

**THE
Punjab Legislative Assembly
Debates**

From 13th March to 29th April, 1941.

Vol. XVII

OFFICIAL REPORT



Lahore :

Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab..

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 Dasaundha Singh, B.A., LL.B. (up to 7th April, 1941) (Jagraon,
Sikh, Rural).

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh (from 22nd April, 1941 afternoon)
(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.

PREMIER.

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

MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, Kt., C.I.E., D.O.L., Minister of Revenue (Batala, Sikh, Rural). (*Passed away on 2nd April, 1941.*)

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, Kt., B.A., LL.B., Minister of Development up to 7th April, 1941, and Minister of Revenue from 8th April, 1941. (Jhajjar, General, Rural).

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 from 8th April, 1941. (Jagraon, Sikh, Rural).

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

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

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, M.A., Home (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban).

Mrs. Jahan Ara Shah Nawaz, M.B.E., Education, Medical Relief and Public Health (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban).

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

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

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

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad, B.A., LL.B., M.B.E., Local Government and Public Works (Dera Ghazi Khan Central, Muhammadan, Rural).

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah, O.B.E. (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural).

Bhagat Hans Raj, B.A., LL.B. (Amritsar and Sialkot, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab, Land-holders).

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

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

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

Sardar Gopal Singh (American) (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).

MEMBERS.

- Abdul Aziz, Mian (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban).
 Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi (Ambala and Simla, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Abdul Rab, Mian, B.A., LL.B. (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Shakargarh, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri (North-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Ajit Singh, Sardar (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).
 Akbar Ali, Pir, M.B.E. (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik, M.B.E. (Shahpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Karnal South, General, Rural).
 Ashiq Hussain, Major, M.B.E., (Multan, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Khan Sahib Sayed (Batala, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Baldev Singh, Sardar (Ambala North, Sikh, Rural).
 Balwant Singh, Sardar (Sialkot, Sikh, Rural).
 Barkat Ali, Malik, M.A., LL.B. (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
 Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala (Jullundur, General, Rural).
 Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit (Kangra West, General Rural).
 Bhagwant Singh, Rai (Kangra East General, Rural).
 Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala, B.A., LL.B., (North-Western Towns, General, Urban).
 Chaman Lall, Diwan, B.A. (Oxon) (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour).
 Chanan Singh, Sardar (Kasur, Sikh, Rural).
 Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala (South-Eastern Towns, General, Urban).
 Dev Raj Sethi, Mr. (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural).
 Dina Nath, Captain (Kangra South, General, Rural).
 Duni Chand, Lala (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural).
 Duni Chand, Mrs. (Lahore City, Women, General).
 Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai (Kangra and Eastern Hoshiarpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Faqir Chand, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri (Tarn Taran, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Fatehjang Singh, 2nd Lieut. Bhai (South-East, Sikh, Rural).
 Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian (Gujrat North, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Fateh Sher Khan, Malik (Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural).

- Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri, O.B.E. (Gujrat East, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Ajnala, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian (Muzaffargarh Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Few, Mr. E. (Anglo-Indian).
- Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi (Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur (Mianwali North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri (Sialkot Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Khawaja (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Girdhari Das, Mahant (South-East Multan Division, General, Rural).
- Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir M.A., Ph.D. (West Lahore Division, General Rural).
- Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala (Kangra North, General, Rural).
- Guest, Mr. P. H. (Punjab Commerce and Industry).
- Habib Ullah Khan, Malik (Sargodha, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Haibat Khan Daba, Khan (Khanewal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai (Una, General, Rural).
- Hari Lal, Munshi (South-Western Towns, General, Urban).
- Hari Singh, Sardar (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural).
- Harjab Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur South, Sikh, Rural).
- Harnam Das, Lala (Lyallpur and Jhang, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural).
- Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri (Hissar South, General, Rural).
- Indar Singh, Sardar (Gurdaspur North, Sikh, Rural).
- Jafar Ali Khan, M. (Okara, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural).
- Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri, B.A. (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian).
- Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar (Gujranwala and Shahdara, Sikh, Rural).
- Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri (Ambala and Simla, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Kabul Singh, Master (Jullundur East, Sikh, Rural).
- Kapoor Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural).
- Karamat Ali, Shaikh, B.A., LL.B. (Nankana Sahib, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Kartar Singh, Chaudhri (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural).
- Kartar Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur, East, Sikh, Rural).
- Khalid Latif Gauba, Mr. (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban).

- Kishan Dass, Seth (Jullundur, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Kishan Singh, Sardar (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural).
- Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri (North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban).
- Lal Singh, Sardar, M.Sc., LL.B. (Ludhiana, Central, Sikh, Rural).
- Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi, B.A., LL.B. (North-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah, Syed (Attock South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mubarik Ali Shah, Syed (Jhang Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja (Jhelum, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh, B.A. (Hons.) (Oxon.), LL.D. (Dublin), (Rawalpindi Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh (Multan Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri (South-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar (Dera Ghazi Khan North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar, C.I.F. (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hassan, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed (Alipur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Sir, Malik (North Punjab, Landholders).
- Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Gujranwala East, Muhammadan, rural).
- Muhammad Husain, Sardar (Chunian, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian, B.A. (Oxon.) (Kasur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Jamal Khan, Leghari, Khan Bahadur, Nawab Sir (Tumandars).
- Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar, Sir (Attock Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Nurullah, Mian, B. Com. (London) (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri (Bhalwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Shujabad, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan (Samundri, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri (Sialkot North, Muhammadan, Rural).

- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja (Chakwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Rohtak, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Lodhran, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (North-West Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan, B.A., LL.B. (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mukand Lal, Puri, Rai Bahadur (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural).
- Mula Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur West, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural).
- Muzaffar Ali Khan, Qizilbash, Sardar (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain, Malik M.B.E. (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab, C.I.E. (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri (Gujranwala North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir (Toba Tek Singh, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasrullah Khan, Rana (Hoshiarpur West, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Naunihal Singh Mann, Lientenant Sardar, M.B.E. (Sheikhupura West, Sikh, Rural).
- Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed, (Jhang East, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian (Dipalpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Partab Singh, Sardar (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural).
- Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Pohop Singh, Rao, M.A., LL.B. (East Punjab, Land-holders).
- Prem Singh, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Prem Singh, Mahant (Gujrat and Shahpur, Sikh, Rural).
- Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ferozepore West, Sikh, rural).
- Raghbir Kaur, Shrimati (Amritsar, Sikh, Women).
- Ram Sarup, Chaudhri (Rohtak Central, General, Rural).
- Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General, Rural).
- Rashida Latif Baji, Begum (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban).
- Riasat Ali , Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Roshan Din, Chaudhri (Shahdara, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Rur Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore East, Sikh, Rural).
- Sadiq Hassan, Sheikh (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban).

- Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Hissar, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri (Hissar North, General, Rural).
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural).
 Santokh Singh, Sardar (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban).
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr. (Amritsar City, General, Urban).
 Satya Pal, Dr. (Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural).
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai (Jaranwala, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir (Ferozepore Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Shano 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 Sahib Lala (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour).
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural).
 Sudarshan, Seth (Eastern Towns, General, Urban).
 Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian, B.A. (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural).
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural).
 Suraj Mal, 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).
 Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar (North-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).
 Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar (Kabirwala, Muhammadan, Rural).

ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY..

PAGES..

Thursday, 13th March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	..	--	--	1
Unstarred questions and answers	..	--	--	10
Leave of absence of certain M. L. A.'s	..	--	--	13
Adjournment	..	..	..	13
Demands for Grants—				
Industries	..	..	..	13

Monday, 17th March, 1941.

References to late Nawab Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon	..			65
---	----	--	--	----

Thursday, 20th March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	..	--	--	69
Leave of absence of M. L. A.'s	..	..	--	86
Demands for Grants—				
Industries (concluded).	..	..	--	87

Friday, 21st March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	..	--	--	133
Leave of absence of M. L. A.'s	..	..	--	135
Supplementary Estimates, 1940-41 (Presentation.)	--		--	135
Demands for Grants—				
Medical	..	..	--	135

Monday, 24th March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	177
Demands for Grants—				
Medical—(concluded.)	..	--	..	185

Tuesday, 25th March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	..	..	..	233
Unstarred questions and answers	..	..	..	236
Absence without leave of certain M. L. A.'s	..	..	..	250
Demands for Grants—				
Electricity Schemes, working expenses	..	..	..	250

Thursday, 27th March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	299
Short Notice question and answers	304
Unstarred questions and answers	307
Leave of absence of certain M. L. As.	309
Supplementary Estimates and demands for grants	310
Suppression of Indecent Advertisement Bill	310

Friday, 28th March, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	313
Capture of Keren and Harrar	314
Appropriation and Finance Accounts and Report of Auditor-General	315
Supplementary Statement of expenditure authenticated by Governor	316
Demands for Grants—	
Electricity Schemes, Working Expenses (<i>concluded</i>)	316
Stamps	343
Forests	343
Registration	343
Motor Vehicles Taxation, etc.	343
Irrigation (Works)	343
Irrigation (Establishment)	344
Irrigation (Capital)	344
Administration of Justice	344
Police	344
Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	344
Education (European and Anglo-Indian)	345
Education	345
Public Health	345
Agriculture	345
Veterinary	345
Co-operation	345
Civil Works	345
Buildings and Roads (Establishment charges)	345
Electricity Schemes (Revenue Expenditure)	345
Civil Works (Capital)	345
Electricity Schemes (Capital Expenditure)	345

	PAGES.
Famine	345
Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	345
Commuted value of pensions (Capital Expenditure) ..	345
Stationary and Printing	345
Miscellaneous	345
Advances repayable	345
Loans and advances bearing interest ..	345
Provincial Excise	345
Jails and Convict settlements	345
Land revenue	346
<i>Monday, 31st March, 1941.</i>	
Starred questions and answers	347
Unstarred questions and answers	354
Leave of absence of Hon'ble Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	359
Schedule of expenditure authenticated by Governor ..	359
Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill	361
Urban Rent Restriction Bill	363
<i>Tuesday, 1st April, 1941.</i>	
Starred questions and answers	365
Adjournment	367
Urban Rent Restriction Bill	367
Weights and Measures Bill	402
<i>Monday, 21st April, 1941.</i>	
Oath of office	403
Reference to late Hon'ble Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	403
<i>Tuesday, 22nd April, 1941.</i>	
Oath of office	411
Starred questions and answers	411
Unstarred questions and answers	441
Adjournment motion (<i>Leave to move</i>)—	
Motor Vehicles stand at Rawalpindi	446
Government business on Thursday, 24th April, 1941 ..	446
Election of Deputy Speaker	447
Weights and Measures Bill	448
Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill	470

Thursday, 24th April, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	489
Leave of absence of Lt.-Col. Sir Muhammad Nawaz Khan	500
Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill	501
Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill	501
Electricity (Amendment) Bill	528

Friday, 25th April, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	551
Unstarred questions and answers	557
Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill	559

Monday, 28th April, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	611
Short Notice questions and answers	614
Adjournment	617
Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill	617

Tuesday, 29th April, 1941.

Starred questions and answers	665
Unstarred questions and answers	667
Adjournment	668
Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendments) Bill	668
Index	

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 13th March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RAID BY POLICE ON THE OFFICE OF PUNJAB PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE AT BRADLAUGH HALL, LAHORE.

***7618. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Police raided the office of Punjab Provincial Congress Committee at Bradlaugh Hall, recently ;
- (b) if the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, the date on which the raid was made and the period for which it lasted and reasons for the same ;
- (c) the list of articles removed, and whether Government intends to return the articles taken possession of by the police to the persons concerned ; if not, why not ?

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

(b) *First part.*—10-2-1941.

Second part.—Three hours.

Third part.—The search was conducted in connection with the investigation of case F. I. R. No. 21 of 1941 under rule 89 of the Defence of India Rules, Police Station Khanewal, district Multan.

(c) Three correspondence registers, a file containing circulars and two cyclostyle duplicators were taken into possession.

