principle of joint electorates in the pre-autonomy days. Even last year he told us that he had suggested to late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, rather brought him round to accept the principle of joint electorates to be introduced in the country. But this scheme was torpedoed by some self-seekers in the province. My submission is, now that he has come to power, he should make a beginning by introducing joint electorates with reservation of seats in the local bodies at least. This will certainly bring about a wholesome change in the communal atmosphere of the Punjab. I am confident that if my suggestion is accepted, the communal tension in the province would be eased to a great extent.

Apart from this there is an allied matter and that is the maintenance of internal security. As you are aware, Sir, a grave situation in the country has been created with the war coming to the very threshold of India. It is very likely that there may be some internal commotion and the peace of the province may be jeopardised owing to the presence of hooligan element. In order to meet such a contingency with a strong hand and ensure internal safety, the Government should have made elaborate arrangements. They should also arrange to make propaganda among the masses with a view to create a sense of security in their minds. But what we find is that except for this statement that "the expenditure under the head of police has increased by Rs. 25 lakhs" with a view to maintaining law and order, we have no other indication given by the Government either in the memorandum or the budget. We are absolutely in the dark about their programme to be adopted for securing internal safety. We do not know the intention of the Government as to what action they are going to take in case of internal trouble in the province. It has also not been disclosed to us as to what A. R. P. arrangements have been made to cope with air raids. No statement appears to have been given in any form. I have mentioned this matter so that the Government may give their careful consideration to it.

Then, Sir, I have to draw your attention to another point and that is this. The other day the Honourable Premier while replying to Shaikh Sadiq Hassan's question on the problem of unemployment in the Punjab expressed his surprise to hear of unemployment in the province. He told us that so far as rural areas were concerned it was non-existent there. In other words the villages are in a state of prosperity. He said that owing to war almost all the ruralite unemployed had found suitable jobs in the army. Hence if there was any unemployment, it was in the towns. Proceeding further he remarked that he had advised the unemployed in the urban areas to join the army in one capacity or the other, because the doors of this department were flung open to all, irrespective of caste, colour or creed. He claimed that the recruitment to the army department, whether

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in the fighting forces, clerical jobs or technicians was being made without communal, martial or non-martial distinctions. Besides, efficiency was the only criterion or the standard that the authorities had placed before them while making recruitment to all posts, be they technical or otherwise. This policy is really commendable. But I am sorry to say that the Honourable Premier's statement and the policy which he mentioned is not being acted upon by his subordinate officers. Only the other day I happened to see an advertisement in the newspapers. It was issued by the Director of Information Bureau, Punjab. It was in regard to the recruitment of clerks for the duration of war only. But it specifically mentioned that only members belonging to certain communities were wanted. Obviously this advertisement clearly goes counter to the policy reiterated by the Honourable the Premier. These appointments are in connection with war work and for the war time only and therefore, should not be made on communal lines but entirely on efficiency and ability basis. Besides, the officer who has to make these appointments, as mentioned in the said advertisement, is under the Punjab Government. I request the Government to look into this matter and see that so far as these appointments are concerned, they are not made on communal lines. These should be thrown open to all alike. I may point out that this advertisement appeared both in the *Tribune* and in the *Civil and Military Gazette*.

Now I have to invite the attention of the Government and specially the Honourable Finance Minister to the claims made by them with regard to the beneficent activities. We have been told time and again that the beneficent departments are receiving the special attention of the Government. I can prove that this statement is not borne out by figures. I have carefully gone through the figures and worked out the percentages of increase or decrease in the amounts allocated for beneficent activities. If you just refer to the memorandum of the budget of 1942 you will find that on the first page it is mentioned that whereas in 1936-37 the year immediately before the present Government assumed office, revenue receipts stood at Rs. 1,102 lakhs, in 1941-42 they totalled about Rs. 1,419 lakhs. Proceeding further, on page 4, you will come across the figures of expenditure relating to the beneficent departments. According to the Honourable Finance Minister there has been a steady increase in the amounts allotted for this purpose. In 1936-37 Rs. 287 lakhs were spent on the beneficent departments while in 1941-42 this amount was enhanced to a sum of Rs. 324 lakhs. After working out the ratio I have come to this conclusion. Whereas the proportion between the expenditure on beneficent activities and provincial revenue receipts in 1936-37 comes to 26.41 per cent, the proportion for the year 1941-42 works out to 22.8 per cent. It is crystal clear that although the Honourable Finance Minister made an increase in the provision earmarked for beneficent activities, yet the percentage of expenditure incurred in this respect does not compare favourably with that of pre-autonomy days. Hence it is incumbent upon the Government that if they cannot surpass the proportion of expenditure on 1936-37, because of pressing demands of the present situation on their finances, they should at least come up to that percentage. They should cut down unnecessary expenditure and exercise strict economy in the administration charges,

without of course impairing its efficiency. It is only then that the Government can claim to have done a lot in the sphere of beneficent department.

Now I come to the policy of the Government in regard to nominations. I know that the policy of the Congress Governments was to stamp out entirely the nominated block from the local as well as other bodies, while the Punjab Government's policy in this respect is to nominate a certain number of persons themselves. I do not dispute this. Let Government follow this policy of nominating certain number of persons on any committee which they like. But my grouse is that on both the newly formed committees which were constituted recently the entire membership was nominated by the Government of its choice and all these members were nominated in their individual capacities. The Government thus ignored the rights of certain organized bodies like the Chambers of Commerce. I refer to the Industrial Research Committee and the Provincial Transport Authority. In both these cases the Government have given no representation to the organized Chambers of Commerce in the Punjab. You will observe, Sir, that everywhere the right of nomination has been conceded to the Chambers of Commerce but here different practice is followed. As I have already stated the Industrial Research Committee was constituted but the Honourable Minister incharge of Industries himself nominated 3 persons to it in their individual capacity instead of asking the Chambers to send their representatives. My submission is that if the Government are keen to bring in their own friends and want to oblige certain persons by nominating them to such bodies, they can do so but not at the expense of the rights of others. They can achieve their object by increasing the number of members and not by sacrificing the rights of the Chambers of Commerce. In this connection I may point out that the Honourable Minister for Revenue adopted a very wholesome method while constituting the Price Control Board. I must give him the credit due to him. He asked the Chambers of Commerce to send their nominees to serve on the Board. But when he wanted to bring in others he did not usurp the rights of the Chambers. He gave the Chambers their full share and without giving them any cause for complaint, increased the number of the members of the Board and thus brought in men of his own choice. I am, therefore, of the opinion that the Honourable Minister incharge of Industries should also have acted in this manner in the matter of nominating members to the Industrial Research Committee. To be brief this committee consists of 7 or 8 members out of whom 3 are non-officials. Now Chambers of Commerce should have been asked to send their nominees to serve on this Committee but the Government failed to give any representation to these organised bodies by their arbitrary action. Honourable members would be interested to know that when a question relating to this matter was asked the Honourable Minister said that all the three nominees belonged to one Chamber or the other, but the fact is that one of them is not a member of any Chamber. In view of this I wonder why wrong information has been supplied to us. However, what I want to drive at is that the Government may nominate whom they like but they should not do so at the cost of others. The rights of organised bodies like the Chambers of Commerce should in no way be sacrificed and they should be allowed to send their own representatives to such bodies. As already stated Government can achieve this object by increasing the

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membership of these committees as was done in the case of the Price Control Board.

There is yet another body, namely, the Punjab Provincial Transport Authority. In this case also the Chambers claims to representation on that Authority have been ignored. It would not be out of place to mention here that Rule 60 of the model motor vehicles rules framed by the Transport Advisory Council of India clearly recommends to Provincial Government that 4 out of 8 members will be non-officials as follows :—

Two representatives each of :—

- (a) Municipalities and District Boards and
- (b) Chambers of Commerce and similar bodies.

Provinces like Bombay, Calcutta, United Provinces and Sind have already recognised provincial Chambers of Commerce for representation on the Transport Bodies concerned, whereas in this province a different procedure has been adopted, namely of appointing non-officials in their individual capacities instead of as representatives of Chambers of Commerce. You will observe, Sir, that in spite of the specific provision for the inclusion of the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce, the Honourable Minister has acted in a different manner. I hope the Government will give their careful consideration to this matter and redress the grievances of the Chambers of Commerce by asking them to nominate their representative on this Authority. If that is done, I am sure, the spirit of rule 60 of the model motor vehicles rules will no longer be violated as would unfortunately appear to be the position at the present time.

Now I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education to the question of languages. You will remember, Sir, that last year a great deal of agitation took place against the Government on the question of Hindi and Gurmukhi. In this connection a deputation also waited on the Government with the result that the Government held out an assurance that *status quo* would be maintained. However, what I want to convey by mentioning this matter is this. We desire that minorities here should be treated in the same manner as majority in the United Provinces treat their minorities in the matter of general treatment, languages and services.

Besides I must express my gratitude to the Honourable Minister for Education for the assurance which he gave the other day on the floor of the House to the question put by my honourable friend, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh in connection with the notification of the Education Department of the 7th September, 1938. I also would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education to the letter No. 14618-X., dated the 4th July, 1941, which was issued by the Education Department to the Inspector of Schools, Amabala Division, which lays down that no management of a private school can change the medium of instruction without the previous consent of the Director of Public Instruction. You will observe, Sir, that this letter No. 14618-X., dated the 4th July, 1941, goes counter to the Honourable Premier's assurance. It is obvious that before the issue of this letter the private schools had the option to change their medium of instruction without obtaining the previous sanction of the Education Department, but now they have been debarred. My contention is that when

the Government stand pledged to the maintenance of *status quo* and when before the present Government assumed office no sanction of this kind was necessary how is *status quo* being maintained if departure from the past practice is being insisted upon? But as the Honourable Minister has promised to settle this matter to the satisfaction of the community concerned, I have no intention to dilate upon this subject. I hope he will do the needful at his earliest convenience.

Now I come to the affairs of the Punjab University. I have no mind to go into the details. Suffice it to say that there the things have gone from bad to worse and the University is suffering from a serious mal-administration. In this connection I must refer to the post of the Vice-Chancellor firstly, because he being the head of the institution is responsible for its policy and administration and secondly, we sanction a sum of Rs. 30,000 as the salary of this incumbent. I am of the opinion that all the prize posts like that of the Vice-Chancellor should be abolished for the duration of war and the resultant savings should be utilized for some more useful work. Besides, I fail to understand the policy of the Government in appointing a wholetime paid Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University. You will observe, Sir, that in almost all the universities in India, the Vice-Chancellors have been appointed from the non-officials who are distinguished educationists. But the present incumbent has been brought from the Agriculture Department and foisted on the University.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, the 17th March, 1942.

1911

1911年1月1日 星期日
1911年1月2日 星期一
1911年1月3日 星期二

1911年1月4日 星期三

1911年1月5日 星期四

1911年1月6日 星期五



1911年1月7日 星期六

1911年1月8日 星期日

1911

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 17th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REPRESENTATION BY DETENUS DETAINED IN SUB-JAIL, GUJRAT.

***8228. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any representation has recently been made by the detenus detained in the Sub-Jail, Gujrat, inviting the attention of Government to some definite grievances? If so, will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay a copy of the representation on the table of the House and state whether any action has been taken by the Government on the representation in question; if not, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : A representation was recently received from the security prisoners confined in the new Sub-Jail, Gujrat, which is at present under the consideration of Government. It is not in the public interest to lay a copy of the representation on the table.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that the treatment meted out to these detenus under the present representative Government of the Punjab is worse than the treatment meted out to these people at Deoli where the Government was being run by a Governor?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a supplementary question.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know what is the hitch before the Government to put before this House the representation that was made by the detenus with respect to their grievances?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have said that it is not in the public interest to lay that document on the table.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My point is whether it is not a fact that the representation is an open document.

Parliamentary Private Secretary : If it is an open document, then why is the honourable member asking me to lay it on the table?

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Parliamentary Private Secretary is prepared to tell us that in the representation the main item was that the detenus are being given one anna and a half worth of things every day to maintain themselves?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have already stated that the representation is being considered by Government, and I am not prepared to discuss the details on the floor of the House.

CROWN LANDS.

***8150. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating to grant crown lands on lease preferably to landless sub-tenants residing in Nili Bar and Ganji Bar Colonies ; if so, the approximate date when this is intended to be done and also the terms on which such leases are to be granted ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : *First part.*—No.

Second part.—Does not arise.

***8238—Cancelled.**

PAYMENT OF RENTS BY LESSEES IN NILI BAR COLONY.

***8239. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some lessees of lands on temporary cultivation in the Nili Bar Colony remitted rents due from them for *Kharif*. 1942, by money-orders before 15th January, 1942, the due date for payment of rents ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these money orders were refused by the colony authorities and returned to the senders ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that these lessees, when they went to make payment of the rents in person, were required to pay penalty at the rate of Rs. 5 per hundred of the dues for paying the dues after due date ; if so, the reasons therefor and the term of contract, if any, under which remittance by money order on the due date has not been entertained ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) *First part.*—No record was kept of lessees who, in the first instance, remitted the rent by money order.

Second part.—These Government dues are properly payable only into a treasury and the receipt of large sums in cash in the colony office by means of money orders is undesirable. Challans, whereby the rent could be paid by the lessees into nearest Government sub-treasury, had previously been prepared in the colony office and sent to all lessees through the field staff. In order to make payments in the proper manner, therefore, they would not have had to come to Pakpattan but could have made the payment at their nearest sub-treasury.

Third part.—Under clause 3 (a) of the lease deed.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know whether payment by money order is not a proper payment ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the method prescribed for the payment of these particular dues is to deposit the amount in a sub-treasury and not to send it by money order.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My question was whether payment by money order is not a proper payment.

Parliamentary Secretary : I do not understand what the honourable member means by "proper payment". I have stated that the proper method of making the payment is to deposit the money in a sub-treasury.

MURDER OF POLICE OFFICIALS.

***8148. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the brief details of the recent assault by an absconder or dacoit on police officials near Jagadhri police station ;
- (b) the number of persons murdered by the assailants and of those who escaped ;
- (c) whether the assailants have so far been arrested ;
- (d) whether any pension has been sanctioned for the families of the deceased who were done to death while discharging their official duties ;
- (e) whether any other similar accident has since occurred in Ambala district ; if so, the details ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) On the morning of the 20th November, 1941, at about 10 a.m. 3 notorious outlaws, namely, Ajmera, Budho and Lachhman Singh of the Karnal district, met two constables Fateh Muhammad and Makhan Singh, who were escorting two prisoners, on the Chhappar-Jagadhri road near village Khera, 1½ miles from Jagadhri. The dacoits demanded the release of the prisoners. Foot constable Makhan Singh yielded to the threats and his life was spared, while his companion foot constable Fateh Muhammad resisted and was shot dead by the dacoits. The prisoners made no attempt at escape but went straight to the police station where they were to be let off on bail. The murderers have not since been arrested despite vigorous efforts.

(b) One foot constable was murdered and the other escaped.

(c) No.

(d) A reward of Rs. 500 has already been sanctioned for the heirs of the deceased foot constable, while the question of the grant of a special pension is under consideration of Government.

(e) No.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether any action has been taken against Makhan Singh, foot constable ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I want notice.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is it such a question that the Parliamentary Secretary must have notice ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the honourable member wants a definite answer, he must give due notice.

BUND IN NAKTI NADI.

***8149. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a *bund* has been constructed in Nakti Nadi flowing north of Sadhaura town of Ambala district ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the work of construction has now been entrusted to the Public Works Department ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that floods in the last rainy season damaged the *bund* in various places ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that only temporary repairs have been made to the *bund* and no steps have so far been taken by the Public Works Department to make any suitable and *pucka* repairs to the *bund* to stop further damage ; if so, the action that Government intend to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) A *bund* has been constructed for the protection of Sadhaura Town against Sukkar Rao and Fandi Rao Nadis. Nakti Nadi is not known.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question of handing these works back again to the local authorities is under consideration of Government.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : As the rainy season is nearing, may I know what arrangements have been made to make suitable repairs to the *bund* to stop further damage ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question as to whether this work should be handed over to the local authorities or should be done by the Public Works Department is under consideration and I hope a decision will be arrived at a very early date.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : In reply to part (b) whether the work of construction has been entrusted to the Public Works Department, you say 'yes'. And still you say that the question of handing the work again to the local authorities is under consideration of Government. Which is correct ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have said that Government is considering whether the work should remain with the Public Works Department or whether it should be sent back to the local administration. Perhaps the Honourable Minister may be able to give further information.

Minister for Revenue : The reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary is perfectly correct. The matter has been considered, and it has been decided that the work will be carried out by the Irrigation Branch and the necessary funds have been provided for the purpose. As to whether it should be maintained subsequently by the Irrigation Branch or the local authorities, that question will receive consideration after the work has been completed. But the honourable member must rest assured that the work will be carried out without any loss of time. I hope no further loss to Sadhaura will take place.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I want this point to be made clear, whether the work is to be carried out by the Public Works Department.

Minister of Revenue : I have said the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, because local bodies, as the honourable member must know, do not have an Irrigation Branch.

TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE.

***8203. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is arrangement for training in agriculture in the Government College, Ludhiana ;

(b) if reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether in all the Government schools in the district a similar sort of arrangement exists ; if so, how demonstrations in agriculture are given at the tahsil headquarters, Jagraon and Samrala, there being no Government or district board farms at these places ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes ; there is a high school centre of agriculture at Ludhiana where three local high schools participate. A five acre farm and a five acre fruit orchard (with a full complement of agricultural implements and tools) have been provided by Government in the premises of the Government College, Ludhiana, to give practical training in the subject to the boys attending this centre.

(b) No. Agriculture is an optional subject for the Matriculation classes and it is not essential or possible that it should be introduced in all Government high schools.

IN-DOOR AND OUT-DOOR PATIENTS IN JAGRAON AND OTHER DISPENSARIES.

***8204. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of in-door and out-door patients admitted in Samrala, Jagraon, Raikot, Dehlon and Maloudh dispensaries during the last 12 months ;

(b) whether in any of the dispensaries above-mentioned eye operations are also performed, if so, the number and names of such dispensaries and whether any special facilities are provided or extra grant-in-aid made to such dispensaries ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table.

2. The Civil Hospital at Samrala is a provincialized institution and the question of grant-in-aid does not therefore arise. No special facilities are provided for eye-operations in any other institution and no grants-in-aid are given. The dispensary at Maloudh is a district board institution and sufficient funds are provided by that body for the purchase of English medicines, hospital furniture, etc.

Statement showing the number of in-door and out-door patients admitted in the hospitals and dispensaries at Samrala, Jagraon, Rail ot, Dehlon, and Maloudh in the Ludhiana district and the number of eye operations performed therein during the year 1941.

Name of hospital or dispensary.	NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED DURING 1941.		
	In-door patients.	Out-door patients.	Number of eye operations performed.
1. Samrala	398	20,674	78
2. Jagraon	830	30,581	116
3. Raikot	134	20,517	23
4. Dehlon	137	14,187	5
5. Maloudh	2,314	32,149	2,063

IN-DOOR AND OUT-DOOR PATIENTS IN RURAL DISPENSARIES.

***8205. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- the number of in-door and out-door patients admitted in the rural and subsidized dispensaries in the district of Ludhiana during the last 12 months ;
- the accommodation available for in-door patients in each of these dispensaries ;
- whether it is a fact that the dispensaries in the rural areas are not fully equipped with new and up-to-date appliances ; if so, why ;
- whether it is a fact that on account of lack of accommodation in the rural dispensaries of Nurpur Bet, Sidhwan Bet, Kum and Sawaddi in-door patients are not admitted ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ;
- the qualifications of all the medical officers in charge of these rural and subsidized dispensaries, respectively ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| (a) In-door patients | 251 |
| Out-door patients | 99,655 |

(b) Four beds each in the rural dispensaries and none in the subsidized dispensaries except one emergency bed at Swaddi.

(c) The dispensaries in the rural areas are equipped according to the requisitions submitted by Medical Officers in charge from time to time and according to the standard scale fixed for such dispensaries.

(d) The rural dispensaries are merely feeders to district and tahsil headquarters hospitals and patients suffering from ordinary ailments or requiring immediate in-door treatment are admitted in them. Other cases are sent to district and tahsil headquarters hospitals.

It may, however, be pointed out that the dispensary at Sidhwan Bet is not a rural dispensary but is a civil one.

(e) Serial No.	Name of Dispensary.	Name of Medical Officer with qualification.
<i>Rural.</i>		
1	Gujjarwal	Dr. Basdev Kapila, L.M.P.
2	Kum Kalan	Dr. Daya Singh, L.S.M.F.
3	Nurpur Bet	Dr. Gursher Singh, L.S.M.F. (Punjab).
4	Isru	Dr. Palwant Singh, L.S.M.F. (Punjab).
5	Halwara	Dr. Habib Ullah Khan, L.S.M.F. (Punjab).
<i>Subsidized.</i>		
6	Swaddi	Dr. Jatindar Lal, L.S.M.F. (Punjab).
7	Nathowal	Dr. Om Parkash, L.S.M.F. (Hon.).
8	Rachhin	Dr. Ranjit Singh, L. M. P.
9	Andlu	Dr. Muhammad Suleman, L. M. P. (C. P.).

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ASSESSMENT OF TURNOVER OF SHOPKEEPERS.

***8304. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that shopkeepers having a turnover of less than Rs. 10,000 are also being asked by the assessing authorities to submit returns under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act ; if so, why ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : *First part.*—Government have no information.

Second part.—Under the Sales Tax Act, as originally passed by the Legislative Assembly, turnovers exceeding Rs. 5,000 were liable to the tax. It is, therefore, possible that notices to shopkeepers with turnovers of more than Rs. 5,000 may have been issued by the assessing authorities before they received information of the amending Act which has only recently been passed by the Assembly.

GENERAL SALES TAX RULES, 1941.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Draft Amendments to the Punjab General Sales Tax Rules, 1941.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (3RD INSTALMENT).

Minister of Finance : Sir, I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (3rd Instalment). The demands are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

General Policy of Government.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now resume discussion on the demand relating to General Administration.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour) (Urdu) : Sir, yesterday when the House adjourned, I was still on my legs drawing the pointed attention of the Government to the affairs of the Panjab University. I was submitting that the post of a paid Vice-Chancellor should be abolished. If it was not acceptable, it should be done away with at least for the duration of war and converted into an honorary post as before. If this suggestion is accepted, it would result in the saving of a fairly big sum amounting to Rs. 80,000 per annum. Government could make use of it in some more useful manner during the war period when they were raising money by imposing fresh taxes. But if this proposal does not find favour with the Government and they are enamoured of a wholetime paid Vice-Chancellor, then it is high time that they came in line with other democratically governed educational institutions. What I mean to convey is that instead of selecting an official of the Punjab Government for the post of Vice-Chancellor of the Panjab University, a non-official person should be appointed to the post. I may point out for the information of the House that in almost all other Universities of India the post is held by non-officials.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The Punjab leads again!

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Besides, it has been a wholesome practice with the Universities to have non-official Vice-Chancellors to control their affairs. But here in the Punjab the Government have ridden roughshod of this practice. They have thrust upon the public an official Vice-Chancellor in utter disregard of the public demand. Then wherever an official has been elevated to the post of a Vice-Chancellor, may be temporarily or otherwise, under certain circumstances, the Government take particular care to see that an eminent educationist of outstanding ability is appointed. But in the Punjab things go differently. The Government get hold of an official serving in the Agriculture Department and appoint him as a wholetime paid Vice-Chancellor. What a laudable selection! We used to hear of such analogous appointments made in the Indian States. There if the Ruler was pleased, a Finance Secretary could be elevated to the post of the Commander-in-Chief of state forces. And if a Commander of state forces incurred the displeasure of His Highness, he would be degraded or say transferred to the post of warder of prisons. (Laughter.) You will observe, sir, that the nature of these two posts is poles asunder. The Punjab Government have acted exactly in the same manner. They have placed a

man, dealing with the subject of Agriculture, at the helm of affairs of a University. Besides the present Vice-Chancellor's regime has been marked by intrigues, deterioration in administration and numerous students' demonstrations. The honourable members must be aware of the agitation that was recently launched against the administration of the Panjab University in connection with some papers concerning the matriculation examination. (*An honourable member* : What has the Vice-Chancellor to do with the setting of papers ?) But may I know who directs the policy of the University ? Just as the other day the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram told us that he took particular care to see that his subordinates carried out his policy in letter and spirit in the matter of services, etc., similarly so far as the internal policy of the University is concerned, it is the Vice-Chancellor who is responsible for these unhappy incidents. I can quote instances in support of my contention. But as I have no mind to go into details or make attacks of a personal nature, I will only mention that no less a person than the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal had to sever his connection with the Syndicate of the Panjab University. The House will be interested to know that the Honourable Minister had been associated with this body for a very long time but his severance of connection indicates that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark. It is evident that matters have gone from bad to worse and as a result of this the Honourable Minister has been compelled to sever his connection with the University.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : Will the honourable member please repeat his remarks ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I am not afraid of recapitulating my remarks. I am prepared to say them a thousand times. The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal had been participating in the activities of the Punjab University for a long time and was doing very useful work. He was on several Committees of the Panjab University. He was also a member of the governing body known as the Syndicate. But now the rotten state of affairs has impelled him to sever his connection with that governing body.

Minister of Education : You have no right to assume this.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : There is no question of assumption. It is a hard fact. I would not say anything more to expose the internal administration of the University as the members of the Government are getting unnecessarily restive over it. Then you will observe, sir, in Bengal they have appointed an eminent person, no less than the Speaker of the Assembly himself, as the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. Here, too, men of eminence and distinguished educationists, like the Honourable Mr. Justice Din Muhammad, Sir Abdul Qadir, the Honourable the Speaker are available to hold that post. Any person among them can acquit himself creditably as a Vice-Chancellor. I, therefore, cannot help deprecating the action of the Government in foisting a man, who is not an educationist, on the Panjab University to control its affairs. It goes counter to all canons of justice.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to another matter. If you just refer to page 658 of the budget, you will find an item of Rs. 10,000

[R. B. Sohan Lal.]

occurring under the head of expenditure on war publicity for writing pamphlets, etc. This expenditure is in addition to the amount already allocated for the maintenance of a department which has been organised to do propaganda and publicity work in connection with the war and a wholetime staff has also been engaged to accomplish that task. I fail to understand why this contingent amount has been provided. I am astonished to find that this sum has been earmarked for getting articles, pamphlets, etc., composed by persons other than that of the staff. I ask, when the Government have got wholetime staff for war publicity, why has this extra amount been allocated for writing articles, pamphlets, etc.? Has our staff established for this purpose not been able to do the work to the satisfaction of the Government and is it, therefore, that outside help is being sought? Besides, no details in regard to the disbursement of this sum have been given in the budget. Neither did the Honourable Minister for Finance give any inkling of details about this expenditure.

One word more about the Hydro-Electric Department and I have done. The Government opened this department with these avowed objects, namely—

- (a) that the department would be run entirely on commercial lines and the Government would make profit thereby; and
- (b) that the electric energy would be supplied to the people at comparatively cheaper rates specially for industrial purposes and that the profit which will accrue could be utilized on beneficent activities.

Now we have to see how far they have achieved these objects. So far as any profit from this department is concerned it is altogether out of the question. It is rather sustaining a loss ranging from rupees 17 to 20 lakhs per annum. Then with regard to the second object, that is, rates at which energy is to be supplied they have been raised as was revealed in the speech made by the Honourable Finance Minister this year. This fact alone goes against the declared object of the scheme. I may mention here that rates of no electric company in the province run by private enterprise have been increased. As a matter of fact certain companies are supplying energy at rates which are cheaper than those of the Hydro-Electric Department. Hence by increase of rates of electric energy the Government have indirectly imposed a tax on the people. This is most unfair. I feel Government should take steps to improve the working of this scheme. I would also like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister concerned that establishment of this department alone consumes 31 per cent of the whole income derived by this department during the year. In my opinion this should not be allowed to exceed more than 17½ per cent. Perhaps this is due to the fact that Government have appointed more officers in the commercial department than are necessary. When one Chief Engineer is sufficient to handle the entire work on the technical side, why are three separate officers appointed in the commercial section of this department? I fail to understand why unnecessary staff is being added when it is not actually required. This should be eschewed and strict economy effected so that this department may not prove a dead weight on the exchequer. I am constrained to remark

that Government are wasting so much money on the establishment of this department and at the same time they are levying taxes to raise more money. This is nothing but anomaly. It is, therefore, but meet and proper that Government should cut down their heavy expenses and exercise strict economy with a view to make this department a paying proposition. With these words I close my remarks.

Minister of Education (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) : Sir, my justification for intervening in this debate is because of certain astounding and irresponsible statements made by the honourable member who has just resumed his seat. Yesterday afternoon and this morning he raised the question of the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the Panjab University. He tried to pillory the Government for having appointed Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Husain as Vice-Chancellor, who was at one time the Principal of the Agricultural College at Lyallpur. My honourable friend has some years' experience at his back and yet he does not know that so far as the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor is concerned, the Government has nothing to do with it. According to the constitution of the University, it is His Excellency the Chancellor who has to make this appointment. His main criticism was that a gentleman who according to him was not an educationalist, who was not even a member of the Education Department, had been imported from Lyallpur to be at the helm of affairs in the University. He also complained that there was no occasion to appoint a whole-time paid Vice-Chancellor. May I remind him that this again is the sole concern of the University, and its Chancellor? About four years back, the Senate of the University after very careful deliberation decided to have a whole-time paid Vice-Chancellor. They thought that as the work of the University had increased considerably and there had been expansions all round, the time had come when they should replace a part-time honorary Vice-Chancellor by a whole-time paid Vice-Chancellor. My learned friend said that it was for the Government to put their foot down. May I remind him that when this recommendation was made by the Senate to the Chancellor, the Government was addressed on the subject and as the University had no funds to pay the salary of the paid Vice-Chancellor they put in a request for a grant-in-aid equal to the salary of the Vice-Chancellor for one year? That matter was very carefully considered by the Government and was brought before this House and discussed here and this House agreed almost unanimously to pass that demand. My honourable friend yesterday and even this morning was not aware that he was criticising the decision taken by this House. So far as the appointment of the present Vice-Chancellor is concerned, my learned friend thinks that the Agricultural College at Lyallpur is not an educational institution. I have no doubt that the present Vice-Chancellor, by virtue of his attainments, scholarship, learning and love of knowledge, is eminently fit for this post. Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Husain was selected for the post after very careful consideration and his term has been extended by the Chancellor. I have no hesitation in saying that he is an eminent educationist and a scholar of great repute. He is an M.Sc. of the Panjab University and an M.A. of the Cambridge University. He has got 20 years' experience and more than one dozen literary works to his credit. (*Hear, hear.*) I dare say that the Vice-Chancellor, like some of us here, has on many occasions to displease certain individuals. So

[Education Minister.]

far as the administration of the University is concerned, I have no doubt that it has definitely improved. (*Hear, hear.*) I dare say that the Vice-Chancellor is taking great interest in the administration of the University. My learned friend yesterday made a rash and irresponsible statement that things in the University have gone from bad to worse. So far as the affairs of the University are concerned, they have certainly improved, but so far as certain individuals are concerned, I dare say, they may have gone from bad to worse. I know it for a fact that till recently one particular firm of publishers held the monopoly (*hear; hear*) so far as the sale of books prescribed by the University was concerned. (*Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal* : I can assure the Honourable Minister that it was not my firm.) This firm used to earn to the tune of 20 thousand rupees a year. (*An honourable member* : Rupees 20 thousand a month, not rupees 20 thousand a year.) But now there are some other firms who have shown enterprise and come into the field. There is naturally a keen competition. Sir, orders have been made to the financial detriment of that firm. To-day there are as many as six publishers in the field to compete with it. So far as Government is concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that no better choice could have been made than that of Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Husain (*Hear, hear*). The whole province and those who are interested in the welfare of the student community and in the proper administration of the University are indeed thankful to the Chancellor for making this appointment (*Cheers*).

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know whether the Government was consulted or not by the Chancellor at the time of the appointment of the present Vice-Chancellor ?

Minister of Education : I would refuse to answer that question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Because it is embarrassing.

Sardar Partap Singh (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I understand that General Administration on which one-tenth of the local income of the province is spent, should be responsible for the management of the whole province. I feel that the Government has not realized its responsibility in the matter and I would therefore urge a few points for its consideration. Every responsible person including Governors and the Viceroy himself have made it abundantly clear that India is in great danger, and this danger is increasing day by day. The All-India National Congress is busy framing plans for attaining complete independence. Nobody can gainsay the fact that it is absolutely essential to maintain peace and order in the province and take concerted action for safeguarding the life and property of the people. It is obvious to the meanest intelligence that the responsibility for maintaining peace and order in the province falls on the shoulders of the Unionist Ministry and the Punjab Government. In fact we have also joined hands with the Government in this matter. The people of the province have full confidence in the capacity of Government to safeguard their life and property at this critical juncture in the life of the country.

The world is changing and within one year we have also seen many changes in the Punjab. Keeping the present situation in view the Government should give every help to the people.

I may point out that the prestige of the Government is diminishing day by day in the eyes of the people. I would like to congratulate my honourable friend Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana for his pungent criticism of the Police department. I also wish to thank my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh for his yesterday's speech in Punjabi instead of English. I was very much pleased to hear the criticism of my honourable friends on the Government benches against a Government of their own creation. It is very heartening to find that after five years they also have learnt to express their woes and sorrows in the way they have done. No doubt their complaints are an index of the woes and sorrows of the sufferers in the Punjab.

I would now refer to an incident that occurred the other day. An honourable member was speaking about Sargodha. No sooner did he start speaking than a point of order was raised. But when some of my honourable friends speak about Shahpur or about the Deputy Commissioner of that district the members on the Government benches listen to them with great attention. Now let me give an instance of the way in which the police behave under abnormal circumstances and how they harass the poor people of the province. On 9th of February, 1942, Sub-Inspector of Police went to Saroti Khurd, a village in Amritsar district, with two constables to arrest some bad characters. He had a pistol with him and the two constables had lathis with them. They arrested three bad characters. On their way back to the police station, one bad character snatched a lathi from the hand of the constable and gave a good thrashing to all the policemen. The result was that the three bad characters slipped away, the Sub-Inspector got one of his arms fractured and the two constables fainted on the road-side. This is how our valiant policemen behave. They cannot put up a fight when the occasion arises but they are always ready to oppress and fleece the poor people. In this connection searches have been carried out and innocent people have been put to no end of trouble but no concrete action seems to have been taken.

Mr. Speaker : Is the honourable member sure ?