All the articles recovered have been produced before the court and their return depends on the orders passed by the trying magistrate.

CONDITION OF HEALTH OF THE FIVE M. L. A.s IMPRISONED IN DEOLI CAMP.

***7619. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the following about the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly now detained in Deoli Camp—

- (a) their weight at the time of arrest and at present ;

[S. Ajit Singh.]

- (b) diet given to them ;
- (c) games, if any, they are permitted to play ;
- (d) the list of newspapers and journals supplied to them ;
- (e) general state of their health ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : This question relates to the administration of the Detention Camp at Deoli, the rules governing which have been framed by the Government of India. I must, therefore, refer the questions to the Government of India before answering them. I must make it clear that before any Punjab security prisoners were sent to this Camp, the Punjab Government satisfied themselves that the rules governing their detention were entirely satisfactory, and I have no reason to believe that there are any just grounds for complaint.

HANDCUFFING OF DR. SANT RAM SETH, M. L. A.

***7620. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Sant Ram Seth, M. L. A., was produced handcuffed before the trying magistrate in connection with the present Congress Satyagraha movement ;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : He was taken to the court compound in a car without handcuffs, but as a number of excited persons gathered there he was handcuffed on one hand in order to ensure safe custody. That handcuff too was also removed in court. From court he was removed in a car to the local sub-jail without handcuffs.

GIANI GIRJA SINGH.

***7628. Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Giani Girja Singh, President, District Congress Committee, Sialkot, while recently being removed from Sialkot Jail to Ferozepore Jail, was handcuffed ;
- (b) whether bars were also put on his legs ;
- (c) if answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative the reasons therefor and the circumstances which warranted such precautions ?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Such precautions were taken in conformity with paragraphs 756 and 757 (1) of the Punjab Jail Manual.

I have already informed the House that certain alterations in the rules have been made.

SECURITY PRISONERS IN DEOLI CAMP.

***7629. Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of security prisoners from the Punjab detained at Deoli Camp and placed in classes I and II, respectively ;
- (b) whether the Government regularly receives reports about the health and other conditions of these security prisoners ; if so, whether he will be pleased to place copies of these reports on the table of the House ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these prisoners are kept in congested barracks with insufficient accommodation for each prisoner ; if so, why ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that some of the prisoners are suffering from diseases of a serious nature including tuberculosis, obstruction of the intestines, colic, enlarged spleen and chronic malaria ; if so, the action taken in the matter ;
- (e) whether there are adequate arrangements for medical aid including surgical operations ; if so, what are the arrangements ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that some kind of warm clothing has not been supplied to all the security prisoners ; if so, will he be pleased to lay on the table the list of such prisoners without warm clothes and the reasons for not supplying them warm clothing ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that class II prisoners are not given any shoes or foot-wear, socks ; if so, why ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that the camp has no library for the inmates of the Camp Jail ; if so, whether Government proposes to supply one ;
- (i) whether it is a fact that no glass tumbler is given for drinking purposes to these prisoners and that the utensils supplied to them are insufficient ; if so, why ;
- (j) whether any daily papers, magazines or other periodicals are supplied to the prisoners at Government cost ; if so, will he be pleased to place the list of such journals on the table of the House as also the list of such journals which the prisoners have been permitted to purchase at their own cost ;
- (k) whether any furniture is supplied to the I and II class prisoners ; if so, will he be pleased to lay the list thereof on the table of the House ;
- (l) whether it is a fact that there is a general complaint of endemic malaria in the camp, if so, will he be pleased to state whether any special steps have been taken to combat the disease ;
- (m) whether the Government has fixed any maximum amount up to which prisoners of both classes can supplement their diet and other requirements ; if so, what is it ;

[S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

- (n) whether it is a fact that recently money was received by the camp authorities from Mr. Shergul's mother for her son but the same was returned ; if so, the reason for the same ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 7619¹.

GRIEVANCES OF SECURITY PRISONERS IN DEOLI CAMP.

***7631. Dr. Satya Pal :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that the Punjab security prisoners in Deoli Camp are being virtually treated as 'C' class prisoners ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the accommodation allowed to each prisoner in that camp is very insufficient and that no furniture is allowed to these prisoners even at their own cost ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the place is very malarious and almost all the prisoners have at one time or other suffered from malaria ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that medical arrangements in that camp are very defective and insufficient and serious cases are not properly attended to ; if so, why ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that Baba Wasakha Singh detained in that camp is suffering from T. B., and whether Mr. Kulbir Singh has lost much in weight ; if so, the action taken in the matter ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that mosquito nets are not provided nor allowed to the prisoners even at their own cost ; if so, why ;
- (g) whether it is a fact that very irksome restrictions are imposed on books and periodicals and the newspapers that are supplied to these prisoners are badly mutilated ; if so, why ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that *Atta* and *Ghee* are very dear there and hence the allowance fixed is quite insufficient ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ;
- (i) whether it is a fact that 'B' class prisoners in that camp are made to wear clothes prescribed for 'C' class prisoners in the Punjab ; if so, why ;
- (j) whether it is a fact that very harsh treatment is meted out to the interviewers and that they are searched and that there is no place for them to stay in ;
- (k) whether it is a fact that there are stringent restrictions on supplementing of diet by these prisoners ; if so, why ;
- (l) whether he is aware that the prisoners have recently applied for an increase in their monthly allowance ; if so, how have these applications been dealt with ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 7619.¹

CHAUKIDARS.

***7630. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the number of chaukidars in the province and the rate at which they are paid their wages each month?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): The Punjab system of village watchmen (chaukidars) is fully explained in various Gazette notifications originating with Punjab Government notification No. 2778, dated 15th August, 1876. Normally every village has at least one chaukidar. Their wages vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 8 a month.

REMOVAL OF MEMBER REPRESENTING CREDITORS ON THE DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD, KARNAL.

***7613. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan:** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 7493² asked on 11th February, 1941, will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the reasons for the removal of the member of the Debt Conciliation Board, Karnal, who represented the interests of the creditors on the said Board?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): The removal of the member in question was in compliance with the rules for appointment of chairmen and members of Debt Conciliation Boards which require that a member of a Board should ordinarily not be a person engaged in money-lending.

REMISSION OF DEBTS ADVANCED UNDER THE STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT.

***7614. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) how many applications for the remission of debts lent as advances under the State Aid to Industries Act were received from 1st April, 1937, to 31st December, 1940;
- (b) in how many of these cases the debts were remitted and written off with the names of the debtors and their places of residence and the circumstances leading to such remission and the reasons for the rejection of other applications?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a) Only one application was received during the period for the remission of advances made under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935.

(b) The application was rejected because it was not considered a fit case for writing off.

¹Pages 1-2 ante.

²Volume XV, page 618.

PROMOTIONS TO HIGHER RANKS IN AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY DEPARTMENTS.

*7615. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state when the reply to starred question No. 7523¹ is expected to be ready ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tika Ram): The answer to starred question 7523¹ is laid on the table.

List showing the number of persons promoted to higher ranks in the calendar years 1939-40 in all grades of services in the Co-operative Department, Forest Department, Veterinary Department and Agricultural Department (including the Fisheries Section) with the number of persons superseded by them.

Serial No.	Service or grade.	1939.		1940.	
		Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.	Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

1	P. S. C. S., Class I	Termed as P. C. S. in 1939.	I	Nil	3	One superseded one person only.
2	P. S. C. S., Class II		Nil	Does not arise.	5	One superseded 4, three superseded 6, and one superseded 5.
3	Punjab Co-operative Subordinate Service—Executive—					
	(a) Punjab Co-operative Union paid Sub-Inspector to Inspectorship.		2	..	9	..

NOTE.—Promotion to Inspectorship (general line) is made by selection from among the Sub-Inspectors, who are employees of the Punjab Co-operative Union. As the selection is made on a provincial basis while Punjab Co-operative Union maintains seniority list district-wise the number of Sub-Inspectors superseded cannot be given.

(b) Sub-Inspectors Consolidation of Holdings to Inspector. Consolidation of Holdings.	8	From 1 to 52.	11	From 13 to 45.
---	---	---------------	----	----------------

¹ Vol. XV, page 840.

Serial No.	Service or grade.	1939.		1940.	
		Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.	Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT—*concd.*

3— <i>concd.</i>	(c) Industrial Staff—				
	(i) Assistant Salesman to Industrial Sub-Inspector, Kila Gift Fund.	1	4	Nil	Nil
	(ii) Fund Paid Supervisor to Sub-Inspectorship.	1	Nil	3	Two superseded none. One superseded 3.
	(iii) Government paid Supervisor to Sub-Inspectorship.	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
	(iv) Canvasser to Industrial Sub-Inspectorship.	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
4	Punjab Co-operative Subordinate Service—Clerical—				
	(a) Senior Clerk to Assistant..	1	Nil	1	2
	(b) Stenographers ..	1	145	1	34

NOTE.—The post requires a special knowledge of shorthand and typewriting.

	(c) Junior Clerks to Senior Clerks.	1	Nil	2	One superseded 55. One superseded none.
	(d) Junior Clerks—				
	(i) From Rs. 25—60 to Rs. 35—75 grade.	4	Nil	10	Nil
	(ii) From Rs. 25 to Rs. 25—60 grade.	2	Nil	7	Nil
5	Rural Reconstruction Branch ..	Nil	Nil	3	Nil

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

1	From Foresters to Deputy Rangers.	5	77	10	2
2	From Deputy Rangers to Forest Rangers.	1	....	9	22

Serial No.	Service or grade.	1939.		1940.	
		Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.	Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.

FOREST DEPARTMENT—*conold.*

3	From Forest Rangers to Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests.	..	..	10	5
4	From Clerks to Superintendents..	..	..	1	—

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

1	P. V. S. (Class I) ..	2	6	1	—
2	P. V. S. (Class II) ..	2	..	3	9
3	Subordinate Veterinary Service—				
	(a) Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.	7	..	7	—
	(b) Farm Overseers ..	..	..	1	26
	(c) Veterinary Assistants, Upper Selection grade.	2	..	..	..
	(d) Veterinary Assistants, Lower Selection Grade.	6	43	5	19
	(e) Veterinary Assistants, 1st Grade.	6	3	9	78
	(f) Veterinary Assistants, 2nd Grade.	6	5	12	1
	(g) Assistant Demonstrators ..	3	58	1	18
4	Clerical Establishment ..	3	1	10	4

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING FISHERIES SECTION).

1	P. A. S. (Class I) ..	1	7	1	..
2	P. A. S. (Class II) ..	2	4	2	17
3	Other Gazetted Officers on Rs. 200—15—275/15—470/15—500/20—600.	..	..	1	..
4	Agricultural Assistants "A" Class on Rs. 80—7—150/7—185—8—225.	8	4	4	7

Serial No.	Service or grade.	1939.		1940.	
		Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.	Number of persons promoted to the grade.	Number of persons superseded, if any.
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING FISHERIES SECTION)— <i>contd.</i>					
5	Superintendent on Rs. 350—20—450.	..	..	1	..
6	Head Assistant on Rs. 250—10—350.	..	..	1	2
7	Superintendent on Rs. 150—10—250.	1	..	..	..
8	Head Clerk on Rs. 100—6—160/8—200.	1	1	..	..
9	Assistant on Rs. 100—8—180/10—250.	..	..	1	..
10	Senior Clerk on Rs. 75—5—100/5—150.	..	..	5	1
11	Senior Clerk on Rs. 75—5—100/5—125.	2	4	1	1
12	Senior Clerk on Rs. 50—5—100/5—125.	1	1	..	..

SALISI DECREES.

***7616. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 6991¹ will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state the number of *salisi* decrees passed between the banks, co-operative societies and members of the public?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : I regret that the time and trouble involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

NON-OFFICIAL VISITORS.

***7617. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- whether the lists of non-official visitors of jails are revised periodically; if so, the period after which such lists are revised;
- the authority which recommends the appointment of such visitors;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

(c) the authority which finally sanctions their appointment?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Non-official visitors are appointed for a period of two years, but may be re-appointed on the expiry of this term.

(b) Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners.

(c) The Provincial Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MUNSHI CANDIDATES FOR ZILLADARSHIP.

1398. Malik Barkat Ali : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue kindly place on the table of the House a statement showing the number and the names of the munshi candidates for zilladarship sent up during the last year by each Superintending Engineer of the Irrigation Department for the circle in his charge and also state whether there is any proportion fixed, community-wise, according to which the Superintending Engineers send up their recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (i) Recommendations from Superintending Engineers for the selection of candidate zilladars were not called for in the year 1940, as there were no vacancies;

(ii) No; communal proportions are only fixed for the total actual appointments, not for recommendations.

INQUIRY INTO PUNEHANA DISTURBANCES.

1399. Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the reasons why the officer appointed in the first instance to conduct inquiry into Punehana disturbances which occurred on the 8th February, 1941, has been replaced?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : No officer was appointed to make inquiries into the Punehana disturbances. An officer was, however, appointed to make preliminary inquiries into allegations against certain officials. This officer has not been replaced, but a Christian Magistrate has been sent to try the case.

STUDENTS ON ROLL OF THE PUNJAB VETERINARY COLLEGE, LAHORE.

1400. Chaudhri Faqir Chand : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of students on the roll of the Punjab Veterinary College, Lahore, at present;

(b) the number of scheduled caste students among them and the fee or other concessions that they are enjoying?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) 271.

(b) None. The question of fee or other concessions does not arise.

IRRIGATION OF LANDS AT THE TAIL OF CHARI MINOR, WESTERN
JUMNA CANAL.

1401. Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the area irrigated at the tail of "Chari" Minor, Kanhor Shakh, Western Jumna Canal, Rohtak Division, during the last ten years ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the area irrigated at the said tail of Chari Minor during the period mentioned and particularly during the last five years has been much less than the area which this minor was designed to irrigate at the tail ;
- (c) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps is Government going to take in order to satisfy the zamindars affected by this shortage in the supply of the water for irrigation purposes ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Statement attached.

(b) Yes. The average irrigation for the last 10 years at Chari Minor Tail has been 368 acres against 582 acres authorized. But the average for the last 5 years has been 486 acres irrigation against 582 acres authorized. In last year 1939-40 the irrigation at tail was 482 acres against 582 acres authorized.

(c) The deficiency is mainly due to too many unauthorized cuts in the minor and tampering with outlets.

These irregularities are being dealt with vigorously under the law. The detailed statement by years will show, that there has been a marked improvement during last 5 years.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF CERTAIN M.L.A.s

Mr. Speaker : I have to read out to the Assembly the following applications received from three members of the Assembly, for permission to be absent from the Assembly.

- (1) **SARDAR KISHAN SINGH WRITES.**—I shall feel highly obliged if you kindly grant me leave and excuse my absence from the further sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.
- (2) **DR. SATYA PAL WRITES.**—I shall feel highly obliged if you will please grant me leave and excuse my absence from the further sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.
- (3) **SARDAR CHANAN SINGH WRITES.**—Kindly allow me to remain on leave from the Assembly for a year and oblige.

The question is—

That the permission asked for by the honourable members be granted.

The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

Minister for Development : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned till Monday, the 17th March, 1941.

The motion was carried.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

INDUSTRIES.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,23,600 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.

Mr. Speaker : The Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,23,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charge that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1942, in respect of Industries.

Demonstration parties.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 26,040 on account of pay of 24 Demonstrators be reduced by Rs. 1.

I have moved this out motion in order to discuss the working of the demonstration parties. It is an undeniable fact that the present Government has done something to give fresh impetus to the industries of the Punjab, and the Unionist party deserves some credit for having taken right step in the right direction. There is further no doubt about the *bona fides* of the Honourable Minister of Development who has been succeeding every year to increase the sum provided for industries. For instance, the sum provided for this purpose was Rs. 21,23,900 last year. But this year another lakh has been added to it, and this increase has been made in spite of the fact that the province had been faced with famine and war. Notwithstanding manifold handicaps and difficulties, the Department of Industries has been getting an additional sum every year. I do not want to go into the details of this matter at present, but when the House will take up item No. 6 for discussion then I will explain to the House the efforts made by the

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

Government in the direction of industrialization. A useful step which the Government took to promote industries in this province is the appointment of demonstration parties which go about in the province demonstrating to the people how certain articles are prepared. I do not know anything about them all and I am not in a position to say whether they are discharging their duties efficiently or not, but I have some experience of one demonstration party which is functioning at Kaithal. I was disappointed to see the manner in which that party was doing its work. In the month of July last I went to Kaithal. One day I went out of the town for a walk. On a road I came across a sign board on which was written Ammonium Chloride Factory. A friend of mine was accompanying me. I enquired from him about that factory. But he did not know anything about it except that that factory prepared ammonium chloride. I went into that factory and introduced myself to a gentleman there who was the demonstrator. He explained to me that in that factory ammonium chloride was prepared out of saltpetre. He explained to me the process of preparing ammonium chloride. I was very pleased to learn all that. I thought that I should enter some remarks about my visit to that factory in the log book. With that purpose in view I made some more enquiries about the work done in that factory. The demonstrator could not give satisfactory answers to my enquiries. While we were engaged in our talk a third person came. His name was Dev Raj. He was the proprietor of that factory. He started answering my questions in a way which I did not like. I told him that I was not addressing any questions to him and that I expected the demonstrator to reply to my questions. But the demonstrator could not give any satisfactory reply to my questions. I enquired from him since when he was there. He told me that he was there for the last two months. I asked him as to the number of persons whom he had trained in the art of preparing ammonium chloride in those two months. He said that he had trained about 21 to 24 persons in that industry. I asked from him whether he retained any register of attendance and whether there was any person of Kaithal whom he might have trained in the work of preparing ammonium chloride and that if there was any such person he should call him so that I might know the standard of efficiency attained by him. The demonstrator told me that no register of attendance was kept and that in fifteen days' time a person can learn that work, and then his name is recommended for the grant of a certificate to the effect that he knows that art efficiently. Then I made enquiries about contingencies and was told that about Rs. 15,000 were granted by the Government for that purpose. He also referred to a machine which was installed in the factory for preparing ammonium chloride. I asked him whether any accounts of expenditure were kept and the answer received was in the negative.

Mr. Speaker : Under what law was the honourable member cross-examining that officer to the length he has stated ?

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Because I had gone there with a view to see the working of the demonstration factory.

Mr. Speaker : May I know the authority under which the honourable member went there to see the working of the factory ?

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Before that the demonstrator had issued some invitations to the honourable members of that district and of the Ambala division to inspect the factory. What is the use of an inspection if a member cannot put questions?

Mr. Speaker : Had the honourable member received an invitation to inspect the factory?

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Others had received it. I did not receive any, but the demonstrator told me later that an invitation was sent to me but because I was on tour in those days I did not receive it.

Mr. Speaker : So the honourable member was invited to inspect the factory?

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I think Sufi Abdul Hamid will be able to explain the subject matter and the contents of the invitation which was despatched by the demonstrator of the demonstration factory working in Kaithal to the honourable members of the Ambala division to inspect its working. Before my visit to that factory the Honourable Minister for Development had himself visited that factory. But I think as he is a very busy man he had no time to thoroughly inspect the work of the demonstrator in question. The demonstrator must have explained to him the process of preparing ammonium chloride and he would have been satisfied with that much. Well, Sir, then I expressed a desire to see the machine to which the demonstrator had referred to. I was taken to the room in which the machine was installed. I saw a few tabloids there and was told that they were prepared by the help of that machine. But these tabloids were not so clean as those which were shown to me by the demonstrator while explaining the process of preparing ammonium chloride. I also saw some powder there and it was also not as clean as the one shown to me previously. A man was working on the machine. I enquired as to who he was and was told that he was the assistant demonstrator. I then enquired from him as to whom the tabloids which were being prepared at the expense of Government machinery, power and labour belonged? The demonstrator gave me a wrong reply and told me that that was the property of Government. That was far from truth. The tabloids in question were being prepared for the sole benefit of the factory proprietor Lala Arjan Dev. I do not know under what law a private individual is being benefited at the expense of Government. Then I went to the store room and I found a gunny bag lying there in which there was some *noshadar* and on that bag the trade mark of Imperial Chemical Industries, Karachi, was written. I could not make out whether these tabloids of *noshadar* had been prepared from powder or from some other material. On enquiry no satisfactory answer was given to me. However, I wrote all these facts to the Director of Industries and I hope he must have instituted some inquiry into the matter although I do not know its exact nature myself. Here is the letter which I sent him—

Assuredly this will come to you as a great surprise. It was no less to me when I thought of your vigilant control.

During my short stay here I happened to pay a brief visit to the local ammonium chloride factory. As a representative of the constituency I seemed to be a bit interested in this output of the *shaga*. The Proprietor Lala Arjan Dev soon ap-

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

peared on the spot in a rather agitated frame of mind. He was evidently annoyed at my visit and from the very outset adopted a very unaccommodating sullen attitude bordering on insolence and provokingly disquieting demeanour. At times it was threatening as well. He interfered with and interrupted all my reasonable queries. This at once aroused my suspicions. I soon discovered that it was more or less a private concern run with Government finance. On enquiry the demonstrator tells me that he had trained some men in this line in August and September last but there is no record to bear witness. Attendance register was never maintained. To me the bulk of the proceedings struck as fictitious. What was still worse was that absolutely no account was kept of the big sum of Rs. 15,000 allotted to the factory in the form of contingencies. "He is not expected to keep accounts" is the reply of the demonstrator on the point. When I went round the premises I found one Chaudhri Nathu Khan assiduously at work preparing some tabloids. I was off-hand told the manufacture was a Government property. From further scrutiny I, however, learnt that these tabloids were prepared by the Government servant, not for the benefit of the Government or the factory itself, but for the sole benefit of the factory proprietor Lala Arjan Dev and that it was being prepared from the material received from I. C. I., Karachi (Imperial Chemical Industries, Karachi), as was evident from a half-full gunny bag of the material lying in a corner in a room. That means that Government machinery, power and labour are being used for the benefit of a private person.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is repeating in English what he has already stated in Urdu.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : There are other facts as well. The honourable member need not get restive. The rest of letter is as follows :—

That is not all. I learned that, as said above, the whole concern has been regarded from beginning to end, as a private enterprise. There was nothing to indicate that efforts were ever made to enlist any candidates for training in this novel enterprise. No proclamation was issued. Even the notable persons and men leading in business were ignorant of the existence of such a factory. It has been kept such a secret from all interested eyes. I have not said even half the story. Grim facts will surely come to light in case an immediate enquiry surprises these profiteering people. I should not hint at them for the time being. Favouritism is not a small factor. I may add in the end that the proprietor belongs to Lahore and owns some relations with some figure in the department. There lies the crux of the matter of all irregularities and indifference and affront.

Other serious things that cursorily came into my notice are not likely to escape any scrutiny or enquiry if instituted at once without loss of time.

Apologising for this untoward report.

Now, Sir, as I have observed before, the work that is being done by this demonstration party appears to be fictitious only. I may add that the tabloids prepared in the factory in question were sold to a firm in Ambala. But as they were worthless the said firm returned them. That led to some altercation between the factory proprietor and the firm in question. I think this matter was brought to the notice of Government also and the Honourable Minister must be aware of it as well. Under these circumstances I would request the Honourable Minister to very kindly institute inquiries into the matter whether or not the demonstration parties are doing any valuable work? I have cited one instance and I think Government would do well to examine the work of all the demonstration parties. I do not say that the work of all of them is not up to the mark but my fear is that there may be many others of the same type as the one that has been established at Kaithal and Karnal. Besides, in the beginning I could not

ascertain the fact whether the factory in question was housed in a Government building or not? Later on I learnt that the building also belonged to Government and that no rent was being paid by the proprietor of the factory. That means that the building, machinery, power and labour belong to Government while the articles are manufactured for a private individual. I do not know under what law this is being done. In addition nobody knows that such and such factory has been set up at Kaithal and Karnal. What is still more astonishing nobody knows as to what work is being done at present in that factory. I tried to see somebody who should explain the whole situation to me. No one except an old potter came to me and showed some *noshadar* to me which he alleged was prepared by him in his own *ava* (brick-kiln). I asked him to explain the process. He could not give any satisfactory answer. I guessed, and guessed rightly, that he had been brought to me only for the purpose of deceiving me and nothing more. These are in short some of the facts to which I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister and I request him to very kindly institute inquiries into the matter.