Sardar Partap Singh : This is a fact and there is no doubt about it that the house of one Sardar Darshan Singh, a sepoy in Malaya was searched by the police. There could be no doubt about him and his father who was present in the house. The police deprived them of everything. This is the treatment meted out to poor and innocent people. They are even deprived of eatables and other things by the police. This is what is happening in the Amritsar district. So far nobody has taken steps to put an end to this disgraceful state of affairs. (*Premier :* What is the name of the village ?) Saroti Khurd. Not only did Bibi Raghbir Kaur send telegrams to Government informing them about these incidents but many other persons wrote letters to Government, but all to no effect. I may tell the Honourable Premier that three members of his party belong to that district. They are Chaudhri Faqir Muhammad, Mir Maqbool Mahmood and Shaikh Sahib of Ajnala. He can ask any one of them to go there and find out the true facts. I assure him that we do not say these things in order to bring his Government into disrepute. That is far from our mind. What we want is that the administration of the police department should be improved. If the police is reformed that will go a long way in creating confidence.

[S. Partap Singh.]

in the minds of people and at the time of danger trouble would be avoided. That is not all. I may tell my friends that a certain person came to that village to leave his daughter there. The police took him under arrest as well. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Premier that if these people had not been challaned let him institute inquiries into the doings of the police not through his own officials but through some non-official members. If he does so he will find that whatever we are saying is quite correct. So far as my information goes I can say that the houses of the relatives of the soldiers, who are fighting our battles were also searched by the police. For instance, they took away a watch from the house of Sardar Teja Singh and it has not been returned so far and I do not think that it will ever be returned. In this connection I would like to point out some facts in regard to the Ludhiana district as well. In that district there is a village named Sikba. A dacoity was committed in that village. The dacoits decamped with ornaments and some cash. The police then arrived on the spot and I do not like to tell what the police did. It would be much better that Government should themselves institute inquiries into the matter as to how the police behaved there. Anyway my submission is that at this time the Honourable Premier should not tolerate any misbehaviour, high-handedness, and corruption on the part of the police at all. If he tolerates these things at this time I may tell him that it will be these police officers who will undermine the influence of Government in the Punjab. As a matter of fact we are also as anxious to maintain peace in the country as the Government are. We do not like that the people should be troubled in any way. If we have political differences with our friends that does not mean that we should create trouble and then fish in those troubled waters. Just as the Government want the people to live at peace, so do we. Anyhow my submission is that there is a Musalman patwari in the village Sarli Khura. He is a pious Musalman. The police sent for him and asked him to appear as a witness in that case on behalf of the prosecution. He in the first place refused to appear as a witness in that case. When the police forced him he said that he would only tell the truth and that it was not necessary for him that he should tell lies at the behest of the police. The result has been that the police officials have made a report against him that he has not helped the Government officials in bringing the offenders to book. Then there is another village Dakha in which there is a Musalman chaukidar. Unfortunately he is also a namazi (a pious Muslim). He was asked by the police to appear as a witness in that very case. He replied that if at all he appeared as a witness in that case he would tell the truth and that he would not support the concocted version of the police. For this fault of his he was kept for three days in illegal confinement and then let off. I am telling these things to my friends so that they may know how the police officers are bringing the name of this Government into disrepute and are creating discontent in the country. I may tell the Honourable Premier that this is not the time to tolerate such high-handedness of the police. Let him for the time being forget everything else save that he has to keep the officers of Government on the right path. The need of the hour is that peace and tranquillity of the province should be maintained and nothing should

be done which should in any way disturb it. Let him deal firmly with such officers and not tolerate any high-handedness on their part.

Then, sir, during the general discussion of the budget my honourable friend Sardar Dasaundha Singh, the Development Minister, made some remarks in regard to one Kartar Singh of Ludhiana district and pointed out that he was convicted twenty years ago, and that now as he had reformed himself so many concessions had been granted to him by Government and that was not anything in regard to which any fuss should be made. My submission is that this is not a simple matter which can be dismissed in this way. The said Kartar Singh was convicted, not twenty years' ago as the Honourable Minister had suggested, but in 1934 under sections 366, 368 and 376, Indian Penal Code, and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The lawyer members of the House know what all these sections mean. For the sake of the non-lawyer members I may point out that section 366 means the spiriting away of a minor girl and section 368 means selling her. I will not tell them as to what section 376 means. They can ask any lawyer and he will tell them what it means. Anyway under these sections he was sentenced to undergo an imprisonment for three years. Now he has been made an assessor, a *kursi nashin* and licence holder of a gun and a revolver. Besides, he has been made a provincial durbari as well. Now this is the treatment that has been meted out to a No. 10 bad character. But against this the treatment that is being meted out to the honourable members of this House is quite different. The gun licence of Sardar Lal Singh, M. L. A., has not so far been renewed simply because he is a member of the Opposition Party. The gun licence of Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, who is one of the big men of the province, has been confiscated. That is not all. The gun licence of Sahib Ram, M.L.A., has been confiscated. All these things show that Government is treating peaceful and respectable people of the province in this manner while bad characters are getting every facility from them. I may tell them that these things will destroy the confidence of people whatever they have in Government. If they want to maintain peace and tranquillity in the province they should see that respectable citizens are treated in a better manner.

Now I would like to say a few words in regard to detainees and political prisoners. In this budget only a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided for the detainees. It has really pained me to see that such a small sum has been provided for them. The number of detainees is very large and this sum will hardly suffice for them. It is a matter of great regret that people are made detainees without any rhyme or reason. Among them there are such persons who even do not know why they have been arrested and kept as detainees. For instance, Sardar Narinjan Singh came from Calcutta to leave his family at Amritsar and he was arrested. No reason has been given as to why he has been arrested. Then there are others who have lived for a pretty long time in Hong Kong and when they came back to India they have been arrested and kept among the detainees. For instance, there are Sardar Tara Singh, Sardar Hazara Singh and Sardar Mehr Singh. Sardar Mehr Singh has lived for 30 years in Hong Kong. He served for ten years in the artillery. Then he got an employment in a Japanese firm. When he returned to this country he was arrested and made a detenu.

[S. Partap Singh.]

Sardar Tara Singh and Sardar Hazara Singh served for five years in the police at Hong Kong. After the termination of their contract they had to come back to India. Generally police men have mutual jealousies. Somebody made a report against them that they were in conspiracy with the enemy. On the basis of the report they were arrested and made detenues. If my friends make inquiries in regard to these persons they will come to know the real facts. Then there is one Bahadur Singh in the Gurdaspur jail. If anybody asks him in what company he was employed, he would not be able to tell the name of that company. He can tell the initials of that company as N. Y. K. but if anybody asks him as to what it means he will not be able to answer. Besides all the detenues have so far been kept in C class although Government have issued orders to the contrary. I may tell my friends that their instructions in regard to the detenues go to one jail only and do not go to other jails. May be that they have gone there as well but the officers in charge have not carried them out. Consequently they should make inquiries in regard to this matter as to why these instructions have not been given effect to in all the jails of the province. We know what happens in jails and how jail officers suppress such instructions and devour the money that is provided for the prisoners. At this stage I do not want to go into these details. However there is one thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal as he is in his seat to-day. This is an incident which happened at Rawalpindi. From this incident my friends will come to know how the British officers are treating the prisoners. In fact they behave in a manner which reminds us of the days of Pharaoh. Anyway a political prisoner Kasim Ali Shah by name was lying ill in the Rawalpindi Jail. Some doctors recommended his case for an X-ray examination. The Civil Surgeon of that district is a British officer. I do not know his name. When the patient was brought to him he said, "X-ray costs rupees five and the man is not worth 2½ rupees".

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

This remark was made by an Englishman. And you are the custodians of the honour of the Punjab and this is how the British officers who are under you treat the Punjabis. Another instance of rudeness with which the aforesaid officer treats the Punjabis is this. A young boy whose name is Hardwari Lal got some temperature. He went to the room of the said officer hoping that he would find out with the help of a thermometer as to how much temperature he had. As soon as he entered his room he (the officer) said, "Who are you, get out, you insolent fellow". We complained to Colonel Bharucha against the rude behaviour of that officer but no action was taken against him. These officers are paid out of the revenues which the public pays in the form of various taxes and this is how they treat the public.

As regards the Hong Kong detenues it would be much better if the Government detains them in the villages to which they belong. I think their detention is not due to the Honourable Premier but it is the Central Government which is responsible for it. But what a pity that the Punjab

Government should submit to the Central Government in this manner! There is no one in the whole of the province who does not love this province. We love our province and we also love the whole of India. Suspecting these people of having any sort of relations with the enemy countries is doing them injustice. There is no case against them. They are detained merely on the ground of suspicion. What is all the more pitiable is that in the jails they are treated most shabbily. My honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani once visited the Multan Jail and also gave a lecture there. But I would advise him to court imprisonment if he wants to know the real conditions obtaining in our jails.

Another instance in point is that of Narinjan Singh who is the editor of *Desh Patar*. He was coming from Calcutta with his wife. He was arrested on the 6th February and was put in the jail. His wife is not allowed to see him. No case has been instituted against him. Even if there are any complaints against him he should not be treated so badly. In America there are various types of gangsters. There are those who rob the public. Then there are those who hold up the gangsters of the first type. These latter are called "He Jackers". Once a Superintendent of Police of a big factory in America was asked why the police catches the "he jackers" when they are in a way serving the public by robbing the holdups. The reply given was that it was the duty of the police even to protect the life of the holdups from the 'he jackers'. This is the praiseworthy mentality of the police in America. But here peace-loving citizens who are suspected of any crime are treated most shabbily. In Calcutta there is lot of party faction. And one party reports against the other or others to cause inconvenience to its members. The people who are detained in the Punjab jails on suspicion of having relations with the enemy countries are a victim of that party faction. Otherwise there is nothing against them. Similarly Kaveeshar Ji has been arrested. He is a well-known public leader and also a very rich man. You should not detain such a man in jail without trial. If you do not want to produce him before a court of law at least produce him before the Commission which you have set up to deal with such cases. You have no right to detain him without trial. What a pity that he is not even supplied with newspapers and is not allowed to see the press representatives. Produce him before a court of law and institute a case against him. If he is found guilty then no one would condemn your action and you would be justified in keeping him in jail.

Many satyagrahi prisoners are still rotting in the Punjab jails. The Central Government have released them all but the Punjab Government still keeps them in jails. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt is still in jail and there is apparently no reason why he is being detained in the jail. There are many other such prisoners who are kept in the jails without trial. There is one prisoner, Kashori Lal. He was an accomplice of Sardar Bhagat Singh and was awarded life sentence in the Lahore Conspiracy Case some fourteen years back. His term of imprisonment expired on the 1st of March, 1942, but he is still in jail. He is not released although 17 days have passed since the date on which his release was due. At this stage I remember a story. A Raja with his ministers and other subordinate

[S. Partap Singh.]

officers was crossing a river in a boat when flood came on. The boatman requested all of them that they should pray to God to save the boat for the sake of any good deeds they might have done in the past. The Raja said that he did what his ministers told him to do and apparently he could not remember if at any time he had done any good to any one. The ministers said that they had been doing what their subordinates told them to do. The subordinate officers then confessed that they always supplied wrong information to the ministers in order that they might indulge in all sorts of corruption. At this the boatman prayed to God saying that for his sake the boat may be saved from destruction for he had been earning his own livelihood by the sweat of his brow and had not done any wrong to anybody. The boat was saved and the party reached the bank quite safe. I think the doings of the present Government are no better than those of that Raja, his ministers and officers. I am sure that for the misdeeds of the present Government some calamity must visit them. If such a thing is to happen, like that boatman I would pray to God that for our sake at least they may be shown mercy and saved from being punished.

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): Sir, in speaking on this cut motion I propose to confine my remarks to the two cut motions of which I have given notice. The first cut motion was tabled by me in order to discuss the recent tendency on the part of permanent officials of openly taking part in politics. The second cut motion relates to the policy of the Government in removing the elected President of the Lyallpur Municipal Committee and in removing an elected member of the Ludhiana Municipal Committee. I will first take up the first cut motion. It is an accepted principle of political theory and one which is invariably and uniformly followed in political practice that permanent officials, as distinguished from party leaders who come in and go out of office according to the mutations of party majorities in the elected House, completely abstain from participation in party politics. They cannot make political speeches; they cannot write political articles; they cannot canvas for any party candidate and they cannot wield partisan influence in any way whatsoever, except by quietly going to the polls and casting their votes. The reason underlying this arrangement is that permanent employees of the state who have to carry out the policy of the Government should be in a position to work with the Government of the day in perfect loyalty, sincerity and consistency regardless of which party is in power, and this they cannot do if they were to take an active and public part in favour of one party and its leaders as against another. I will illustrate my meaning by referring to a few recent examples which will show that since this Government came into power, this salutary principle is being violated openly under the very noses and eyes of the Ministers who instead of putting a stop to this pernicious manifestation in the body politic, actually encourage and relish this distemper. Sir, a conference was recently held in the Model Town, Lahore, in connection with the Refreshers Course of the Panchayat Officers and a number of meetings were held. One of these meetings was presided over by Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. It is said that on that occasion the Director

of Panchayats took it into his head to flatter the Minister by uttering these words—

پنجاب کے مسلمان سر چھوٹو رام کا بے حیثیت وزیراعظم خیر مقدم کریں گے۔
کیونکہ چھوٹو صاحب ہندو مسلم اتحاد کے پیغمبر ہیں۔ اور فرقہ پرستی
سے بالکل پاک ہیں۔

(Laughter.)

I can very well understand the sardonic laughter and ironic smile which these words have occasioned in this House. From the speeches delivered on the floor of the House yesterday by my friends sitting on my left and others, it would become crystal clear beyond all possible doubt as to whether Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is a friend of the Mussalmans and is advocating the cause of Hindu Muslim unity or whether he is an enemy of the Mussalmans and according to my friends here, is the greatest disturbing factor and a foe of the public peace in the province and a fomentor of sectional divisions. This Minister of the Crown ought to have at once got up and told this budding Director—a member of the I. C. S. he may be, I do not care. 'You have no business to talk in this strain. You are a permanent official and your first and foremost duty is to keep yourself away from party politics.' But instead of doing that, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram evidently relished the uncommon pleasure of hearing from the lips of a Muslim member of the I. C. S. that the Mussalmans of the Panjab welcomed his acting Premiership—the substantive occupant of that office being away at that time. What led Sir Chhotu Ram to hear without protest such remarks from his subordinate? Let him answer. Things do not stop here. On the 16th there was another meeting of that conference and this time my distinguished sister, Begum Shah Nawaz, occupied the presidential chair. This Director of Panchayats in introducing Begum Sahiba to the audience is said to have made remarks which I will certainly not quote on the floor of this House. I do not want to soil my tongue by repeating those words nor do I want to offend the ears of the House by using the impertinent language which that officer used. He is said to have introduced her in these words:—I will not quote the offensive adjective that he used :

ایک پولیٹیکل لیڈر کی دھمکیوں کے باوجود انتخاب منظور کیا

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : My honourable friend knows that Mian Azim Hussain, the son of the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, has openly contradicted these allegations. He said that he never used those words.

Malik Barkat Ali : I have got in my hands a chit in the very handwriting of that officer to show that he did use those words. If my honourable friend shall have patience, I will show that I am not speaking without any authority. It was given out in the papers that this young officer had offended the Muslims beyond all description by his most impertinent reference to a man who is held in the highest esteem throughout the length and breadth of the country.

[M. Barkat Ali.]

What does it matter if he is the Leader of the League? He is admittedly the Leader of a most powerful political organisation in the country. Everybody recognises his status and his authority. When these words appeared in the press, it fell to the lot of the Director of Public Information,—the Director of that workshop which has been set up in this province for forging untruths and disseminating all kinds of inaccurate statements,—it fell to the lot of this gentleman to issue a statement that the words which were being attributed to the Director of Panchayats had never been uttered by him. The Director of Panchayats himself never openly contradicted the words that were attributed to him. I am, therefore, not a little surprised that no less a person than my friend Nawab Muzaffar Khan who undoubtedly holds a very high position should have interrupted me without waiting to see or hear the authority on which I am basing my indictment. I have been supplied with a note in the very handwriting of this officer and I would ask the Honourable Premier to institute an enquiry as to whether this note I am now holding in my hand is in the handwriting of this officer or not. I doubt if there is any honourable member in this House who will dare get up and say that it is not in the handwriting of this officer. When this gentleman made this insulting reference which I do not propose to quote on the floor of the House—it is a scandal beyond description—one Muhammadan reporter who was present at the time sent this note in his own handwriting either to the Superintendent or somebody else who stood in the position of a personal assistant to the Director of Panchayats. This is what this Reporter wrote—

“I ask you in all solemnness whether a public servant like Mian Azim Hussain under Government Servants’ Rules can call public leaders mad”.

The Superintendent of the office to whom this note was handed passed it on to Mian Azim Hussain. What did Mian Azim Hussain write on this note? Let Nawab Muzaffar Khan kindly hear—

“No political leader was named....”

He is quite right. He did not name anybody; but the reference is as clear as any reference can be. There can be no mistaking the reference—

“I only said that the Begum Sahiba had refused to resign the membership of the Defence Council notwithstanding the threats of a political”.

We all know who that political leader was. He was the very same political leader in obedience to whose orders the Premier of the Punjab had to resign the membership of the Defence Council. Therefore it does not help matters when the Director of Information or even this officer himself says that no political leader was named. Yes, none was named, but the reference is unmistakable. These are the words—

ایک دیوانے پولیٹیکل (لیڈر) کی دھمکیوں کے باوجود انتخاب کو منظور کیا

I now call in all seriousness upon the Government benches whose workshop is responsible for the misstatement, let them institute an enquiry as to whether these were his words or not.

Minister of Public Works : May I suggest that the paper may be laid on the table?

Malik Barkat Ali : The paper will be in my possession. If so desired, I shall show it to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : According to Parliamentary practice if a document is quoted it must be laid on the table.

Malik Barkat Ali : If it is laid on the table, I fear it will get out of your custody. It must be in the custody of a responsible officer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It will be kept in the usual custody.

Malik Barkat Ali : I will lay it on the table on the understanding that you will be responsible, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for this most valuable and important document which you want me to part with. I will part with it on the assurance of its security in your hands.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Parliamentary practice requires that the documents quoted should be laid on the table.

Malik Barkat Ali : I am not disputing it.

Now, I will take up my second point, namely, the misuse of the powers which this Government has been indulging in in order to remove no less a person than the elected president of the Lyallpur Municipal Committee from his office. I am sure the House will be staggered to hear the details of that incident.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : May I ask the honourable member to place that document on the table?

Malik Barkat Ali : I am just on my legs. When I resume my seat I shall place the document on the table.

I was dealing with the removal of no less a person than Sardar Sant Singh, a leading advocate of Lyallpur and the president of the municipal committee of Lyallpur. In the first place, I shall place before the House a few important facts. The present municipal committee came into existence on 6th May, 1940. Sardar Sant Singh was elected president of the committee on the 22nd May, 1940. Before these elections there was any amount of complaint on the part of the Congress Party and other parties who were attached to the Congress at Lyallpur that the Deputy Commissioner of the place was going out of his way and taking a most prominent part in order that the Congress candidates may be defeated. He even went to the length of extending the time in order that election petitions against these Congress candidates might come up before him.

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

That is the background of this incident. When this committee came into existence on 6th May, 1940, it was called upon to elect an executive officer, but the committee could not elect the executive officer by the necessary statutory majority, with the result that it fell to the Provincial Government to appoint the executive officer and the Government nominated Mr. Ghulam Hussain as the executive officer. Mr. Ghulam Hussain was a member of this House and attended some of its sittings. Many of us know how he entered the House on the Ahrar ticket but subsequently began secret conversations with the Premier to win his favour when as the result of an election petition he ceased to be a member of the Assembly. He had to be rewarded for the services he had rendered to the Premier when he was a member of this House. Therefore after he went back from this Assembly he was made an executive officer of the municipal committee. A meeting of the committee was held on the 23rd April, 1941, and some honourable

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members who were opposed to the party in power, staged a walk out. I am not concerned with the details of the walk out. But what is remarkable is that the executive officer who is a servant of the municipal committee also walked out of the meeting of the committee. The matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner by the president of the committee. But he took no notice. This sort of unpleasantness went on until we reached the 25th of June, 1941, when the Deputy Commissioner issued a warning to the elected president to the effect that if he did not sign the cheques which he was required to sign the consequences might be serious. Sardar Sant Singh gave the only reply that a self-respecting man could give. He replied using some such words as the following :—

It is no business of yours to tell me that I should sign cheques. It is my responsibility. Before I sign any cheque I have got to satisfy myself that I am signing a cheque for a legal payment, for a payment which binds the municipal committee. I cannot sign away cheques without satisfying myself as to my responsibility in the matter.

He sent this letter to the Deputy Commissioner; a self-respecting gentleman that he was, he also sent a copy of it to the press.

I shall just read a few sentences from that letter—

“Your communication discloses an utter lack of understanding of the constitutional position of a president of a municipal committee. There is no power given to a Deputy Commissioner in the Punjab Municipal Act to issue a warning to a president, municipal committee. You probably stand in need of being told in the plainest language that I, as president, municipal committee, Lyallpur, am not your subordinate, but enjoy an independent status with powers under the Punjab Municipal Act which are co-extensive, if not, in some respects, greater than what a Deputy Commissioner has. The Deputy Commissioner under the Act is empowered only to keep a watch on the working of the Act, and in certain contingencies to suspend the execution of resolutions. He has no power to issue any instructions to the president as to how he is to discharge his functions as a president, municipal committee. The president as such is not expected to receive his inspiration, much less any instructions from the Deputy Commissioner in the discharge of his public duties with which he is entrusted. His position as a president is independent of him, if not as in some cases, as in the present case, in spite of him in the scheme of limited local self-government as envisaged in the Punjab Municipal Act. You have presumed too much in issuing instructions to me to sign away certain cheques and do other matters which are within my exclusive powers. Your relations with the present executive officer are no concern of mine, so long as rule of law transcends personal relations. Executive officer has to look to me for guidance rather than you

This letter was also sent by him to the press, and this House will be surprised to hear from me that when later on charges were framed against Sardar Sant Singh and he was called upon to explain as to why action should not be taken against him, one of the charges was that he had written a very discourteous letter to the Deputy Commissioner and had addressed him in an improper fashion and that he should show cause why he should not be removed on that account. I will read out the very charge itself—

4. That you refused to sign cheques of salaries due to municipal employees, cheques for works done for the committee and cheques for the payment for materials supplied to the committee when these cheques were submitted to you by the municipal office in the ordinary course of business. When the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, warned you—

the words that follow are important words, and I am sure that honourable members with self-respect in them, who have heard with pain the details of the treatment extended to honourable members of the Assembly by deputy

commissioners and others as given in the House the other day, will feel some solace that here is a gentleman who had the courage of bearding the lion in his own den—

When the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, warned you, against the consequences of your refusal, instead of taking the advice in the right spirit you addressed him in a very discourteous letter to the effect that you were not under his orders and released the correspondence to the press. In so addressing the local representative of Government—

These are again important words. Members of the Assembly may be insulted in any manner and it does not matter. A deputy commissioner cannot be touched, he cannot even be scolded, he must be defended on the floor of this House—

In so addressing the local representative of Government you clearly violated the ordinary rules of decent procedure and official discipline.

I call upon the Honourable Minister to kindly let me know if Sardar Sant Singh was removed on this count also.

Now I will come to the second charge, but before I read out the charge, I must give you the facts. On the 28th of April, 1941, a meeting of the municipal committee, Lyallpur, was held. In that meeting certain members staged a walk-out with the result that the necessary quorum did not exist and, therefore, the president had no alternative but to adjourn the meeting and he did adjourn the meeting to the 8th of May, 1941. In the meantime he left for some out-station. At once, local intrigue became active and those who had staged the walk-out put their signatures to a requisition addressed to the vice-president and called upon him to convene at an early date the adjourned meeting in the absence of the president. Accordingly the vice-president who under the business rules, in the absence of the president, could only call a meeting in case of emergency called the adjourned meeting for the 28th of April, although there was no emergency. His order to call the adjourned meeting was passed on the 27th April. This meeting was held on the 28th of April. Certain business was gone through. When the President, Sardar Sant Singh, returned, he decided to issue fresh notice and did issue fresh notice for the adjourned meeting to be held on the 8th of May. This upset his rival friends who accordingly approached the Deputy Commissioner, the local representative of Government, as he is called, and tried to interest him in this intrigue and actually succeeded in getting that Deputy Commissioner to issue a letter on the morning of the very day fixed for the meeting, to the president asking him not to hold the adjourned meeting on the 8th of May. He held the meeting. All honour to Sardar Sant Singh. He held the meeting and one of the charges against him is that he held this meeting on the 8th of May notwithstanding the fact that the Deputy Commissioner had forbidden him to hold the meeting. This matter went to the learned Commissioner, Mr. King, and one of the questions before him was whether the proceedings of the meeting held on 28th April by the vice-president were legal and also whether the Deputy Commissioner's prohibitory order against the holding of the adjourned meeting on the 8th of May was proper or not. Mr. C. King, Commissioner, passed his order on the 12th of July, 1941. The Commissioner of the division held that the meeting called by some of the seceders who had staged a walk-out, on the 28th of April, was an illegal meeting because the vice-president had no powers to call a meeting without an emergency and there was no emergency of any kind

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The learned Commissioner accordingly suspended all the resolutions passed in that illegal meeting. Another charge against the president was that in the meeting on the 8th of May he had not read out the proceedings of the meeting held on the 28th of April. The learned Commissioner held that as this meeting of the 28th of April was illegal, the president was perfectly justified in not reading out the proceedings of this meeting. He also held that the meeting held by the president on the 8th of May was a perfectly legal meeting. It would thus appear that the verdict of the learned Commissioner was all along on the side of Sardar Sant Singh and against the Deputy Commissioner. Now hear the charges framed by this popular Government against Sardar Sant Singh—

- (5) That you disobeyed an order, dated the 8th May, 1941, passed under section 232, of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, by the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur prohibiting the holding of a meeting of the municipal committee on that date. Instead of resorting to the correct procedure of referring the case to the Commissioner, Multan Division, for orders with the committee's explanation under section 235 of the Act, you defied the Deputy Commissioner's order and held the meeting in disobedience to that order.

It appears that this Government do not even possess that amount of legal knowledge which Mr. King, the Commissioner of the division, had, because Mr. King, notwithstanding this charge had held that the meeting of the 8th May was valid. The next charge is—

- (6) that in the meeting thus illegally held by you, you did not lay the agenda before the committee for a vote of the members.....”

The facts are these, that for the purposes of the meeting of the 8th of May some of his opponents sent him a requisition to put such and such items on the agenda. This House is aware that in an adjourned meeting no new business can be transacted. The House should not remain under the delusion that the president deliberately kept back this agenda. He did place the agenda in the next meeting of the committee held after the 8th of May, 1941, viz., in the month of June.

Now I ask the Honourable Minister of Local Self-Government to kindly let me know whether the removal of Sardar Sant Singh from the presidency has been ordered on account of charge 5, 6 or 7 that I have discussed. This House will further be amused to hear from me that although this poor man, the elected president of a municipal committee, has been holding meetings in the month of May, and in the month of June, yet among the charges framed against him is the charge “that you have held no meeting in the month of May ; you have not held any meeting in the month of June ; show cause why you should not be removed ”.

The last charge that I will discuss before the House is that Sardar Sant Singh “ neglected his duties when he auctioned the *kura karkat* stand and that he did not realize the money ”. You will be surprised to hear from me that this *kura karkat* stand was auctioned on the 3rd of February, 1940, when the new municipal committee had not even come into existence. Probably it was then the rule of the deputy commissioner. Again, that auction was to come into effect from the 1st of April, 1940, and according to the conditions of the contract the entire lease money had to be put on the table with the fall of the hammer. So it is clear that whoever was responsible for the municipal

administration on the 1st of April, 1940, was responsible for this default or neglect if neglect there was. But so far as Sardar Sant Singh was concerned, he had not come into existence on that date.

Then the further charge was that there were considerable arrears due on account of the contract and that the responsibility of not collecting those arrears was the president's. The House will be surprised to hear that within a few months of his taking over charge Sardar Sant Singh succeeded in realizing the bulk of the arrears for which he was not responsible, and on the date that he rendered this explanation, there was not a pie left. About Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 or Rs. 1,000 was the amount in arrears which he at once realized and in his explanation he says, "although there are no arrears outstanding on this date I find that in regard to the years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40, when I was not even in existence, there are still due large sums amounting to Rs. 1,613, Rs. 2,280 and Rs. 3,891, respectively and yet I am asked to give explanation".

Mr. Speaker : There are many other members who wish to speak. The honourable member has already taken much time.

Malik Barkat Ali : I shall close that chapter and I will now refer to the other subject matter, namely, that relating to the Ludhiana Municipal Committee. I will be very brief. I only refer the House to the incident at Ludhiana when an elected member of the municipal committee was removed. This House remembers that the present House came into existence on the 1st April, 1937. Before this date the announcement of the appointment of the Honourable Ministers had been made, viz., that so and so had been appointed Ministers. Now the Honourable Minister from Ludhiana decided to visit his native town. I can very well understand his decision and the desire of his Ludhiana friends to extend him a warm welcome on the occasion. When this matter came up before the committee on the 15th May it fell to the lot of this unfortunate member, unfortunate because of what happened later—to propose that no municipal funds be spent on the arrangement made in connection with his welcome and according to the Government's own case—I am not putting his case—the words used by this member were—

ہم تو اس لئے آئیں کہ جس کے تحت میں وزیر مقرر ہو کر آئے ہیں
 ٹھکراتے ہیں۔ اور ان وزراء کے گھون میں جوتوں کا ہار ڈالینگے۔

Minister of Public Works : On a point of order. That case which the honourable member (Malik Barkat Ali) is referring to is, according to my information, *sub judice*; it is pending before the High Court if I am not mistaken. So I think he should not refer to the facts of the case in any way and that is why probably he did not mention the name.

Malik Barkat Ali : The matter is *sub judice* in another respect. I know the details of the case pending in the High Court and it is for that reason that I propose to be brief. This is the Government case.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow to be discussed any matter which is directly or indirectly *sub judice*.

Malik Barkat Ali : I am a lawyer myself. The only question before the court is whether the High Court has jurisdiction to take cognisance of this matter or not when the local Government removes a member.

Minister of Public Works : That might be, but the whole matter is pending.

Mr. Speaker : Has not that appeal arisen from the facts which the honourable member wishes to state ?

Malik Barkat Ali : The question before the High Court is purely legal, but even on facts I am not going to discuss the two rival versions and say which is the right version. I am accepting the Government's own case and then say that even on that basis the elected member should not have been removed.

Mr. Speaker : The case is still before the High Court.

Malik Barkat Ali : I do not want to enter into controversy. All that I say is that assuming the Government's case to be correct—

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a *sub judice* matter to be discussed.

Malik Barkat Ali : I will obey your orders and I will reserve this chapter for some other occasion.

Minister of Public Works : Yes, when the case is decided.

Malik Barkat Ali : These were the points which I wanted to raise by the cut motions of which I had given notice.

I lay the document which I referred to earlier, on the table¹.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : On a point of personal explanation. My honourable friend, Chaudhri Suraj Mal, made a most ungracious and unkind remark. He said that my speech yesterday was inspired by Malik Sahib. I refute that charge with the greatest possible emphasis. My honourable friend's remarks will do no good to anybody and I may say that my speech was inspired by nobody in the House.

Malik Barkat Ali : I may also say that I saw my honourable friend for the first time yesterday and I never met him before that speech.

Mr. Speaker : Begum Shah Nawaz.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend is a Parliamentary Secretary and she does not know anything about the grievances and demands of the public. As I represent the public I am in a better position to put their grievances before the House. I may, therefore, be allowed to speak.

Mr. Speaker : Begum Shah Nawaz.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : Very well, I walk out as a protest.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Parliamentary Secretary) (Urdu) : Sir, I am one of those few members who consider it a waste of time of this House as well as of the money of the province to speak on anything but on the vital questions to which they can contribute something useful and substantial. I had absolutely no intention of participating in the discussion to-day, but after listening to the speeches of the honourable members and particularly the remarks made by Malik Barkat Ali, I consider it my duty to say a few words. I hope you will excuse me if I indulge in plain speaking to-day. You have been occupying this Chair for the last 18 or 19 years and I should like to know from you whether in any parliament of the world

¹Kept in safe custody.

such speeches are made during a discussion on the general administration of a country as have been delivered on the floor of this House during the last two days. Could the honourable members show me any debate of any parliament of the world where such matters have been discussed during such a debate as have been talked about here since yesterday? I request you, Mr. Speaker, to maintain the dignity of this House. Many of us feel that the standard of debate in this House is deteriorating from day to day and one is pained to see that during the debate on the general administration such irrelevant and out of place speeches are delivered. That such an able person as my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali should speak on points that have nothing to do with the questions under discussion makes one feel sad. His whole speech consisted of this—this I.C.S. officer said this and that I.C.S. officer said that and that a Sardar Sant Singh made this statement and some other officer made that. Is this a discussion on general administration? Mian Sultan Mahmood Hotiana instead of giving any credit to the Ministers for any good work done and pointing out any mistakes made or things left out made such an irresponsible speech. Instead of adopting a responsible attitude which a member of this House should adopt he talked of nothing but of most irrelevant matters. This to my mind is an insult of this House as such speeches are no credit to the parliament of any province or country. If speeches are to be delivered in this strain the Assembly will be turned into a wrestling arena and it will no longer remain a responsible House. If you study the speeches of all the honourable members, who participated in the debate on general administration, you will find that the burden of most of the speeches is that some Financial Commissioner failed to interview Mr. Hotiana or that another Commissioner had not treated another honourable member in a manner befitting his position. What a fine contribution to the debate! I do not say that if any honourable member has any such complaints, he should not bring them to the notice of the Government. By all means he may do so. But his speech should not consist only of these complaints; and then the manner in which they are placed before the House is most objectionable. What did Malik Barkat Ali say? His speech was confined to the remarks of this man and that man only. I ask how a lawyer of his standing can say such things and during such a debate. The whole of his speech did not contain a single constructive suggestion for the improvement of general administration. After hearing the speeches of the honourable members yesterday and to-day, I have felt very disappointed.

Mr. Speaker : Does the honourable member mean to say that the other honourable members were irrelevant?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Sir, barring a few honourable members no one here seems to know what relevancy means.

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : The honorable lady member has abused the whole House. She has used unparliamentary language. She should withdraw her remarks.

Mr. Speaker : What unparliamentary expression has been used?

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh : She said : یہ مجلس ایک جگہ
This House is a wrestling arena.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : What I said was that if things continue in this manner the House instead of being the parliament of the province would be turned into a wrestling arena.