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

That the item of Rs. 26,040 on account of pay of 24 demonstrators be reduced by Rs. 1.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am not opposed to the idea of sending demonstration parties to the rural areas, but my experience in this connection has not so far been a very happy one.

I have a personal experience of one such party in Gurgaon district. This was a party of blacksmiths who worked for 6 months at Dhauj, tahsil Ballabgarh, district Gurgaon, but failed to make any impression on the people. On its failure at Dhauj this very party was asked to go to Aurangabad and it fared equally badly there. I showed the work of this party to the Honourable Minister concerned. At present it is carrying on its work at Dharmbera, district Gurgaon. I cannot say how this party is doing its work at this place. The main reason why these parties fail in their object is that they do not make any effort to attract the attention of the people of that area. They are concerned with their pay and do not care a boot whether they achieve their object or not. The second reason which contributes to their failure is the lack of supervision of their work. I would, therefore, request the Government that proper coaching should be given to these parties before sending them to rural areas if they are to be of any benefit to the zamindars. Secondly, their work should be properly supervised so that the money which is being wasted now should be made to produce the desired result.

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

Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to express my views on this matter. I am a Baloch of the Dera Ghazi Khan district and do not claim to be a highly educated person. Nor am I an adept at speech-making. I, therefore, hope that due indulgence will be shown to me. Sir, the far off district of Dera Ghazi Khan is in a very sad plight. There is no industry in the district.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is irrelevant. Only demonstration parties are under discussion.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani : I am coming to those parties also. I want to say only this much about industries that, as I have already stated on different occasions, my district produces a large quantity of wool. Besides that the work of preparing ammonium chloride can be profitably started there. Lakhs of maunds of wool of goats and sheep are exported from that district and if some industry were started there which could make use of this wool, the poor people of the district will derive great benefit. As regards ammonium chloride, my submission is that in the Rojhan *ilaga*—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant. He will please resume his seat.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, so far as the general working of these demonstration parties is concerned, I have issued very clear instructions for these demonstrators and those who work with them. My instructions are that when they go to a district, they must select a centre in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, or the Revenue Assistant or Tahsildar, the principal revenue officer of the locality which they select for their activities. The second instruction is that they must place themselves in touch with the local members of the Legislative Assembly irrespective of their parties. I have also instructed them to submit a six-monthly report. They are also expected to maintain registers of candidates whom they train. In spite of these clear instructions if some of these parties are not following them, I can only say that if they are brought to the notice of the Director of Industries, he will, I am sure, take suitable action. With regard to the particular complaint to which Khawaja Ghulam Samad has referred, I think he seems to be under a misapprehension. He thinks that Government money has been used to finance a private capitalist or that the machinery and building have been erected at Government expense and are being used by a private person. He is wrong. A demonstration party was sent to Kaithal to demonstrate the new ways of manufacturing ammonium chloride. That new method appealed to a private person who has set up his own factory. Naturally he will be very reluctant to show his registers to a person who is not in any way connected with the business. So far as the inspection of official documents was concerned, he has himself told me that probably the demonstration party did not maintain any registers. If so there was nothing to be shown. He says that there were no registers of the students trained by them. If this is correct, I will see that in future they maintain such registers regularly.

Another complaint of Khawaja Ghulam Samad was that he was unable to see the accounts of contingencies and so on. So far as these accounts are concerned, I am afraid, probably he is not aware of the fact that official documents cannot be shown to private individuals whatever their position may be. That being so, they were, under the rules, perfectly entitled to refuse to show them. I cannot regard both of his complaints as being correct. On the one hand he says that they did not maintain any registers of any accounts, on the other hand he says that they refused to show him

their account registers. However, if he makes any other complaint to the Director of Industries, I am sure he will go into these complaints very carefully. So far as the complaint of Government money being used for the benefit of a private individual is concerned all I can say is that he is misinformed. The demonstration parties in their very nature preclude the idea of having a regular factory building or plant set up at a particular place. If, therefore, he writes again to the Director of Industries, confining his complaint to specific points, I am sure, he will make enquiries and take suitable action, if any action is needed.

With regard to the complaint made by Chaudhri Sumer Singh, I think he was right to a very large extent. I saw the demonstrator and the working of that party myself at one of the villages and I did not feel satisfied myself. After that I issued instructions to the Director of Industries suggesting that if the man who is in charge of the demonstration party is inefficient, he should be discharged, or if he is slack in doing work, then he should receive a clear warning. I understand that that gentleman has been removed from that place. In the matter of lack of supervision, again the complaint is well-founded. The Department of Industries is very markedly undermanned and efficient arrangements for supervision do not exist. That complaint is perfectly correct and I wish I could get a little more staff to do the work of supervision efficiently. As a matter of fact the lack of adequate staff is one of the reasons. I suggested that these demonstrators should place themselves in touch not only with the officers of the district, but also with local members of the Assembly representing that district.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad: I want to submit, that I know that I had no power to inspect those registers. I only enquired from him whether he maintained any registers of attendance and contingency or not, but the reply was a flat denial, which I pointed out, in duty bound, to the Honourable Minister that such sorts of things are happening in his department and what these demonstrators are doing. I want to know whether these demonstration parties are doing some valuable work for men and women and for the purpose for which they are appointed and for the purpose for which they are sent from place to place. I want to know whether they are performing their duties properly or not. I did not put this case before the House with a view to raise any objection to the working of the department, but in order to bring to the notice of the House and the Honourable Minister certain things which came to my notice.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 26,040 on account of pay of 24 demonstrators be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was lost.

Industrial policy.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Before saying anything in support of my cut motion, Sir, I would with your permission, address a few general remarks to the honourable members in general and to the Honourable Ministers of Development and Finance in particular. As the matter now before the House is very important I do not want it to be discussed in the spirit that usually prevails in the

[L. Sita Ram.]

House in regard to the discussion on other subjects. It is the usual practice that anything said from this side of the House is treated very lightly and is as a rule paid deaf ears to. But in this particular matter I would appeal to the honourable members to give the utmost attention to what we on the opposition benches have to say in connection with it. Whatever their reactions may be they should at least give us a patient hearing and serious consideration.

This matter is neither communal nor in any way connected with any particular class that its discussion should create bad blood. Nor again does it raise questions of the rich and the poor or of a majority or a minority. It is on the other hand a matter in the effective handling of which lies the general well-being of the whole province. If it is the common wish of the Honourable Ministers as well as the Unionist Party that ways and means must be devised which should help in the advancement and prosperity of the province they are duty-bound to pay attention to my submissions so that all sections of the House may work in concert with each other for the achievement of the desired end.

The subject of industries is not a new one. Various people tried to draw the attention of the Government to it long ago. It is the only project in which any amount of money can profitably be invested, and, therefore, this problem should be tackled at once even if the Government have to sacrifice some of the minor departments or even if they have to raise a loan to help the sacred cause of industries. There is a general misunderstanding that if public money is invested in industries it will only go to the benefit of people living in urban areas and may prove harmful to rural interests. It is better, the argument goes, to promote agriculture instead. But I would like to point out that this is a very unfortunate misunderstanding. If you once take up this matter of promoting industries in the province seriously let me assure you that the whole lot of taxation and the agricultural problems will be solved in no time. The development of industries will not, as is generally understood, benefit any particular class, community or section of the population, but will rebound to the benefit of the province as a whole. It is a matter which will benefit one and all, and, therefore, the Government should pay immediate attention to it. The provision made for this purpose is insufficient and it is high time that the Government took some practical steps in that direction. If it is proved that the progress of industries will also help in promoting the interests of the rural population, the Government would do well to spend every penny on it.

Also, I would, at the very outset, appeal to the Honourable Minister of Development to kindly disabuse his mind before pronouncing his say on this matter. If as a result of dispassionate consideration he comes to the same conclusion as the Honourable Minister of Finance, viz., that the salvation of this country lies in its industrialization, he should set his heart upon the achievement of this object, even to the exclusion of all other things. Unfortunately, the Honourable Minister of Finance, who is one of the greatest economists of this land, is not in his seat at this moment, otherwise we would have been benefited by his advice. So far as I know he is, and ought to be out and out for the industrialization of the province, but hi

hands are tied and he cannot raise his voice high enough for his colleagues to hear.

It is a pity that he is more a man of sound theories than a man of courage. He has convictions, but he would not take up a bold stand. He knows that the salvation of the province lies in its industrial progress, yet he sits silent in his seat and would not ask his colleagues to patronize it.

Sir, it goes without saying that the betterment and welfare of the province lies in the development of industry. If we develop industries, we will solve the problem of unemployment and nobody can deny this fact that industrialization will improve the condition of peasantry also. I, therefore, submit that the Honourable Minister for Finance should have provided a larger sum than the one provided in the present budget for industries. But it is a pity that we make submissions to him and he does not take the trouble to speak a word to our satisfaction. He keeps his lips sealed more than actually necessary and I must say that his tomb-like silence in this matter is criminal. And look, what can be sadder than this! We are discussing industry and want to make useful suggestions for him to consider, but he is not present in his seat.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Lala Sita Ram : Sir, my submission is that I do not want the Government to ear-mark particular sums for particular industries. What I want the Government to do is to change their mind with regard to the subject of industry and give it the support that it deserves in these days of machines and factories. And I must point out that the sum provided in the budget for the advance of industries in the province is utterly insufficient. And I firmly believe that if the Government had the will, they could have found the means for granting a larger sum for industries, because where there is a will there is a way. Again, if the Honourable Finance Minister feels convinced that more sum provided for industries will be money well-spent, he should not hesitate to do so.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not repeat "ifs" and "buts."

Lala Sita Ram : I am submitting, Sir, that the provision of Rs. 22 lakhs in the budget for industries out of the total revenue of Rs. 12 crores is a meagre sum. As the old bureaucratic regime is now a thing of the past and provincial autonomy has now set in, everybody is keen for the advance of industries in the province and every one of us, I believe, is of the opinion that the Government should have provided a sufficiently larger sum in the budget for this particular purpose. It is a pity that after four years of waiting, the sum for the department of industries on which the prosperity of the province depends, is increased to the extent of only Rs. 22 lakhs. As this increase is not up to the need of the province, my objection stands against this insufficiency of the sum. With this meagre sum of money I do not think the Government will ever be in a position to industrialize the province and therefore, I urge upon them to come forward with a larger sum so that every unemployed in the province may be able to earn his livelihood.

Then, Sir, we have before us the instance of the last year, when a considerable amount of money from the sum ear-marked for industries, was

[L. Sita Ram.]

surrendered for the famine-stricken areas by the Honourable Minister for Development, saying that as other departments had also surrendered some amount of money therefore this department should also contribute its quota to that need of the time. Now what does that show? It is crystal clear that the sum reserved for industries last year was lying idle with the Government. They had made no use of it and industry had remained a neglected thing with the present Government. I quite appreciate the Finance Minister's difficulties, especially when he was required to make provision for crores of rupees for famine-stricken areas. We thank him for all this, but my contention is that it is more like spending on medicines and doctor's bills than feeding and looking after the man before he falls sick. Had the Government established industries in the province, the people of the famine-stricken areas would not have suffered so much. They could have earned bread by working in some factories. May I also point out that I am not one of those who believe that agriculture and industry have nothing to do with each other. My firm belief, on the contrary, is that agriculture is closely connected with industry. In case industry is developed the agricultural classes will stand to gain much by it directly as well as indirectly, because the major portion of the profits will go to the zamindars.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant. The motion moved by him is meant to raise discussion on the industrial policy of the Government. Therefore a lecture on industry is not in order. He can bring in industry in general so far as it may be necessary to discuss the policy of the Government but industry in its general sense is not under discussion.

Lala Sita Ram : Sir, I was developing my arguments by saying—

Mr. Speaker : No explanation is needed. Please proceed with your speech.

Lala Sita Ram : I would submit that even keeping in view their own agriculturists policy the Government should spend more money on the development of industry in the province as more the money they provide for it the more profit will accrue to the farmers. Let me in this connection suggest to them by saying that as there is no lack of raw material in our province they should start industry at places where raw material is found in abundance. Previously when raw material was exported to foreign countries its price was high. But now those countries have begun producing raw materials on their own soils for their industrial purposes and therefore the price of our raw materials has considerably fallen down in the province. Under the circumstances I would submit that the present is the most opportune time for starting industries so that raw material of our province should be consumed in our own homes. In this way the present price of raw material will surely rise high. Besides, qualified and

1 p. m.

skilled labourers will be in a position to derive benefit out of these industries. Government themselves have admitted this fact time and again that the salvation of the province lies in its industrialization, but the pity is that they would not put it into actual practice.

Next, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable members to the practical steps taken by the Government in the domain of industry.

The Honourable Minister for Development had also made a reference to this subject while making his speech during the general discussion on the budget. But as he feared that the demand relating to industry would be discussed threadbare on the floor of the House, he has resorted to a nice way of propaganda by contributing an article in the *Civil and Military Gazette* on the same subject wherein he has hood-winked the public by putting things as they suited his purpose. There, in that article he has enumerated certain steps which the Government have taken to industrialize the province. But why should he deserve credit for those industrial projects which were taken in hand by the pre-autonomous governments? They are under obligation to continue them. We, from this side of the House, ask him what steps has the present Unionist Government taken in this important direction? The said article, therefore, is only an eye-wash and does not clearly state whether anything substantial has been done by the Government towards the development of industries in this province. Besides, I may tell the honourable members that no scheme worth the name has, so far, been put forward or carried out by the Government for industrializing the province. During the last four years they have not set up any industry, big or small, by which the public could judge their *bona fides*. The Government may keep dinning into our ears that a general survey, both district-wise and industry-wise has been undertaken, that the surveyors are collecting statistics and formulating some data which will throw ample light as to where certain raw materials are available or are produced in abundance and what best use can be made of them. I quite agree that industrial survey is the pre-requisite for setting up industries in a province. But the question is, when is this general survey going to be completed? How long will they take? Have the Government received no data for the last four years? Have they not arrived at any concrete conclusions as yet? But there is no will and therefore there is no way. If the Government were really sympathetic towards industries then they ought to have set up a few State-owned or State-aided industries, employing ten or twenty thousand persons. They ought to have manufactured some articles of common use and with a view to creating more confidence in the public, should have put forward certain tangible schemes which, when carried out, would add to the manufactured wealth of the province. Besides, these factories would have served as a model to the enterprising people who also would have derived fullest benefit out of them according to their ability. So far as the setting up of a Provincial Stores Purchase Department is concerned, the Government do deserve some credit, as henceforth the Exchequer would be saved of the payment of commission on the purchase of articles. But this saving would not help us any more unless the articles purchased through it are mostly produced in this province. If the Government takes the initiative in this direction, the public would certainly take to the manufacture of these articles and thus many an avenue for giving employment to the educated unemployed would come into existence, giving the Government a chance of mitigating the misery of the people. But the difficulty is that the Government tinker with the subject of unemployment and do not tackle it seriously. For instance, in that article of which I made a reference, the Honourable Minister writes, "A modest beginning was made last year for helping the educated unemployed with a lump-sum provision of Rs. 20,000." Now this arrangement is not going to solve this baffling problem.

[L. Sita Ram.]
of unemployment. The Government should try to radically overhaul the present system of education. I am sure, every honourable member feels that introduction of some sort of industrial education in the curricula of our educational institutions is essential for overcoming this evil. The present system of bookish education is simply swelling the ranks of unemployed graduates, post-graduates and under-graduates who do not know any vocation to earn their livelihood. I am, therefore, of the opinion that Government would be well advised to devote their energies in setting up industrial schools or making industry as one of the elective subjects in the public and aided schools and setting up big industries in order to give employment to the educated unemployed or providing them an opportunity to receive training in some particular vocation so that they may start business independently, when they are thrown out of the examination machinery. I remember the Honourable Minister once remarking that the Government could not embark upon borrowing for the purpose of opening heavy or large-scale industries in the province as they had no mandate of the Assembly. But later on a resolution to this effect was passed by the Assembly. The Honourable Minister referring to this resolution, writes in the same article; "A resolution sponsored by the Unionist Party has been passed, urging upon the Government the advisability of undertaking large-scale industries either by itself or in partnership with private capitalists." Now it is our turn to ask the Government why they are now delaying things. What prevents them now from undertaking some large-scale industries? They should take the House into confidence and state what their intentions are. Mere devising of schemes and then giving them up under the cloak of financial stringency will not help matters or satisfy the public at large. Again, in that press article the Honourable Minister takes pride in mentioning the fact that "A scheme for setting up a bicycle factory was drawn up by the Director of Industries, but had to be given up in consequence of financial stringency with the result that the idea conceived in the Punjab was given a practical shape in another province." He also points out that about half a dozen other industrial schemes of varying magnitudes with details sufficiently worked out had to be put aside because funds were not available. But this is no achievement of the Government to feel proud of. Intentions do not create a heaven. We must work to deserve credit for our ideas and plans. We find a note of disappointment running in the article because their schemes could not materialize, but mere words butter no parsnips. They must do something practical to win the confidence of the people. There is no doubt about the fact that when new industries are started in a province on the initiative of the Government, they have some time to face failure, but they should not be deterred by this. It is no use saying that they intended or tried their hands on certain schemes, but failed to achieve any success. They should not feel disheartened but strive hard to show to the public that they have been successful in manufacturing so many articles during the last four years and that they are hopeful to take to production of some more essential articles in the near future. But the fact real and naked is that the Government has started no new industry so far. At least one or two industries should have been newly-started by the Government by way of its good intentions. How can we go on relying on

promises alone in the absence of any concrete and solid work? All that we are told by the Government is that experts are engaged in collecting the necessary data and a general industrial survey is being carried on. What has it shown to the public by way of actual solid work? I, for one see nothing new so far. No new industry has been started by this Government during the last 4 years. If this is the result of their 4 years' hard work what can we expect in the future? At least one or two new industries should have been started by now under the direct management of the Government with a further promise of starting new ones during the following years. But this has not been done. One outstanding achievement of the Unionist Government is said to be its having appointed an Unemployment Committee as soon as it came to power. Its report is available. In an appendix to this report several new things were suggested by the experts whom the Government had appointed. At page 95 of this report, for instance, the following were some of the recommendations made:—

79. Immediate industrial survey by a committee of experts with a view to establish large scale State industries. (Paragraph 65.)
80. Establishment of a permanent industrial economic bureau. (Paragraph 65.)
81. Establishment of at least one major State industry in each division of the province. (Paragraph 66.)
82. State aid to young men to study manufacture of needles for machines. (Paragraph 66.)
83. Manufacture of machinery. (Paragraph 66.)
84. Possibility of setting up plants by State enterprise to manufacture yarn. (Paragraph 66.)
85. Development of textile manufacture as chief industry of the province. (Paragraph 67.)
86. Development of fibre industry. (Paragraph 68.)
87. Acquisition of the Upper India Glass Works, Ambala, by Government. (Paragraph 69.)
88. Establishment of Porcelain and Potter industry. (Paragraph 69.)
89. Appointment of a committee to survey establishment of small scale industries. (Paragraph 71.)
101. Establishment of a Provincial Industrial Museum at Lahore. (Paragraph 77.)
108. Legislation to secure 75 per cent representation for Punjabees amongst factory operatives. (Paragraph 78.)
104. Employment of Punjabee labour by Government contractors. (Paragraph 78.)
105. Establishment of unemployment exchanges in municipal areas. (Paragraph 78.)

But it is regrettable that the Government has not carried any of these suggestions into effect so far. I really wonder that all the expert advice has been ignored by the Government. At least a few suggestions should have

[L. Sita Ram.]

been adopted by now. In that case the public would have legitimately expected more next year. But the Unionist Government has miserably failed in this respect.

Now let us take the case of State-owned factories. We do not know what the Government has in its mind. We are concerned with deeds and not mere words. May be the Government really desires to start several State-owned industries in the future. But we have to judge by the practical steps which the Government has taken so far. The Government has to show its work not by its pious hopes only. In this respect we are disappointed that nothing practical has so far been done. Adverting to the question of legislation with respect to the industrial development of the Punjab, we find that on page 72 of the Unemployment Committee's Report it was suggested that legislation should be undertaken to secure some of the following :—

- (1) Control of labour turn-over ;
- (2) Minima rates of wages for men and women ;
- (3) Prohibition of employment of children in industrial pursuits ;
- (4) Raising the age of children for factory employment ;
- (5) Raising the school-leaving age of children ;
- (6) Restriction of hours of work.

But we are fairly within our rights to ask the Government as to what legislation they had undertaken for the good of the industrial labour. The Government's duty did not finish with the printing of the Report. Had the Government taken a few practical steps in this direction, the cause of labourers would have greatly been helped. Our province has no demand for industrial labour excepting the few railway workshops. The labourers are ready in swarms to work in the factories or shops but there is no demand. The result is the railway labourers' cry in vain for the redress of their grievances. They have no other field to work in. Thus they agree to be victimized by the railway authorities and are often forced to pocket insults. Let the Government start their own industries and offer better terms to the working classes. This will promote competition and the railways would be compelled to treat their workers humanely.

The pity is that the Government is sleeping over this very important matter. Can the Government enlighten us as to what the position was in the past and what further progress has been made by the present regime ? I want some solid proof. Let the Government search its own mind and give facts and figures to show the extent of industrial progress which has been made under its control. After all the Government can obtain the services of several economists of the country. The Honourable Finance Minister himself is an economist of high reputation. Let him propose radical changes for the industrial progress of the Punjab. If that is done surely more money will be required for this year.

I will conclude my speech by appealing earnestly to the Government to pay much greater attention to industries. Industrialization of the provinces is our only hope. It will help the all-round development of the province. The agriculturists will get more price for their raw material. The

capitalists will have their profits, adding to the prosperity of the land. The millions of unemployed will get work and skilled labour will fetch competitive wages. Thus all will be helped. But if nothing is done in this direction, the province will ever remain a market for foreigners. We shall depend on others even for a pin or a needle and the following great prophecy of the Great Poet Iqbal will come true :—

اے ہا ہی اکی ہے آذر خردیں کب نکلی
 ہر آن - رومال مفا پورھن چڑھن سے
 اپنی عقلت کی یہی حالت اگر قائم رہی
 آگہی غسال کابل سے کفن - اپن سے

Mr. Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural)
 (Urdu): Sir, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram richly deserves our gratitude and thanks for the excellent way in which he has given fresh impetus to the industries of the Punjab. Since he took charge of this department a good many improvements have been made in it. Industries have made rapid progress under him. In fact all other provinces of India have been left far behind so far as the industrial progress is concerned. Only recently a resolution was passed by this House recommending to the Government to raise a loan of one crore of rupees in order to improve the industrial condition of the Punjab. But for the war the said loan would have been raised by now.

At any rate the matter must be under the active consideration of the Government even now. Another reason for not having raised the said loan of one crore is that the Government had to spend a lot of money on the Thal Project Scheme. Notwithstanding all these handicaps the Government is taking very keen interest in the matter and we hope to see something actually done in the near future.

Another outstanding step taken by the Government was to begin a general survey of the industrial field in the Punjab with a view to seeing as to which industries would be expected to flourish and in which districts. That is really a right step in the right direction. In this connection the name of the well-known Professor K. T. Shah is worth mentioning whose services were utilized by the Punjab Government. He is an industrialist of a very high reputation and he has to his credit several useful schemes which he recommended for other provinces. His services were acquired by our Government too.