Now, sir, I will deal very briefly with some of the points raised by Malik Barkat Ali. In the course of his speech he referred to the speeches of the Director of Panchayats which he made on the occasion of Panchayat officers refresher course. My submission is that there was no occasion for Malik Sahib to refer to those speeches on the floor of this House. The fact of the matter is that those people who cannot find any platform for unnecessarily criticising people, make the honourable members take up such matters on the floor of this House. If anybody while introducing Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram used the words that he was equally popular among the Musalmans and Hindus, what harm has he done? I wish those honourable members who think that he is not popular among the Muslims had been present at the time when the Haveli Project was opened. At that time a crowd of nearly 7 thousands Muslims was raising the slogans of 'Chhotu Ram zindabad.' If they had been present on that occasion they would have heard these slogans. (K. S. Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : They were not the Muslims of the Ambala Division.) Then, I come to another point raised by him. This matter concerns me and my observations will be by way of personal explanation. This was not the first time that I had been asked to speak to the Panchayat staff during their refresher course. I welcomed the opportunity of drawing their attention to the women in the rural areas and what ought to be done for them, an aspect which is generally ignored. When I addressed them, the Director of Panchayats by way of introduction said that I had shown courage in not resigning from the National Defence Council in spite of the mandate of certain leaders. I fail to understand why this incident should have been mentioned in the debate on general administration in this House. He did not refer to any one leader. Moreover, when this matter appeared in the press, he contradicted the charge and made it perfectly clear that he had not made any reference to any specific person. When anybody says that he has not made any disparaging remark in reference to any leader, I fail to understand why the matter should be further pursued. What I am pained to see is that no credit is given to the Ministers and other officers for their good work and it is regrettable that such trivial matters only are mentioned. The honourable member Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana during the course of his speech remarked that all the Bills that have been passed by this Government have done no good to the people as they had been declared *ultra vires* by the Lahore High Court. What an argument! I have been to 3 or 4 provinces recently and everywhere people are praising the Punjab Government for enacting such useful measures. If some of them have been declared *ultra vires* by the High Court, is it the fault of the Ministers? Malik Barkat Ali has made an unwarranted attack on the worthy son of the illustrious father, whose efforts have made it possible for us to establish a stable Government in the Punjab and the fruits of whose labours we are enjoying to-day. Mian Azim Hussain is not the only one who has said that I had shown courage in accepting the membership of the National Defence Council. I can name more than half a dozen knights of my community who have written to me in a similar strain. Then, sir, the learned member dragged Sardar Sant Singh's name and mentioned certain things.

said by him thereby wasting the time of this House. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to you to see that the level of debate in the Punjab Legislature is kept high so that the future generations when they read these debates should not be disappointed. Sir, excuse me for saying all this. I feel it is my duty to point this out to you. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): When a similar cut motion was moved in this House last year, the Report of the Retrenchment Committee was quoted at considerable length and various items of expenditure under the Major Head 'General Administration' were subjected to a great deal of criticism. The Honourable Premier, when replying to the debate last year said :—

The Report of the Retrenchment Committee is under consideration but I am afraid it would be some time before we can examine it critically as we have hardly any time on account of the Assembly session and other official work for examining the recommendations relating to each department in the Council of Ministers but several weeks would be required to complete the examination. Occasionally they are elbowed out of the weekly agenda because of some other urgent and important business. When we get some respite at Simla we will be able to formulate our considered views. I, however, doubt if it would be possible to take action to any appreciable extent during the War. I am not in a position to commit the Government to any definite line of action at present but I can say this much that my colleagues and particularly the Finance Minister are fully alive to the need of curtailing unnecessary expenditure. The Finance Department are the most zealous and vigilant custodians of our finances and do not normally allow any additional expenditure unless they are absolutely satisfied that it is essential and inevitable.

This happened one and a half years after this Report had been produced by the Retrenchment Committee. The Honourable Premier gave us an index of the mind of the Government and after that, we could not expect that this Government, constituted as it was, would do anything substantial and reduce the expenditure as was suggested by the Retrenchment Committee. This House knows fully well that if the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee had been accepted, this would have brought a saving of 53 lakhs of rupees per annum to the province and now I ask in all seriousness whether during this year that has since elapsed, the Government has considered this Report and if so, what are the retrenchments that they have brought about as a result of those recommendations. I believe the Government, in its own interest, owed to itself to take this House into its confidence and told us in plain language as to the amount of retrenchment that had been made as a result of the recommendations of this Committee. I am sorry to say that nothing of the kind has been done. The Government has not taken this House into confidence. The Report was a very clear and elaborate one, and it did not require very serious thinking for the Honourable Premier to allege that the reduction could not be made, due to the War. This is in fact hard to understand. War is a central subject. It is not a provincial subject. But even then, if the services of certain officers of the Government have been utilized in war work we are not averse to that. The Government had only to tell us that such and such amount had been spent on the salaries of those officers. Nothing of the kind has however been done. On the contrary, at the very time that this Retrenchment Committee was producing its Report, after completing its inquiries, this Government went out of its way to increase the expenditure. The Retrenchment Committee, after having

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held about two hundred sittings, unanimously recommend that one of the two posts of the Financial Commissioners be abolished. What has this Government done? Instead of abolishing the post of one Financial Commissioner, it has added another. It has now got three Financial Commissioners instead of two. The Retrenchment Committee recommended that the posts of two Commissioners be done away with and they added, that that would bring in a saving of Rs. 1,60,000 to the much needed funds of this province. What has this Government done within this period of 2½ years? It has simply slept over that recommendation. On the contrary what one finds is, that there is going on an increase, an ever growing increase, in the establishment, every year. I quote from the Memorandum of the Secretary for 1941-42.

Appointment of additional staff in Financial Commissioner's office has afforded relief. Some further addition is being made for the next year also.

What do we find this year? Further increase in the staff of the office of the Financial Commissioners, Punjab. It will be a matter of surprise to many of us that at the time this inquiry was being made by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee, the officers of the Government were simultaneously asking for more staff and that was being sanctioned by this Government. The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal's position appears to be unenviable. On the one hand as Chairman of this Inquiry Committee he was taking sufficient pains to see that some much needed reduction in expenditure was effected and on the other hand, on account of his collective responsibility as Minister, he was being forced to sign decrees which meant increase in expenditure. Just imagine, on the one hand that gentleman, the custodian of the finances of the province, says that the post of the Financial Commissioner and two posts of Commissioners be done away with. On the other hand the very same gentleman, because of his collective responsibility in the Cabinet, is being made to sign decrees increasing the burden of this province by means of further extra expenditure. This is the state of affairs to which we are being driven in respect of expenditure, and this is the intelligence that this Government brings to bear on such an important subject, as the custodian of the finances of this province. Now, coming to the new expenditure under this year, one finds that there is going to be increase of Rs. 9,200 in the salaries of the Ministers. This salary of Rs. 9,200 will be the salary of a Parliamentary Secretary who is going to be appointed. This post remained unfilled during the last year and it resulted in a saving of about nine thousand rupees to the Government.

2 p. m.

I do ask whether the work of the Government has suffered in the least by the non-appointment of this parliamentary secretary. If they were able to go on for one year without a parliamentary secretary, what necessity has there been now felt for the refilling of this appointment? If you are able to do things without a parliamentary secretary for one year, why cannot you do without him for another year or two? To my mind, it is not the vacancies that have got to be filled but that posts are created to fit in men whom this Government can ill afford to lose for political reasons. They do not create these posts because they are necessary but they create them because there are men who have to be

fitted in somehow. Otherwise, if that was not the mentality and if the Government had proceeded in the matter with greater care and intelligence, I am quite sure that they would have been able to bring about a considerable reduction in expenditure, especially after the very clear report that has been made, not by the members of the Opposition, but by those of the Ministerial party, presided over by the Honourable Finance Minister himself. The Honourable the Finance Minister could not be a party to a report which had as its aim the embarrassment of the Government. He has gone into all the data as carefully as he possibly could. The report is very comprehensive and it did not require any very serious thinking for 2½ years in order to be able to arrive at a decision. The report clearly said that there were great many special salaries, superfluous allowances and superfluous telephones, etc. This Government is too weak to tackle the problem with its strong I. C. S. services. These I. C. S. people must have the privilege of using telephones, even when they are not actually needed. They must continue to draw special pays and allowances, even when the circumstances justifying them have ceased to exist. They must continue to draw fat travelling allowances regardless of the necessity of these tours, and the province saddled with all this unnecessary expenditure. I would ask the Honourable Premier to tell us in clear language as to whether that report has been considered at all by the cabinet; what is the decision that the Government has taken thereon, and the amount of retrenchment effected as a result of that report; and if a final decision has not already been arrived at by this Government, how long will its consideration further last? I put a very simple and straight question and I expect a straight answer to that.

Now, coming to the Provincial Legislative Assembly, one finds that in the last year there has been saving of Rs. 1,87,000. This saving is described in the Memorandum of the Secretary in the following words:

"Rs. 1,87,000 under Provincial Legislative Assembly.-- This is due to the fact that summer session was not held this year and that the duration of winter session was very small as compared with two previous years."

It is a clear explanation for the saving under the head 'Provincial Legislative Assembly'. Instead of now welcoming this saving and instead of feeling some satisfaction over this saving, what has the Government done? The Government has brought in a Bill, the Salary and Allowances Bill for the Members, the result of which will be an increase of Rs. 90,600 under this head, in the coming year. We all know that there is no pressure of legislation. The agrarian legislation has already been passed by this Government, in quick succession. What we know is that there is no possibility of any pressure of legislation and instead of feeling jubilant and allowing that state of things to continue and thereby making considerable saving in expenditure, this Government goes out of its way and brings in a Salary and Allowances Bill for the Members which will mean on the contrary an additional burden to the extent of Rs. 90,600 during the coming year. While all this is going on merrily, the expenditure on the beneficent departments continues to be stationary. There is absolutely no rise in the expenditure on the beneficent departments. My honourable friend tells me that there has been a rise. I know there has been a small rise, but I am talking of this expenditure in relation to the figures of the

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revenue. The *pro-rata* increase in the expenditure on the beneficent departments has been no more than the increase in the earning capacity of the province. My point is that because there was rise in the revenue earning capacity of the province, more money should have been spent on the beneficent department and this has not been done by this Government. On the contrary money has been wasted in unnecessary appointments, in allowances, touring expenses, etc. (*An honourable member*: On account of war there is extraordinary expenditure.) I believe I have made my point clear. Only one item of law and order is enough to bear me out. The expenditure under this head, 'Law and Order' in 1937-38 was 209 lakhs of rupees and the budgeted expenditure under this head for 1942-43 is 256 lakhs, an increase of 47 lakhs of rupees in the expenditure under one major head alone, 'Law and Order.' Now, does my honourable friend really say that this is because of the war? Nothing of the kind. It is an increase pure and simple in order to accommodate as many men of the kith and kin of this Government as they possibly can. That is what this increase in expenditure is due to.

Coming to the policy of nepotism and favouritism that prevails with this Government, much has already been said by the Government's own yes-men yesterday. I am glad that they had taken the liberty to say what they thought right and have called a spade, a spade. The Government stand fully exposed by what their own yes-men have said. I will simply add one more case to the long list given by my honourable friends of the Unionist party. That case is the one that has been contributed to the "Tribune" two days ago by a gentleman who professes to be a friend and admirer of the Honourable Premier. It is regarding the Principal of the Lyallpur Agricultural College. The writer of this article in the "Tribune" has put a few pertinent questions. He said, 'Is it not a fact that Maulvi Sahib is an ordinary graduate of the Punjab University with Persian as one of his subjects?' I would not waste the time of the House by reading out the whole of the article, but I would content myself by referring to one extract which to my mind appears to be very significant, and it is, where the writer says that the Premier may send for only the Muslim members of the college and ask them about the qualifications and the teaching experience of that gentleman who has been posted as the Principal of the Agricultural College, Lyallpur. I have no personal grouse against that gentleman. I do not know him at all. But from what one reads in the "Tribune", no impartial man can view with satisfaction such an appointment. The Government goes on adding to the list of nepotism and favouritism and I make them this present of yet another case.

Sir, another question was raised by my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal this morning in his speech and that related to the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. As far as I have been able to understand, my honourable friend's objection was based on two grounds. One was that a non-official should have been appointed in preference to an official as had been the case all throughout before the present appointment. The second objection was that a distinguished gentleman belonging to the Education Department should have been appointed in preference to one whose sole qualification was that he came from an agricultural college. These were

the two grounds of objection that my honourable friend took this morning when referring to this matter. The Minister for Education immediately intervened and instead of improving matters made them much worse by making insinuations, which a man of his responsible position should never have done without making sure of his grounds. Instead of saying directly whether the gentleman had any distinguished educational qualifications or whether he had ever rendered any services to the Education Department, he went out of his way not only to make insinuations, but attributed motives directly to the mover, that this matter was raised in this House because a monopoly which was given to a certain publisher by the University was not allowed to continue by the present Vice-Chancellor. Now, I submit with all respect and in all seriousness that this was a very serious charge and the Honourable Minister should have made sure of his ground before coming to this House with such an explanation. I have been told on very good authority, the accuracy of which I have not the least reason to doubt, that absolutely no monopoly now or ever before was given by the University to any publisher. The University from the very beginning have been having their work done by competition. Every publisher had the right to give tender and the work was given according to the tenders. Now, I ask the Honourable Minister, unfortunately he is not in his seat at the moment, as to what made him make such an unwarranted remark and insinuation which only attributed motives instead of replying directly to the question which was raised. As I have said the question was raised only on two grounds. It was not right on the part of the Honourable Minister to try to cloud the issues by bringing in irrelevant matters in the debate at that stage. The question resolves itself into this, that instead of telling the House in plain simple language what the facts were in respect of this appointment, the Honourable Minister has gone out of his way to cloud the issue by making insinuations and by bringing in irrelevant and unnecessary things. This appears to be exactly the case of a person who has no case to make out but resorts to personal reflections and insinuations just to justify himself. Before I close I do want to make a reference to some of the laws that have unfortunately been passed, that is, the discriminatory laws that have been passed by this Government.

Mr. Speaker : Which laws is the honourable member referring to? The honourable member is not in order.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I will make only one more reference, not to the laws, but to a point that was attempted to be made by the Premier in his speech on the very morrow when the traders after their unparalleled sacrifices decided to call off the hartal and the Satyagraha. The honourable Premier made a remark to the effect that the traders' agitation was "senseless". It was no occasion for such a remark. I think it is remarks like these that help to create bitter feelings and bad blood in the province. Instead of appreciating the fact that after their unparalleled sacrifices the traders have called off the hartal and the Satyagraha in the best interests of the province especially when war is at the very doors of this unfortunate country, the Premier goes out of his way and indulges in tall talk, although there was no occasion for it and says that the agitation of the traders was "senseless". I make my strong protest against these unwarranted remarks. It was expected further that after the calling off

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of "Satyagrah" and "Hartal" all those who were in jail and all those who were made to suffer in one form or the other would be set free and that *status quo* would be restored. I find to my astonishment that the licences which the Hindu and Sikh traders in Mianwali held before this agitation and which were confiscated during the course of this agitation, have not yet been restored to them. I find to the astonishment of all of us that Mr. Raja Ram of Messrs Raja Brothers, Anarkali, Lahore, is still being detained as a detenué although the world outside does not know his offence except that he had sympathies with the traders and being a trader himself he was prepared to make all sacrifices along with others. May I request the Government to give their consideration to these cases, one being the Mianwali case which is causing all sort of heart burning in the province and restore to those gentlemen their licences which were confiscated for no fault of theirs except that they sided with the traders and made sacrifices for what they believed to be the just cause of the business community? As we all know Mianwali is a border district. The people there are subject to raids every moment and it was for protection against these raids that licences for arms had been given to them. That situation has not in the least changed: on the contrary the position is getting worse every day. It is very necessary that those gentlemen who were given those arms to defend themselves in case of such a need should be given back those arms which were taken away from them for no political offence but only in respect of trade matters, when as traders they joined in protest against an unjust law, namely, the General Sales Tax Act. With these words I support the cut motion which has been moved. (*Cheers.*)

Sardar Muhammad Husain (Chunian, Muslim, Rural) (*Punjabi*):

In order to appreciate the real extent to which Government have succeeded in efficiently discharging their duties and fulfilling their obligations, we must take three facts of that regime into consideration. Firstly, as to how much relief has been afforded to the poor during their term of office. Secondly, the steps that have been taken by them for maintaining law and order in the country. And lastly, the efforts they have made for improving the educational and moral standards of the people of the province. Bearing these three facts in mind let us try to judge the achievements of the present Government. The honourable members of this House are aware of the fact that out of the total population of this Province about 1/4th live in urban areas and the rest that is 3/4ths reside in villages. Among these the urbanites are better off financially than those living in the villages because the sources of their income are much greater and surer. They are, moreover, fortunate in getting the various amenities of life apart from having good roads, schools, colleges and hospitals in cities. On the other hand the condition of the rural population—whose hard earned income goes to fill the coffers of the Punjab Government—is intolerably bad and pitiable. It is no doubt true that the Honourable Ministers are always trying their utmost to afford relief to the zamindars by transferring the burden of taxation to the moneyed classes but it appears to me that at present the Government have to face many difficulties in achieving their object in view of the world situation. The well-to-do classes are intent upon bringing such schemes to grief by carrying on an organised agitation.

against it and the Government have desisted from taking any action so far on account of the war situation as it would otherwise hamper their war effort.

Although the present form of Government, that is, Provincial Autonomy, is considered to be a democratic form, yet in reality it is still a half measure because our ministry does not enjoy full powers in all matters. For instance, most of the measures that were passed by this Government for the benefit of the zamindars have been declared *ultra vires* by the Lahore High Court. As the Government does not exercise any control over the Judiciary we cannot blame our Ministers for not doing all they can to save the zamindars from utter ruin. One of the main reasons for the miserable plight of the zamindars is the heavy burden of debt under which they have been smarting from time immemorial. In this connection it will be admitted that the Honourable Premier and Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram set themselves to the task of saving the zamindars from the clutches of the *sahukars* by enacting measures the moment they assumed office. There are no doubt certain lacunæ in the recently passed debt legislation and I would invite the attention of the Government to them with the request that such flaws should be removed immediately and the laws should be made more rigorous and useful. The second cause of the poverty and helplessness of the zamindars lies in the fact that their lands have been reduced into uneconomic holdings by series of divisions. Here I would take the opportunity of requesting the Government that when an occasion arises for granting land in the colonies special consideration should be shown to the people of my district and to those whose lands have been washed away by rivers or ruined through water-logging or *thur*. Again lands should also be granted to the educated unemployed.

The next thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is the fact that water-rate has been assessed at higher rates on the Upper Bari Doab and Dipalpur canals and I would request the Government to reduce the rate by at least 50 per cent. Moreover the *khush haisiati* rate and the charges for the watercourse and canal bridges, which have been improperly levied on the Dipalpur canal should be done away with at once.

In regard to the increase in crime and the moral degradation prevailing in our province I beg to submit that the main cause for this sad state of affairs is a lack of education. In order to remedy this the Unionist Government passed the Compulsory Primary Education Act whereby primary education was made compulsory but in my opinion its greatest drawback lies in the fact that it did not make any provision for imparting religious instruction to the children. It is imperative that such arrangements should be made in the primary schools for giving religious instruction to our children. Because it is religious instruction alone which can improve the low moral tone of the nations. The Special Inquiry Agency which has been set up by the Government for eradicating the evil of corruption has proved its worth by successfully prosecuting various officers holding responsible positions for which the credit must go to the Officer-in-charge of the Agency, Khan Sahib Qurban Ali Khan, whose honesty and integrity is above board. He has set upon this task with indomitable courage and missionary zeal. The agency is doing good work and if the

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staff is increased they can extend their activities to the sphere of subordinate officials as well. The step taken by the Honourable Premier for the prevention of crime has had a very good effect on the people of the province. The unsettled world situation had emboldened the bad characters but the Government have taken timely action by appointing strong officers in those districts where the incidence of crime was the greatest. Lahore district which was notorious for its criminal list has shown an appreciable decrease in their number. (*Hear, hear.*) The reason for this decrease in crime is that we have been fortunate in having a very strong and able administrator in the person of Mr. K. H. Henderson, in our district. Apart from imposing restrictions on bad characters he has been instrumental in recovering thousands of unlicensed arms with the help of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Now I would like to make a submission to the Honourable Premier in respect of the disquieting rumour that the Government of India intends to institute control on wheat at the time of harvesting the Rabi crops. If such a control is at all instituted the Punjab Government should see that the people of this province are left with such stocks of wheat as would be necessary for consumption during the year.

Before resuming my seat I would just bring one more fact to the notice of the Government—although I am afraid our Assembly is not competent to legislate on that subject and only the Central Legislature is empowered to make laws of this nature, yet our Assembly can at least make a recommendation—and it is that the division of property among Muslims should be made in accordance with the Muslim Law (*Shariat*) and not according to the customary law. The daughters should also get their due share of immovable property as fixed by the *Shariat*.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, I intend to confine my reply to the remarks made by honourable members during the course of discussion relating to the subjects pertaining to my portfolio. In this connection I will, first of all, take up the criticism made against the police. If an analysis of the speeches made from this as well as from that side of the House is made, they fall under three heads. The first is the criticism of the legal system. There I have nothing to differ from honourable members because I am myself a great critic of the legal system of justice that is prevailing in this country. It gives legal justice and not material justice. I would therefore not reply to that criticism. As far as we are concerned, we are trying our level best to improve matters. A humble beginning has already been made in this connection to set matters right in passing the Panchayat Act. We intended to reform and simplify the criminal law of the land and we were considering proposals to remedy that defect but War intervened and we could not proceed any further. That will show that these defects have not escaped our notice and we will take up the matter when we have more time and leisure, after peace is restored.

The second type of criticism the honourable members made related to the old order. They expressed their zeal for the revision of that order. In this connection too, I do not differ from them. Honourable members

would agree with me that we are trying to change that order, but it cannot be done overnight. It is a matter of time. If honourable members would compare the old state of affairs with the present one, they would be able to notice improvements. I have no hesitation in saying that some of the officers are misfits in the present system of administration, but they are legacies of the old administration and as honourable members know, the Government of India Act and other difficulties are in our way. However these people are being gradually eliminated anyhow. In any case I can say that there is considerable improvement in their behaviour also.

Now I will take up the other criticisms levelled against the police. All I can say about that is that it was a sort of drain inspector's report. I do not say that the defects do not exist in the police or that no more improvements are needed. We have by no means achieved the ideal. But I am sure that it will be conceded that great improvement has been effected in the police. In this connection I would like to say that the country gets the sort of service it deserves (*An honourable member*: It gets the sort of Government it deserves.) True. It gets the sort of Government it deserves as also the sort of service it deserves. I may point out that the service barring a few foreigners consists of our own brethren. They reflect the state of affairs that exist in our society. Every effort is being made to get rid of the black sheep. The honourable member from Montgomery remarked that crime had doubled. Nothing of the sort. Crime did show some increase for a while. The peak was reached in 1939 when there were 1,319 murders, 229 dacoities and 17,000 burglaries. But since last year there has been a marked decrease. If we compare the figures of the last two years it will be observed that there has been a decrease of 81 murders, 62 dacoities and 1,163 burglaries. I can claim credit for the police only for a portion of this decrease. The other portion may be due to the fact that some of the hot heads have gone to the army. But so far as Multan Division is concerned I can say that the entire credit goes to the police, because the extent of recruitment for the army in Multan Division is not great (*An honourable member*: Will the Honourable Minister please say whether the number he has quoted are cases registered or challaned?) I was referring to cases reported. I have not got information about cases challaned and let off. But I may say that the incidence of rise here in the Punjab is much less than elsewhere. The incidence of rise in crime, as will be observed from the figures I gave this House sometime ago, was much greater in other provinces than it was here. But even that rise was due to many factors into the details of which I would not like to go at this stage. One honourable member suggested that theft should be paid for by the state. I know many a member would be happy if that novel suggestion was acted upon. We also know that all concerned will be happy except the tax-payer. The man who has lost his property would get its value back while the one who has stolen it would retain it. Anyhow such a fantastic suggestion does not deserve any consideration of this House particularly in a country where there are thieves, employers of thieves and other bigger agencies behind these employers.

Then an honourable member dealt with acquittals. Acquittals are made by courts of law and I have no intention to pass judgment on the doings of law courts. All I can say is that the law requires simplification.

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particularly criminal law. In that respect I am at one with the honourable member. Then he said that people were reluctant to go to courts. I have already dealt with that point. As a foreign system was introduced in this country which had nothing in common with the mentality of the villager it could not be popular and hence the difficulty.

I was asked whether I could give the names of Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors who were honest. I confess my inability to do so because I do not know these subordinate officials (*An honourable member: Or there is none honest.*) Every one sees others through his own glasses. I believe there are a good number of honest officers. I cannot give their exact number because their cases are dealt with by the subordinate authorities and they do not come up to Government or my notice. But instructions have been issued several times that consideration should be shown for honesty and that honest officials should be promoted as far as possible and that action should be taken against dishonest officials. I have just got figures which show that in 1940-41, 22 people were dismissed or discharged for dishonesty. I shall give figures for the previous years—

Year.	Number dismissed or discharged.
1936-37	16
1937-38	22
1938-39	25
1939-40	34

Thus it will be observed that the number of cases punished has risen up. We are trying to purge the whole service of this corrupt element, but it will certainly take some time. As honourable members are aware, we are tied by rules and regulations. Even if I am convinced of a man's dishonesty I cannot get rid of him until he is proved guilty as a result of an enquiry. Then honourable members also know how difficult it is to prove a person corrupt. If we were free to take action as we liked perhaps speedier would have been the effect. But I am sure honourable members would not like me to exercise that freedom in action. I was reading a book the other day wherein it is said that Goering when he took over charge of the ministry of police in Prussia dismissed 29 senior officers with one stroke of the pen. That sort of action is not called for here nor can we adopt such a drastic course. We have to do our work in accordance with the wishes of the honourable members of this House. So the work of clearance must necessarily be slow. But a good deal of improvement is taking place.

An other honourable member criticised the police for effecting recoveries of arms which were really not there. I shall for the information of the House give figures of recoveries of arms :—

Rifles	120
Revolvers	158
Pistols	2,249
Guns	699
Cartridges	1,759
Chhavis	13,423

It is quite likely that some sub-Inspector who was not doing his job properly and tried to plant some arm in another's house by improper means; but it cannot be that all the cases of recoveries I have mentioned could have been achieved by such doubtful means. I need not say what amount of disturbance of peace can be created if there are large number of illicit arms in the country.

Next, it was said that the behaviour of some of the police officers was anything but desirable. I concede that and I am enjoining on them to improve their behaviour. But the difficulty is that if a police officer behaves courteously he is considered to be weak and I at once get a wire asking me to post a *sabardast* *Thanedar*. What are we to do? The system is such that unless it is simplified, some of the defects are bound to continue. Every effort is being made to simplify the system.

Then some specific instances were given by my honourable friend from Amritsar. He said that there were factions in a village in which three bad-mashes were taken away by the police when the other gang attacked the sub-inspector and two policemen injuring them and that some people have been challaned. I do not know the facts, but if the police arrested 14 persons, my friend assumes to himself the authority for stating that 11 were innocent. Are we here to judge? Am I here to decide? The function of the police is to enquire and investigate and submit the case to court. It is for the courts to decide and if people are innocent they will be let off. I do not think that the honourable member should have mentioned such a case in criticism of the police in general.

Then he said that the relatives of some one serving in Malaya have been put to trouble. I will make an enquiry because it is our duty to look after the interests of the brave men who are serving abroad. But it does not mean that the relatives of these men have a licence to do what they like and can break the law. If they have broken the law and have been arrested I do not think that the service of their brave relatives can save them.

Then the honourable member quoted another instance of grave injustice that this Government is doing. I am referring to Sardar Partap Singh. He said that there is a Kartara who has been given a licence for a gun, though he has been convicted for certain offences and is a bad character. I do not know the past history of this man, but I have it from my honourable friend on my right that this gentleman has since been reformed and has given 200 recruits and has helped to get some dacoits captured. However bad might have been the past of this man, even conceding the allegations that the honourable member has made, if it is a fact that this man is now helpful to the administration, there is no reason why he should not get a gun licence for his protection.

An honourable member : He has joined Sardar Dasaundha Singh.

Minister of Public Works : We will come to that later. If he has reformed himself, and if he has incurred enmity in public interest and wants protection, I do not think we were wrong in giving him this gun licence.

Then I come to the remarks made by Malik Barkat Ali. He first of all fell foul of the Director of Panchayats for welcoming Sir Chhotu Ram on

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behalf of Muslims. There is hardly any force in this criticism. Honourable members are fully aware that Sir Chhotu Ram is a very popular Minister among the rural classes in the Punjab. He is liked by them, though he is disliked by certain sections whom he wants to tax a little more in order to bring about equilibrium in taxation. (*Interruptions.*)

An honourable member : Why did he welcome on behalf of the Muslims ?

Minister of Public Works : There was some misunderstanding. He must have welcomed Sir Chhotu Ram on behalf of the rural people and on behalf of the panchayats staff who were gathered there to welcome him and whom Sir Chhotu Ram was to address.

Then Malik Barkat Ali brought in unnecessarily the comments alleged to have been made by the Director against the Leader of the Muslim League. The officer concerned has already denied that he used any such language and Begam Sahiba (Begam Shah Nawaz) has given the real facts. What I want to say is that it was furthest from the mind of Mian Azim Husain to say anything against any leader. I will not go into the details of this matter, but I should say this much that the Director would be the last person to say anything disparaging concerning the friends of his great father, Sir Fazl-i-Husain.

Then Malik Barkat Ali raised the question as to why Government disqualified Sardar Sant Singh, Municipal President of Lyallpur. He read out a lengthy statement. I have here all the facts with me. If I start reading this lengthy document, I do not think I shall be able to finish it, but I shall briefly point out to you the nature of charges against him : (1) that he had given a lease resulting in a loss to the municipality ; (2) that he had compounded offences relating to an unauthorised structure by accepting nominal penalty ; that he appointed person without following rules and had thus exceeded his powers.

An honourable member : Sir, it is most unfair that the Honourable Minister is reading out the charges but not Sardar Sant Singh's answers to those charges.

Minister : Then the president refused to sign cheques of salaries and payments were unnecessarily held up, thus obstructing the whole work of the municipality. He was also charged with the non-compliance and defiance of the Deputy Commissioner's orders and further that he had abused his powers. All these charges were enquired into by the Deputy Commissioner and later on by the Commissioner and both recommended the removal of the president from the municipality.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Is the president of the committee a subordinate of the Deputy Commissioner ?

Minister : A municipality has to be worked under the Municipal Law and certain powers have been vested in the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner for supervision, and the president has to carry out the orders of the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner issued by virtue of these powers. If an order is passed by a lower officer it is binding on the president.

till it is set aside by higher authority. He cannot take the law into his own hand and defy it until a competent authority has set it aside.

Mian Abdul Aziz : May I put one question ? Is it according to any law that the President is bound to obey an illegal order passed by the Deputy Commissioner in his executive capacity ?

Minister of Public Works : I was saying that an order passed by a Deputy Commissioner stands until it is set aside by a competent authority, and that is a proposition which my honourable friend would not deny as a lawyer.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I deny it because I am not bound to obey an illegal executive order.

Minister : There might be disputes arising out of it. It is the competent authority under the law that can give a decision. But I was not taking my stand on that particular case.

Munshi Hari Lal : Did the Deputy Commissioner have a hand in framing the charges against Sardar Sant Singh ?

Minister : To the best of my knowledge the Deputy Commissioner acted quite independently. If the honourable member has any other information, that is his private unconfirmed information, I cannot take it into account. Sardar Sant Singh is a politician and a member of the Central Assembly. He is an elderly gentleman, and all respect is due to him, but under no circumstances could we allow him to abuse his powers as a president. Law is no respecter of persons, and we judged him as an ordinary member and as we found him wanting in certain respects and guilty of abuse of powers, we had to take action against him under the Municipal Act.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Was he removed because he was an anti-Unionist ?

Minister : The honourable member has his own mentality. He can cherish it as he likes.

Then Malik Barkat Ali mentioned the case of the removal of a member of the Ludhiana municipality. That case I am afraid is *sub judice* and cannot be discussed.

Mian Abdul Aziz : The Honourable Minister said that after reading out the charges he would take up the replies of Sardar Sant Singh. It is a very serious thing that he should bring out the charges and not the answers. I think it is most unfair.

Minister : Sardar Sant Singh's reply has been published at length in a pamphlet. I am quoting from what the executive officers found established after enquiry. It is on the basis of that enquiry that we have come to our finding. The honourable members opposite can hold their own opinion, but the executive officers of Government, the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner, looked into the charges and if they have found them proved, I have no reason to question their finding.

Minister : Then he was talking of the workshop of the Unionist Party, the panchayats. If this Government has the courage to establish a workshop which brings about the betterment of the zamindars, then we can certainly claim all credit for it. The panchayats are one instance where no party politics can be thrust on the people. If the village has a

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Congress mentality, it can choose all Congress members. If the village is Unionist in its mentality then it can appoint all Unionists, if the honourable members do not want that panchayats should be constituted in any village, I cannot help them. The promotion of panchayats is the creed of the Congress and the Unionist Party. It is also the creed of every other political party. The panchayats have been the mainstay of India in past and I am sure they are going to be the mainstay of India of the future. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps the honourable members dislike this movement as it helps the villagers, a large majority of whom are of the Unionist way of thinking. But by these means they cannot lessen the popularity of the Unionist amongst the rural folk and need not oppose a nation-building movement like panchayats for this purpose.

Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour): Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member should try to be brief.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I will obey your mandate. In an otherwise able speech my honourable friend who has just spoken unfortunately did something which was very unfair. But it is symptomatic of the character and the attitude of the Unionist Government. (Hear, hear.) What he did was this. He read out certain charges which had been levelled by him, by his department or by those officers who were responsible for levelling those charges against Sardar Sant Singh and having levelled those charges, although he was asked to read out the reply of Sardar Sant Singh which is a complete rebuttal of those charges, my honourable friend, although I anticipated that he would read out the reply, refused to do so.

Minister of Public Works : It is 50 pages of typed matter. It was Malik Barkat Ali who brought in those charges and I only wanted to say that an enquiry was held and some of the charges proved.

Diwan Chaman Lall : He had read out the charges.

Minister : No, I did not read out the charges.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He read out the purport of the charges.