The setting up of a Stores Purchase Department by the Punjab Government is undoubtedly an outstanding achievement of this Government. Perhaps no other Provincial Government has been able so far to set up its own Stores Department. In short the Honourable Minister has been taking every possible opportunity to improve and develop the industries of the Punjab. A good deal of work has been done to industrialize the province. But still there is large scope left for industrialization of the province. I hope the Honourable Minister will leave no stone unturned to further industrialize the province. By industrialization, not only the towns will

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

gain but also the villages will be benefited. At present there are very few sugar factories in the province. Gur is prepared almost in every house in the villages and as its supply is more than its demand it sells very cheap. Often it is sold at the rate of Rs. 2 per maund. If we could start sugar factories to prepare sugar from gur the zamindars will gain a lot. The price of sugar is Rs. 10 per maund. When the same gur is turned into sugar it will fetch more price to the advantage of the zamindars. The total number of zamindars in the province is 32 lakhs and 28 lakhs out of them are such zamindars whose income per head does not exceed Rs. 6 per month. There are about four lakhs among them whose income per head exceeds Rs. 6 per month. This small *per capita* income is not due to the fact that the yield from land has become less, but it is because of small holdings. It is very necessary to start some cottage industries in order to increase the income of the zamindars. By promoting cottage industries on the one hand you will be able to meet the local demand for manufactures and on the other help the zamindars. The war has been in progress for the last one and a half years and if the Germans continue to interfere with shipping in the same way as they have been doing so far, a time will soon come when most of the foreign imports will stop and we will have to fall back on indigenous goods. We should be prepared to meet any such trouble in the future. And the only way to meet it successfully is to industrialize the province as early as possible. All kinds of raw material are available in our province and we can start all industries. We must follow the example set by Japan. Japanese Government invested crores of rupees in cottage industries with the result that at present in every house in Japan some cottage industry is being carried on. Our Government should also do the same. They should try to make the province economically self-sufficient within one or two years. At present we sell our wheat and other raw materials to other countries. In the presence of cottage industries all our raw material will be locally consumed and we will not have to depend upon any other country to purchase it from us. I suggest to the Government to engage the services of an expert even at Rs. 5,000 a month to advise them and to help them in the matter of starting industries. Such an expert can advise the capitalists of this province to invest their capital in industries. No capitalist can dare to invest in any industry so long as he is not assured by any expert of profits from it. There is lot of capital in the province. Some one is required to tell our local capitalists how they can make bigger profits by investing their capital in industries than by lending. I hope the Honourable Minister will give full consideration to my suggestions and take proper steps to industrialize the province as soon as practicable.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan (Gujar Khan, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I have listened to many speeches that have been made in the House to explain what the Government have done. All those speeches were made in order to flatter the Government. No doubt those speeches were such as to please the Honourable Ministers. But it is the duty of our Honourable Ministers to think for themselves and to find out what the Government ought to do under the present circumstances. It is alleged that the present Government is that of the zamindars. But notwithstanding

all that the zamindars are at present as poor as they were before the formation of the Unionist Government. If really the Government had been a Government of the zamindars certainly the condition of the agriculturists would have ameliorated under it. Very ostentatiously statements have been made in this House to the effect that the Government have granted such and such amounts for such and such beneficent works. It is true that the Government earmarks big sums for beneficent activities but most of the money so allotted is either given away to experts for getting their advice or is spent to meet the salary bills of persons who are recruited for the beneficent departments every time a new allotment is made in the budget. How is money expended for the promotion of industry in the province? It is expended like this. At such and such a place so and so is working. Such and such amount may be granted to him to compensate his services. If sincerely it is attempted to promote industry in the province then money should not be distributed among a few persons but should instead be granted to individuals desirous of starting small scale industries.

Industrial development cannot take place by such methods as are adopted by the Government. It is possible that in these districts industries may have developed by such methods but in the western districts these methods have totally failed to promote industry. No one is in well-to-do circumstances there. In order to promote industry it is necessary to give industrial training to the people so that they may start industrial works in the province. In Switzerland the same method was followed. In that country people were first trained in manufacturing parts of watches. After they were trained they started manufacturing parts of watches and the Government undertook the work of exporting them to other countries. But what have our Government done to train us in any industry? They have not even trained us in the art of preparing mats to enable us to earn even two annas a day. They have not done anything except granting huge amounts to a few factory owners. Factory owners do not stand in need of financial help from the Government. They themselves can arrange for the capital required for investment in any industry. It is the poor who stand in need of State aid. If the Government were to help the poor by grant of loans for industrial purposes it would certainly prove very useful for the province.

When Mahatma Gandhi said that we were mercenaries the Honourable Premier and we all took objection to it and rightly so. But that does not mean that we are not poor. We are certainly poor people and we do stand in need of great help. Let me tell you that the people of my district bring their children of ten or twelve years of age and ask me to get them employed somewhere. It is poverty and poverty alone which compels such small boys to seek employment for themselves. (*An honourable member*: Then, was Mahatma Gandhi's statement correct or not?) No, his statement was incorrect. For it is only the sword of which we are proud and we can use it in our self-defence in India and outside it as well.

Mr. Speaker: Please speak to the question now before the House. The honourable member is not relevant.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan: Sir, I was only giving a reply to the point raised by my honourable friend. Adverting to the

[Raja Farman Ali Khan.]

subject proper I may point out that last year I made some observations in regard to the Industries Department and put forward some suggestions with a view to benefit the poor people living in the rural areas. But it is a matter of great regret that so far none of my suggestions has been given effect to. Let me tell you Sir, that in my district there is great dearth of water for irrigation purposes. If the rains do not fall at the proper time our crops fail. If, however, rainfall is plentiful our crops are matured, otherwise not. The fact of the matter is that as compared to the people for whom Government are at present constructing canals for irrigation purposes the people of my district are poorer. Yet so far nothing has been done to provide any relief to them or to impart any technical education to them so as to enable them to earn their livelihood. Generally it is claimed that whatever Government are doing is being done for the good of the poor people. But in practice the poor people are not even benefited to the extent of one per cent. Besides, they do not even get their due share in services also. Last year I urged upon the Government to start small industries like *dhari* making, mat making and carpet making in my district. But at that time we were told that there was no spare money to put that suggestion into effect. It is often urged on the floor of the House that the condition of the people of this province can be ameliorated only if big industries are opened in the Punjab. But my submission is that that will not in any way benefit the poor people. I for one think that we will be better off even without such industries which will only go to fill the coffers of the rich people. I ask what is the use of starting such industries if they are intended only to benefit the rich people? After all what is the use of making rich people still richer. On the contrary it behoves the Government to pay some attention to the needs of the poor as well. Our present lot is pitiable indeed. Whatever we produce is either taken away by the creditors or by Government in lieu of land revenue. We, as a matter of fact, get nothing out of our hard-earned produce. It is therefore my submission that instead of opening big industries Government would do well to prepare a scheme by which industrial schools should be opened for every ten villages each and in those schools such industries should be taught which should be useful for the poor people so that they may also be in a position to earn their daily bread. I may tell Government that the way in which they are promoting industries in the province now will not benefit the poor people at all. If they accept my suggestion and impart industrial training to them for the making of *dharis*, mats and carpets that would at least make it possible for everybody to earn two annas a day and that amount will be sufficient to make his both ends meet. With these words I resume my seat.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Parliamentary Secretary): With your permission, I would like to just bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister in charge of Industries a few proposals in the hope that they will receive his very kind consideration.

I am one of those who believe that the Honourable Minister in charge of this Department is a person of very strong determination and once he makes up his mind to do a certain thing he can certainly find ways and means to do it. I am also one of those who believe that the Honourable Minister for Development does not require any lecture or sermon from an honourable

member like Lala Sita Ram, to convince him that the welfare of this province mainly depends on its industrial development. We on this side of the House are fully convinced that the welfare of the agriculturists themselves mainly rests upon the development of industries of this province. We are also aware that the acute question of unemployment cannot be solved unless something is done to start industries on a very large scale in the Punjab. As a matter of fact, I would go a step further and say that even this most unfortunate communal bitterness can be removed if there is some work for the unemployed young men.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : May I draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that the people of his *ilaga* do not speak English and very few of them understand it ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. Let the honourable member proceed with his speech.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Urdu) : Sir, in deference to the wish of the honourable and revered member I shall speak in Urdu. I was submitting that we on this side of the House are not oblivious of the fact that the salvation and progress of the province lies in its industrialization. We also believe that industrialization will go a long way to allay the communal tension and bickerings in the province. Day in and day out questions are put in this very House as to how many Hindus, Sikhs or Muslims there are in such and such a department. These questions are the direct result of unemployment. Everybody wants that his relatives, friends or constituents should get jobs in some department. Even the Government does not want to see our educated youngmen jobless and unemployed and there can be no doubt that progress of industry will remove this curse of unemployment to a great extent. But while we know this and also believe that once the Honourable Minister of Development is convinced of the necessity of a particular step he will not hesitate to take it, it is to be regretted that the Government has not paid as much attention to the industrial progress of the province as it was expected to do. But we must confess that there were certain reasons why the Government could not do all that it wanted to do in this connection. We cannot lose sight of the fact that most of the time of the Honourable Minister has been taken up by the agrarian laws which are so useful to the zamindars and for which we cannot thank him sufficiently. Now that those measures have been passed on to the Statute Book, I am sure that he will apply his unbounded energy to this question of industrialization which will prove highly beneficial to the Government as well as the poor unemployed. I hope that this Government will get rid of the red-tapism which is often responsible for unnecessary delay and waste of time.

Let me make it clear that I do not want the Government to take all industries into its own hands and kill private enterprise. On the contrary it should direct its endeavours to such industrial fields where private persons may not be willing to take the risk and in respect of which private capital is shy for one reason or another. For instance, there are certain useful and valuable minerals in our mountainous ranges. May I know what the Government has done to tap that source of income and to establish or encourage any industry in that field ? My honourable friends may be surprised at a zamindar from the backward district of Jhelum speaking of minerals and offering suggestions in respect of industrial development of the province

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

but they should not lose sight of the fact that certain companies started work at places where nobody ever suspected the presence of any minerals and that these companies are running lucrative business. The Government should have been the first to think of these things but it did not do anything while these companies obtained contracts from the Government of India or the Punjab Government on ridiculously easy terms and have earned millions of rupees. Some of my expert friends have expressed the opinion that there are certain minerals to be found in the Salt Range which can bring lacs of rupees, if anybody took the trouble of putting them to proper use. Who could have thought that the salt dust near the Khewra mines which has proved so harmful to the adjacent lands could be made to yield such profits as the Imperial Alkali Chemical Company is deriving? The same is the position in the case of cement. The Dalmia Cement Company started the enterprise with results that are too well-known to be stated. Let me assure all concerned that I do not grudge these companies the fruits of their enterprise. Far from it. I am rather glad that they started these industries, but may I ask whether it was not the duty of the Government to take the initiative in the matter? What has the Government done? Most probably the Honourable Minister will note down all these points and reply to them when he rises to speak. That is all. When there was an official bloc in the Legislature the Secretaries used to note down all such suggestions and proper action used to be taken. But now the Ministers deliver speeches which are duly taken down and typed out by the reporters and that is the be-all and the end-all of the whole matter. It is the duty of the Ministers to see that all the suggestions acceptable to them are put to practice without avoidable delay.

The Honourable Minister may plead paucity of funds, but I would submit that it will not do to spend a lac of rupees here and a few thousands there. That is not the way to industrialize the province and that is not what I am talking of. I want to know what is going to happen to the resolution passed by the House with regard to this matter and whether the loan to be raised under that resolution cannot be utilized to give a practical shape to the suggestions made on the floor of the House. I may point out that this is the most opportune time to start certain industries which will not only remove unemployment, but will also go a long way to solve some of the problems created by the war. For instance Jhelum is a great market of timber imported from the Kashmir State and a factory for manufacturing paper can be started there. You know, that paper has become very dear on account of war and the Government can start this industry with great advantage. But has the Government paid any attention to this question? If the Government starts a factory after some private company has already come into the field, it will be neither desirable nor so profitable. They should, therefore, do away with unnecessary red-tapism and appoint a committee with instructions to submit its report within a month or so. Unless you adopt such a course the papers will be going from one office to another till it is too late to undertake the business.

There is another thing to which I want to draw pointed attention of the Government. We know that certain companies from other provinces have started big factories in the Punjab and they enjoy certain privileges.

I have no objection to that. On the contrary, I welcome these enterprising companies. But it is only just and fair that they should employ unskilled labour from the province which gives them so many facilities and so much profits. Unfortunately, their tendency is that while they are carrying on their business in this province they do not like to employ even unskilled labour from the Punjab, but prefer to import it from a distance of five or six hundred miles. I think the Government should bring moral pressure to bear upon these people to make them see the reasonableness of employing at least the unskilled labour from the Punjab and if that fails to effect a change in their attitude the Honourable Minister should not hesitate in bringing forward a legislative measure for the purpose.

Now having made these general remarks I would crave your indulgence to say just a few words about my own *ilaga*. Some of my honourable friends may be aware of the fact that Pind Dadan Khan used to be known for two industries, i.e., weaving and brazery. Of these the latter industry no longer exists there because the braziers have shifted their business to big cities like Gujranwala and Sargodha. The reason is not far to seek. In the big cities they have the facilities provided by beating machines while at Pind Dadan Khan the metal had to be beaten by labourers which process required much more time and labour. Similarly, the weaving industry is suffering from want of modern facilities. If the Government were to provide these facilities at that place the local skill and material will make the business very profitable to the Government also. If this problem is referred to the department concerned they will at once come forward with the reply that the rules relating to the question (which are known to nobody) are there and if a company is floated for the purpose it can apply for aid. The department should not wait for a company being floated. On the other hand it should take initiative in the matter.

Then another place, Chuha Saidan Shah, is well-known for its rose gardens. No place in the province can beat Chuha Saidan Shah in the matter of the quality as well as the quantity of roses produced there. People from other places prepared extracts and scents from these roses and used to earn a lot. But now the fashion has changed and people have taken to lavender instead of the old roses. If, therefore, a factory for preparing lavender is started at that place it will bring prosperity to the people of the *ilaga* and a handsome income to the Government. Once I was on a visit to Chuha Saidan Shah and I saw a youngman carrying on some researches for preparation of lavender. I was naturally interested in the problem and when on questioning he told me that he was trying to demonstrate to the people how to prepare lavender, I was very pleased. But at the same time I had my misgivings based on the experience of such demonstrations, and, therefore, I pointedly asked him whether he was really in earnest or it was only the usual *tamasha*. I am sorry to say that my misgivings proved to be well-founded.

Again, I have been representing the Jhelum district in the Central or provincial legislature for the last eighteen years but it was only a few months ago that I came to know of the existence of an industrial school in Jhelum. That should suffice to give you an idea of the work that institution is doing and the importance it enjoys in the locality. In the end I whole-heartedly support the suggestion of Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan that

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

wherever a certain commodity or raw material is produced and available in abundance the Government should start an industry in respect of that commodity or material in that place. That is the only method to obtain the best results. With these remarks I resume my seat, and hope that my suggestions will receive favourable consideration at the hands of the Honourable Minister.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, my district, Dera Ghazi Khan, is known for its wool, and as a wool-producing centre it has a great possibility of becoming the headquarters of woollen industry of considerable proportions. At the present moment wool worth lacs of rupees is brought from Loralai and Sibbi and is sold to dealers all over the province. Then again it is exported to Karachi by way of Bajampur in not inconsiderable quantity. If all this wool is prevented from being sent out of the district and the people of the *ilaga* are taught certain handicrafts allied to woollen goods manufacture I am sure that a great industry can be set up and the poor inhabitants of my district can receive great benefit from it.

Besides wool a small wood-work industry at Jampur needs encouragement and help from the Government. Although there are no large factories yet the quality of the manufactured articles is very high and with a little support from the Government the industry can be developed considerably.

Moreover a survey of the hills in our district which was undertaken by an American company has revealed that there is a likelihood of finding kerosene oil and petroleum in large quantities. In spite of the fact that I am aware of the inability of the Government for certain reasons to attend to the tapping of these sources I beg to submit that they ought to do something in this connection in order to enable the inhabitants of my district to take advantage of this discovery.

In the past people used to manufacture salt from *kallar* in Rojhan area, but if that salt is made to yield ammonium chloride it can prove a very profitable industry for our people.

In short the general condition of Dera Ghazi Khan district is very deplorable. Unemployment is daily assuming alarming proportions and the lack of any industry makes it doubly difficult to ease the situation. Although the Government Industrial School is doing good work that is not enough. The Government should take immediate steps to encourage small industries, like tanning and leather works for which there is a great field in our district.

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

If this school is seriously run the industry will improve and naturally the work will be enlarged and consequently the evil of unemployment will come to an end. This is not for the first time that I am drawing the attention of the Minister in charge to this fact but I have done so many a time before, but all in vain. Now again I respectfully submit to the Honourable Minister in charge to do something for the development of industry in my

district and I appeal to the Minister for Development to give his attention to this backward district which I represent in this House. With these few words, Sir, I wind up my speech.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (Urdu) :

2 p. m.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I would try to be as brief as possible. Let me point out at the very outset of my speech that in my district there is much scope for expansion of cottage industry. But it is a thousand pities that no satisfactory arrangement has been made for the introduction of that industry in that *ilaga*. Besides the district of Gurgaon is mountainous and hilly and therefore sheep can be kept there in abundance. Hence a considerable quantity of wool can be had from that *ilaga* which can be utilized by starting there a carpet industry on a very large scale and if this industry is encouraged and developed by the Government, I am confident that hundreds of people belonging to that *ilaga* will find work and earn their livelihood in a better way and the Government on the other hand will be able to derive much benefit out of it.

Another submission that I want to make is that the suburbs of the river Jamna are most suitable for fish breeding and if the Government takes it upon itself to establish a fishery centre there it would prove a beneficial industry indeed. It may be asked by the Government as to why some industrialists do not take initiative in this respect. The reason is obvious. As a matter of fact individual industrialists or capitalists being afraid of failure of the Government in giving them protection and also fearing heavy new taxes daily imposed, do not invest money in private enterprises. Moreover they have not the guts to stand out throat competition and propaganda made by their opponents in regard to the enterprise which they start individually. This is very general. They do not want to risk their money by investing it in an industry about which they do not know whether it will be subsidized by the Government and exempted from taxation. They do not know whether their hopes will materialize. And being not sure whether protection will be afforded by the Government to their private enterprises they do not want to worry themselves constantly. I am therefore confident that industries can never make progress in the Punjab unless the Government comes forward either to take this task upon itself or takes up this task as partner with the capitalists of the province.

Now I would like to quote a few words from an article written by the Honourable Minister for Development and published in the *Civil and Military Gazette* of yesterday in which he has stated—

A scheme for setting up a bicycle factory was drawn up by the Director of Industries but had to be given up in consequence of financial stringency with the result that the idea conceived in the Punjab was given a practical shape in another province.

He has, however, not pointed out in these lines whether there is still scope in the province for setting up that particular industry and if now this industry is started it will be able to improve and if not why not. What is now generally said by the Government in reply to our requests and submissions is that they cannot comply with our requests on account of lack of funds and financial stringency because of the present war. May I in this connection point out that the war broke out in the end of 1939 while they

[Ch. Sumer Singh.]

assumed office in the beginning of 1937. I ask did they take serious steps for industrialization of the province since then? Why did they not place orders before the war actually broke out so that the people concerned could have started industrial concerns in time? And now they come forward and say that due to war and financial stringency they do not think themselves placed in a position to provide more money for industry. I submit with all the force at my command that during the period of war when certain articles and materials from foreign countries are not available the industry of swadeshi articles can flourish very rapidly. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to avail themselves of this opportunity to develop industries.

Then there is another thing on which I want to say a word. If you please read page 219 of the New Expenditure you will find a heading which reads like this—

Continued employment of additional teachers for Government Industrial Schools in the Punjab.

Sir, these schools were opened on 1st April, 1931, and with regard to the posts created in this respect it has been mentioned there—

It has not been possible to bring these posts on a permanent basis, as most of the schools were in the process of reorganization and the number of students was a declining factor.

I am constrained to remark that when these schools which were opened on 1st April, 1931, are still in the process of reorganization and the posts of teachers have not been made permanent as yet, one is at a loss to understand the reason for keeping them for another period of two years. I therefore do not see any necessity of keeping this white elephant costing the province an amount of no less than Rs. 4,230.

Chaudhri Tikka Ram : To which school is the honourable member referring?

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : I am referring to "Continued employment of additional teachers for Government Industrial Schools in the Punjab" given on page 219 of the New Expenditure. May I submit, Sir, that when there are other industrial schools in the province and they can serve the purpose all right where lies the necessity of keeping this additional staff to which reference has been made on page 219?

My last submission but not the least is with regard to menial and low paid staff working in industrial institutions. This House has passed an Act for the benefit of trade employees but I am sorry to remark that the Government has done nothing so far as poor employees working in industrial institutions are concerned regarding leave, working hours, etc. The Government perhaps does not know that most of them are at the mercy of their masters who can turn them out any moment without giving them even 24 hours' notice and in most cases these low paid employees in order to please their officers have to attend to private business and household works of their officers. They serve their masters in the industrial institutions and in their houses as well. Is this not too much for the low paid staff and the poor labourers? I would, therefore, plead that a legislation like that of Trade Employees Act should be passed by which men on low pay in the Government industrial institutions should be given better emoluments and labourers

given more facilities. Let me also request the Minister in charge to increase the sum of 27 thousand rupees provided in the budget for these employees because it does not seem to be sufficient for them under the existing circumstances.

With these few remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Urdu*): Sir, I did not want to take part in this discussion, but having heard certain suggestions and advices put forward by some honourable members of this House, I feel called upon to make a few observations with regard to industries. Before I proceed with my speech I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the Minister in charge for the attempts he has been making every year for the development and advance of industries in the province and I must also point out that I am equally thankful to the Finance Minister who has been providing us every year with larger amount of money than in the previous year for starting new industries in the province. So far as the development of industries is concerned there are three essential features that have to be borne in mind without which the industrial development of any country is not possible. Now let me explain what those three important factors are with which development of industries is closely related. No. 1 is Demand. My point is this that the demand of a certain article should be sufficient in order to produce the supply of that article. What do we find to-day is that the supply is not sufficient to meet the demand. Therefore the first pre-requisite is already there. No. 2 Skilled Labour. It is the bounden duty of the Government to get skilled labour in factories. This is the second point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. I was anxious to discuss this point at length during the general discussion on the budget, but as I could not get time to speak on it I would like to say something about it now. Skilled labour cannot be obtained unless certain changes are made in our system of administration. Let me make this point clear. I am one of those persons who believe that so far as cabinet administration is concerned, industrial, technical, intellectual and academic education should be combined and amalgamated under one head and placed under the charge of one Minister. Children after passing the primary standard should be given opportunities to join either industrial and technical training or academic and intellectual centres or to go in for higher studies. I, therefore, request the Government that industrial training centres in the province to which boys after passing their primary or middle examinations should go ought to be established. I believe that the turning point in a boy's life must come after his passing the primary or middle examination. He should then select the profession he is to take up in life—If training centres of this kind are opened, then we will no longer have any scarcity of skilled labour in our province. It is my deep-rooted conviction that unless we have ample supply of skilled labour we can never hope to be in a position to compete with other highly industrialized countries whose output of manufactured goods is enormous. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make an earnest endeavour to achieve this end. Then the third factor which plays an equally very important part in the domain of industry is capital. Now there can be no two opinions about the fact that in an industrially-backward country like ours, it is the State which takes the initiative in providing the capital required for the development

[Mrs. Shah Nawaz.]

of industry. Naturally in the Punjab we look to the Government to take a bold step in this direction. Besides, I feel that private capitalists should also strive to establish lucrative and useful large-scale industries in the province. They should set up factories at suitable places, where supply of raw materials, labour and means of transport and communications are available in abundance. There is no doubt that ours is a comparatively poor province, nonetheless I think there are some very affluent persons who ought to take courage in their both hands and invest their money in some profitable industry. We find that they always fight shy of making an investment in any industry. They fear lest the industry should prove a failure and their capital might be lost. I am of the opinion that Government should move in the matter and in order to make the people industrially-minded and create confidence in them, should subsidize certain essential industries. I would like to make another suggestion in this connection, and that is this. The Government should appoint a committee or set up a central body which should take effective measures to ensure security to the private enterpriser. This would encourage the private capital to flow in this channel, and consequently the industry in our province would receive a great fillip. I, therefore, strongly hold the view that if the Government devote their energies to bring about these three indispensable factors into full play, industrial development of our land of five rivers is assured. *(Hear, hear.)* Well, Sir, I am sure that all the honourable members, whether they adorn these or opposite benches, would be in complete accord with the view that Government should earmark the greatest possible amount for the industrialization of the province. As a matter of fact any amount provided by them would be insufficient for this purpose. I fully realize the strain to which our finances had been subjected by the requirements of the famine relief. I am also aware that owing to the breaking of hostilities it has become impossible for the Government to float loans in the foreign markets. But I make bold to suggest that Government should resort to internal borrowing. They should raise a loan of one or even two crore of rupees and set up large-scale industries. In this connection I would particularly stress the point that this borrowing should be strictly confined to our own province. The advantage of resorting to this course lies in the fact that our capital instead of flying outside will remain in our own province. Consequently the circulation of money would increase and the purchasing power of the people would also be raised. Again with the establishment of industries in the province, a large number of unemployed people will find employment. Strictly speaking this will usher in a new era of plenty and prosperity in this country.