Minister : Yes. But if that displeases my honourable friend, I cannot help it. My honourable friend was not here when Malik Barkat Ali was reading them.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I was here and I heard what Malik Barkat Ali had said and I heard what my honourable friend had said. My honourable friend will forgive me for referring to this for the simple reason that I do not refer to it in any sense of anger or resentment. I refer to it in this sense that I want the House to realise that this has been the attitude of the Unionist Government from the day it took office until to-day, namely, whatever wrong is done, attempt to justify it by doing still more wrong. There cannot be a greater wrong than to try and accuse a man in his absence by reading certain charges to which there has been a complete reply and refuse to read that reply to the House. Let me take one simple charge. What is the charge? The charge is that Sardar Sant Singh let out certain leases and caused loss thereby and Sardar Sant Singh has replied. He has given a

table under which it appears that it is only under his presidentship that the losses were reduced to an absolute minimum, that always in the past the losses had been tremendous but during his tenure of office the losses were reduced to an absolute minimum and as compared with Rs. 1,600 in one year, nearly, Rs. 2,800 in another year, during his tenure of office the losses were only Rs. 389. Now to tell this House that it is because of this particular charge that Sardar Sant Singh has been removed from his presidentship is not only trying to attempt to throw dust in the eyes of my honourable friends' own followers, but to try and do an unfair thing which has been the characteristic of this Unionist Government throughout. My honourable friend, since he was the last speaker—I will not go into any other charges—he has got the pamphlet before him—he knows that he is merely attempting to get rid of a man who is not prepared to play to the tune called by my honourable friends of the Government, a man who is thoroughly honest, a man who is thoroughly efficient, a man in whom the citizens of Lyallpur reposed their confidence. But because the deputy commissioner says that he did not carry out an order given by him, he is removed. And what does the Commissioner say in regard to that order? The Commissioner agrees with Sardar Sant Singh that the order itself was illegal, *ultra vires* and Sardar Sant Singh is to be removed from the office by my honourable friend because he refuses to carry out an illegal, *ultra vires* order, an order held by the Commissioner to be *ultra vires*.

Minister of Public Works : What about the other charges?

Diwan Chaman Lall : My honourable friend knows perfectly well. I am ready to read the other charges if I have the time. If my honourable friend has not read the reply to these charges, I hope he will read them now and reverse the decision which he took, a decision which is disgraceful, which disgraces the Government as well as democratic rule in the cities of our province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my very respected and revered friend, Begum Shah Nawaz, said that she was sorry to find the level of the debate so low. I quite agree with her. There are great things that are agitating not only the world, but agitating our country. There is not a home which is not bearing and feeling the impact of this war and of impending events. In these circumstances it is our bounden duty to make an attempt to rise above that particular level and try and place before the public and before this House the real feelings and sentiments of the people in respect of the tragedy that is facing us. But my honourable friend will forgive me if I say that after having criticised certain speeches, she herself fell to the very same level that she was attempting to criticise and her speech (*interruption*)—the sum total of her speech—I am not referring to any controversial matters which agitate my honourable friend and the Leader of her party—for instance she said that by not resigning from the Defence Council she has shown courage meaning thereby that my honourable friend, the Premier, who did resign must have shown great cowardice in her eyes—

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : I never said so.

Minister : Both had the courage of their conviction.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I will not refer and I do not desire to refer to any controversial matter. It is one between my honourable friend and the

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leader of her party. But there is evidence that whenever it suits any member of the Unionist Party to take any action, he or she takes that particular action irrespective of the mandate of the Leader. But I am not referring to this. The sum total of her speech was, "we the Unionists and these Ministers are looked up to in the four provinces" that she has visited and wherever she has been in the Punjab and everybody praises the Unionist Ministry. (*Interruption.*) I have taken down my honourable friend's words. All that I can say is this that there is a Punjabi word which is a very rotten word but an appropriate word on this occasion. *Chaploosi* is not a nice thing to indulge in. How did she rise above the level that she herself was criticising? And may I also remark that if she went about the province and heard nothing but praises of the Unionist Ministry, I submit she must have been keeping very strange company, Mr. Speaker, very strange indeed. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I in passing turn to two or three bigger issues—
 3 p.m. issues which should be considered by this House. There are two or three matters which we have to discuss and my honourable friend, the Finance Minister, will forgive me, if I discuss them now on the floor of the House at this stage since a convention has been happily established that on general administration we are in a position to discuss almost anything with regard to the administration of our province. The first point I wanted to draw the attention of this House to is this, that I have been hearing day in and day out, what the Unionist Government have done for this province under the benign rule of my honourable friend, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, and under the financial rule of the wizard of finance, my honourable friend, Sir Manohar Lal. (*Minister for Public Works: Hear, hear.*) My honourable friend Malik Khizar Hayat Khan says, "hear, hear". All those Unionists must end together. (*An honourable member: Hang together.*) They must end together. Probably the time has not yet come for them to hang together. The time may come. Now, I want to draw the pointed attention of the House to the facts which are contained in the budget. I would ask whether during the 5 years of the Unionist rule there has been any advance in the health of the people, in peace and in prosperity. Has there been any? I should have thought that my honourable friend the Finance Minister would have got up to speak and certain honourable members sitting on the front benches or behind them would have got up to speak and would have given us facts and figures to prove that within 5 years during their regime, the province of the Punjab is a better province to live in than it was when they unhappily took office. (*Minister for Public Works: Wait for the Public Health demand.*) My honourable friend, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan says, "Wait for the Public Health demand." I shall deal with this demand presently. I may now draw the pointed attention of the House to my honourable friend, Sardar Dasaundha Singh. What does he say? He says, "Why do you say that we have not done anything for the peasantry of the Punjab? Good heavens! Don't you know? Why are you so ignorant? I, Sardar Dasaundha Singh, have allotted for the next year, eight thousand rupees for the improvement of cattle in the Kangra district." (*Laughter.*) Is this House governed by ignorance and apathy? My honourable friend

would not have had the courage to make use of such arguments as he has done. Let us have a look at the proposition from the point of view of our finances. When my honourable friends took office, what was the exact position at that time? When they took office the position was that our revenue was somewhere round about 11 crores, the total revenue receipts for 1936-37, were 11 crores, but to-day, our budget, that is, our revenue receipts have gone up by 3 crores—3 crores a year. My honourable friends sitting there have so devised their measures in order to get more money out of the pockets of the people, mostly the poor people, that they have got 3 crores more. I would ask what they have been doing with this increase, which they have effected of practically 25 per cent of our total budget—25 per cent more which they have recovered from the people. Now, what are they going to give the people in return? What sort of rule are they giving to the people? It is merely the police rule. My honourable friend the Minister in charge of the police forgot to tell us something about the police rule. I shall deal with that in a minute. I want you to be indulgent for a moment. Look at one of the charts that has been prepared. You will see how much more money this popular, democratic, benign and desirable Government allotted for the beneficent departments, as compared with their predecessors, who were living in the dark and had no regard in the least for the needs of the people according to them. Let me have a look at the Education Department. My honourable friend, very dear friend of mine, Mian Abdul Haye, will realise that in criticising his department—he is a very old friend of mine, we sat together on the same benches in the Central Assembly for about 7 years, and now I am sorry to find my honourable friend sitting on those benches and not on these—I will not be uncharitable. On education, the total expenditure in the year 1929-30, long before my honourable friends took office was 172 lakhs. The next year, in 1930-31, which was a terrible year and the great world depression set in that year, the total amount of expenditure on education was 172 lakhs. What is my honourable friend's budget figure for this year? What was his figure for the last year? In 1941-42, the budget estimate was 167·1, revised. For the present year they have allotted 167·1. Let us go back. Thus they allotted five lakhs less to-day than was allotted by the bureaucratic Government in the year of world depression, that is, in 1930-31. We are told that we are progressing. They get 3 crores revenue more in their pocket every year. These are not my figures. I have not compiled them. I have been handed over the book in which these figures are given. Even if they are incorrect, my honourable friend will correct these figures and place the correct figures before the House. But here is a fact, incontrovertible fact. What has my honourable friend, the Finance Minister got to say about it? He is a great wizard of finance. Where is his wizardry? What has happened to his wizardom?

I want you to realise, Mr. Speaker, that between the last two years, as compared with 1936-37 the total amount of money received during the last two years is 4 or 5 crores more. We have received five crores more during these two years in revenue and yet we have to spend five lakhs less on Education. The test of a civilised government is what it does for the beneficent departments, what it does for the education of the people, what it does for the health of the people, what it does to bring civilisation

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to the people and not merely wipe away their tears by saying, "For the next year we have allotted eight thousand rupees for the betterment of breed of cattle in the Kangra district". Mr. Speaker, may I draw your attention to another fact? And this is in connection with Education. Has the total number of those who are at school, those who are receiving education, increased or decreased? And if it has increased by how much has it increased? By that will you be judged, you will not be judged by the fact whether you agree to the Pakistan Scheme or whether you sit on the Defence Council or whether you can command the suffrage of so many people who probably do not understand what the actual position is, but you will be judged by what you have actually done for the people of your province, not by hoodwinking them—this is not the time of hoodwinking anybody. My honourable friend knows better than anybody else the utter seriousness of the position that faces the country. Let us finish with hoodwinking and let us be frank with the people whom you are governing. Let me see what was the position in regard to Education. In regard to Education, the total number of people, men, boys and girls, who are to be found in various schools in our province, remains practically stationary as compared with the figures of pre-war times. Comparing with the figures of the previous governments, the total increase, Mr. Speaker, has been 47 over that figure. I ask, is that the way to govern this province and then to tell the world "We have done so much for the people"? Let me take another factor, not only my honourable friend's department. He has excellent intentions. Unfortunately he is tied down by the fact that more and more and more money is required for stupid senseless things merely for the purpose of establishing firmly the contact of the Unionist Government with the electorate. That has been the guiding principle of this Government, the guiding principle has not been the benefit of the people. Let me take another department. I am dealing with the beneficent departments and it is by that that my honourable friend will be judged. Let me look at the expenditure on Public Health. My honourable friend will forgive me if I go back again to the same year 1929-30. The expenditure in 1929-30 for Public Health was 26 lakhs and what is the budgeted expenditure for 1942-43?—23 lakhs. For 1929-30—a terrible year—26 lakhs. I do not want to wait for the cut motion to come before the House. I want to draw the attention of the House to this particular fact. Twenty-six lakhs was the expenditure then and the expenditure now is 23 lakhs and in 1939-40, Mr. Speaker, it was 18 lakhs. I submit that in spite of the fact that the population, during the last ten years, of the Punjab has increased by 20 per cent, yet the expenditure on Public Health is less to-day than it was even in the days of those dark, barren, benighted bureaucrats who ruled this province. How are we better off under this regime to-day? Let me take another figure, the figure of industry. As far as the industries are concerned, let me take the figure of 1937-38. Then our expenditure was 19 lakhs and in 1941-42 twenty lakhs. One simple lakh in excess of the previous expenditure and yet with five crores more in their pockets during the last two years, there is one lakh more for Industries. And I see in the newspapers controlled by my honourable friend the Finance Minister that there are lines of praise everywhere that he has taken charge of the Industries Department. He has taken such charge of the Industries

Department that all that we find is that during all these years there is only one lakh extra expenditure on the Industries Department. (*Interruption.*)

Minister for Finance : Where are you reading these figures from ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am referring to the statement with explanatory diagram showing progress of Expenditure in certain departments since the year 1921-22. My honourable friend will find that the figure for 1937-38 was 19.1. The figure for 1940-41 is 20.4. For 1941-42 it is 20.7 and now for 1942-43 it is 26.9. Quite right. My honourable friend knows perfectly well what I am reading. This budget is still before the House. It is possible when the revised estimate comes it will be even less than this and I will presently deal with my honourable friend's methods of presenting the budget and then presenting the revised figures. I will deal with that matter a little later. I am now dealing with expenditure incurred up-to-date on this particular department. What is the expenditure incurred up-to-date year by year ? It is as follows :—

					Lakhs.
1937-38 ..	..	..	..	..	19.1
1938-39 ..	..	..	..	..	19.4
1939-40 ..	..	..	..	..	18.8
1940-41 ..	..	..	..	..	20.4
1941-42 ..	..	..	..	..	20.7

And I ask my honourable friend to remember what he has done.

Minister of Development : These are financial matters and not questions of eloquence. (*Laughter and Cheers.*)

Mian Abdul Aziz : Eloquence on that side or this side ?

Diwan Chaman Lall : I am glad that the argument has gone home and my honourable friend now realises that even a financial matter can be put eloquently. (*Interruption.*) Here is this position. Up-to-date we are stationary in spite of five crores more during the last five years. We are stationary as far as industries are concerned. And for the next year my honourable friend has budgeted for six lakhs more. It may be only six thousand at the end I do not know. He has budgeted for six lakhs more. Even then, what ? It is less than one pice in the rupee or about a pice in the rupee as far as our expenditure is concerned and this is the manner in which the beneficent department is being assisted. Now the question is, are these beneficent departments—Education, Health, Industries—of vital interest, to the people ? What has my honourable friend done ? We are where we were. We are worse off in some respects than even in 1929-30, that is ten or eleven years ago. We are worse off to-day and it is not the time to doubt about it that there are animals which pretend that they are going forward by going backward and I do not know if that particular type of animal is to be found amongst the members of the Unionist Party. They seem to find that they are going forward while all the time they are rally going backward. Let me see the method of my honourable friend's estimating. He has said that he has budgeted for 26 lakhs and it may be

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something less than that or it may be something roundabout that figure. We do not know about that because the methods of budgeting are so extraordinary. In the 1940-41 budget the total amount of surplus that was expected was 21·82 lakhs. The actual surplus came to one crore and 51 lakhs—an extraordinary proposition. My honourable friend, I hope when he rises to reply, will tell this House as to how it comes about that the total income of so much has no relevancy with the actual figures, when they are revised from 21 lakhs to 1 crore and 51 lakhs. I may inform my honourable friend that a large portion of this excess is due to what—to the extraordinary sale of the property belonging to the people of this province, which is a fact to be known and which my honourable friend should have known easily at the time when he was preparing his budget, where he was going to sell 40 lakhs of the assets of this province and where he was going to sell 92 lakhs of the assets of this province. In that connection also let me draw my honourable friend's attention to what has actually been happening. I want my honourable friend to look at page 1 of part A of this memorandum and he will find an extraordinary state of affairs. In 1936-37 the total amount of property sold by the old Government was about 25 lakhs, the property which belongs to you, Mr. Speaker, equally with other citizens of this province. In the next year the amount was 30 lakhs and in the next year 19 lakhs and then suddenly my honourable friends reverse that policy and they were suddenly in need of money and reversed that policy and they started selling the property at top speed and the very next year my honourable friend sold the property worth 42 lakhs and the last year and the year before, not content with having sold 42 lakhs worth property, he sold 92 lakhs worth property. So the land is being sold in the days of nationalisation of property. (*An honourable member*: For irrigation works.) I will come to irrigation works immediately. Let my honourable friend have a little patience. I am not leaving anything out. What justification is there for any Government to indulge in unseemly plunder of the province, in order that my honourable friends may set up a department to assist them during the time when they go to the electorates again in order that they may so establish themselves with vested interests that the vested interests may support them in time of need? What justification has my honourable friend to do so? Not only has this figure gone to a colossal height, but what justification has he in the next year for selling the highest amount of property worth 95 lakhs in the province? (*Minister for Finance*: For development.) My honourable friend cannot get a grain, much less any type of machinery due to war. He is going to develop the things without machinery, I suppose, with instruments that his Unionist friends employ on the fields he is going to develop that. (*Minister of Revenue*: With *hal*.) And also the mentality of the *hal*. I quite agree. (*Premier*: *Hal* and *charkha*.) My honourable friend knows perfectly well that I am dealing with this proposition in order to draw the pointed attention of the House that they should not play ducks and drakes with the assets of the province. If they want money, as they naturally do, considering the expensive administration that they have set up and considering the police *raj*, the *lathi raj* that they have employed in the province, I dare say they need money.

But I ask my honourable friend not to waste the assets of this province. I ask him to so arrange his finance, where he has got actually 8 crores more than his predecessors every year in revenue, that he should be satisfied with that and not proceed to burden the people of this province with any further burden of this nature and unless—let me say this—unless whatever money you obtain by this method—and we will support you in obtaining the highest sum—you agree to utilise it purely for the benefit and regeneration of the people of this province. There is not a single man sitting on this side, be he rich or poor, who would be against this proposition that you utilise that money for the benefit of the people and for regeneration of the people, for their education, for their health and their civilisation, but not in this particular manner that you get 8 crores a year more in revenue and spend less on education, less on public health than even your predecessors spent. My honourable friends will ask, how was it done? There are various methods of doing what my honourable friends are doing. My honourable friends have added to the burden of debt of this province. What is the debt figure to-day? My honourable friend questioned me about the debt figure. What is the debt figure to-day? Is it more than what it was when my honourable friends came into office or is it less? The figure is 2 crores more than the original figure. (*Premier*: As capital.) Quite right. We will see how this capital is being spent. I want my honourable friends to understand that they would get the support of this House if they have schemes in hand for the betterment of the people. But they will not get any support if they are merely going to burden the people of this province and not adding one little bit to the amenities to be enjoyed by civilised people. If our education is to remain at that level—roughly on an average 7 per cent of our people are educated—I consider that it is most disgraceful for any administration which should have been in office for 5 years not to succeed in pushing up the figure beyond practically the original figure of literacy in the province (*Minister of Education*: It is 14 per cent.) I do not know from where my honourable friend has got this figure. Figures of the last census are not yet published.

Mr. Speaker : Please wind up, if possible.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I shall do so, Mr. Speaker. I am merely exercising my right in placing certain matters before the House, which I hope, my honourable friends will take notice of.

Let me come to another very important matter. What has been the attitude of the Unionist Government *qua* the people of this province? My honourable friend knows perfectly well that there are 8 members of this legislature sitting on these benches who are still behind the bars and detained by my honourable friend's Government. Is this the method to rule this province? There is a very grave danger facing each one of us and facing this country and I call upon my honourable friend now to exercise his ordinary sense of humanity to permit these members to be released and see to it that they are released. Have they committed any crime? We have had session after session and no justification has ever been given by my honourable friend for the detention of these men. One man has been in detention ever since he was elected as a member of this House.

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There is no justification whatsoever for such conduct excepting this that we are to-day living under the rule of the Punjabee version of the Gestapo, the Punjabee police *raj*. May I draw my honourable friend's attention to the fact that I want him to deal with this matter not in the light of insinuation that he made on the last occasion when he said that there are some people behind closed doors who are capable of committing offences? May I ask my honourable friend to tell this House what justification there was for the arrest of those six members of this House, and if there was any justification, then what justification there was for their release three days later? I ask him is this the type of democracy that he asks the Punjabi to fight for, is this the type of democracy an example of which my honourable friend wishes to give to the world outside and the world at large?

The police may have been acting under the orders of the District Magistrate or his own particular orders: we do not know that much. We know this much that at 7 the District Magistrate saw my honourable friend and it is therefore to be presumed that my honourable friend knew perfectly well that honourable members on this side of the House were arrested for no rhyme or reason. I ask him a categorical question and a straight question: did he order these arrests?

Premier : No.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I take it therefore that we are living not under a democratic rule but the rule of a single I. C. S. Englishman. That is the rule under which we are living. My honourable friend who is a responsible Leader of a responsible party, my honourable friend who has the destiny of the province in his hands has abdicated in favour of a subordinate official of his. If that is the position I submit that there is neither democracy nor freedom in the province. We are living under a police *raj* and they want more and more and still more money for the Police department.

Minister for Public Works : It is a nation saving department.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is a nation saving department. It seems to be a face saving department than a nation saving department. My honourable friend must meet this charge that never in known recorded history we are aware of, during our life time, has there been a more effete, useless and helpless government than the present government. I will not use any stronger language and you will have noticed, Mr. Speaker, that I am careful of the adjectives that I am using. As my honourable friend said time has come now when this province must take note of the reign of terror indulged in by my honourable friend. We have a reign of terror prevailing in this province. Take the last example of Shrimati Shanno Devi who was never anywhere near the procession that day (*An honourable member on the Unionist benches :* An old story.) It is a very old story. If my honourable friend who said 'old story' had been behind the bars his relations would not have said that this was an old story and he would not have said 'old story' being as innocent as that lady. No man with justice would say that this was an old story. It is an old sore, it is an old sore of injustice, of *zulum* and tyranny in the Punjab and of police *raj* and of absolute carelessness and disregard of people's interests by my honourable friend's government. My honourable friend is unfortunately too busy

with his various variations and versions of Pakistan, with his party affiliations outside the province and he is much too busy with his troops in the Middle East to look into these matters which are of every day concern to the freedom-loving people of the province, to those who desire that there should be no blot on honest and straightforward freedom loving democratic government. Remember that time may come when my honourable friend may be displaced in this province, not that I am asking my honourable friend to give up his office. What sort of heritage will he leave to those of his successors: he may not be here all the time: he may be translated elsewhere. What sort of heritage my honourable friend is leaving for those who are left behind him. Everyone knows that as far as he is concerned he does possess intelligence and commonsense. How many of the others possess that capacity? They will inherit *zulum*, tyranny and they will inherit my honourable friend's disregard for ordinary decency of political life; they will inherit the police raj and they will inherit practically a bankrupt concern as far as administration is concerned; and they will inherit some thing which every decent Punjabi must be ashamed of. (*Cheers from the Opposition benches.*)

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Urdu): On a point of personal explanation. In the course of my speech I never said that I had shown any courage or guts in not resigning from the National Defence Council, as my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall has said. Again he remarked that the level of my speech had been as low as I had complained was the case in regard to the other members' speeches. In this connection I only want to state that I was unfortunately handicapped in so far as I had to reply to the criticisms that had been levelled against us.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): As usual I have listened with relish to the words of the last speaker. He was in his usual eloquent mood, and as usual was emphatic, but he laid emphasis where emphasis was not necessary. As my honourable colleague on my right put it, eloquence alone cannot be a substitute for facts. My honourable friend as usual has not paid any heed to the relevancy or correctness of the figures he quoted. We all have our weaknesses; and my honourable friend's weakness as a parliamentarian is well known. His main shortcoming is that he relies on mere rhetoric to make up the deficiency due to lack of authentic figures. This may produce a temporary effect, but later when people go home and try to verify his statement by a reference to the budget, they soon find that his speech was no more than empty rhetoric based on anything but the real facts. His speech to-day was no exception to the rule. He glibly quoted certain figures. I may be allowed to quote from the same page of exactly the same book figures to show that he—I would not say cleverly, but perhaps inadvertently—forgot to quote those figures which were germane to the point which he was trying to make; but these would have shown what actual advance the province has made during these years in regard to the activities of the beneficent departments. So he conveniently ignored them. He quoted certain figures with regard to Education, and asked: "what has the present Government done? Look at the 1929-30 figures and then at 1930-31 figures. Our Education expenditure was 1.72 lakhs and it has come down to 1.67 lakhs." He himself mentioned in the course of his speech that from 1930 onwards there

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was a world-wide economic slump. This necessitated retrenchment on a very large scale not only in this department but in other departments as well. It was then that the expenditure on education was cut down. He pitched on those two years particularly ignoring his earlier remarks about the economic depression in order to impress the House. There was yet another factor which was responsible for the curtailment of expenditure on education. The honourable member was not here then. He was then in the Central Assembly and so he does not know that at the time there was a great deal of criticism against the Education Department in the Legislative Council on the score that a disproportionately large amount was being spent on bricks and mortar. It was said that money should not be wasted on palatial school buildings. The view forcibly expressed was that middle schools costing Rs. 45,000 were not required nor primary schools costing Rs. 15,000 each. It was said that people wanted education for their children not necessarily in palatial buildings but in huts, under the trees, in the open, anywhere. That was also the view of the Unionist Party which was not in power then, but nonetheless, on account of its public-spirited endeavours commanded influence and respect. We succeeded in persuading the Government of the time to cut down expenditure on bricks and mortar and the education budget was consequently reduced to 1.50 lakhs. Had the honourable member been fair and just, he would have taken the figures of the year 1936-37, the last year of the pre-autonomy regime for comparison. I would now for the benefit of the House and particularly the honourable members opposite quote those figures. In 1936-37 the expenditure on Education was 1.58 lakhs; now it is 1.67 lakhs, in spite of the fact that we had to curtail our expenditure considerably on account of the war, famine and other factors which were so clearly mentioned by my honourable colleague, the Finance Minister in his Budget speech.

Now let us take the other beneficent departments. Here again you will find that the expenditure under the Head 'Medical' in 1936-37 was 45 lakhs; now it is nearly 50 lakhs—an increase of 5 lakhs. Again, if you look at the figures for Agriculture, Veterinary and Co-operation, the expenditure in 1936-37 on these departments was 56.3 lakhs; now it is 87.7 lakhs. Then take Public Health. From an expenditure of 11.2 lakhs in 1936-37 it has now risen to 23.7 lakhs—an increase of more than 100 per cent (*cheers*). Next, let us take Industries. If the honourable member had asked his colleague on his left (Sir Gokul Chand Narang) the latter would have told him what amount was spent on Industries when he was in charge of Industries. He will find that the figures in 1931-32 were 10 lakhs, 9.6 lakhs in 1932-33—no doubt a reduction on account of retrenchment, in 1933-34 the figures were 11.5; and 14.7 in 1936-37.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Nineteen lakhs.

Premier : There was no 19 lakhs budget during your regime. It was 14.7 lakhs when we took over and now my honourable colleague here on my right, in spite of all those difficulties and obstacles which stood in our way—war, famine and other factors—has increased it from 14.7 to 27 lakhs which is nearly a 100 per cent increase. Can anybody with justice, fairness,

and honesty say that a 100 per cent increase during the five years that this Government has been in office is not a creditable achievement?

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I rise to a point of order ? My honourable friend apparently has got a monopoly of honesty. He must realise that that expression cannot be applied on the floor of the House to any member. There is no doubt at all about it. The matter is as I have placed it and my honourable friend should give me credit for having placed it before the House with full knowledge and possession of the implications of the figures that I have placed. I do not think it lies in the mouth of my honourable friend to say that this is honest, that is not honest and so on.

Mr. Speaker : I think the honourable member is right. While it is not unparliamentary to say that such and such a member is not fair or just, it is clearly unparliamentary to say that he is not honest. So, I would request the Honourable Premier not to repeat the expression.

Premier : All I wanted to convey was that if anybody wants to take a fair view, a just, true and correct perspective of this expenditure, and a correct appreciation of our achievements, he need only look at the figures just before we took office and the amount allotted in the budget for 1942-48. The expenditure when we took over was 60 lakhs less than it is to-day in the beneficent departments. During these five years, in spite of the difficulties I have mentioned we have managed to increase the expenditure on beneficent works by nearly two-thirds of a crore per annum. This is in addition to the amount put in the Special Development Fund and the Special Welfare Fund which between them have absorbed nearly a crore and two-thirds. The honourable member has not been fair as by quoting figures which were not correct he has tried to give the House a wrong impression. I will take a charitable view and say that he made a mistake. I have now quoted correct figures for his benefit.

Again he went on to say, where is the increase in literacy ? There is no increase in literacy because there is no mention of it. The House is aware that before we took office there were constant complaints against the Education Department that it gave exaggerated figures of literacy. It was alleged that the figures were mostly fictitious. When we took over, we took special care to ensure that enrolment figures were correctly registered. We have succeeded in eliminating incorrect and exaggerated figures in the various areas. In spite of what the honourable members opposite may say, the facts speak for themselves. When we took over office, the percentage of literacy was 8, and to-day it is 14. In five years we have nearly doubled the incidence of literacy. (*Cheers from ministerial benches.*) If this is not an achievement of which any Government can be proud I do not know what sort of achievement there is to which Government can look for credit. The honourable member opposite (Diwan Chaman Lall) has left the House. (*Minister for Education :* He prefers to remain ignorant.)

He next referred to industries. "What has the Government done with regard to Industries ?" he asked. I have already quoted figures to show that we have been able to put this year into the budget for industries, nearly double the amount as compared with the year 1936-37. My honourable friend unfortunately is not here or else I would have in turn asked

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him a question. Does he want that Government should take over the industrial concerns in the province? If that is what he wants then there would be some justification for his criticism that we have not spent enough on industries. But do his other colleagues agree with him? No country except Soviet Russia, has yet gone to that extent. If the honourable members on those benches have travelled by road from Lahore to Amritsar, they must have noticed that from Lahore for over nine miles there is a continuous stretch of factories and industrial concerns and again from Kharsa to Amritsar there are numerous factories and workshops. And all these factories have been put up during the past 4 or 5 years. If that is not industrial development, I do not understand what the honourable members opposite mean by industrial development.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Is that Government enterprise?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Industries are flourishing as a result of private enterprise.

Premier : Ask your friends on your right and on your left whether they want that the Government should take over all private concerns. I would be agreeable to consider the proposition if it is their desire.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : If you had the brains to run these concerns, we would have given them to you.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is my honourable friend prepared to nationalise all private property including land? We have no objection to such nationalisation. Nationalise everything.

Premier : My friends over there evidently have a short memory. When the other day we proposed to acquire a public utility concern they raised a howl. I refer to the Lahore Electric Supply Company. The Government intends to acquire it in accordance with the terms of agreement; yet the honourable members on the opposition benches were loud in their protestation when the proposal came up before the House. Questions were asked, and criticisms were made that it would be disadvantageous to take over a private concern. There are those who consider that unless state industries are properly run by experts we are not likely to make any profits. That is true. Take the railway management. There are both state managed railways and company managed railways. It is said that on the state railways overhead expenditure is considerable, but the efficiency is not greater than the concerns managed by companies which can afford to pay a bigger dividend and at the same time provide greater comforts and amenities to passengers than the state railways. But I am not here concerned with abstract theories.

Then the honourable member opposite went on to say something about debt. I think that he has not been able to comprehend the figures in the budget. The Honourable Finance Minister explained in his budget speech the debt situation quite clearly. We have added to the assets, that is, the capital of the province by building new irrigation works on which we have spent already 6½ crores, yet our debt during these two years has not been more than 2½ crores. Where did the rest of the money come from? We have found it from our own resources with the result that the capital assets have gone up, while debt remains comparatively small. That is the position after our five years of office. Two new canals have come into

existence and the third is in the looming and yet the debt position is better than it was when we took over office. What more does the Opposition expect or want? We have not got Alladin's lamp by which we can construct big canals and colonise large acres of land without spending a single pie. By spending the money that we have done we have added substantially to the assets of the province by bringing under cultivation several million irrigated acres of land; an achievement which cannot be discounted by frivolous or malicious criticism.

The honourable member asked what we were going to do with the millions of acres of irrigated land. The poorer class of people are getting these lands and thus earning their livelihood. A greater portion of this new area will be given to those people who are fighting our battles in far off lands. *(Cheers.)*

Reverting for a moment to the debt position, my colleague the Finance Minister quoted the views of the Public Accounts Committee in his budget speech. Allow me to read that portion again in order to make the position clear. This is what the Public Accounts Committee said unanimously—

We are particularly struck with the soundness of the debt position of the province. The net debt on the 1st April, 1939, was Rs. 33.25 lakhs. During the year, a loan of Rs. 2.51 lakhs was raised, but on the 31st March, 1940, the net debt rose to only Rs. 35.37 lakhs, i.e., an increase of Rs. 2.12 lakhs. During the year the cost of servicing this debt was Rs. 1,62.48 lakhs. The Accountant-General has calculated that in future years the cost on this account will be Rs. 1,63.72 lakhs, i.e., an increase of 1.24 lakhs, in spite of the new loan carrying interest at 3 per cent per annum. These figures establish the soundness of the financial policy of the province, a marked feature of which is that while new debt is incurred, arrangements are also made to cancel systematically a part of the previous debt.

That is the debt position.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that you have got a majority in the Public Accounts Committee?

Premier : But this is the unanimous view of the Committee which includes Malik Barkat Ali and Sardar Santokh Singh.

I am afraid I have taken a great deal of the time of the House over matters which I consider to be unimportant, but since the honourable member opposite, the last speaker was the main spokesman on behalf of the Opposition I had as a matter of courtesy to meet his arguments. Now I will take up some of the points raised by other members. I am sorry to learn that certain members lapsed into communal bigotry. Unfortunately I was not in the House at the time; else I would have asked them to refrain from wallowing in mud. I understand that the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the University was criticised on the ground that the person appointed was an agriculturist. I think that that criticism was most uncharitable. In the first place the Vice-Chancellor is appointed by His Excellency the Chancellor. It is not an appointment in the hands of the Government. Further, the present incumbent of the post is not only a scientist of great repute, but he has considerable experience of teaching institutions both here and also at Pusa and Cambridge. I am sorry that this criticism should have been made against the Vice-Chancellor who is serving the University and the province with distinction and is completely free from communal and class bias. I have heard it said by responsible

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and respectable non-Muslims that the Vice-Chancellor is above all communal considerations and is always anxious to guard the legitimate interests of all classes and communities. It is unfortunate that a gentleman of his attainments and integrity should have been accused of communalism, perhaps because he is unapproachable for *sifarish* and is honest, fair and just. That is most uncharitable. If once in a while an Indian becomes Vice-Chancellor, it ill-becomes the so-called champions of nationalism to denounce him.

Malik Barkat Ali : We welcome him. Every right-thinking man should welcome him.

Premier : Sardar Santokh Singh made certain criticisms and wanted answers to one or two points. He said that 'yes-men' had exposed the Government fully. I fail to understand what he meant by 'yes-men.' If his reference was to the members who criticized the administration, then let me tell him that they were within their rights to bring to the notice of the Government the shortcomings of the administration in any particular department. It is the right of every member to bring any shortcomings to our notice and they did no more. It was the manner and language to which my honourable colleague objected and I am sure they have taken his advice to heart and will in future use more appropriate language in accordance with Parliamentary tradition. There was nothing which they could not say as members of this House. As a matter of fact it is their duty to bring to our notice the difficulties of the people whom they represent and we are here to listen to them and remove those difficulties as far as possible. There was nothing for my honourable friend to gloat over in their effort.

I must confess that his reference to the Principal of the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, was in very bad taste indeed. Everyone in this province who knows the present incumbent will admit that he is a gentleman of vast experience and knowledge and is scrupulously impartial and honest, and an able administrator. I was sorely grieved to see that a paper of such standing as the *Tribune* should have stooped to publish an article inspired by some dishonest communal-minded persons. I must say, it does not do any credit to a paper like the *Tribune*. It is possible that it might have been let in by an oversight or by one of the Sub-Editors under pressure or persuasion. This lapse is however unpardonable. Such uncharitable criticism, unwarranted criticism against a person who is known throughout the province to be a personification of honesty, justice and fairmindedness is most unworthy of a paper like the *Tribune*. (*Hear, hear.*)

I think, Sir, that the best speech of the day, if I may be allowed to say so, was that of my honourable friend, Sardar Partap Singh. He made his speech in a perfectly Parliamentary manner. Although he said several hard things about the Government, yet he said them in such a way that it appealed to me. (*Hear, hear.*) He had the decency to use the most dignified language. Not only that. He raised the level of the debate which other members on those benches would do well to emulate. It is a pity that the Leader of the Opposition was not here when this debate opened to see that members opposite did not go astray. He himself made a good

start which raised expectations and hopes that the level of the debate during his leadership would not be allowed to deteriorate. Anyway my honourable friend Sardar Partap Singh made a valuable contribution by keeping it at a higher level.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : What about the speeches of the Unionist members ?

Premier : My honourable friend must remember that a melon gets its colour from another melon and if there is one rotten melon some others also become rotten.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : So the melons on your side are rotten.

Premier : They are perfect. (*Laughter.*) Sardar Partap Singh said that we should not in any way tolerate the high-handedness of the police. I am at one with him and I am in fullest possible sympathy with him. But he should realise our difficulties also. He knows them as well as I do. He is a villager and so am I, and he knows the difficulties of the rural population. I would remind my friend that it is all very well to criticise the police in this House and complain against any particular officer. But one must have courage to follow it up. When the time comes for making an actual enquiry, on the spot, the very people who complained against him back out and the result is that the enquiry is frustrated, and it encourages others. They say, "an influential member of the Assembly made a complaint against such and such an officer, an enquiry was held and the persons concerned themselves backed out." The result is that it discourages honest officers and encourages those who are corrupt.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I make a concrete suggestion ? If want of evidence against guilty officers is your only difficulty, leave that to us. Set a good example by granting permission to prosecute Mr. Henderson and see whether we can prove the case or not.

Premier : You have got Mr. Henderson completely on your brains.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : But he, not you, is ruling Lahore to-day.

Premier : Sardar Partap Singh brought one or two cases to my notice. I will certainly make enquiries. I hope he will also help us. It is not fair to ventilate grievances imaginary or real in this House merely to make political capital out of them. The best course is to bring them to my notice and I will see that proper enquiries are held by honest and impartial officers. If any officer is found at fault, I can assure the honourable member that that officer will be brought to book, I cannot do more than that.

My honourable friend made a reference to the allowances of the detenus. There again I assure him that now that all these detenus are back in our province, all representations will be considered sympathetically, and generous allowances will be given. He cited the instance of Sardar Kabul Singh, and asked me how we assessed his requirements. If he has any suggestion to make, I will consider it most carefully. The procedure in such cases is that we try to find out the extent and value of the property of the detenu and the income from that property ; we also try to ascertain whether he was dependent on somebody when he was free ; whether he has any children or other dependents. If as a result of our enquiry we find that there is a

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gap between his income and the actual expenditure, due to his detention we try to fill that gap. It is of course possible that the assessment may not be correct in some cases. If my honourable friend can bring concrete instances to my notice I promise I will enquire into them, and if necessary increase the allowance.

A reference was made to the classification of prisoners. I may tell him that we have issued orders that all detenus whether they are in the Gujrat jail or in any other jail should be treated alike; that is to say, they would get the same concessions the same facilities and the same conveniences in regard to diet, interviews, correspondence, etc., everywhere. Orders to this effect have been issued and if he finds that in any jail these orders are not being carried out he may bring it to my notice and I will see that they are carried out.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : What about the detenus in the Lahore fort?

Premier : There are no detenus in the Lahore fort.

An Honourable Member : What about Sardar Sardul Singh?

Premier : My honourable friend need not be impatient. I will come to that.

Now, Sir, with regard to the classification of prisoners. My honourable friend said that we were very harsh. Now let me give him facts. We are very unjustly criticised sometimes either through sheer ignorance or else by distortion of facts, and even those people who want to be fair to Government are misled by exaggerated or incorrect statements. When the detenus went to Deoli, out of all those who were sent there, there were six people who were classified as A class, 17 as B class and 123 as C class prisoners. Every one of them now is a superior class prisoner. There is only one class now amongst the prisoners averaging between A and B class and every one of these 123 C class prisoners is an upper class prisoner. What more do you expect from Government? We have put all of them in the upper class although they were originally treated as C class prisoners. I am sure that if the honourable members opposite have any sense of fairness and if they examine the action we have taken with an unbiassed mind they will admit that we have done more for these detenus than any other Government has done.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : There was no C class there.

Premier : They were classified as A, B and C before they went to Deoli. When they were at Deoli they were either in class I or class II. Now they are all in the upper class.

Munshi Hari Lal : May I know whether Shrimati Shanno Devi is treated as a C class prisoner?

Premier : She is still an under-trial prisoner. There is no question of classification in her case.

Munshi Hari Lal : There is. For the under-trial prisoners there are two classes, better class and ordinary class and she is being treated as an ordinary class prisoner which is equal to C class.

Premier : I do not know. Then with regard to Sardar Sardul Singh Cavasheer, that point was also mentioned by my honourable friend, Sardar Partap Singh. I may make my position clear. He asked me what was the offence which he committed. I am sure that he would not expect me, even if I could, to divulge what his offence was. (Interruption.) Why? For the simple reason that he was arrested under warrants from the Central Government. They must have had information which made them take that step. He was arrested under the orders of the Central Government. (Interruption.) My honourable friends should not interrupt me. The same kind of protests were raised in the case of Mr. Bose and it was said that Government was unfair in saying that he had joined the enemy, he is not a traitor. But even after he had broadcast from enemy stations and people had heard him, those critics of the Government had not the honesty or decency to say that their criticism was unjust.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Has he broadcast from anywhere? Has any member of Government heard Mr. Bose broadcasting?

Premier : I have not. I was told that he was in one of the enemy's countries; my honourable friend must have seen the Government of India communiqué. He is a busy lawyer and probably he has no time. The Government of India made the position quite clear.

Munshi Hari Lal : Has it been definitely ascertained that Mr. Bose is in Berlin or Rome or in any enemy country?

Premier : I can only answer that question by reminding him of the story of the weaver who was struck with an arrow and when he saw the blood oozing, he said : خدر کر — ایہ چیز ہے ہر —

Munshi Hari Lal : Is it a decent and dignified answer?

Premier : That is the only answer I can give him.

Now, Sir, the honourable member for Amritsar, Sardar Santokh Singh, said that Government has under the pretext of heavy war expenditure cut down beneficent activities and the question of retrenchment. War is a central subject. We know it perfectly well. However, the Finance Minister explained in his speech how we were involved in expenditure on account of the war—A. R. P., civil defence, etc.—so that if anything happens to Amritsar he should be safe as far as it is possible for us to ensure the safety of citizens within our resources. Similarly, if something happens in Lahore, the people in Lahore should be safe. This expenditure is only for the towns. It is not the villages that we are trying to protect. It is only the towns and if my honourable friend thinks that we should not do so, why does he not say so? He should move a cut motion and say that the A. R. P. expenditure should be cut down and if the other members of the Opposition agree with him we would then be in a position to inform the citizens of the towns that their representatives do not want any arrangements to be made for their safety. Government is not so callous as to leave them without proper protection if, God forbid, there is an air attack. We will do what is possible within our resources but if he objects to this expenditure, he should openly say so.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Do I understand that retrenchment was not effected because of this A. R. P.?

Premier : My honourable friend said that war was a central subject and therefore this Government had no responsibility for the A. R. P. So far as retrenchment is concerned, I think, I informed the House on a previous occasion that Government had considered every recommendation carefully. Certain recommendations have been accepted. Others which have been tentatively accepted will be put into force in due course if after further examination they prove to be feasible and beneficial. There is a third category—their consideration has been postponed till after the war. As regards others it has not been found possible to accept them. They have all been examined and dealt with and eventually my honourable friend will know the decision of Government on each one of them.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I remind my honourable friend that I was only quoting from his own speech which he made last year wherein he doubted whether it would be possible to make any substantial retrenchment during the war.

Premier : Perfectly true, and my surmise proved to be correct because only a few of the recommendations have been accepted for the present. We have accepted a few and suspended some till after the war while some others, on merits, have been found to be impracticable.

The next point referred to by the honourable member for Amritsar was the appointment of the additional financial commissioner. He asked, "why have you appointed the third financial commissioner?" We appointed him because the two Financial Commissioners, Revenue, and the Financial Commissioner, Development—could not between themselves cope with the additional work. We had to appoint a third financial commissioner to deal with the large number of appeals in connection with the new agrarian laws. Moreover it was necessary to appoint a responsible officer—an additional financial commissioner—to set in train the new taxation measures. When the initial work, including appeals, in connection with these taxation measures are disposed off it may not be necessary to keep them. Then perhaps a junior officer may be able to carry on as a matter of routine. But for the moment the third financial commissioner is indispensable because he is also the final appellate authority. With regard to the agrarian laws also such as the Marketing Act, etc., it is the financial commissioner who is the final appellate authority. Therefore, even if I wanted to do away with the financial commissioner, I could not do so. It is easy to criticise, but if you keep in view the amount of work which they are called upon to do you cannot but come to the conclusion that any reduction at present is out of the question. The third appointment is however temporary and it may be possible to reduce it when the spate of work and the unwarranted obstruction in connection with taxation measures is cleared.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : More taxation measures will come.

Premier : Yes, they may be necessary. I may not be here. But after the war everybody, whether he is an urbanite or a ruralite, will have to face additional taxation to provide more money—and for what?—in order to keep up the standard of the people who are now fighting our battles outside the country (*Applause*). And if you raise their standard you have to raise the standard of living of their kith and kin also.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : May I know what is the position of the Government with regard to Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt and other satyagrahi prisoners who have not been released so far?

Premier : I am afraid Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt is not a satyagrahi prisoner. He was once a satyagrahi prisoner but then he was released and he abused the privileges given to him.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : This is not correct. He was and he is still a satyagrahi.

Sardar Santokh Singh : What about Raja Ram of Messers Raja Bros.?

Premier : I cannot go into individual cases.

Sardar Santokh Singh : This relates to the Beoparis.

Premier : I am afraid my honourable friend is not correct. He was not arrested because he was a satyagrahi. That question was put to me before. It is not for that reason that he is there.

Now, Sir, let me before I go on, point out one item of news, which appeared to-day in the "*Tribune*" from a special correspondent in New Delhi,—I do not know who is responsible for it—to the effect that the Punjab Government had opposed any increase in the price of wheat. That is not correct. So far as the Punjab Government is concerned, we said that if any increase in price of wheat were to be made, it should be at the level of say about Rs. 5 per maund and that that price should not be reduced after the harvest. That is what the Punjab Government said. We are not opposed to a reasonable increase in the price of wheat.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Who is responsible for the reduction of price of wheat in Amritsar from Rs. 4-14-0 to Rs. 4-9-0?

Premier : It was reduced by the order of the Government of India. The price is now controlled by the Government of India. The Government of India has fixed the price at Lyallpur and we are bound by it.

Now, Sir, the honourable members opposite said several uncharitable and irrelevant things, but I need not go into those insinuations. Before I conclude I must once again revert to the subject nearest to my heart, a subject which should be nearest to the heart of all patriotic citizens. I refer to the present war situation and the threat to the safety of our country. Those who still have got their heads buried in sand should shed their complacency. They should realise the enormity of their conduct. I daresay they are now beginning to realise that the threat is not so remote. Uninterrupted peace under the British regime for nearly two hundred years and in the Punjab for nearly one hundred years has lulled them into a sense of security and complacency. If this complacency is not shed quickly we may all have to pay heavily for it. The enemy is knocking at our door; so, instead of wasting our time on frivolous questions (though I do not say that all questions have been frivolous,) we should gird up our loins and prepare ourselves to defend our country and its integrity. What have you done so far at this juncture? We have been sitting here day after day for over a month discussing the same subject, not once but half a dozen times in different garbs. Can the honourable members of the Opposition lay their hands on their hearts and say that by such performances they are doing their duty by their constituency, by their province and by their

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country? I appeal to my honourable friends to realize that we are not living in normal times; we are passing through a most critical phase of our history.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: What about the Mianwali people? They have been deprived of their gun licences.

Premier: My honourable friend must remember that the arms are required in the interest of the country and for the safety of the country. If we are asked to give our arms for the safety of our country and the province, I am sure nobody will refuse.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: By taking their licences you have exposed them to great dangers.

Premier: My honourable friend is looking at the problem from a very narrow point of view. We should ensure the safety of our neighbours first before our own safety. We should not hesitate to give up our weapons when required for the safety of our country and our province. We cannot keep the enemy away by mere talk or propaganda. We should be prepared to fight the enemy, and when the time comes I hope the honourable members on the Opposition benches will follow me to defend our country. (*Cheers from ministerial benches.*) Instead of wasting time in futile discussions they should join us on this side of the House to face the coming danger. We must prepare ourselves for the defence of our country instead of indulging in petty intrigues. We have to contend with a most unscrupulous, cruel and ruthless enemy. We must band together and manfully shoulder the responsibility for the defence of our country. We know what happened in China; we also know the atrocities perpetrated in Hongkong. This is no time for mean underhand intrigues and tactics. I can assure you that so far as I am concerned I am here not because I am anxious to retain office but because I have no alternative. I cannot chuck up this job and leave this key province in the lurch without ensuring the stability of the Government at this critical juncture. I would have formed an all-parties Government long ago, but the Congress High Command would not allow the Congress Party to join hands with us. Even now there is time; it is their duty to join hands with us in meeting the menace with which we are faced to-day. This is not the first attempt to undermine the position of the Government. Similar attempts were made before and failed miserably just as the present intrigue has failed. Let the honourable members opposite instead of wasting their time and energy on petty minded intrigues fall in line with me so that we may strive together to defend our country against unscrupulous aggressors in accordance with the best traditions of the Punjab and save the fair name of our province. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,44,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of General Administration.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Wednesday, 18th March,

1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 18th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

IMPOSITION OF FINES BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GREY CANALS, ON HIS SUBORDINATES.

***8160. Khan Sabib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the reply to part (b) of starred question No. 7670¹—

- (a) whether the Superintendent, Grey Canals, who imposed fines on the inferior establishment owing to his ignorance and infringement of the rules still holds that office or has been transferred to some other area;
- (b) the names of the persons who were fined;
- (c) the action that Government took against the above-named Superintendent for the infringement of the rules?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: (a) The officer in question is still holding the same office.

(b) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Assembly question No. 7670 (starred ¹).

(c) It was not considered necessary to take any action.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, BEWARI.

***8165. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the population, community-wise, of Bewari, district Hissar, after the census of 1941;
- (b) the voter's strength, community-wise, of Bewari now, according to the lists of voters prepared by the staff appointed recently for the purpose;
- (c) the numbers of seats of each community in the municipality of the town;
- (d) whether the Government is prepared to increase the seats of the under-represented community according to the strength of the voters and the population of the community in the town; if so, the action Government proposes to take in this connection?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : I must decline with regret to answer questions, which savour of communalism, on the floor of the House. If the honourable member would put in an unstarred question, I will endeavour to collect the information.

MUSLIM OFFICERS OF INSPECTION AND GAZETTED RANKS.

*8164. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether any Muslim officers of Inspection and Gazetted ranks in the Veterinary, Co-operative and Agriculture Departments were superseded by non-muslims possessing lower qualifications and having comparatively bad record from April, 1937, to April, 1941 ; if so, the names and qualifications of the persons who superseded and of those who were so superseded ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism, on the floor of the House. I shall, however, always be prepared to examine any particular instance of disproportionate representation which honourable members may bring to my notice in a more informal way.

CURTAILMENT OF DURATION OF BUDGET SESSION.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : Before I introduce the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Bill to-day, I have important information for the House and it is this. I have received a request from several members that they would like to go back to their districts and do more useful work in connection with the War. They desire that the discussion on the remaining items of the Budget should be curtailed since we have had a full dress debate covering the whole field of administration both during the general discussion of the Budget and in the course of discussion on General Administration and Land Revenue grants. Moreover, since I may also have to go to Delhi and some of the honourable members of the Opposition also may be required in Delhi in connection with negotiations for a political settlement—a most important business from the point of view of the country as a whole—I requested His Excellency the Governor to revise the programme for the remainder of the Budget Session. In accordance with this revised programme the discussion on the Budget will end to-morrow and the House will take up the supplementary demands on the following day, i.e., day after to-morrow. Thereafter, it has been suggested that if there is any further Government business, and if we can publish in time the District Boards Bill, we might again meet from the 26th onwards and then sit till the end of the first week in April or thereabouts, to dispose of any urgent business which may by then be ready. I may also mention that some members have given notice of two important War resolutions which they are anxious to discuss. Normally they should be taken up on a non-official day, but this is not possible since there is not sufficient time to hold a ballot, for the next non-official day, if we meet again on the 26th. In case, we meet again, I will allot a day for the discussion of those resolutions subject, of course, to consultation with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, who together with his party has unfortunately for some unknown reason

decided to keep away from the Assembly to-day. I am prepared, if we meet again, to set aside an official day, subject to the approval of the Speaker, for the discussion of those two resolutions which some members are so anxious to discuss. Therefore, to sum up we finish the discussion on the Budget to-morrow, we discuss the supplementary demands day after to-morrow and thereafter, if necessary, we will meet on the 26th and close the session when the work is finished.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I want to say something regarding the suggestion made by the Honourable Premier.

Mr. Speaker : He has made an announcement.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Under what rules? It is unprecedented.

Premier : It is not unprecedented.

BADSHAHI MOSQUE FUND CESS BILL.

Premier (The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : I introduce the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Bill. I also move—

That the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 2.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 4 to 7.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clauses 4 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : I move—

That the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Bill be passed.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I am glad that Government has procured funds for the repair of this old monument and undertaken the task in right earnest. Muslims are grateful to the Government and they are cheerfully paying this cess. But my only submission in this connection is that the full worth of this money may be returned to us. A very economical use should be made of these funds. The funds of the Muslims may not be squandered away in the same fashion in which certain departments of the Government of India are doing. There the Government is not getting full worth of its money. A rupee spent brings only eight annas worth in some cases. Originally when this cess was levied for the repairs of the Badshahi Mosque, some people thought that the sum of eleven lakhs of rupees was more than sufficient. Others, experienced contractors, thought that with eleven lakhs a new Mosque could be built similar to the Badshahi Mosque. But I differed from them. Muslims will be glad to pay more money for this purpose. But the Government should try to make full use of this money by spending it most economically. With these few observations I strongly support this Bill.

Premier : Sir, I am delighted to hear Mian Nurullah's speech. But I may point out to him that the Punjab Government has nothing to do with the repair work. As a matter of fact the repair arrangements are the direct charge of an authority under whose supervision the work is being carried out. This body consists of the representatives of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Government of India and others. I represent the Punjab Government on that body. I assure my honourable friend that it has always been our endeavour to exercise strict economy in the execution of this repair work. It will not be out of place to mention here that the Honourable Nawab Ahmad Yar Jang Bahadur, the representative of Hyderabad State, is himself an engineer of outstanding ability. He scrutinises every item to avoid any wastage of money. Now we stand in need of more funds because the repair work has increased unexpectedly. It has been found that certain minars are out of alignment by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet and will require far more extensive repairs than at first sight seemed likely. Now the engineers are of the opinion that during this repair work, these minars should be completely repaired so that any further danger of their coming to harm by natural action may be altogether obviated. Again, the engineers have also suggested that the repair work of the central dome should be carried out with a view to protect it from the ravages of time. If honourable members would refer to the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill, they will find this fact fully explained there. Besides, it has now been decided to raise the Endowment Fund, already started with a nucleus of Rs. 3 lakhs, to Rs. 6 lakhs so that a steady income may be assured, from which the cost of ordinary repairs of the Mosque in future can be defrayed. In addition it is considered that, if possible, the income from the Fund may be utilized to meet other demands upon it. I again assure the House that this authority will take particular care to see that the repair work is executed with the strictest possible economy.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Badshahi Mosque Fund Cess Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

RELIEF OF INDEBTEDNESS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill. I also move—

That the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

New clause.

Khan Muhammad Yusaf Khan : Sir, I beg to ask for leave to move the following new clause :—

That after clause 1, the following clause be added :—In sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1934 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), after the words "which is barred by the law of limitation", the words "or dower money which a Muslim wife is entitled to receive from her husband in consideration of the marriage under the Islamic Law" be inserted.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's amendment for inserting the new clause is not in order. What is now before the House is the amending Bill and not the original Act. Therefore, amendments can be moved only to the clauses of the amending Bill and not to the sections of the original Act.

Clause 2.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3-A.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 3-A stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 4.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 5.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 19th March, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thur day, 19th March, 1942.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 noon, of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DAMAGE TO Rabi CROPS.

***8151. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received any reports of the irreparable damage done by the hailstorms to the Rabi crops in January, 1942; if so, the names of the places, districtwise, in the Province and the extent to which the damage has been done and the relief which the Government propose to give?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: *First Part.*—The reports received by Government are that no irreparable damage was done by hail to the Rabi crop in January, 1942.

Second part.—Does not arise.

CONFISCATION OF LEASES IN NILI BAR COLONY.

***8240. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of leases of lands on temporary cultivation confiscated by the Colonization Officer, Nili Bar Colony, on account of non-payment of rents for Rabi, 1941;
- (b) the number of confiscated leases restored after the receipt of rents overdue;
- (c) whether any penalty was charged for paying these rents after due date, and, if so, the amount collected on that account?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram: (a) 546.

(b) 840.

(c) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—About Rs. 1,400.

***8241.**—Cancelled.

PUNJAB PROVINCIAL MOTOR UNION.

*8249. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Provincial Motor Union, Lahore, recently made a complaint to the Chairman, P. T. A., regarding the non-provision of seats at public hearings held by Regional Transport Authorities in the Province ;
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the Authorities on the complaint mentioned above ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) All Regional Transport Authorities were addressed. In their replies the Secretaries mentioned that adequate seating accommodation either had been, or would be, provided.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : My question was whether seats were provided : I have not asked for information about the future arrangements which the Government may make.

Parliamentary Secretary : In some cases seats were provided and in others not provided. New instructions have been issued that they should be provided in all cases.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know whether the proceedings held by the Regional Transport Authority are a public enquiry ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This question does not arise out of the answer given.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : What is the reason why in some places no seating arrangements have been made so far at these public enquiries ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Giving reasons does not constitute asking supplementary questions.

VISITS BY DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH, LUDHIANA, TO
RURAL DISPENSARIES

*8286. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to—

- (a) state the number of visits paid by the District Medical Officer of Health, Ludhiana, during the last twelve months, to each of the rural and subsidized dispensaries in the Ludhiana district ;
- (b) lay on the table of the House a copy of the remarks made by the District Medical Officer of Health at the time of the inspection of these dispensaries during the period mentioned in (a) ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a)—

Name of rural dispensary—	Number of visits.
(1) Gujarwal	Two.
(2) Kum Kalan	Two.
(3) Nurpur Bet	Two.
(4) Isru	One.
(5) Halwara	Nil.
Name of subsidized dispensary—	
(1) Sawaddi	Nil.
(2) Nathowal	Nil.
(3) Rachhin	Nil.
(4) Andlu	Nil.

(b) The time and labour involved in typing the inspection reports will not be commensurate with the result obtained.

ACCOMMODATION IN CIVIL HOSPITAL, LUDHIANA.

*8297. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of rooms in the Civil Hospital, Ludhiana, which are available for such in-door patients as are poor and cannot afford to pay rent and also the number of rooms in that Hospital which are generally allotted to patients on payment of rent with the income on account of that derived during the last year beginning from January, 1941, to January, 1942 ;

(b) whether during the life of this Hospital any occasions have arisen when for want of accommodation in the free ward poor patients had to be accommodated in the rooms vacant for rich patients ; if so, whether such occasions have been many, and, if so, whether, as a permanent solution of the difficulty, the question of converting the family wards into free wards has ever been considered by the Government ;

(c) the amount of annual expenditure and annual income from different sources, including contributions by the Municipal Committee, Ludhiana, of the Ludhiana Civil Hospital, for the last five years ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) *First part.*—There are no separate rooms for poor patients. Such patients are admitted in the general ward which has accommodation for 32 beds.

Second part.—There are 8 paying wards. A sum of Rs. 386 was realised as rent of these rooms from January, 1941 to January, 1942.

(b) *First part.*—None.

[Minister for Education.

Second part.—Does not arise.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the annual expenditure and annual income from different sources of the Civil Hospital, Ludhiana, during the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941.

EXPENDITURE.					
Year.					Amount.
					Rs.
1937 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	20,609
1938 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	21,307
1939 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	21,066
1940 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	22,666
1941 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	22,023

INCOME.				
Year.	Contribution from M. C., Ludhiana.	Ward rent and fees.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937	20,820	396	726	21,942
1938	20,820	610	723	22,153
1939	20,820	820	26	21,666
1940	20,820	600	..	21,420
1941	20,820	707	..	21,527

VISITS OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, LUDHIANA, TO VILLAGES FOR VILLAGE SANITATION.

*8208. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of the villages visited by the District Medical Officer of Health, Ludhiana, for the purpose of village sanitation, *Dehat Sudhar* and for checking the epidemic diseases in the villages of the Ludhiana district during the last twelve months;

(b) the total number of children and adults vaccinated during the same period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the work connected with village sanitation has recently increased, if so, the proportion of increase of work during the last three years as compared with the preceding three years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the number of Sanitary Inspectors and Sanitary Patrols is insufficient to cope with the ever increasing work of village sanitation and *Dehat Sudhar* in the above-mentioned area; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Four towns and 130 villages.

Seventy-four villages were visited more than once.

(b) 44,706 (Primary vaccination 22,424; Re-vaccination 22,282).

(c) *Part I.*—Yes.

Part II.—A statement is laid on the table.

(d) *Part I.*—Yes.

Part II.—The District Board has sanctioned the appointment of 4 more Sanitary Patrols, and one Sub-Assistant Health Officer has been detailed to Ludhiana district from the Special Public Health Staff, Punjab.

Statement showing the rural sanitary work done during the years 1936—38 and 1939—41 in Ludhiana district.

Serial No.	Kind of work done.	1936—1938.	1939—1941.
1	Number of manure pits constructed ..	736	5,118
2	Number of framed ventilators provided to houses.	1,095	6,828
3	Number of wells repaired ..	66	93
4	Number of chimneys constructed ..	..	1,241
5	Length of pucca drains laid ..	109,913 feet.	191,508 feet.
6	Area of streets paved ..	478,915 S. ft.	700,373 S. ft.

SUPERSESSION BY CHAUDHRI RAM SINGH AND CHAUDHRI RANDHIR SINGH, VETERINARY ASSISTANTS.

***8152. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the answer to part (b) of starred question No. 7729¹, put on 24th April, 1941, will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the record of services of Chaudhri Ram Singh and Chaudhri Randhir Singh is not better than the majority of the persons superseded by them;

[K. S. Kh. Ghulam Samad.]

(b) the period of service by Chaudhri Ram Singh and Chaudhri Randhir Singh ;

(c) the special qualification which these two men possessed and for which they have been allowed to supersede 38 men ;

(d) the considerations which weigh with the authorities while selecting men from Second Grade Assistants for promotion as First Grade Assistants ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) No.

(b) Chaudhri Ram Singh, 20 years and Sardar Randhir Singh, 19 years and 3 months.

(c) Very strong recommendations by their Divisional Superintendents and their services during the last Great War.

(d) Consistent good reports on merit, efficiency, integrity, special training and war services.

In cases where these are equal then seniority is also considered.

HINDU JATS.

*8153. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of *Hindu Jats* of Ambala Division who have been promoted to the gazetted ranks since April, 1937, up to date and also of those who have been superseded by them in all the departments in his portfolio ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : I regret I cannot answer this question on the floor of the House because it savours of communalism.

POINT OF ORDER.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order. Sir, Circular No. 868-Cir.—.

Mr. Speaker : What is the point of order ?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, if you will compare this circular with Circular No. 332, dated the 11th February, 1942—

Mr. Speaker : To-day is the last day fixed for the voting of demands. Therefore, their consideration cannot be interrupted in any manner whatsoever.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : They want to protest against it.

Mr. Speaker : But the authority of the Governor cannot be questioned.

Munshi Hari Lal : This is not the last day—

Mr. Speaker : Rule 172 (5) says—

On the last day fixed for the voting of demands for grants the consideration thereof shall not be anticipated by a motion of adjournment or be interrupted in any other manner whatsoever, nor shall any dilatory motion be moved in regard thereto.

Consideration of Demands cannot be delayed in any manner. This is the last day according to the declaration of the Governor, Demand No. 19.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow discussion on a point of order for delaying the discussion of Demands.

Munshi Hari Lal : On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : I have decided the point of order. (*Interruptions*).

Munshi Hari Lal : I am not questioning the authority—

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : The question is this that the office has issued a certain agenda—

Mr. Speaker : Yes, it is issued in conformity with the orders of the Governor.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : This is exactly what I say. If you will allow me to put my point of order—

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a speech. (*Interruptions*).

Munshi Hari Lal : On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : No speech. (*Interruptions*).

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I am very sorry.

Mr. Speaker : I have read out the Rule and, therefore, I cannot allow any speech because that will take away the time which the Governor has given for the discussion of Demands.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I hope you will be kind enough to let me place my point of order before you and then decide.

Pandit Muni Lal Kalra : You have got the power.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed with the business of the day.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

AGRICULTURE.

Finance Minister (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,30,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,30,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I rise to a point of order. It relates to the business before the House. All the demands are going to be taken up to-day. That cannot be done.

Mr. Speaker : That point I have decided. I cannot allow any speech.

Munshi Hari Lal : Sir, we are here to interpret the rules and we want your interpretation of the rules.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : I have repeatedly told the House that I will not allow discussion or speeches.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Heavens are not going to fall if you allow us to raise this matter on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker : How can I do it? The time which the Governor has fixed for discussing and voting the Demands for Grants cannot be devoted to a different matter.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I make a request to you? This is a very important matter which affects the entire House.

Mr. Speaker : What is the honourable member's point?

Diwan Chaman Lall : A serious thing has happened. It has taken away the right of the House to deal with the budget as it should have been dealt with. Some days were allotted for the discussion of the Demands and suddenly my honourable friend has announced that we must finish all the discussion to-day. I would ask you in the interest and the dignity of the House what compelled my honourable friend to make that suggestion to the Governor. He owes an explanation to the House. He merely said that he wanted to go to Delhi.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow any discussion on the statement which the Premier made yesterday.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Surely, the House has got every right to ask him that.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member quote a rule or precedent in support of his contention?

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is there any rule which permits the Governor to alter the dates which he once allotted? All that the Governor can do when there is any difficulty in the interpretation of the rules is that he can give his interpretation and that would be final. Surely, he has no authority to change the dates once allotted. It is *ultra vires*.

Mr. Speaker : What is the honourable member's authority?

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I was going to deal with this question.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member could have seen me in my room.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : If you will permit me to say—

Mr. Speaker : Show me your authority first. In my opinion it is a fundamental and universal principle that one who can do a thing can undo it as well, unless he is expressly debarred or prohibited to do so.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : The circular which has been issued by your office does not quote any rule under which the Governor can do what he has done.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed with the business of the day. Chaudhri Sumer Singh may move his out motion.

Minto Park.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural, (Urdu)) : Sir, I move—

That the item of Rs. 34,000 on account of total development and improvement of the Minto Park be reduced by Re. 1.

I have to invite attention of the Government to the fact that in these days of scarcity and grave situation in the country, it is not desirable to waste money on such construction. It is every day said from all sides that there is no peace in the world and that India is in serious danger of being invaded very shortly by the forces of aggression. Government is crying for funds and more funds to combat the evil forces of the aggressors. Not a day passes without such appeal for funds. But in spite of this most pressing need, Government is prepared to spare a large sum of Rs. 34,000 for "total development and improvement of the Minto Park". Now let us remember that the development of such gardens and parks is a hobby to be pursued in times of peace and not war. There are more pressing needs of developing war industries and ammunition than the luxuries of gardening and sitting in the beautiful parks full of blossoms.

Privilege motion—Curtailement of Budget Session.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I have given notice of a privilege motion.

Mr. Speaker : No motion—not even a privilege motion—can be allowed to-day.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan : It must be allowed as it affects the entire House.

Mr. Speaker : But I cannot allow it.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Is that your final order?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It does not apply to privilege motions.

Mr. Speaker : I have read the motion and consider it to be out of order. It reads—

I hereby beg to give notice of the following privilege motion under Rule 37 (2). I request you to give precedence to it over all other business of to-day :—

In the opinion of this House, it is an infringement of the privileges of this House to curtail the time allotted for the discussion of the Demands as intimated to the members of this House.

The honourable member considers it a privilege of the House that the time once allotted by the Governor for the discussion of Demands for Grants cannot be reduced by him. I have already ruled that one who can do a thing can undo it as well. If the Governor originally fixed 8 days he could reduce that period to 5 days. Accordingly, I rule the motion to be out of order.

An honourable member : Mr. Speaker,——

Mr. Speaker : I have given my ruling and, therefore, cannot allow any further discussion.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I am extremely sorry you have given your ruling without permitting us to say a word on the point.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Sir, I was submitting that the amount which the Government have earmarked for the purpose of developing and improving the Minto Park is totally unnecessary. My contention is that in view of the grave situation in the country, every available pie should be conserved for being utilised in some better way. I feel that it would be nothing short of a sheer waste of public money to spend it on such constructions. You will agree with me, Sir, that the world is moving fast and unprecedented changes are taking place rapidly. It is high time that the Government saved money and spent it on more useful purposes.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : On much less important occasions you have allowed the honourable member raising his point of order to explain his point. This is one of the most important occasions—

Mr. Speaker : I appeal to the honourable member's legal knowledge. What the Governor can do he can undo it as well, unless he is expressly prohibited to do so.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I am not questioning the order of the Governor on its merits. I only reminded you that on much less important occasions you have allowed my friends making a motion to make a statement in support of their motions. This is one of the most important occasions, I should say *the most important occasion*, because this is the first time that the Governor of the province, presumably on the advice of the Ministry, has gravely infringed on the privileges of the House and therefore the motion has been tabled. You, Mr. Speaker, are the protector of the rights and privileges of this House.

Mr. Speaker : But have I got any power to interfere?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Your argument would then come to this that the Governor having allowed eight days for the discussion of the budget can the very next day stop all discussion of the budget. Can he do that?

Mr. Speaker : Cannot a Governor, after allotting days for the voting of demands of grants, suspend the Assembly under Section 98 or prorogue or dissolve it under Section 62 of the Government of India Act before the allotted days have been used by Assembly?

Malik Barkat Ali : I just want to place one point before you. It is a very important point.

Mr. Speaker : If the honourable member has got any authority in support of his point he may send it to me.

Malik Barkat Ali : This is a matter which touches the fundamental rights of this House. The Governor allots the days for the discussion of demands exercising his individual judgment. It is not a matter that can be decided by the Governor in the exercise of his discretionary power.

Mr. Speaker : If any honourable member is in a position to convince me that the three days, which have been taken away by the Governor, have been taken away illegally or unconstitutionally, then if the law gives me that power I shall restore the days, otherwise I am helpless.

Malik Barkat Ali : Mr. Speaker. I respectfully submit—

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow the honourable member to make a speech.

Malik Barkat Ali : I do not want to make a speech. All that I wish to say is—

Mr. Speaker : I do not want to hear any more speeches. The honourable member is questioning my ruling.

Malik Barkat Ali : I know that I must accept your ruling.

Mr. Speaker : I do not wish to waste more time of the House.

Chandhri Sumer Singh : My submission is that in these days of scarcity, Government should not spend a pie on such items, but the proceeds of the funds should be utilised for the prosecution of the war.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my cut motion for the acceptance of the House.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I wish to raise a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : Please let me have your point of order in writing.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is there any provision in the rules that a point of order should also be raised in writing?

Mr. Speaker : Is an honourable member in order to make a speech in the garb of a point of order?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I am sure you will agree that every member has a right to raise a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow any more points of order unless they are sent to me in writing.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I want to know the rule which lays down that a point of order should be sent to you in writing.

Mr. Speaker : The necessity which has arisen to-day is the rule.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I would respectfully submit that my point of order should be heard.

Mr. Speaker : If it relates to the motion under discussion, but not otherwise.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : The motion has been moved and my point of order is that it should not have been moved.

Mr. Speaker : But it has been moved.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : On a point of order, I have got a right to be heard.

Mr. Speaker : If he raises only his point of order and does not make a speech.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Was it right for the Honourable Premier to go to His Excellency over the head of this House and make a request of that nature? That is the point of order I want to raise.

Mr. Speaker : This is not a point of order.

Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 34,000 on account of total development and improvement of the Minto Park be reduced by Rs. 1.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union Labour), (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the out motion moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh and deplore very much his mentality which would not let slip any opportunity to hit, and to injure the feelings of the urban people. He has proposed this cut, I am sure, under the impression that this amount is going to be given from the Government coffers for the benefit of citizens of Lahore, who in the opinion of Chaudhri Sumer Singh and his many agriculturist friends deserve to be hanged rather than shown any favour. But what an ignorance ! I really pity because Chaudhri Sahib does not know that the amount provided under this head really belongs to the people of Lahore who contributed it when the Government proposed to erect the King George Memorial in the Minto Park some time back. I hope that the Honourable Minister will kindly throw light on this subject, so that the misapprehension of my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh be removed.

Let me narrate in brief the previous history of the case for the information of my honourable friend. As a matter of fact we have been making genuine efforts for the last ten or twelve years to develop the Minto Park for the recreation and healthy amusements of the so thickly congested people of Lahore, who are unfortunate in not having any open space in the old, old city with its narrow lanes and shaded by-ways. Several lay-out plans were made and discussed, but the proposals had to be postponed for one reason or other, the chief being the financial stringency. Then came the proposal of erecting the aforesaid memorial in the park and the people of Lahore, willingly and zealously, came forward with their contributions for this noble purpose. Now it is a matter of gratification that the Government have at last agreed to spend a reasonable, though not sufficient, amount to begin with on this noble cause.

Lahore requires such a park very badly, Sir. The daily deteriorating health of the capital of the province is a question of no less importance. The civil areas have spacious gardens to breathe freely, but the inhabitants of the old city are criminally neglected in this direction. They have no such open areas for recreation and daily walks. They have been virtually breathing without lungs, and Government have done a real service to the capital by sanctioning this sum to begin with for the improvement of the Minto Park.

As regards its situation, the Minto Park enjoys an enviable place. Lying in a very good locality in a secluded and undisturbed corner, it is situated just outside the city walls and in the neighbourhood of a big Gurdwara and the grand Shahi Mosque just near the old Fort. Large numbers of people, including women and children, go there daily for their evening and morning walks. Imagine the greater benefits which would be derived when the whole Park becomes a beautiful panorama of cricket, hockey and foot-ball fields, running tracks, swimming and bathing tanks, and I congratulate Government for this rightful step and assure my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh that the people of Lahore claim this all as their right rather than charity.

But let me ring a note of warning in this connection. The Minto Park is a very good locality otherwise, but the filthy *nala* running on its north-west side is a standing nuisance. Unless the bad smell coming from it is

controlled, the greater amount of the money spent will be practically wasted.

With these few words, Sir, I strongly oppose the cut motion.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh has amazed me much. There is no doubt that we stand for more and more being spent for the benefit of the agriculturist. But it does not mean that whenever Government consider it meet and proper to spend even an ordinary amount of money for the public health of urban people or for the sanitation of the city, we should at once rise to oppose it. On the contrary, I deem it my duty to lend my full support to the demand under consideration. My honourable friends should bear in mind that to-day we are discussing a very important department, namely, Agriculture on which the prosperity of our province mainly depends and therefore I may submit that, the more we speak on it the better it is. Every one of us is well aware of the fact that agriculture is the only thing of which we feel enamoured and it is a matter of gratification that our Government have provided a considerably large amount of money for this department.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.*)

That is, if the zamindar prospers the urban people such as traders, doctors and pleaders shall also prosper. The prosperity of them all is dependent upon the prosperity of the zamindars. If the traders do not earn from them directly they at least do so indirectly. But the lawyers mainly depend on their fees.

Now I would like to say a few words in regard to what Government has done for the zamindars. First of all they have increased their income.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May I request the honourable member to be relevant to the motion? It relates to the Minto Park.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi: I was discussing the entire demand in respect of Agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not relevant.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi: All right, Sir, then I will just say that if Government have given a small sum for the benefit of our urban brethren, there is no occasion for my honourable friend to oppose this step. We should be rather glad that Government cares as much for the urban people as they do for those living in rural areas.

With these words, I oppose the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I speak on this motion because I happen to be the Chairman of the Minto Park Committee. The first thing that the honourable members may wish to know or be reminded of, is this, that a subscription of something like two lakhs of rupees was raised by the public for the furtherance of this particular object. Government's own contribution is small to help in carrying forward this admirable scheme. The first time when the amount of Rs. 50,000 was sanctioned by the Government was as far back as the year 1927-28.

[Minister for Finance.]

The work, for various reasons, could not be taken in hand for some time. We have made a fair progress now and the work is actually well in hand. In the coming year it is proposed to spend a part of this Rs. 50,000. During the current year already a certain amount has been spent under proper sanctions. It certainly could not be the wish of the honourable member who has made himself responsible for this cut motion that the work which has already been taken in hand and on which a certain amount of money has actually been spent, should now be left half-way. The amount of contribution by the Government is a small one as compared with the total which has been raised by public subscriptions. At the time when these subscriptions were raised, there was naturally a great deal of enthusiasm in the public to have the Minto Park placed in a position where large numbers of people could have their sports, could have other entertainments and could carry on various kinds of exercises. I would, therefore, be extremely sorry if any member of this House thought even for a moment that the small contribution of the Government should be withdrawn at this stage when we are already going on with the scheme. I would ask the honourable member to withdraw the motion.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (Urdu): I just want to clear the misunderstanding which seems to have been created in the minds of my honourable friends. I am not opposed to this work being undertaken by the Government. But my objection is that such things ought to be held up for the duration of the war. Instead of spending this sum on this undertaking it can at this juncture be made better use of by spending it on war works. I assure the House that my opposition to it is not based on the fact that this sum is going to be spent for the good of urban people. With these words I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Reclamation of land.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad: Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Minister of Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh): The motion is out of order. Reclamation does not come under this demand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I rule the motion out of order.

Working of the Agriculture Department.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural), (Urdu): I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I want to make a few submissions in respect of the Department of Agriculture. It is no doubt true that a considerable sum has been budgeted for the purpose of agricultural demonstration and propaganda, but it is very regrettable that in many parts of this province people are not aware even of the existence of any such department. In my district of Kangra, for instance, the officers of this department go only so far as a car can take them. Agricultural depots are also to be found only in areas where good motor roads exist, but in certain areas where roads are non-existent and people have to travel on foot such depots are conspicuous by their absence. Not

to speak of higher officers of the department having ever visited the ilaqa the probability is that even a *mukkadam* has never set foot in that part of our district. It would not be out of place to mention in this connection some such far flung places. One of them is the ilaqa of Changar which extends for miles above Jwalaji. Unfortunately there is no arrangement for communications in this ilaqa so much so that even horses cannot be employed as a means of transport. All the agricultural depots established by the department are so far away from this ilaqa that the poor inhabitants cannot take any advantage of them.

Now so far as farming is concerned I beg to submit that some parts of my district cannot take advantage of the departmental seed stores as no special arrangements have been made by the department for the benefit of the people. In view of the fact that a considerable increase has occurred in the provincial revenue receipts since 1937 and approximately revenue receipts are raised by 3 crores at present, it is to be regretted that the Government have done nothing to increase the daily income of the zamindars.

There are various kinds of farming, which can help the zamindars and poor peasants in earning their livelihood. The Department of Agriculture does not care to improve the conditions of the poor zamindars and kisans. If the zamindars are helped materially, and are persuaded to take up different kinds of farming, I am sure that their condition will improve by leaps and bounds. For instance, there is poultry-farming. So far as my own district, viz., Kangra, is concerned, I may point out that the poor zamindars and kisans cannot afford to take up this kind of farming on scientific lines. In order to improve the condition of these poor people, it is necessary that the Government should give them every help, e.g., in the form of giving necessary instructions, etc.

Now, Sir, I come to bee-farming. In my own district there is a school of bee-farming. The business of bee-farming, if run on commercial basis, can also prove a source of income to the poor zamindars and the peasants. The zamindars of my district cannot afford to have more than two or three bee-hives, they could invariably resort to bee-farming on a large scale with the help of Government. In fact bee-farming can be practised in almost every home, and by all and sundry, whether a big zamindar or a poor farmer, but they cannot run it on commercial basis. If the Government were to start institutions for imparting instructions in bee-farming in all the districts of the province, and see to it that right methods are adopted, I am sure the condition of the poor zamindars will improve in no time.

Then I come to tea-farming. A tea-farm has been started in my own district at Palampur. There is also a Tea Licencing Committee. The Central Government are also helping the various syndicates in running these farms. I may point out that so far only big zamindars have taken advantage of the facilities for tea-farming in my district and they have prospered, while the poor kisans, who cannot even make both ends meet, are absolutely nowhere. While a rich zamindar can afford the services of an expert at his own expense, the poor farmer cannot even dream of it. The poor farmers, therefore, need all the help the Government can extend to them in the form of expert advice. If this were done, the poor kisans of my district will be provided with another means of adding to their income.

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

Then, Sir, I come to another point. There are about 17 lakhs of un-economic holdings in the province. It is really regrettable on the part of the Government to sell Government cultivable lands and waste areas to rich zamindars and use the proceeds thereof for running the top-heavy administration of the province. Would it not be better that this wealth in the shape of Government cultivable lands be distributed among the poor farmers and thus remove their misery and poverty? What is the use of keeping these lands untenanted or giving them to rich zamindars, who have not only enough to eat and drink, but something to spare? Why are these lands given to big landlords in lieu of cash payments, while no heed is paid to the poor farmers, who by cultivating them would not only improve their own financial position, but would also contribute something to increase the revenue of Government. Government are really acting against public interests by giving these lands to big zamindars.

In this province Government lays much stress on extensive cultivation, while no heed is paid to intensive cultivation. It is requested that Government should devise ways and means for improving the miserable condition of the poor farmers, and of improving their financial position.

So far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned, all that it does in the matter of encouraging fruit-farming is that hand-bills, etc., are distributed amongst villages, drawing their attention to the advantages of this industry and there the business of the department ends. No doubt there are fruit farms in certain villages. The villagers are given fruit trees on cash payment. But may I point out that fruit-farming can be practised by big zamindars only, as they have lands enough for wheat production, etc., with them. They can afford to purchase fruit trees, but how can a poor farmer purchase these trees, when he does not get even two square meals a day to keep body and soul together? Even if he were able to purchase a few fruit trees, how could he succeed in this line, when he does not possess any technical knowledge of fruit-growing? Moreover he has not got any land to start a fruit-farm.

Government could help the poor farmers by giving them on lease some of the Government lands in their possession. In this connection the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, pointed out to-day that if the farmers do not pay their lease-money in time, the lands leased out of to them will be seized.

After all it is the duty of the agricultural officers posted in each district to see that the poor kisans, who are passing through very hard times and who are actually paying land revenue or the lease money, as the case may be, by pinching their bellies, be not hard pressed. If at times they do not pay up their lease money in time, that does not mean that their leases should be terminated and that they should not be provided any other opportunity to pay it up at a later date.

Sir, at present there is only one agricultural college throughout the length and breadth of the Punjab which imparts training to the people in agriculture, fruit farming and fruit preserving. That college is located at Lyallpur, but it is very difficult to secure admission in that college. Candidates are selected in such a manner that the sons of the poor kisans, who

have no recommendations, cannot get admission in that college. Besides, the education at that college is so very expensive that sons of ordinary agriculturists dare not go there for getting training in agriculture, fruit farming and fruit preserving. Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to point out to the Minister for Development that there is a great scope for fruit preserving industry in the Kangra district. If the zamindars of that district are imparted training in fruit preserving, I think that can go a long way in relieving their hard lot. At least in the Kulu Valley, where apples grow in abundance and at places where mango crop is plentiful, the zamindars can preserve these fruits and in this way can increase their income. It is, therefore, my suggestion that a school be opened at Kulu in which zamindars should be imparted training in fruit preserving industry. If that is done, it can do a lot of good to the zamindars.

There is yet another matter which deserves special attention. That is that the present Government in order to improve agriculture in the province started a special development scheme in 1937 and as a result of it they appointed an extra staff for the purpose. They appointed some agricultural assistants, some clerks and some muqaddams in order to carry out that scheme. My submission is that if Government wanted to start that scheme, it did not mean that they should have employed such a large extra staff. On the contrary, they should have divided the permanent establishment in all the districts in a manner that no village might have been left without the facilities which Government wanted to provide to the zamindars under that scheme. It was not at all proper for them to appoint this extra staff. Such officials go to those places where motor cars can go and where there are good means of communications, and they do not go to those villages which lie far away from the motorable roads. So what is the use of appointing such officers who cannot do any good to the poor zamindars living in the outlying areas? I may tell my friends that even if they go on employing thousands of such officers in this way, that will not bring about any change in the condition of the zamindars. With these words I move my cut motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab Landholders) : Sir, I rise to make a few observations with regard to this cut motion. As honourable members are aware, we are facing very hard days. We have great scarcity of food, for Government has to send lot of wheat to the warriors in the battle fields and so adequate wheat is not available for the civil population. The industry of food commodities should be more encouraged. There is another defect which I would like to refer to. There is no proper crop planning. Here in this country, which is mostly an agricultural country, we are importing wheat and rice. Now-a-days, on account of bad communications due to abnormal times this import is stopped and, therefore, scarcity of these commodities is being felt. It is the primary duty of Government to see that in an agricultural country like ours there should be proper crop planning. Proper attention is not yet being paid to this matter. I may also add that in this province we are not getting adequate percentage of yield

[S. Jagjit Singh Man.]

as the people of other foreign countries are getting. The area under cultivation has also not increased. I would just show what are the conditions here as compared with other countries. Let me first of all take wheat. The average per acre for India is 628 lbs. In the Punjab it is 723 lbs. In Denmark it is 2,316 lbs. Then take cotton. The average for India is 86 lbs., for the Punjab it is 135 lbs. and for Egypt 524 lbs. Then take linseed. The average for India is 266 lbs. for the Punjab it is 215 lbs. and for Egypt it is 896 lbs. Let us see what is the average so far as rape-seed is concerned. The average for India is 362 lbs., for the Punjab 321 lbs. and for Czechoslovakia it is 307 lbs. These figures speak for themselves. I do admit that sufficient progress has been made in this Province so far as agriculture is concerned, but I cannot refrain from saying that there is still ample room for improvement and I think the Honourable Minister would see that proper care is given to this Department. I would briefly refer to the defects which are noticeable in this Department and I would state facts based on my personal knowledge. Government is kind enough to provide every year greater number of officials, for example, agricultural assistants and muqaddams, but I wonder if Government has ever thought what work is being done on the spot. I will just show what they do on the spot. Muqaddams and agricultural assistants mostly occupy their time in purchasing seeds and then selling those seeds and later on collecting the price of those seeds. This is the work that they do outside. I do not think it is the intention of Government that they should spend their time in that manner. To me it is obvious that they should go from field to field, inspect the fields, find out what should be done and then see how far their instructions have been carried out. But I am sorry that this thing is not being done on the spot.

Then, Sir, there is another thing to which I would invite the attention of the Honourable Minister and that is this, that big zamindars are anxious to improve their lands. But there is one great difficulty in their way and that is this that they cannot get the services of good farm managers. Newly qualified *muqaddams* or graduates are not so experienced in the matter of improving the lands and giving entire satisfaction to the landlords, because they are new and old men from the department cannot be spared. I think, Sir, if a provision is made in the rules to the effect that good *muqaddams* who are experienced are allowed to go to private estates on higher salary and work there, then there will be admittedly a great improvement in such estates. Moreover, smaller landholders will also benefit. There is another thing to which I may refer and that is the *pohli* exhibition that takes place every year with great pomp and show. You might have read in the papers the *pohli* week being celebrated. I am sorry to say that actually on the spot there is no work. The work is not commensurate with the expenditure which is incurred by Government. The results, as I see, are very poor. I think it is high time that Government should see that this menace should be tackled by some other way. I venture to suggest, if it is feasible, that instead of launching a propaganda province-wide, it would be better if it is divided into parts and each part is vigorously worked upon every year. In this manner, I think this menace would be tackled properly and fairly. But there is another trouble and that is this that suppose I realise the danger of *pohli* and I destroy it from my fields, root and branch, but my neighbour

does not do anything and does not care if that *pohli* stands in his field, the result is that all my efforts are futile and wasted. I suggest that if some law is enacted regarding the prohibition of *pohli*, then this evil might vanish and vanish for ever.

Now, I come to *thur*. It is an evil which is troubling and agitating the minds of the people very much. I suppose Government also is very much agitated on this, because this evil is raising its head more or more every year. I am sorry to say that it has not been brought under control. It is high time that Government should see that this evil is stopped and controlled. The Reclamation Department is working, but I am sorry to say that it is not working as it ought to work. It is not bringing out good results. I would request Government to see that more efforts are made and more money is given to this department.

Lastly, I would say this about the agricultural officials. I understand they have to go out on tour for some fixed days in the month; for example, the Deputy Director is to travel for about seven days continuously and the Extra Assistant Deputy Director is to travel for about 11 days continuously in a month. I do not think that it is a wise policy of Government to press these officials to go on tour for so many days in a month. As a matter of fact, this system is not fetching any good results. Give them more time to be at the headquarters, so that they may devise some schemes which would bring better results. I hope that whatever suggestions I have made, the Minister in charge will calmly consider them and try to do what is possible to help the zamindars and eradicate the evils prevailing in the department.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Sir, I have also given notice of a cut motion on this demand to point out some basic and essential defects in the working of this Department. Being a zamindar and an agriculturist myself I feel it my duty to bring to the notice of Government whatever defects I have seen and whatever improvements I think are essential for the benefit of the zamindars. Sir, I feel that this department is more a decoration rather than of any service for our country.

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

It is certainly a very highly paid and very elaborately organised department in consonance with the western ideas of the departments working in connection with agriculture. But it is not certainly suited to the circumstances that are prevailing in our country in connection with the poor zamindars, when it is but an open secret that the income of the zamindar and the produce he is able to turn out and his turnover is so meagre that it does not even favourably compare with the agriculturists and the agricultural produce of other countries. For us to have an highly expensive department for the essential and basic work of agriculture in our country, is simply ridiculous. It may be considered necessary that we should have an agricultural college. By all means have an agricultural college. Then, it may be necessary that we should have some research institute in connection with agriculture. No, I have no objection to your having a research department. But I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out that this college that you are maintaining at such a high expense is not giving you a turnover which can be considered of any use for the agriculturists of this

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber.]

province. I have known graduates, not only from the Lyallpur College, but even those who have been in England for several years and who have also come out successful from the Lyallpur College, who do not fit in with the circumstances of a Punjabi agriculturist. They are, what we may call, square pegs in round holes. I know of a zamindar and agriculturist who was for 17 years in England. From his primary education he was in England and he passed the highest examination then existing in England in Agriculture. He came out to this country. Now, he is utterly unfit even to affect improvements in his own zamindara work. I have several times asked the reason for this. He says that the level of the zamindar and his working in agriculture here is so low that he is unable to affect any improvements.

There must be something wrong in the system which we are trying to introduce in our villages. I wish to point out that I do not deny the usefulness to a limited extent of our graduates in agriculture but not to the extent that we desire. We do not find their utility to the extent that we would like, commensurate with the agricultural needs of our country. I tell you that our Deputy Directors of Agriculture, our Inspectors and other high officials are not giving you sufficient outturn.

Minister for Development : There are no Inspectors of Agriculture.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : As far as I can remember there was an Inspector of Agriculture in Tarn Taran. There was an Inspector in charge of each tahsil—they were called Inspectors. They may have different designations but they are below the Deputy Directors. You have got a subordinate service of another rank, i.e. *kardars*.

Minister for Development : There are no *kardars* here in our province.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : I am afraid the Honourable Minister does not know what the zamindars call these workers in the villages; they are agricultural assistants any way. What I wish to point out is that whenever Government is urged to make any improvements in these beneficent departments and in these things which are a burden to agriculture, they say that these things require more money. No doubt if they wish to carry out their activities under the present elaborate methods, certainly they do require money. If they have five Deputy Directors of Agriculture on 500 a month, certainly they will require another 500 per mensem to increase one more. My point is that our agricultural concerns in the Punjab do not require these very elaborate and highly paid officers for the extension and improvement of agriculture. What is required is more of these *kardars* or *muqaddams* working in villages. You require *muqaddams* who should go to the villages and make demonstrations. I tell you very little is being done in that direction. My friend over there takes joy in these matters, but I tell you that with the expense that we are incurring on this decoration department I want it should go home to the Minister that we are not getting any outturn for it. I am a villager: I go into the villages. I am a small landholder and I know and from enquiry from people as to the sort of improvements which are being effected by the existence in their midst of these Directors of Agriculture and high officials, I find that there is practically nothing being done. I

have seen different farms in my service experience. Agricultural farms are monuments of idleness and waste of money and most of them are not self-supporting. They do not fit in with the surroundings. If you go on the road from Rawalpindi to Murree, on the way you will see a big farm, but it does not suit the circumstances of the country. There are the poorest of zamindars in that ilaqa which is *barani*. The farm appears to be more a military concern than an experimental farm for poor zamindars. This is what happens in the other tahsils. Very few zamindars ever go to see the experiments which are carried out. Very few of the zamindars are essentially acquainted with the working of the improvements that are effected there. I know one farm which used to be in Beas in the Amritsar district. It had to be sold because the zamindars found that it did not benefit them by demonstrations, etc. They have their buildings there and that is all waste of money. Their work involved waste of money as there was no benefit and it had to be sold.

Minister for Development : These are centuries old ideas.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : I am old but I am young enough to go about even now. I know most of these farms are frivolous and simply out of sort places for the agriculturists. No doubt some of the defects have been removed but there are still defects to be removed because the farms are of no use.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : I ask a question through you. Is he sure that the Atari farm is closed ?

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : It was leased out because it was not considered fit as a farm. I remember it was leased out. I find it no longer exists there. They might have begun it again, but it was leased out some 5 or 6 years back. My point is that we require according to the Punjabi proverb—

جی غریبی باہمنی تلی مشیزی چوپ

You are working this elaborate system of agricultural demonstrations and our zamindars are not benefiting by that. They require men who should go to the villages in the spirit of service but not in the spirit of *sirkar* to see that the poor zamindars and small zamindars are carrying out the instructions. (*Minister for Development :* Wrong use of the proverb.) What is required is not a large number of Assistant Directors of Agriculture : for that purpose you require one man only for issuing instructions : to be called instructor instead of being called Director. What we require is instructions from some central research place and then these instructions to be carried out by the people in the villages. This cannot be done by increasing the number and by incurring more expenses. Why add to the number of Deputy Directors or Assistants of Agriculture ? You require more money for increasing the number of *muqaddams*. There should be a *muqaddam* in each village and he should be responsible to see whether the instructions of the Agricultural Research are being carried out or not. Whatever department is organised it is organised not with the spirit of service but in the spirit of *sirkar* and they go there to rule and not to teach the people.

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber.]

It is not only demonstration that is required, the supply of good seed is also very important. A few months back I tried to obtain good seeds as I wanted to introduce them into my farm. I found that it was very difficult to obtain those seeds. It is not always possible to have good medical aid when one needs it, similarly it is not always possible to get good seeds. One feels as if he was going to approach a big department of the Government merely for the sake of obtaining seeds. The best thing is that these things should be brought to the houses of the farmers, so that these poor people may not have any difficulty in such matters. It is the duty of Government to take these things, these improved implements and other things to the houses of those people because these poor people feel that it is a very big Government department. I may also point out that your mukaddams go to the villages not as servants of the people, but they go with airs of *sarkari* servants if ever they go. I do not remember having seen them in my village. It is in the Narowal tahsil and I go there practically every month. I asked the zamindars also and their replies were in the negative. Such is the state of affairs that exists. On paper everything looks all right. You might say you have got so many deputy directors, so many agricultural assistants and so on. But it is the duty of Government to see whether things are taken to the people in the right spirit of service. Whenever it is said that we should have more expansion in the beneficent departments the reply invariably is that more money is required. My point is that with the money that you spend you can have all these beneficent activities but make them suited to the condition of the poor agriculturists of the country.

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) : In speaking on this cut motion, I desire to draw the attention of the House to the nepotism and jobbery obtaining in the office of the Director of Agriculture and other offices concerned in this demand subject to the control of the Honourable Minister for Development—not my simple and delightful friend, the Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh whose participation in the debates of this House I always value for the welcome relaxation that it affords to our overstrung nerves—but the then Minister for Development, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. My honourable friend, Khawaja Ghulam Samad gave only the other day instances of flagrant injustice done to the Muslim employees in the various offices under the control of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. I will to-day lend point to those complaints by citing cases which will show how the various heads of departments have been bidding good-bye to all canons of fairplay and justice in order to find places for the men of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and how the Honourable Minister in return for these accommodations extended to him by the various heads of departments, has been allowing them a freehand to do as they like and dared not interfere even in cases which called for the clearest interference on his part. I will state only two instances out of a bundle I have been supplied with for the simple reason that the time at my disposal is limited notwithstanding the indulgence that you, Mr. Speaker, have been kind to extend to me and which I desire to acknowledge with gratitude on the floor of the House. The first instance comes from the office of the Director of Agriculture and I want honourable members to examine the facts. In that office there were originally sanctioned three posts of head assistants and a

fourth one was sanctioned in the year 1940. According to the rules of promotions obtaining, this post of head assistant should have gone to one of the assistants in that office and therefore when this vacancy fell it was the undoubted right of one of the various assistants working in that office to be promoted. There were Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs and the senior-most amongst them at that time happened to be a Muslim getting Rs. 220 as his salary and normally he should have been promoted. If he could not be promoted for certain reasons the next assistant ought to have been selected. But nothing of the kind was done. What was done was that a gentleman was imported from Sirsa who was getting only Rs. 125 as his salary and who was a matriculate. Under the rules obtaining in this department and I have got a copy of the rules with me, no person could be appointed even as an Assistant unless and until he was a graduate, but here a matriculate was accepted as a head assistant thereby completely ignoring the fundamental rules of the Subordinate Agricultural Service Rules, 1933. Rule 6 (e) lays down—

No person can be appointed as an assistant unless he holds the degree of the examination of a recognised University.

And this gentleman was appointed in spite of his being only a matriculate. Secondly, ordinarily in cases of promotions—(*Chaudhri Tikha Ram* : From which page is the honourable member quoting ?) Page 3—in cases of promotions, the head of the department should select some suitable persons from amongst the employees of the office, Hindus, Muslims or Sikhs. If he finds that nobody is fit to be promoted he should certainly indent from other departments of the Government, but the persons so selected must be superior to the hands working in his own office. But what was the explanation that was given by the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram when Khawaja Ghulam Samad was exposing him in reference to this case ? It was stated that since there was no jat in that office, a jat had to be imported. Time and again statements have been made on the floor of this House by the Honourable Premier and other Ministers to the effect that this rule of communal proportions applies only to fresh entrants in the services and it does not apply to those cases where promotions have to be made. If a certain vacancy occurs, A or B may be promoted provided he is found fit irrespective of the fact whether he is a Hindu, a Muslim or a Sikh. Therefore the rule of communal proportions does not apply in cases of promotions. This is a case of promotion. What is the expedient that was resorted to in order to deprive these three or four Hindus, Mussalmans and Sikhs, of this job and in order to accommodate a man of Sir Chhotu Ram ? It is this. The head of the department says that this is a selection post. I am really pained that the head of the department and the Minister should be so completely ignorant of what a selection post means. It has been held by no less an authority than the Secretary of State that the rule of selection does not apply to ordinary promotion in one's own line. Selection posts are posts like that of a Commissioner or the head of department and therefore when the Government proposes to fill such posts they make it clear that they are not bound by the rule of seniority but by the rule of selection of the best man provided he is fit for the selection post. In such a case if a man claims that post on the ground that he should be promoted he can have no grievance or right of appeal. But if the case is one of promotion in his

[M. Barkat Ali.]

own line then certainly he has a grievance and where the head of a department has not promoted a man in his own line that man has a right of appeal to a superior authority against the promotion that has been withheld from him. What is the meaning of promotion? I shall read out to you the Civil Services Rules, Punjab, Volume I, Part II, pages 40-41.

"Promotion of a person from one clerical post to another in the same office up to the post of Superintendent—

a superintendent is above a Head Assistant—

"shall be regarded as promotion in his own line";

and the rules of service further lay down that when a man is not promoted in his own line he has got a right of appeal. I may further make it clear that according to the Civil Service Rules, in ministerial appointments there are no such things as selection posts. You can understand a selection post; it is one of very great responsibility, but in the clerical establishment there is no such thing as a selection post. In ministerial offices the rule applicable is that of promotion, but here too when a man has got to be promoted, he cannot claim promotion as of right; he cannot get promoted merely because he happens to be senior unless and until he has got the hall mark, to use the language of Sir Malcolm Darling, "of approved service". That is a condition of promotion in one's own line. Now when the head of the Department superseded an assistant getting Rs. 220 he asked for a copy of the order. The head of the department refused to supply him with a copy of the order. When he submitted his appeal to the Financial Commissioner who was the appellate authority in his case, through the head of the department, his appeal was not forwarded, on the ground that the post in question was a selection post. Further even if his appeal had been forwarded, what remedy could he have? The director of Agriculture had noted that the assistant had been superseded in consultation—these are the words used—in consultation with the Minister. How can the Financial Commissioner interfere in a case in which the head of the department says that he had superseded the man and appointed another in consultation with the Minister?

Now, after giving this instance of how the Director of Agriculture resorted to all kinds of expedients in order to please the Minister and give the appointment to the man in whom the Minister was interested, I will give another instance of how the Honourable Minister acted in a case—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not right in attacking the conduct of a Minister.

Malik Barkat Ali : I will just refer you to the office of the Director of Veterinary Services. The Director of Veterinary Services advertised for the post of a temporary junior clerk in his office. It was laid down in that advertisement that only agriculturist Mussalmans should apply.

Minister of Development : I rise to a point of order. It is the Agriculture Department that is being discussed and not the Veterinary Department.

Malik Barkat Ali : Is not the Veterinary Department under the Minister of Agriculture? Perhaps my learned friend is not aware that the

Director of Veterinary Services is under the Minister of Development. He had better study his brief. I was saying that the appointment was advertised and that ultimately only 48 applicants were actually interviewed and one gentleman of the name of Muhammad Shafi was finally selected. A letter of appointment was sent to him.

Minister of Development : Is the honourable member relevant? He is discussing a case which comes under the head Veterinary while the Agriculture Department is being discussed now.

Malik Barkat Ali : You will be pleased to see that the demand under discussion includes the budget for the Veterinary Department also (*Honourable members :* No, no). I was submitting that one person was selected and a letter went to him that he had been appointed subject to being found medically fit and to the production of the necessary *fard* of the Patwari and a copy of the settlement pedigree to show that he belonged to the notified agricultural tribe of the district.

Minister : The honourable member is still discussing the Veterinary Department.

Malik Barkat Ali : I shall leave the Veterinary Department. This boy submitted a medical certificate, but instead of going through all the rigmarole of a *fard* and an extract from the settlement pedigree he submitted a certificate from Mr. Macdonald, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, to the effect that he was a member of an agricultural tribe in the district.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member will not please discuss a case of the Veterinary Department.

Malik Barkat Ali : I am not discussing it. All I say is, here is the Deputy Commissioner of a district certifying that this boy—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is still discussing the same point. That is not right.

Malik Barkat Ali : What took place is this. Somebody connected with the Government approached the head of the department.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is again speaking on a case of the Veterinary Department.

Malik Barkat Ali : I am only discussing the policy of the Minister.

Mr. Speaker : What is the honourable member arguing?

Malik Barkat Ali : I am discussing about the nepotism and jobbery which prevails in the departments under the charge of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker : The case the honourable member is discussing relates to the Veterinary Department and not to the Agriculture Department.

Malik Barkat Ali : I shall leave it then. All I say is that when a man has been selected and orders issued appointing him to the post subject to his being found medically fit and to his production of a certificate that he was an agriculturist, somebody approaches the head of the department and the latter at once cancels the order in order to accommodate a Minister.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is still discussing the same case.

Malik Barkat Ali : When the attention of the Minister is drawn to this case he says he is helpless. After a person is appointed somebody on the ministerial benches approaches the head of the department whether of his own accord or under instructions, and immediately the order of appointment is cancelled and when the person asks for reasons he is told that he has not produced proof that he belongs to an agricultural tribe even though he has produced a certificate from the Deputy Commissioner of his own district. Thus there is no remedy left to the poor man. I submit that this cannot be and should not be the conduct of any minister, nay, it should not be the conduct of any just man, not to say of a minister.

Sardar Kapoor Singh (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural), (Punjabi) : Sir, of all the departments of this Government the Department of Agriculture is the most concerned with the zamindars. In the departmental reports it is invariably claimed that the agricultural produce is being increased through the efforts of this department. Without going into lengthy details I propose to give a lie to these bombastic claims. I want to make it clear to the Honourable Minister in-charge that the work done by his department does not justify the *gups* (exaggerated statements) indulged in by Government in this behalf. If we were to compare the figures of the last ten or fifteen years, we will find that instead of there being any increase in the yield per acre, it is rather on the decline. It was probably on the 9th of this month that the Honourable Minister uttered a *tar* and claimed that during the five years that this Government has been in office, a considerable increase—

Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan : Sir, the word used by the honourable member is not parliamentary.

Mr. Speaker : What word is the honourable member referring to ?

Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan : The word "*tar*" which is unparliamentary in so far as it means *gup* in Punjabi.

Mr. Speaker : It means an exaggerated statement. The word *gup* also means the same thing.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Sir, nobody can be a better authority on Punjabi than yourself. I was submitting Sir, that some seven or eight days back the Honourable Minister in charge of this department remarked that if the single item of wheat is taken into consideration it will be found that the income of zamindars in this province through wheat alone has gone up by 1½ crores. In this connection, I would like to invite his attention to the reports made by the Government's own officials and would leave it to him to see whether the yield per acre or per *bigha* has increased or not. As the time at my disposal is very short I will confine myself to a bare statement of facts and figures for the last 25 years.

In 1911-12, the total area under wheat was 4,551,828 acres, and the total production was 2,096,100 tons. At this stage let me make it clear that I am speaking of irrigated acreage alone, whether it is canal irrigated or well irrigated. It is because I knew that if I included *barani* lands, it would be easy for the Honourable Minister to say that the production of

land was affected by the drought that year. Thus the yield per acre works out to be 12·4 maunds. Again, in 1919-20 the yield per acre was 13·4 maunds. The Honourable Minister should note down what I am saying. The total area under wheat crops was 4,867,745 acres and the total production of wheat was 2,396,000 tons.

Minister of Development : You did not understand my remarks.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I have written down that remark. I think you have forgotten and you are likely to forget again.

Anyhow, Sir, I was saying that in 1919-20 the yield per acre was 13·4 maunds. In 1921-22 it had gone up to 14·4 maunds but by 1929-30 it had again gone down to 12·9 maunds per acre. This is exactly what is contained in the official reports. The only change made by me is that where the quantity was shown in tons I have converted it into maunds. Since this ill-starred Government came into office we have been hearing all sorts of exaggerated claims in this connection but the fact remains that the produce has decreased rather than increased. Government might say that whereas the expenditure on this department in 1905 was only 6 lakhs it has now been increased to 86 lakhs. But we know that this increased expenditure is of benefit only to the demonstrators and not to the agriculturists. Now, Sir, this is what their claims come to. I would have quoted these figures up to date but the official reports to hand do not go beyond 1938-39. In 1937-38 the total acreage under wheat was 5,567,557 acres and the produce amounted to 265,260 tons. The average again does not go beyond 12·9 maunds per acre. In view of the facts quoted by me I fail to understand how the Honourable Minister got it into his head that in wheat alone the zamindar has increased his income by one and-a-half crores. Does he not try to ascertain the facts contained in the reports or statements which his Parliamentary Secretary or the Director of Agriculture prepares for him? He should at least try to make sure about the authenticity of the facts before reading out statements prepared by others. If he were to compare the figures quoted by me, which have been gathered from the Government's own reports, with the figures contained in his statement he will find that the yield per acre has not increased as his department wants us to believe but has on the other hand been systematically decreasing. He should rise to the occasion and like a true Jat admit his mistake because the Jats are well known for gracefully admitting their faults when they are pointed out to them. This is the true state of affairs in respect of wheat and I have tried to point out the main defects in the Government's contention.

As regards wheat they will say that if the yield per acre has diminished, it does not matter, as an improved variety of wheat is being grown. It is time, that Government knew the amount of money the zamindars were earning before this improved variety of wheat was grown, and the amount they are earning now. Their income at present is half of what they were earning before the introduction of the so-called improved variety of wheat. If Government were asked the reasons for this depreciation in the income of the wheat-growers, they will say that they are not responsible for it, as the prices of food-grains have gone down. But I insist on saying that they alone are responsible for it.

2 p. m.

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Since the Unionist Government came into power, there has been a steady decrease in the income of the zamindars. Before the advent of the present ministry, the zamindars used to earn up to Rs. 40 crores annually, but now their sale-proceeds have come down to Rs. 12 crores. Keeping these facts in view, the statements made by Government that they are increasing the acreage or that the yield per acre has increased are absolutely contrary to facts. I would request the Honourable Minister for Agriculture to ask the Director of Agriculture to sift the statement made by me and to say in what particular respect it is incorrect. I would also request the Honourable Minister for Agriculture to submit his report to the House after due examination of facts and figures.

During the last three or four years there has been no increase in the yield per acre of any agricultural produce, except in the case of sugar-cane which has increased to some extent. The fact that previously the expenditure of the department was Rs. 5 lakhs and now it has risen to Rs. 37 lakhs, is not justified by the results achieved.

So far no progress has been made by the department and if there is any progress it is in the cultivation of poppy only. I have seen the departmental report, and to my surprise, I find that there has been no increase in the cultivation of sugarcane, while, on the other hand, a wonderful improvement has been made in the cultivation of poppy.

I happen to know this for a fact that in the year 1926-27, poppy was cultivated in an area covering 970 acres of land and in the year 1938-39, 8,837 acres of land were under poppy cultivation. It seems to me that when a resolution regarding prohibition was carried in the Assembly, there arose a fear in the mind of Government that their income would decrease. They also thought that the passing of such a resolution would result in the Jats giving up drinking, and in order to keep the Jats under their control, they devised this scheme of preparing opium. Government have treated the Jats in a manner similar to the one practised by certain European powers in China. My honourable friend Sardar Dasaundha Singh will probably say that he was not then the minister-in-charge of the department, and that Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, who is never tired of proclaiming his sympathy for the zamindars, was the minister-in-charge. If Government is keenly interested in the cultivation of a certain plant for the sake of enhancing its income, is it not the bounden duty of Government to find out in the very beginning as to what effects the cultivation of this plant will have on the health and morals of the public?

Then, Sir, there is another department, namely the Boring Department, to which I want to refer. This is the first chance afforded to me of speaking about this department. A sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs is being spent on this department. Only recently I called for estimates from this department, and I understood that a boring which formally cost Rs. 2,000 now costs Rs. 5,000. I am well aware of the fact that iron pipes are very costly these days. In fact the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture agrees with me that no iron pipes are available in the market. May I suggest that if iron pipes are not available, what is the use of maintaining this department? When there is not a sufficient number of iron pipes to meet army requirements, wherefrom will the Government get these pipes?

May I know then as to that they intend to bore? If any sensible person, on presenting the boring estimates to him, were asked to give his candid opinion about this, he will certainly say that under these circumstances, it is no use maintaining such a department and the sooner it is abolished the better.

Syed Amjad Ali Shah : I take it that the honourable member's remarks only apply to tube-well boring and not to ordinary well boring.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I say, well boring.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : This amount for an ordinary well boring is unimaginable. It cannot be five thousand rupees.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Yes, five thousand rupees for ordinary well boring. My submission is that one can sink a tube well with Rs. 5,000. So what is the use of maintaining this costly department? I would therefore request that the provision that has been made for the Boring Department may be omitted and the employees be retrenched. (*Sardar Jagjit Singh Man :* That will create unemployment in the country). I say that if he wants to provide bread to the people by continuing to employ persons in Government service I ask him why he wants to pay 1½ lakhs of rupees to 20 or 25 persons only. He can employ 100 or more men if he wants only to provide employment to people. He is a responsible Parliamentary Secretary and he should not make such statements. Anyway my submission is that this is the way in which estimates are prepared by this department for well boring. I do not think it is at all justifiable to keep this department at this time.

Now, Sir, I would like to deal with another important matter. There are two Acts under which loans are advanced to the zamindars. One of them is Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 and the other is Agricultural Loans Act of 1884. Now we have to see as to how much money has been advanced to the zamindars under these two Acts by way of loans by this Government. Lest my friends of the Congress party should say that I have indulged in communal matters, I would deal with this matter from the point of view of different visions and would tell the House as to how much money has been advanced to the zamindars of different districts by way of loans. A few days ago my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram remarked that so many crores of rupees had been advanced to the zamindars by way of land improvement and agricultural loans. It would have been much better for him to have used any other word for the word "Punjab". In fact this money has been distributed in two or three districts only. Now within the last three years, i.e., 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40, Government advanced 74 lakhs of rupees under the provisions of the Acts referred to above. Out of that sum of 74 lakhs of rupees, Rs. 64,60,780 were advanced to the zamindars of the Ambala Division. My honourable friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad's community must have got only a small share. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :* That is a fact). Anyway out of 74 lakhs of rupees 64,60,780 rupees were advanced to the zamindars of the Ambala division. Then comes the Jullundur division. A sum of 1,39,710 rupees were advanced to the zamindars of Jullundur division, and to the zamindars of the Lahore division 1,40,476 rupees were advanced. The total sum

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advanced to the zamindars of Lahore and Jullundur divisions comes to nearly 3 lakhs of rupees. Then to the zamindars of the Multan division a sum of 2,86,562 rupees was advanced and to the zamindars of the Rawalpindi division 4,10,950 rupees were advanced. The total comes to 74 lakhs of rupees. In the face of these hard facts it does not lie in the mouth of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to say that this sum of 74 lakhs of rupees had been advanced to the zamindars of the Punjab. On the contrary he should say that this has been advanced to the zamindars of Rohtak and Hissar districts only. This is how he has meted out a favourable treatment to the zamindars of his own ilaqa and has done injustice to the zamindars of other districts. He has in fact great sympathy only for the zamindars of Rohtak and Hissar and does not care for others.

Minister of Development : The honourable member is not relevant. What he is discussing has nothing to do with Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker : Please point out where and when he is irrelevant.

Minister : He is discussing revenue demand and not agricultural demand.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : I am discussing Agricultural Loans Act.

Minister : It has nothing to do with agriculture. It does not fall within my department.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is my honourable friend without any portfolio ?

Minister : It is all Greek to you.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Since when did the Honourable Minister begin to talk in Greek ?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : It is all Greek to me because I was born in Lahore and you were born in Multan.

Minister : My remarks were addressed to Mr. Gupta.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : Very well, I was submitting that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has meted out a differential treatment to the zamindars of Hissar and Rohtak in the matter of granting of loans. I do not say that we have no sympathy for the famine-stricken people of those districts. On the contrary, we have every sympathy for them and we did help the famine-stricken people of those districts. As a matter of fact every member of the Congress Party contributed his fair share towards the fund which was raised by the Congress to help the starved people of the Ambala division. But if there was famine in that division it did not mean that Sir Chhotu Ram should have done injustice to the zamindars of other districts. Government should have distributed this money among all the zamindars. The zamindars of Hissar as well as other districts should have been given their fair share. The way in which this money has been distributed is not at all fair. This is how the loans have been advanced to the zamindars under the Agricultural Loans Act. Then loans are also advanced to the zamindars under the provisions of Land Improvement Loans Act. If we take into consideration the loans that have been advanced

under that Act also we would find that a good deal of discrimination has been made in the distribution of these loans as well. Sir, I do not want to dilate any further on this point lest my honourable friend Khawaja Sahib should say that I am speaking against Ambala division. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: I have no objection; do say whatever you want to say). I would request the Honourable Minister Sir Chhotu Ram that while advancing loans he should not give them to the zamindars of one division only. There are other districts as well. He should keep the needs of the zamindars of those districts in view as well. The zamindars of Hissar and Rohtak districts are in the forefront for taking out loans but in the matter of payment of land revenue they are behind every other district. Sir, when the time of payment of land revenue comes they say that they are famine-stricken and that they have nothing to pay and so on.

Mr. Speaker: Is the honourable member discussing agriculture or revenue?

Sardar Kapoor Singh: That was only by the way. Sir, I say that most of the remission—

Mr. Speaker: Please be relevant.

Sardar Kapoor Singh: Very well, Sir, bowing to your ruling, I abstain from referring to this matter. I take the subject of agricultural improvement effected by Government. In the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, the students study the subject of agriculture, they pass the examination and then get employment. By merely graduating some young men in agriculture you cannot hope to improve the agricultural conditions prevailing in the province. No doubt agricultural research is very important and the varieties of seed discovered after research and recommended by the department to the zamindars are also good. But the department has been spending a lot on research. Then we have also to see whether they have spent more money on the supply of seed to the zamindars than what they spent in 1937-38. The total amount earmarked for the supply of improved seed to the zamindars in the previous year was Rs. 12 lakhs. But the whole amount was not spent. In the following year it was stated that due to certain reasons they could not spend the whole amount. We do want that our crops should improve. But the Government by not spending the whole amount provided in the budget for this purpose do not help the zamindars to improve their crops. Let us compare the amount spent by them in this behalf in 1937-38 with what they spent in 1939-40. The figures of expenditure relating to the latter year as given in their latest report on the subject show that—

Mr. Speaker: When is the honourable member going to finish?

Sardar Kapoor Singh: I will take two or three minutes more. I was saying that the figures relating to the year 1939-40 as given in the latest report show that the whole amount earmarked for seed in the previous year was not spent. The next point I want to refer to in the House is that the method of distribution of seed is very defective. There is one depôt in an area of a police station. Any zamindar who may want seed has to go some 15 miles to the depot to get it. Few zamindars can afford to travel such a

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long distance in order to get seed. Then there is also corruption in the department so far as distribution of seed is concerned. Both at the time of purchase and of sale of seed, the officers concerned have recourse to malpractice. Due to these malpractices on the part of the officers very little improved seed is purchased by the zamindars in Jullundur district. The reasons given for the less sale of improved seed in such of the districts as are not canal irrigated is that the department is making experiments to find out which improved seed is more suitable for sowing in chahi areas. No one can say how long these experiments will go on.

In the end I would like to advise the Honourable Minister that he should first check the statements supplied to him by the department before making them public. If he has not the time to check them he should get them checked by some one else. In most cases the department supplies him with wrong statements. With these words, I resume my seat.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh): Sir, undoubtedly Agriculture is one of the most important departments and it is a matter of some satisfaction to me that several honourable members took interest in the debate, but I am really sorry to find that those honourable members who spoke from the opposite benches, did not care to study facts and their criticism is not based on correct information, so much so that some of the honourable members did not even care to listen to what I said the other day here in this House. My honourable friend Sardar Kapoor Singh did not care to note what I had said and he took a lot of valuable time of the House in giving facts which had nothing to do with what I had tried to make out that day. So far as wheat is concerned, I brought it to the notice of the House that we have developed new varieties of wheat and five million acres of land were under new varieties of wheat. New varieties of wheat had been cultivated during last year on such an extensive area as five million acres and the additional yield per acre was at least one maund and calculating the additional income to the agriculturist we came to the conclusion that $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores had been added, so far as wheat alone was concerned, to the income of the agriculturists in the Province. That in itself is something which should have been appreciated by my honourable friend, but he did not care to hear what I said nor did he care to read the report of my speech. He simply said something from his own imagination which I had never said. And then this is not all. My friend did not even care to see whether what he was saying fell under this demand or whether it concerned some other demand. He was talking of something which pertained to revenue rather than to agriculture. Apart from this when he talked of Boring Department, he did not care to see as to how many wells had been bored last year. Considering the number of wells, which came to 495, he should have seen as to what a great benefit had been conferred on the agriculturists by this Department. (*An honourable member*: How many were successful?) All of them were successful. They were indeed very successful. So much so that the Department conferred a lot of benefit on the agriculturists and this is one of the premier needs in the villages because they cannot get their wells bored properly by private people and this agency is doing very good work and yet my friend, who

poses as the friend of the agriculturists, says that this Department should be abolished.

Then, Sir, a lot was said by Mr. Amber and he at the same time posed as if he knew everything about the department and he also said that because he was a landholder himself, therefore he had every right to say whatever he liked.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : May I correct the Honourable Minister because he has given wrong figures? I just enquire from him how many wells were bored. I have got the report with me and according to it during the year 356 wells were bored and out of them only 259 were successful.

Minister of Development : Which year?

Sardar Kapoor Singh : The latest agricultural report of 1939-40. Here it is.

Minister : I am talking of 1940-41.

Sardar Kapoor Singh : The report is here.

Minister : You are wrong there. The mild charge that I brought against my honourable friend is fully proved now. So far as the remarks of Mr. Amber are concerned, he began to attack the Lyallpur College. The Agricultural College at Lyallpur is one of the very best institutions in the whole of India. (*Hear, hear*). In fact, there are certain departments there where the students come not only from other provinces but from beyond the bounds of India, from Ceylon and from other places. There are very many beneficent activities going on there in the college. We are evolving better varieties and improved varieties of wheat, sugarcane, cotton, gram and even other things.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man : On a point of order. May I ask what remedy has been found as regards the disease of *tela*?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of order.

Minister : A lot of research work is going on and we have done a lot there to improve the income of the peasant. So far as wheat is concerned, we have evolved several varieties. Two of them were introduced before 1937 and another new variety has been introduced now. This is the result of the research work done in recent years. Similarly, so far as cotton and sugarcane are concerned, we have done a good deal and the work done in these three directions is really the sort of work which should have elicited praise even from grudging hands if they were fairly and justly disposed towards us. The right sort of criticism is that which gives us our share of praise if we deserve it and we should be condemned only where we fail. But our friends on the opposite benches never give us the slightest credit even though we may deserve it in a considerable measure. Then, Sir, apart from the research work so far as these three main crops are concerned, we have done a good deal so far as gram is concerned. Blight proof gram has been evolved and there are other varieties of gram as well. More than all this, we have done a lot so far as horticulture is concerned. We have started nurseries at several places and thousands and thousands of plants are being issued from those nurseries. (*Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :* Which district?) At so many places. My honourable friend comes from Ludhiana with his eyes shut and criticises the Government

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with his eyes blindfolded. This time I will take him in my car and will show him at Jullundur that there is a big nursery and we are issuing plants at very cheap rates. All those plants are first class. Formerly people used to get plants from nurseries which were not at all reliable and dependable. Now those people get plants from our nurseries which are absolutely dependable. They get them at a very cheap rate. Thus so far as horticulture is concerned we are adding to the income of the people very considerably every year, not only so far as citrus plants are concerned, not only so far as mango and other such plants are concerned, but even where no other fruit trees can grow as is the case in some parts of our province where the soil is not fit for better varieties of fruit trees, *ber* trees are grown and *ber* trees are grafted and a lot of good is done to the people because it adds to their income very considerably.

Then, Sir, apart from this, we have done a lot in fruit preservation and in several other things so far as fruit industry is concerned. Not only do we hold classes at Lyallpur, but some of our experts and their assistants tour in the province and hold classes at several places and give lessons in fruit preservation and in preparing jams and other such things. They do so at various places and in various seasons, for example, when there is mango season, our experts go to places where mangoes are found to be in plenty and they give lessons in preparing mango squash, *chutney*, jams and various other preparations. On account of these courses which are being held at various places, small industries are growing at several places. So far as big industries are concerned, i.e., jams, squashes and other things, these industries too which have grown in our province, have added a lot to the income of the people. There are several such factories at several places. Particularly during war the factory owners have done very useful work from the point of view of their own benefit and also from the point of view of service to the military department.

Now all this is due to the activities of our fruit specialist. Apart from this line, which is known for its very useful work throughout India, we have done something more. There is a new department opened at Lyallpur in connection with the preservation of vegetables. Dehydration has become a very useful line in these days, because dried vegetables are required for military purposes. At Lyallpur we are holding classes, giving instruction to people who either open factories themselves or serve as assistants at those various places where such factories are started.

Then my friend Mr. Amber said that there was not sufficient work done so far as the popularisation of the results achieved at Lyallpur is concerned. Now I would like to bring it to his notice that he did not care to see what sort of work is being done. His ignorance of the work that is being done is apparent from the fact that he did not know whether there were any such officers in the Agricultural Department as Agricultural Inspectors and *kardars*. There are no Agricultural Inspectors in our department and there are no *kardars*.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : They are known as Inspectors in the villages and not as Agricultural Assistants.

Minister for Development: There are no such officers in the Agricultural Department. Then my friend said that the farm at Attari had been sold and that the farm at Beas had been discontinued. Nothing of the sort. The farm at Attari is being very well managed and it is doing very good work. Similarly there is a farm at Beas. Both the farms are there and useful work is being done there. So far as the demonstration work is concerned my friend does not know that the results achieved at Lyallpur are taken to the very door of the agriculturists. All the officers are doing all this in the spirit of real service to the people. They do not go about as tahsildars used to go about some years back. They are doing real service to the people and whenever I go out it is impressed on them that they should have no such notions of prestige, power or authority as other departments have, to which my friend had the honour to belong but that they are there to serve the people; and they indeed go about in the real spirit of service and they actually serve the people. Even the Director and Deputy Directors tour in that very spirit of humility and service and the smaller servants in the department take their cue from them.

Now so far as the demonstration work in villages is concerned, I think my friend never cared to see how much useful work is being done there. There are demonstration plots all over the province in several villages and in these demonstration plots various tried experiments are repeated and demonstrated to the people. The Agricultural Assistants and the mukaddams take part in these activities and demonstrations. Forty-nine thousand demonstrations were given in one year. Forty-nine thousand demonstrations, that is not a small number. I hope if my friend would think over it in his calmer moments he will come to the conclusion that he was wrong in whatever he said concerning the activities of this department. Now that is not all. My friend said that these farms are of no use and that these institutions are not giving us the proper sort of return to the expenditure that we are incurring. These are, I think, uninformed notions of a gentleman who never went near these farms. My friend said that the mukaddam came to him only once or twice. So far as this thing is concerned the mukaddam may have been under the impression that he still had some of the mentality of his old days and that he still posed as a hakim and therefore he may have been afraid of going near him, but these mukaddams do go to the smallest of men and they help them and serve them and they add to their knowledge and also add to their income. Then my friend said that these farms are not self-supporting. There again my friend has not tried to study things. There are various aspects of these farms. Now some research is done at the Agricultural College at Lyallpur. A new variety is evolved and then that variety is to be tested. From Lyallpur it is sent over to the various farms and there the experiment is tried on a large scale, and after they come to the conclusion in one or two years that the experiment has succeeded and that variety is a better variety so far as the yield is concerned and so far as quality is concerned, then that variety is grown on a larger scale. Then we distribute the seeds to the people. These are the various processes which have to be undergone: these processes are not ordinary processes. We cannot have resort to them just as ordinary agriculturists do. We have to be very careful so far as these experiments

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are concerned. They cost us more than ordinary agricultural operations. Similarly growing of seeds too is something we have to be careful about. We have to grow seed of a number of varieties and have to keep it separate and intact in a way that costs something. So far as economic side of the farms is concerned we are running them as best as we can and as economically as we can, but we also have to take into account the experimental side of the farms. Experiments are always costly and the cost of the experiment is to be judged from the nature of these experiments and the cost of these experiments is amply repaid by the results. So if my honourable friend had taken into consideration all these various aspects of the experimental work, he would never have said that these farms are not doing any useful work.

Then, Sir, I would like to say a few words concerning what was submitted by Malik Barkat Ali. The facts that he stated were exaggerated unduly. What happened was that there was a vacancy in the Agricultural Department for a head assistant. Ordinarily we promote men from the same department, but we have to look to many things. At times it becomes necessary to import fresh blood from outside. There are circumstances under which it becomes exceedingly necessary to take such a step and in all such cases we depend entirely upon the discretion of the head of the department. My honourable friend I am sorry is not here. He quoted a rule which had nothing to do with the service he was discussing. Rule 7 (1) (g) is absolutely clear on this point which states that the post of the head assistant may be filled at the discretion of the appointing authority by promotion from amongst the assistants or (b) by selection from clerks employed in other offices of the Government. He had in mind M. Ghulam Muhammad who is his client, I believe. There was a certain litigation in which my honourable friend appeared for this man. This man Ghulam Muhammad had been superseded twice before. He was given a chance to work as a head assistant but he failed twice. Then for certain other reasons this post was advertised and eleven applications were received and seven candidates appeared and out of those seven, one man was selected. So there was absolutely no force in what my honourable friend said.

Premier (The Honourable Lt. Col. Sir Sikander Hyat Khan): Sir, before we proceed to vote on these demands for grants, I would like to say a few words, because my colleagues on those benches asked me to do so on the point of order this morning. Unfortunately, at that time I was not in a position to say anything for the simple reason that it was not in accordance with the rules—we could not make any speeches nor could we raise any discussion at that stage. I should, however, like to point out to my honourable friends opposite that I was surprised to see the statements in the Press this morning, and I was going to speak myself to the Leader of the Opposition and Diwan Chaman Lall with regard to those statements as there had been some misunderstanding. As a matter of fact I suggested that we should close the discussion on the budget on Monday, but my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, naturally did not agree because his party wanted to speak since they had selected two particular demands, and said that we should go on till Tuesday. So I decided to go till Tuesday. You are aware, Sir, the convention is that two demands are selected by the

Opposition and two demands are selected by Government. They selected land revenue and general administration and they have had the fullest opportunity of discussing all the various aspects of the administration during the discussion of those two demands. You very kindly gave them latitude to discuss anything while discussing those demands. We had general discussion on the budget for two days and my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall in his statement said that we had cut down the number of days for budget discussion to 3 days. He, perhaps with regrettable inaccuracy, put 3 days instead of 5.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I would like to point out that my honourable friend perhaps did not read the statement carefully. I stated that as far as the discussion on the demands for grants was concerned, it was cut down to 3 days. It does not include the general discussion.

Premier : There again my honourable friend forgot that we have taken 5 days for the discussion of demands for grants and not 3 days as he has said.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Two days for general discussion were given according to the rules.

Premier : Apart from those two days we have discussed the demands for 5 days ; 7 days in all. Two days were utilised for the general discussion ; two days for the discussion of land revenue demand ; two days for general administration and to-day is the 7th day. They have had the fullest opportunity to discuss their two demands and as a matter of fact it was for this side of the House to protest, as we have cut out their days out of the remaining three days. I submit, Sir, that if the central budget, the Finance Bill in the Central Assembly, can be finished in 5 days, why cannot a provincial budget be finished in 5 days ?

My next point is that they questioned our right to request the Governor to alter the dates and said, is it democracy ? I say that if going to the Governor and asking him to alter the dates which had been fixed on the advice of his Ministers is not democracy, I fail to understand what democracy is. Is it conceivable that anybody in England could approach the King over the head of the Prime Minister and ask him to intervene ? I submit that it was for the House to decide and I can assure my honourable friends that I had taken the view of the House before I took that action.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Did you consult this side of the House also ?

Premier : I consulted the House as a whole and I can assure him that a large majority of the members of this House, realising that we are passing through an abnormal period and that there is a war on, agreed to it. They realised that every one of us should be doing his duty in the field instead of sitting in this Chamber. You owe a duty to the province and to the country as much as we do. I would like to see young men like my honourable friend in khaki, instead of sitting here.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I think you are younger than I am and I should like to see you in khaki first.

Premier : He should know that I am already.

Diwan Chaman Lall : I see you in khaki only on ceremonial occasions.

Premier : I assure him that I will be in khaki at once when my country needs it. My honourable friend should remember that this is not the time for these futile objections that he is raising

An honourable member : Abolish the Assembly.

Premier : We are at the close of the 3rd year of the War and all along I have been giving my friends opposite the fullest opportunities and latitude, and yet my honourable friend at this time gets up and puts obstructions in the way. I will once again most emphatically ask them that they should now join hands with me. I suggested to them several times that we should put our heads together, and if they agreed to my suggestion I could form a national Government in the Punjab, but the High Command would not allow them. It cannot be a completely national Government so long as my friends are more or less hampered by the High Command, I, therefore, cannot proceed with the matter.

Diwan Chaman Lall : If the rule has been altered to permit the Honourable Premier to make a statement, a very controversial statement, you must permit us to offer our personal explanation on this point. My honourable friend said that he consulted me and the Leader of the Opposition in regard to this matter. Nothing of the kind ever took place. The only thing he told me was that he was leaving for Delhi to meet Mr. Jinnah.

Premier : So far as my honourable friend is concerned it was only by way of courtesy that I said that to him.

Diwan Chaman Lall : That does not mean that the rights of the Assembly to discuss the budget should be taken away by the Honourable Premier in this particular manner. I categorically say that he did not consult either me or the Leader of the Opposition in regard to this matter.

Minister of Finance : On a point of order, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall : The Honourable Premier has been permitted to make a statement ; surely we should be permitted to make a statement too which we were prevented from making this morning. The Honourable Premier should not be so unfair as to take advantage of his position as Premier.

Mr. Speaker : What is the Honourable Finance Minister's point of order ?

Minister of Finance : The point of order is that under Rule 172 (4) the time has come when the demands must be put to the House.

Mr. Speaker : Now I will put demands to the vote of the House
The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43, 30, 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Agriculture.

The motion was carried.

The following demands were then put from the chair and adopted.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,28,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Public Health.

PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,47,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Provincial Excise.

STAMPS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Stamps.

FORESTS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,32,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Forests.

REGISTRATION.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 74,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Registration.

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AND OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,93,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles Act and other Taxes and Duties.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,86,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Irrigation (Works).

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,65,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

IRRIGATION CAPITAL.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,93,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Irrigation (Capital).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,86,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Administration of Justice.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,71,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

POLICE.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,57,22,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Police.

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,03,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

EDUCATION (EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,91,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education and Education in Backward Tracts).

EDUCATION (EXCLUDING EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN).

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,87,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Education (Excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).

MEDICAL.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 47,51,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Medical.

VETERINARY.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,75,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Veterinary.

Co-OPERATION.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,23,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Co-operation.

INDUSTRIES.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,95,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Industries.

CIVIL WORKS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,19,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Civil Works.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,57,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Buildings and Roads—Establishment Charges.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,65,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE—ELECTRICITY SCHEMES.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,29,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Other Revenue expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.

CIVIL WORKS CAPITAL.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,11,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Civil Works (Capital).

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,39,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

FAMINE.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,10,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Famine.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,26,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

MISCELLANEOUS AND EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,38,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Miscellaneous and Extraordinary Charges.

ADVANCES REPAYABLE.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,11,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Advances Repayable.

LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,52,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1943, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing Interest.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p. m. on Friday, 20th March, 1942.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 20th March, 1942.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 p.m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker in the chair.*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

KANWAR DALIP SINGH.

***8250. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Kanwar Dalip Singh, President, Kangra Kisan Committee, has been arrested;

(b) if so, the reasons for his arrest?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) and (b) Yes. He was arrested for making a prejudicial speech.

SARDAR PRITAM SINGH.

***8251. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Pritam Singh, a Congress worker of the Kangra district has been arrested;

(b) the reasons for his arrest and the present state of his health?

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

(b) For delivering a prejudicial speech; his health is reported to be good.

WHEAT STOCKS.

***8258. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the amount of wheat stock including the stock acquired by Government but lying undelivered in Arifwala, Pakpattan, Chichawatni and Montgomery in Montgomery district and in Burewala, Vihari, Mian Channu, Jahanian and Khanewal in Multan district on 21st February, 1942, and the estimate of wheat stock required for local consumption in these towns till the arrival of wheat from the next Rabi crop?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

Statement.

Name of district.	Name of place.	Visible wheat stocks on the 21st February, 1942, in bags (one bag equals 2½ maunds).	Estimated wheat required for local consumption till the next Rabi crop (in bags).
Montgomery..	Arifwala	12,403	1,652
	Pakpattan	80	3,905
	Chichawatni	7,075	6,988
	Montgomery	3,900	8,388
Multan ..	Burewala	8,800	1,601
	Vihari *	1,300	956
	Mian Channu	13,000	1,641
	Jahanian	50	849
	Khanewal	200	3,727

BIRTHDAY OF SHRI GURU RAWIDAS.

***8268. Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that resolutions passed at the various meetings and conferences of the Rawidasia community held in the Province from time to time have been forwarded to the Government urging upon it to declare the " Magh Shudi Pandras " as a gazetted holiday owing to its being the Birthday of Shri Guru Rawidas, a religious head of the Rawidasia community of the scheduled castes ; if so, whether the Government has ever considered this question and, if so, with what result ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes. It was decided not to declare the birthday of Shri Guru Rawidas as a public holiday. In this connection the attention of the honourable member is drawn to the answers given to his questions Nos. *2929¹ and *6250², asked by him in 1938 and 1940, respectively. In fact, even existing holidays are to be severely curtailed in the interests of work in time of war.

Lala Harnam Das : Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware of the fact that Shri Guru Rawidas is a reformer of the Achhuts ? If so, why have Government not so far acceded to the demand of the Achhuts for declaring his birthday as a public holiday in the Punjab ?

¹Volume IV page 372.

²Volume XII page 430.

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have already pointed out that war exigencies require that the number of public holidays should be curtailed rather than increased.

Sardar Moola Singh : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary the reason why the birthday of the Prophet of Achhuts has not been declared as a public holiday when the birthdays of the prophets of other communities have been declared as public holidays ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have already stated the reason, namely, that on account of war exigencies the number of public holidays is being curtailed and it is, therefore, not advisable that the birthday of Shri Guru Rawidas be declared as a public holiday.

Sardar Moola Singh : When so many other holidays do not affect war exigencies, how will the declaring of one day as a public holiday adversely affect them ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : This is a matter of opinion.

Sardar Moola Singh : May I know if by adopting such an attitude the Punjab Government is not interfering in the religion of the Achhuts ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : No, Sir.

Lala Harnam Das : May I know if holidays on birthdays of other prophets are also going to be abolished ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I cannot tell my friend as to which holidays are going to be discontinued. But this much I can tell him that the number of public holidays is going to be curtailed.

Sardar Moola Singh : When the Punjab Government are not even prepared to declare the birthday of the Guru of Achhuts as a public holiday, how do they claim to be well-wishers of the depressed classes ? *(Laughter).* They are the greatest enemies of the Achhuts.

Parliamentary Private Secretary : It is a matter of opinion.

Lala Harnam Das : May I know if the refusal of the Punjab Government to declare the birthday of the Guru of the Achhuts does not constitute an attack on their religion ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : No, not at all.

Sardar Moola Singh : May I know if it is the policy of the Punjab Government that they will not interfere in the religious matters of any community ? If so, does not the refusal of the Punjab Government to declare the birthday of Shri Guru Rawidas as a public holiday in the Punjab amount to interference in the religious matters of the Achhuts ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : No, the Punjab Government is not interfering in the religious matters of the Achhuts.

Sardar Moola Singh : Are the Achhuts not entitled to get the birthday of their Guru declared as a public holiday in the Punjab ?

Premier : My friend has already been told that it is intended to curtail the number of public holidays and it will certainly be done. It is, therefore, not an opportune moment for him to press for observing a holiday on the birthday of Shri Guru Rawidas. Of course he can submit an application at the time when the holidays that are going to be abolished are restored and it will be sympathetically considered.

Lala Harnam Das : May I know if the birthday of any other religious reformer is not observed as a public holiday in the Punjab ?

Premier : Yes, the birthday of Budha is not observed as a public holiday in the Punjab.

Sardar Moola Singh : In view of the fact that the birthday of our Gurn has not been declared as a public holiday will the Honourable Premier cancel all the holidays that are granted on the birthdays of the founders of other communities ?

**CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR OF THE SADDAR BUNGALOW OF THE
GREY CANALS OFFICE.**

***8156. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the reply to part (b) of starred question No. 7671¹ asked on 24th March, 1941, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) who was responsible for the error of not calling the tenders for a work costing more than Rs. 200 ;

(b) action taken against that officer for dereliction of his duty ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Superintendent, Grey Canals.

(b) It was not considered necessary to take any action other than that described in the answer to part (b) of starred question No. 7671¹, asked on March 24th, 1941.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : The Parliamentary Secretary has referred to the answer he gave to question No. 7671¹. May I know what was the action taken against the man for the dereliction of his duties ? Were not orders passed that the fine may be refunded ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Here the question refers to tenders and my friend is asking about fines.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : No advertisements were issued calling for tenders. The Parliamentary Secretary in his reply to question No. 7671 said that it was due to the dereliction of duty on the part of the Superintendent of Grey Canals. I want to know whether any action was taken against that person who was responsible for the dereliction of his duty.

Parliamentary Secretary : In my answer to question No. 7671 I said that the Deputy Commissioner had asked the Superintendent, Grey Canals, to be more careful in future.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Is that all ? And for such a heinous crime ? (*Laughter*).

Mian Abdul Rab : I want to ask whether any warning was issued to this officer by the department or not.

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not in a position to say whether any warning in the technical sense was issued or not, but I do know that the Deputy Commissioner asked the Superintendent to be more careful in future.

IRRIGATION IN TAHSIL SANGHAR.

***8262. Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the means of irrigation in tahsil Sanghar of Dera Ghazi Khan district are confined only to the *Rod Kohi* which is only an uncertain source of supply ;
- (b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the poor peasantry residing in the above tahsil has to resort to the tedious device of *ghallars* (lift irrigation) at the Indus in order to eke out a precarious living and that even this water supply is assessed to *abiana* ;
- (c) whether the land revenue assessment on the area so irrigated is on a permanent basis, despite the uncertain and periodical supply of water ;
- (d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative the steps Government propose to take to give relief to the zamindars of the *ilaga* in this respect ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) About two-thirds of the tahsil is *Rod-Kohi* land, the remaining area being *chahi*, *nahri* and *riverain*.

(b) Yes, irrigation by *ghallars* is resorted to in certain areas, but the crops obtained with this help are not assessed to *abiana*.

(c) *Rod-kohi* assessment is fixed (except in two estates which pay fluctuating rates), while crops obtained with the help of lift irrigation from the Indus pay fluctuating assessment.

(d) Does not arise.

Rod Kohi.

***8263. Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that it has been the practice for the last two years in tahsil Sanghar, district Dera Ghazi Khan, that a representation from the zamindars on the subject of *Rod Kohi* is entertained by the executive authorities only if a one-rupee stamp is affixed to it ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that previously the above-mentioned stamp was required to be affixed only to the applications made for the acquisition of irrigation rights ;
- (c) if the answer to the above parts be in the affirmative, the action Government has proposed to take in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

VISITORS OF JAILS.

***8154. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there are any rules for the selection of non-official visitors of jails and, if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

- (b) the date when the non-official visitors of Ambala visited District Jail, Ambala, last and whether they made report regarding the treatment of Jail officials towards the prisoners in this Jail, the diet supplied to the latter and regarding other amenities allowed to the prisoners ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) The conditions governing the appointment of non-official visitors of jails are given in paragraph 515 of the Report of Indian Jails Committee (1919-20), Volume I, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) A statement showing the dates on which the non-official visitors last paid a visit to the District Jail, Ambala, is laid on the table. None of the visitors recorded any remarks in the Visitors' Book of the Jail.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : The statement laid on the table of the House shows that only the honorary magistrates of Ambala district are selected as non-official visitors of jails. Are they the only proper persons to be selected as non-official visitors ?

Minister : The conditions governing the appointment of non-official visitors of jails are given in paragraph 515 of the Report referred to in the answer, and I might say for the satisfaction of the honourable member that it is nowhere laid down that only the honorary magistrates should be appointed.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know the reason why only honorary magistrates are appointed in the Ambala district ?

Minister : It may be a coincidence. But if the honourable member would take the trouble of giving me notice of a separate question on the subject I can examine the position.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know whether the Honourable Finance Minister is not aware that all the persons shown in the statement are honorary magistrates ?

Minister : I am not at all so aware.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I am sorry if you are not aware. *(Laughter).*

Statement referred to in the reply.

Name of non-official visitor.	Date of last visit.
1. Lala Banarsi Das	21st February, 1942.
2. Lieutenant Khan Babadur Dr. Mahbub Ali Khan.	Ditto.
3. Lala Sant Ram	24th February, 1942.
4. Lala Gauri Shankar	18th February, 1942.
5. S. Hamid Ali	1st March, 1942.

*Copy of paragraph 515 of the Report of Indian Jails Committee (1919-20),
Volume I.*

515. Every appointment of a non-official visitor should, we think, be notified in the official gazette of the Province. Whether the appointment is made by the local Government or by the divisional commissioner is perhaps a matter of convenience which may be left to be dealt with in accordance with the custom of the Province. We would merely observe that it is desirable to mark, as much as possible, the importance which the position of a visitor conveys and therefore to confine the power of appointment to the highest convenient authority. In the course of the evidence given before us, the suggestion was made by one or two witnesses that non-official visitors of jails should be elected by local bodies. We have given careful consideration to this suggestion and have arrived at the conclusion that its adoption would be inexpedient. The person selected for the position of a non-official visitor of a jail should be chosen on the ground of definite qualifications, such as an interest in prison matters or other social work, or ability and willingness to assist in finding work for prisoners on release. Thus, a man who has served as a member of the governing body of the local discharged prisoners' aid society would generally be suitable for appointment as a non-official visitor. Selection should not be made solely on the ground of social position, wealth or political influence, but on the basis of special fitness, and thus the method of appointment by election would not in any way secure.

PUNITIVE POLICE.

***8155. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government has so far been able to come to any decision with regard to the removal of punitive police located at Mauza Chandi, district Rohtak.
- (b) whether any reports have been received by Government since the posting of punitive post in Mauza Chandi of the offences committed by the residents of this village; if so, the number of cognizable cases registered by the police against the residents of Mauza Chandi, since the posting of punitive post and the number of cases which resulted in convictions?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) There is one Additional Police Post for villages Chiri and Chandi in the jurisdiction of Police Station Mehm, Rohtak district, which it is intended to withdraw with effect from the forenoon of the 1st April, 1942, on the expiry of its full term.

(b) Yes. Fifty-three cognizable cases were reported from village Chiri and 88 from village Chandi, of which 16 and 2, respectively, ended in conviction.

DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.

***8229. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of police officers in the Ludhiana district into whose conduct departmental inquiry has been held during the last three years and the result of inquiry in each case?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad)¹ :

Number of police officers into whose conduct departmental enquiry was held.	Nature of authorised departmental punishment awarded in each case.
(a) 7	Dismissal.
(b) 4	Reduction.
(c) 12	Stoppage of increment or forfeiture of approved service for increment.
(d) 91	Entry of censure.
(e) 12	Confinement to quarters.

¹Although Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan did not put this and the next question, yet the Parliamentary Secretary answered them in public interest.

**HEAD CONSTABLES AND CONSTABLES, POLICE TRAINING
SCHOOL, PHILLAUR.**

***8230. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number, names, educational qualifications, length of service and also the home district of each of the constables sent to the Phillaur Training School for Lower Grade Examination from Ludhiana district in years 1937-38, 1939-40 and 1941 ;
- (b) the number, names, educational qualifications, length of service and also the home district of each of the Head Constables sent to the Phillaur Training School for Upper Subordinate Examination from Ludhiana district during the period mentioned in (a) ;
- (c) the number of police constables enlisted in the Ludhiana district Police Force during the last five years ;
- (d) whether among those enlisted as constables there were any who did not belong to the Ludhiana district ; if so ; their number, the educational qualifications of each of them and district to which each of them belonged ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The time and labour involved in collecting the information will be out of proportion to the benefit to be derived from it.

PETROL.

***8252. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Regional Rationing Authority, Multan, allotted 180 gallons of petrol to Vehicle No. PBQ. 224 and 90 gallons of petrol to Vehicle No. PBQ. 530, as ordinary ration of petrol for the quarter ending on 31st October, 1941 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that both the vehicles mentioned in part (a) above have got Particular Stage Carriage Permits valid for Okara-Hujra-Mandi Hira Singh route in Montgomery district and run in turn system from both ends ;
- (c) whether he is aware of the fact that the allotment of different quota to vehicles on the same route was brought to the notice of the Secretary, Provincial Rationing Authority, Lahore, personally by the Secretary, Punjab Provincial Motor Union Lahore ; if so, whether any inquiry was made into the matter ; if so, the results thereof ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Vehicle No. PBQ. 224 was allotted 105 gallons and not 180 gallons, and vehicle No. PBQ. 530 was sanctioned 90 gallons for the quarter ending the 31st October, 1941.

(b) Vehicle No. PBQ. 224 has been issued with a permit for Montgomery-Okara route, while vehicle No. PBQ. 530 has got a permit for Okara-Hujra-Mandi Hira Singh route.

(c) The matter was brought to the notice of the Secretary, Provincial Rationing Authority, who referred it to the Regional Rationing Authority concerned, which scrutinised the distribution and passed a resolution that rationing appears to be on uniform basis and regular principles and is approved. After this no further inquiry was held as the operators had right of revision to the Provincial Rationing Authority.

CASES AGAINST CHAUDHRI MUHAMMAD HASAN.

***8257. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of cases started by the Ludhiana Police against Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan, M.L.A., with their nature ;
- (b) whether any special arrangement has been made to conduct these cases ;
- (c) the expenditure so far incurred by the Government in connection with the conduct of these cases and the expenditure which is likely to be incurred by the Government before the trial of these cases is concluded ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Only one case under section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was started by the Police. Two other cases, one under section 420, Indian Penal Code,

[Sh. Faiz Mohd.]

and the other under the Canal and Drainage Act, were instituted by Complainants before the District Magistrate, Ludhiana, who ordered enquiry to be made through the Police.

(b) A Special Law Officer has been engaged on behalf of the Crown to take up the cases registered under section 420, Indian Penal Code, and the Canal and Drainage Act as probably on account of professional regard, threats or entreaties of Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, M.L.A., no local lawyer was willing to take up the case.

(c) The Bills presented by the Special Law Officer are pending with the Legal Remembrancer. Further expenditure to be incurred will depend upon the methods that Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, M.L.A., adopts to delay the cases.

In this connection the following remarks by the Honourable Mr. Justice Diwan Ram Lal, while disposing of a petition of the Crown to disallow the calling in of high Government officials as defence witnesses by the accused, deserve mention :—

“ I have no doubt that the only object of the accused, in asking these questions, was to cause vexation and to create an atmosphere which might possibly induce the Government to withdraw the case. I am fully convinced that the accused was abusing his position in the dock. ”

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether the case under section 107 is a non-cognizable case ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question whether it is cognizable or non-cognizable does not arise because I have referred to section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and not of Indian Penal Code.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is the last part of the reply an explanation on behalf of the Government or is it a reply to any definite part of the question ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question asked was how much more expenditure would be incurred and I have replied that that depends upon the delay which the accused causes in the trial of this case and in that connection I read an extract from the judgment of an Honourable Judge of the High Court.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Were those remarks made on the revision petition filed by the Government for not issuing interrogatories to the Inspector-General of Police ?

Parliamentary Secretary : A petition was filed in the High Court and it was while disposing of that petition that the judge made those remarks.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it not in connection with the issue of interrogatories to Sir Percy Orde ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already given the reply.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that at first he wanted to produce letters which were with the Government about the conduct of the police ?

Parliamentary Secretary : That does not arise out of my answer.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : It is for the Honourable Speaker to decide. You must either answer my question or refer it to the Speaker. Is it a fact that the expenditure incurred in connection with this case was incurred not on account of the accused but on account of the delay in filing the revision petition by the Government?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the expenditure was incurred because the local lawyers out of regard for the honourable member or for some other reasons would not like to take up the case.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that the Public Prosecutor could not refuse?

Parliamentary Secretary : Public Prosecutor had other work to do. He was busy.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that there are three Public Prosecutors in the Ludhiana district?

Parliamentary Secretary : That only shows that there is so much work in the district.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that all the Public Prosecutors have got pressure of work?

Parliamentary Secretary : Otherwise they would not be there.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that this gentleman was engaged on the suggestion of the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that the special Public Prosecutor was engaged to over-awe the Magistrate in this case?

Parliamentary Secretary : I repudiate this insinuation.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it a fact that the special Public Prosecutor has drawn more than a thousand rupees as his Travelling Allowance?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to say that the accused ever obstructed the proceedings in the court of law when the special Public Prosecutor was present?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is it not a fact that it was on account of the delay by the Government that so much money was spent?

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan : Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to say that the special Public Prosecutor was not engaged in this case only, but in other cases also?

Parliamentary Secretary : He might have been. In that case the honourable member would not be responsible for the entire expenditure.

MULTAN REGIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY.

*8259. **Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Narinjan Das recently represented to the Chairman, Provincial Transport Authority, Punjab, and Chairman, Regional Transport Authority, Multan, that

[Ch. Kartar Singh.]

a non-official member of Multan Regional Transport Authority, has interest in various lorries owned by his real brother, his uncle and other relatives ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate, Montgomery, made inquiries into the matter and found the allegations made by Narinjan Das to be correct, and further documentary records were produced before the Deputy Commissioner, Montgomery, in support of the above allegations ;

(c) if the answers to the above part be in the affirmative, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) The District Magistrate's enquiry disclosed that one vehicle had been registered in the name of a brother of the non-official member but it was shown that the latter had advanced money to the real owner and had had the vehicle registered in his name as security. The ownership of the vehicle has since been retransferred to the original owner.

A cousin of the non-official member was said to own one vehicle but the relationship was not fully established.

(c) In view of the wording of subsection (2) of section 44 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, no action was taken.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO SHAHDARA TOWN.

*8284. **Rai Bahadur Lala Soban Lal** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the distribution work of supplying electricity to Shahdara town was taken over by the Hydro-Electricity Department in November, 1940 ; if so, whether they have increased motive power rates in that area and, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) the net loss or profit of the work of this concern for one year ending 31st December, 1941 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) The Shahdara Electric Supply Undertaking was taken over by the Punjab Government and placed under the control of the Electricity Branch in November, 1940, and all classes of consumers are being charged at the standard tariffs of the Branch for energy supplied from the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Project. The standard rates of the Branch for industrial and bulk supply were revised with effect from 1st September, 1941. The revision resulted in a slight increase in the rate of charge from industrial and bulk supply consumers. The main reason that led to the revision of tariff was that the original rates were considered to be rather low even on the basis of pre-war prices of generating plant and materials.

(b) The accounts of the Electricity Branch are compiled annually for each financial year ending 31st March. The Shahdara Undertaking was taken over in November, 1940. Hence the accounts of the one year of working are not yet available.

VILLAGE GUIDE SCHEME.

***8266. Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of appointments that are intended to be made under the village guide scheme ;
- (b) if so, whether any representation has been proposed to be given to the members of the scheduled castes in the above-named scheme ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) The proposal is for 45 village guides but the number essential for the tahsils selected has not been finally decided.

(b) Yes. The usual communal proportions will be kept in view at the time of making the appointments.

EXECUTIONS AGAINST DEBTORS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

***8209. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of executions pending against debtors of the Co-operative Societies in the Ludhiana district ;
- (b) the number of cases in which execution proceedings were taken out against these debtors from October, 1941, to February, 1942 ;
- (c) the number of execution agents engaged by these Co-operative Societies in the Ludhiana district ;
- (d) the total amount of realizations obtained through these execution agents and also the total amount of commissions or remuneration paid to them in lieu of services rendered by them ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) 371.

(b) 179.

(c) 16.

(d) *First part.*—Rs. 6,867.

2nd part.—Rs. 412.

MARKET COMMITTEES.

***8267. Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of market committees set up throughout the Province ;

[L. Harnam Das.]

- (b) the number of such market committees where a representation has been given to the scheduled castes ; if no representation has been given to them on the market committees, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) 128.

(b) Government have decided not to observe the principle of communal representation in selecting members for market committees. Members are selected from the panels of names submitted by the non-official members of the District Board and the licencees in the market committees. Persons who are considered most suitable are selected from the names included in these panels. In these circumstances an enquiry into the exact number of persons of the scheduled castes who have been selected as members of market committees will not serve any useful purpose.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HEAD EXAMINERS FOR THE VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATIONS.

1525. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that out of the total number of 14 Head Examiners for the Vernacular Final Examination for the year 1942, 11 are Muhammadans and 3 are Hindus and there is not even one Sikh among them and that out of the total number of 26 Assistant Head Examiners for the same examination 23 are Muhammadans, 3 Hindus and again there is not even one Sikh among them ; if so, the reasons for this under-representation of the Sikhs and Hindus among these examiners ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Paper-setters are never appointed on a communal basis, nor it is considered advisable to maintain any fixed communal representation amongst paper-setters. Everything possible, however, is done to give due representation to all communities among the examiners taken as a whole.

HEAD CLERKS OF THE OFFICES OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

1526. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that among the total number of 30 Head Clerks of the offices of District Inspectors of schools in the Punjab there is only one Sikh and that the representation of Sikhs in the total number of five Head Clerks of the offices of Inspectors of schools is nil ; if so, the steps that he contemplates taking to give the Sikhs their due share in these services ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : There are 29 posts of head clerk, Offices of District Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab and it is true that only one of them is held by a Sikh. There is no Sikh among the head clerks of the Offices of Divisional Inspectors of Schools but the policy of the Government in the matter of communal representation in the services is well known and it is not intended to change it.

ROYALTY FROM GREY CANAL DEPARTMENT.

1527. Captain Sodhi Haroon Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of royalty received by Government from the Grey Canal Department uptil now and the amount Government has spent over this canal uptil now ;
- (b) the amount of royalty received by Government from the Derajat Circle, Shahpur and Muzaffargarh Canals ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that all the amount collected as *Khush Haisiati* is being taken by Government as royalty from the Grey Canal and that only a portion of the amount collected as *Khush Haisiati* from other similar canals is being taken by Government as royalty ;
- (d) if reply to part (c) be in affirmative, the reasons for this discrimination ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) The amount received by Government on account of *Khush Haisiati* on the area irrigated by the Grey Canals, from 1888-89 to 1939-40 is Rs. 30,86,334 (excluding figures for 1913-14 which are not available).

The amount spent by Government on these canals is Rs. 1,61,978.

(b) Separate figures are not available, but the whole proceeds of *Khush Haisiati* charged on areas irrigated by the Shahpur inundation canals are credited to Government, while in the Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan districts the system of assessment does not provide for a separate *Khush Haisiati* rate in addition to the fluctuating nahri rates.

(c) No, the whole of *Khush Haisiati* or Nahri revenue is taken by Government in each case.

(d) Does not arise.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OVERSEERS IN THE IRRIGATION BRANCH.

1528. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Overseers, communitywise, recruited in the last two years to the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, Punjab ;
- (b) the number of overseers, communitywise, promoted in the last two years, i.e., from April, 1940, to the Provincial Services, Irrigation Branch, Public Works Department, Punjab ;
- (c) if any community is under-represented in the above services, the steps Government intend to take to give it adequate representation ; if no steps are intended to be taken, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) The number of permanent Overseers recruited communitywise in the Irrigation Branch from April, 1940 to March, 1942, is as under :—

Community.	Number.	Actual percentage.	Sanctioned percentage.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Hindus	15	30	30
Muslims	25	50	50
Sikhs	10	20	20
Total	50	100.0	100.0

(b) The number of Overseers, communitywise, promoted from April, 1940 to P. S. E., Class II, Irrigation Branch, is as follows :—

Community.	No.
Sikhs	2
Hindu	1
Muslim	1

N.B.—The communal ratio applies to direct appointments and not to promotions.

(c) Direct recruitment is being made according to the communal ratios prescribed by Government so that any irregularities which may exist due to the recruitment made in past years will be gradually corrected.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES UNDER GREY CANAL DEPARTMENT.

1529. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : With reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 1411¹, asked on 25th March, 1941, will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- whether the matter of giving communal representation in the services of the Grey Canals, Ferozepore, has been decided by now ; if so, the relative percentages that have been fixed in this connection ; if nothing has been done in this respect so far, the reasons therefor ;
- whether the divisionwise and communitywise representation in services fixed by the Government for the Revenue Department is applicable to this Department, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Chandhri Sir Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready.

FIXING OF COMMUNAL REPRESENTATIONS IN SERVICES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

1530. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : With reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 1410¹ asked on 25th March, 1941, will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, has now allowed the members of the Local District Board to fix the communal representations in the district board services by a resolution ; if not, the reasons for delaying the matter in question ?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hyat Tiwana : A proposal regarding the fixation of communal representation in the services under the District Board, Ferozepore was made by the honourable member himself. It remained pending for sometime due to non-availability of up to date communitywise figures of population according to the census of 1941. But when the population figures became available, the honourable member withdrew his proposal. For this reason no final decision could be made by the Board in this behalf.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY LEADER OF OPPOSITION.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I owe it to the House to make an explanation because as representing this part of this honourable House it is due from me to tell the House as to what extent I had committed myself.

3 p. m.

Mr. Speaker : Is there any objection to the Chair permitting Lala Bhim Sen Sachar to give a personal explanation ?

Premier : I think he should be allowed to get it off his chest. I hope that you will give him that opportunity after we finish the business because under the Rules—

Mr. Speaker : May I refer the honourable member to page 812 of May's Parliamentary Practice ? There it is said :—

The indulgence of a personal explanation should be granted with caution ; for, unless discreetly used, it is apt to lead to irregular debates.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I will be precise in the use of my language.

Premier : After we have finished the business, we can indulge in this.

Mr. Speaker : But Rule 39 of our Rules of Procedure is perfectly clear.

Any member may, with the permission of the Speaker, make a personal explanation although there is no question before the Assembly.

Provided that such explanation, if permitted, shall be made at the earliest possible opportunity before the business for the day is entered upon, and shall be limited to the circumstances which are the subject of the explanation and no speech or debate thereon shall be allowed by the Speaker.

So he can offer the explanation at this stage, otherwise not.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I wish I had been spared the painful necessity of tendering to the House this personal explanation. The necessity has arisen out of the statement of the Honourable Premier made in the House yesterday that he had suggested to me to close discussion on the Budget on Monday the 16th instant. I submit respectfully that so far as I am concerned, I am perfectly clear in my mind that I was asked to agree to curtail discussion on General Administration only, and, as the Honourable Premier told the House yesterday, I pleaded my inability to agree to that suggestion. The Honourable Premier, however, has taken a different view of the talk that took place between him and me. The difference, as suggested to me by the Honourable Premier yesterday after the House had adjourned, must therefore be due to some unhappy misunderstanding on the part of my honourable friend the Leader of the House.

Premier : Sir, I accept that explanation. It must have been a misunderstanding as my friend says.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to discuss Demand No. 1.

Lala Bhim Sen Sachar : I am very sorry to have to say after the Honourable Premier has said that—

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow a debate.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS.

LAND REVENUE.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of land revenue.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1942, in respect of Land Revenue.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Urdu) : I want to oppose this Demand; there is no doubt about the fact that the reclamation work started by the Government will prove extremely useful if it is executed on the right lines. I had to make a few suggestions in this connection and I have already sent a letter to the Government on this subject. But in view of Honourable Premier's suggestion I do not want to say anything more.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Land Revenue.

The motion was carried.

PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

Minister for Finance : I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,350 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Provincial Excise.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,350 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Provincial Excise.

Munshi Hari Lal (South-Western Towns, General, Urban): In the ordinary course these demands are left unnoticed, but there is an apprehension in my mind arising out of the increased consumption of opium in this Province. The point should be seriously considered and studied. The opium revenues have increased during the time of the present Ministry. What are the consequences of this increased consumption? I need not say more except this that it is detrimental to public health and morality. It shows that this Ministry, which boasts of the interests of the public being at their heart, which preaches from house tops that it cares so much for the people, has not at all considered the matter and the dangers of the increase in the consumption of opium.

The income from opium in 1936-37 was Rs. 31,72,900, in 1937-38, the year in which the present Ministry came into office, it was Rs. 34,25,000 and then in 1938-39 the income was Rs. 35,75,000. I am quoting these figures from the report on the Excise Administration in the Punjab for the year 1939-40. The budget estimate of 1940-41 was Rs. 35,45,000 and the actual income that accrued from opium in 1940-41 was Rs. 36,91,324. The House will be surprised to know that the revised estimate for 1941-42 is Rs. 40,66,810, that is, the figure of 81 lakhs in 1936-37 has swelled to Rs. 40,66,810. These figures clearly indicate that the consumption of opium in the province has risen by leaps and bounds. Another test that I want to place before the House and before the Honourable Minister in charge of the department is that I read the figures from 1939-40 report—the consumption in the year under report as compared with the preceding 4 years is as follows :—

In 1935-36, consumption was 20,340 seers,

In 1936-37, consumption was 30,000 seers,

In 1937-38, consumption was 32,000 seers, and

In 1938-39, consumption was 33,000 seers.

I submit that these figures speak for themselves and they require neither comment nor argument. These figures undoubtedly show that there has been a marked increase in the consumption of opium in this province. What has the Ministry and the Unionist Government done to stop the increase in the consumption of opium? How do they account for this increase? The increase is surely due to the fact that people consume more opium than they used to do before the provincial autonomy or before the present Ministry accepted the office. The revised estimate of 1941-42 shows that the sum of Rs. 40,66,810 is the income which the Government thinks, will finally accrue. Considering that the actual figures have been exceeding the Budget Estimate in the past, the probability of the revised estimate of 40 lakhs falling short of actual figures cannot be ruled out. If we take into account the population of the Punjab, which is 2 crores 72 lakhs according to the recent census report, the figure of consumption comes to 2 annas and 4 pies per head. Is this not a matter for serious consideration in the Punjab where the ordinary income is three to four annas per head as an average Opium sale realization indicates that it comes to 2 annas and 4 pies per head. (*Minister of Finance : Per year*)

[M. Hari Lal.]

Yes, I say 2 annas and 4 pies per head per year. Is this not a very great proportion of the income that the worker in the Punjab spends on this intoxicant? It is just possible that the attention of the Government might not have been drawn to this state of affairs. I draw the pointed attention to it. The Congress and other public bodies such as temperance associations have been protesting so loudly against the consumption of opium and other intoxicant drugs and advocating prohibition. The Government claiming to be so solicitous for the people, must see to the evils that arise from the increased consumption of opium. I invite the attention of the Unionist Government and the Minister in charge of the department to the growing evil with the hope that they will take an effective step to stop the increase of consumption of opium. In opposing this demand my object is to place before the House as well as before the Government the seriousness of the question.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,350 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Provincial Excise.

The motion was carried.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

Minister for Finance : Sir I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,860 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of payments of Commuted Value of Pensions.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,390 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous.

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,390 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I would like to say a few words before the demand is passed. I am referring to Major head 57—Miscellaneous, page 6. Provision has been made for Rs. 2,530 to be given to Messrs. Ralli Brothers for having bought 4,00,000 gunny bags for the storage of wheat as a safeguard against the situation caused by the observance of hartal. I want to enquire whether it is not sheer waste. When government made this arrangement with the Ralli Brothers, did they want to pay them profit, if there was a rise in the price? Could not the government think of making arrangements elsewhere to avoid this wastage? Could not the concern at Lyallpur, which is standing as a monument of sheer waste, be possibly used? Therefore I think there should be a scheme in order to avoid the difficulty and I want to know whether the Ralli Brothers would have been prepared to pay if there was a profit.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,390 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Miscellaneous.

The motion was carried.

ADVANCES.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Advances not bearing interest—Advances repayable.

Mr. Speaker : The Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Advances not bearing interest—Advances repayable.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, again I would like to say something about this demand. This matter relates to the control of wheat and control of coarser grains now being adopted by the Government. I want to know the scheme under which you allow certain maundage for a family. Supposing I grow 10,000 maunds of wheat I cannot keep more than 20 maunds when I have tenants, munshi, mali, and in addition to a big family a horde of friends who come and go. I want to know what that scheme is. They should base the maundage on the number of persons living in a family. The control over coarser grain creates another difficulty. I request the Government to plan out a scheme so that the zamindars are allowed to keep enough for the whole year.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Advances not bearing interest—Advances repayable.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION—WORKING EXPENSES.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

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, 1942, in respect of Irrigation—Working Expenses.

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (EXCLUDING EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN).

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

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, 1942, in respect of Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

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, 1942, in respect of Medical.

Mr. Speaker : The demand moved is—

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, 1942, in respect of Medical.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta (South-Eastern Towns, General, Urban). (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to oppose the demand in respect of the grant to the Punjab Medical School for Women, Ludhiana, for the construction of a museum of Hygiene and purchase of instruments. So far as this institution is concerned I have absolutely no grudge against a special grant being made to it by the Government. Personally I believe that such institutions should be aided to the maximum limit possible. But I do want to take this opportunity to point out to the Honourable Minister, who himself hails from Ludhiana, that in Ludhiana itself there is another institution doing far more useful work and the fact that the Minister of Education who hails from Ludhiana has not even mentioned it shows that either he is hopelessly ignorant or he is deliberately giving it a step motherly treatment. When we give grants-in-aid to such privately established institutions, why should Government make a distinction between one institution and another? The Dayanand Medical Hospital which was started by the efforts of private individuals in the same city four years ago is rendering much greater service than the institution under reference. Its whole burden falls on the public and so far the Government has done nothing by way of assistance.

Minister for Finance : The honourable member must direct his observations to the sum of Rs. 15,000 in the demand and not raise the questions of possible aid to other institutions.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : This grant may prejudice the claims of another more useful institution and that is why I am making these observations. The Government should not have a soft corner in its heart for a particular institution because a European happens to be its principal, what justification have the Government got for not aiding the Dayanand Medical School and Hospital in spite of the fact that repeated representations have been made to them?

Minister for Finance : On a point of order. The sole question before the House is whether the sum of Rs. 15,000 covered by the demand for a particular purpose specified should be given or not. The specific purpose is the construction of a museum of Hygiene and purchase of instruments for the Punjab Medical School for Women, Ludhiana. No other question can possibly be relevant in this connection.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : It seems my friend has got strange notions of relevancy.

Minister for Finance : Yes, I have.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : I would like to know whether it is not open to a member to suggest that this demand should not be granted on the ground that this money can be utilised in a better way? That is what I am doing. The Punjab Medical School is already receiving an annual grant to the tune of Rs. 80,000, but other institutions doing better work are receiving a step-motherly treatment at the hands of the Government what to speak of providing money for museums or instruments for them,

no grant is given to them even for providing more essential services. If the Honourable Minister is prepared to give an assurance in this behalf to-day, I shall gladly withdraw my opposition to this demand. But so long as this Government persists in maintaining such invidious distinction as has been exhibited by providing this sum over and above the normal grant of Rs. 80,000 to the Punjab Medical School and not granting anything to the Dayanand Medical Hospital we are forced to raise our voice of protest. If the Government which claims to be a popular Government is in reality no whit better than the old bureaucratic regime and want to favour one particular institution as against another for extraneous reasons, it is a different matter. On the other hand if they have any justification for calling themselves a popular Government, the Honourable Minister would be well advised to hold an inquiry in this matter and to provide a suitable grant to other institutions if he finds them to be deserving of help. With these words I oppose the Demand now before the House.

Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I want to oppose this demand on the ground that this institution, which is alleged to be doing useful work, is not doing any useful work for the rural areas. Exorbitant fees are made by this institution for which a demand is made as against other institutions which treat the patients of the rural areas freely and provide them with every facility that is possible. I think that the time has now come when Government should consider that the grant should be made after seeing the results achieved during the last year by this institution. I find that there is a recurring permanent grant of 90,360 rupees that is given to this institution and I fail to understand why the Honourable Minister is so anxious to give another Rs. 15,000 as grant-in-aid. I am sure that if this grant were to be made to some other institution like the Dayanand Hospital much better results will be achieved and medical facilities will be provided to the people of the rural areas which my friend the Minister for Development represents in this House. I am sorry he is not here at the moment. I feel that he goes to Ludhiana with his eyes shut. I know this institution, the Dayanand Hospital, is situated only about half a karam from his house and I know and everybody knows the great service this institution is doing towards the poor people. The doctors and other medical men there are very efficient and far more able than those of other institutions at Ludhiana. I am perfectly justified in saying that this grant which is given to Dr. Brown's institution which has existed there for more than 50 years merely for propagating Christianity, should be given to the Dayanand Hospital. I know of several cases which were refused to be treated by the staff of Dr. Brown's institution but were treated successfully by the staff of the Dayanand Medical School. I submit that the Government should not give a step-motherly treatment to this institution simply because it is run by the Arya Samaj. The Government should take note of the facilities which this school provides to the poor people who cannot pay the exorbitant fees to the staff of Dr. Brown's school. Two ministers come from that very town and it is really very difficult to understand why they do not know the real state of affairs in this institution, or it may be that they do not care to know. I, therefore, without any prejudice on my part, urge that the Government should reject this grant to Dr. Brown's institution.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab Indian Christian): It is with regret that I have to rise to oppose what has been said by my honourable friends sitting on that side of the House. My honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan, in the course of his speech opposed the grant to Miss Brown's Hospital on communal grounds. It is highly improper for the honourable member to say that no grant-in-aid should be given to the hospital in question, because it belongs to a Christian mission. But can it not be said that the hospital he is referring to, in connection with grant-in-aid, is an hospital belonging to Arya Samajists? Is it worthwhile saying that on communal grounds no grant should be given to that hospital also? Then my honourable friend pointed out that the Government did not care to examine the progress reports of the two hospitals in question. While making this statement my honourable friend also said that the hospital attached to the Ludhiana Medical School for Women has been in existence for the last 50 years. The very fact that it has been in existence for half a century is a clear proof of its efficiency and the good work it has been doing for the benefit of the public. May I know whether any objection to giving a grant to the said hospital has ever been raised before the Unionist Ministry came into power, or to put it in a nutshell, how is it that he has been ignorant of the facts regarding this hospital for fifty years and how is it that he has come to know of them just to-day?

I would like to point out that Miss Brown's Hospital is well known for its efficient working and the good it has done and is doing to the public. Its name and fame is on the lips of everybody throughout the length and breadth of the Punjab. Is it not improper to raise objections against this useful institution on communal grounds? I fully support the demand that Ludhiana Medical School for Women, should be given the grant-in-aid asked for.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, we would like to hear what the Honourable Minister for Education has to say in connection with this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

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, 1942, in respect of Medical.

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS.

Minister for Finance: I move—

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, 1942, in respect of Civil Works.

The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): I move—

That the Assembly do now adjourn *sine die*.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly accordingly adjourned sine die.

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