Besides, I wholeheartedly support the proposal put forward by my honourable friend Sodhi Sahib, regarding the appointment of an industrial expert by the Government. This is a laudable suggestion and I, too, would like to make a few observations about this matter. The Government should see that the expert appointed by them is one who has either received his education and training in industrialized European countries or is fully conversant with the conditions obtaining in those European countries which resemble our province, so that he may be in a position to link or co-ordinate agriculture with industry to the greatest advantage of the province. He

should particularly keep in view the kind of raw material produced here in abundance and the suitable places where it is available in large quantities so that an industry consuming that particular raw material may be set up. I would like to elaborate my point. You are aware that when we ladies go to the bazaar for shopping purposes, we find that georgettes manufactured in Bombay and Bengal are easily available as also the borders of sarees, made in Surat. It is a matter of gratification that now India has begun to manufacture such articles of dress. But it pains me to find that in the Punjab so far no factory or industry manufacturing such fine articles as georgettes and other type of silk has been set up and consequently the money of our province is being drained by other provinces. It is my keen desire that the hard-earned money of the Punjabis should be utilized for starting such industries in their own province as may cater to their needs. I, therefore, feel that when this province is capable of producing and supplying in large quantities raw cotton of fine quality and excellent silk yarns to other countries, why the same should not be utilized in manufacturing fine cotton cloth and silks for use in the provinces. I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Honourable Minister to this matter. Then, Sir, the expert should endeavour to find out ways and means by which the cotton and raw silk available here can be put to the best use with a view to meet the requirements of the Punjabi women.

Again, it has been pointed out by the Unemployment Committee in their report that so far as agricultural or cultivated land is concerned, the economic holding of a family of six persons should be 17.6 acres and in the Punjab the average holding is not more than 8.11 acres of land. There is a large increase in population. No doubt the Punjab Government have very wisely undertaken irrigation projects so that the water-supply may be available for bringing more land under cultivation. But in spite of this facility the holdings cannot become economic unless a number of industries are started in the province. I fully endorse the views expressed by the honourable Major Malik Muzaffar Khan that Government should take steps to encourage cottage industries in rural areas, so that they may also prove to the agriculturists the proverbial second string in their bow. In this connection I would submit that the expert should try to revive and develop in certain *ilagas* those particular industries which flourished there and were a source of glory to the inhabitants in the old days. He should also make an endeavour to utilize the skilled labour that is already available there. If per chance skilled labour is not forthcoming, then training centres should be opened in order to achieve that object. I am sure, if the Government earnestly takes up the work, the dream of industrialization of our dear province will become a reality in the shortest possible time. With these few words, Sir, I close my remarks. (Cheers.)

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am a layman and as such cannot offer any expert advice or opinion on the subject of industries. But I regard it my duty to express what I feel about the industrialization of our province. To begin with I would like to point out that the sum which has been provided in the budget for the Department of Industries is not sufficient for the purpose. As a matter of fact when we consider that the income of this Department has also been included in this item, the fact becomes crystal clear that the

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber.]

sum provided for this purpose is extremely inadequate. But the Government may reply that the people are opposed to taxation while without taxation funds cannot be available for radically improving the industries of the Punjab. I quite agree with this line of argument. If there is no taxation, there will be no additional money for the beneficent departments. How are we to obtain money and from what source? That is the real question. In the absence of funds, industries cannot flourish. On the other hand their progress will be retarded. So the real problem is that of finding more money for the beneficent departments. As a matter of fact the policy of our Government has all along been to spend as much money on the day to day administration as they think necessary and if any amount remains unspent, that is passed on to the beneficent departments of education, medical relief, public health and industries. These departments are not the first concern of the Government. Only a secondary position is given to them. Their first concern is to carry on the day to day administration of the province. If any saving is effected, that is spent on these departments. Under these circumstances the Finance Minister or the Minister in charge of industries cannot be expected to show any miracle. His hands are tied. He has no free hand in the matter. There is the top-heavy administration which they must maintain. They cannot reduce the high salaries of the Imperial Services like the I.C.S. When the Reforms of 1919 were to be introduced and actually enforced in 1920, an I.C.S. officer told me that the Local Self-Government would not pay the Indians. On the other hand the Ministers and the people would find an ever widening gulf between them. His reason for saying so was this: "The people will expect a radical improvement under their own Ministers who will be placed in charge of education, medicine, etc. But the Ministers will not get adequate funds for this purpose. The result will be nothing but a greater friction between the Government and the people." What this officer told me in 1920 has come out true. Every word of his has proved true by the succeeding events during these 21 years. The fact of the matter is that no great improvement can be effected without money and additional money cannot come without taxation, and if taxes are imposed, the people become hostile to the Government which imposes taxes on them. This is the vicious circle which has been brought into existence by the incomplete autonomy. When people ask for more facilities the Government asks for more taxes. After all every new work needs more funds for its completion and more funds cannot be obtained without resorting to taxation, and people resent and hate taxation. Hence no great improvement. In this connection the efforts of the Unionist Government merit some consideration. This Government has undoubtedly resorted to certain new taxes and has thereby alienated the sympathies of the urban people who are hit hard by these taxation measures. Similarly, agrarian Bills raised a storm of protests in the province. But my complaint is that whereas the Unionist Government has undoubtedly been bold enough to impose new taxes, it has not been bold enough to reduce the expenditure of the top-heavy administration of the province. In this regard the Unionist Government has shown no signs of courage and boldness. The previous top-heavy administration is still being maintained by the present regime. As an example I want to

mention the case of a public health officer who happened to visit my village for the simple purpose of distributing quinine among the villagers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : I am relevant inasmuch as the question of retrenchment is concerned and money can only come for industries by retrenchment. I gave this as an instance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question of retrenchment is not relevant here.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : This is not the main question that I am tackling. I am tackling how industries cannot go far without money and money cannot come. (*Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : From Heavens.*) Yes, it cannot come from Heavens, and, therefore, means have to be adopted.

The Honourable Minister wants money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member cannot bring in retrenchment here.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : Well, Sir, I am bringing it in an indirect way. I am not taking retrenchment as the principal subject. (*An honourable member : The honourable member is out of order.*) I am not out of order. I am quite relevant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member should address the Chair.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (Urdu) : Well, Sir, I was describing how fat salaries and heavy travelling allowances are drawn by big officers for ordinary purposes. As a matter of fact the administration of this province is top-heavy and the present Government is following in the footsteps of the old bureaucratic Government. The Unionist Government has not shown any courage in cutting down the expenditure of the top-heavy administration. That is the main reason why adequate sums are not provided in the budget for the useful departments like that of industries. Only a sum of 22 lakhs has been budgeted for industries and this sum is really insufficient for this purpose. The other day Rs. 1,00,000 were granted to bring about communal harmony in the province. I do very much appreciate the motives underlying that demand. I would say that even if ten lakhs of rupees were required to bring about communal harmony in the province no one should grudge it. There is a Persian verse—

عرفی امو بگر ۲ سو شدے وصل۔ صد سال می ترائی بہ تمنا کرستان

If it had been so easy to bring about communal harmony by expending such a small amount it would have been done long since. But to bring about communal harmony some other things are also required, for example, common economic interests of the people. (*Interruption.*) If communal harmony can be brought about by money alone we are prepared to spend lakhs and crores on it, but I am sorry to say that that is not possible. There must be some common interests of the people to unite them together. Industries in the province will give common economic interests to the people. Propaganda is required to be made to change the mentality of the people who at present regard labour as undignified and do not want to do anything.

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber.]

with their own hands. Out of the sum of Rs. 22 lakhs some amount should be reserved to carry on propaganda to popularize among the people the idea of working with their own hands. At present they consider that it is disgraceful to do any work. The dignity of labour has to be established. At present parents send their children to schools to enable them to become clerks but all cannot secure jobs in the offices. Propaganda, therefore, should be made among the people to prepare their children for industries. I request the Honourable Minister to reserve some sum for making propaganda to popularize industries among the people.

I am not an industrial expert that I may be expected to make some constructive suggestions regarding how to promote industries. But I may suggest this much that the Government can employ mukadams to go about in the villages to instruct people in the art of making gur or to train them in other industries allied to agriculture. But unfortunately the Government instead of adopting simple and inexpensive methods to attain any such end employs expensive and complicated methods. Now if they were to accept my proposal of appointing some people as mukadams to instruct people in industries allied to agriculture they will be trying to carry out this important work in some simple manner. But they set up a regular department for it. They employ a director and then an assistant director and again a deputy director also to run that department. And most of the grant made for that department is spent on the pay of those high officers. I am a graduate, but up to this time I have not been able to find out the difference between an assistant director and a deputy director and the need for both of these posts in some of the departments. Instead of employing such big officers if the Government were to employ people with smaller salaries who may simply carry out the instructions issued from the headquarters the work would be done more efficiently than if it were to be done with the help of big officers with big salaries. With these words I support this cut motion.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must pay a tribute to the Honourable Minister for Development and his department for the way in which they are encouraging industries in this province. We should not forget that they have limited means at their disposal. If you look at the provisions for industries for the year 1936-1937, you will observe that they had ear-marked the sum of Rs. 14.7 lakhs for this department. For the year 1941-42 we are now proposing to earmark a sum of Rs. 22.2 lakhs. For that they deserve all credit.

Lala Sita Ram : Why not take for the year 1937 ?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : For the year 1937-38 it was Rs. 19.1 lakhs. That was the first year that the budget was introduced by this Government. You will find that in that year there is a leap of a sum of not less than 5 lakhs for which credit is due to this Government and the Minister in charge. Having said that, I must respectfully say that although we are doing what we can still we are only tinkering with the problem. This problem of industries is a very important one, and the reason is this that as you know this province is an agricultural producing province or in other words we only have primary industries in this province. We have certain tracts of land which are still barren. The Government has already accomplished

one scheme, they are launching the other one, that is, the Thal Project to bring into harness that barren tract of land and make it irrigated. As my friend Begum Shah Nawaz has said there will be less pressure on those holdings which have already become uneconomic. Furthermore, the wealth of the province, the taxes and the revenue of the province will improve. Some people may think, after all why should industries be encouraged and what does the Punjab Government gain directly? Because whatever revenue is received from industries passes on to the central exchequer in the shape of income-tax, etc. This Government directly gets only from the sales tax which we have now imposed: we do not directly gain from industries. That is a very short-sighted policy, if I may say so, because with primary industries unless you have secondary and tertiary industries you cannot make the country self-supporting always. In this field we lag behind very much because our primary production and staple crops of cotton and wheat are second to none in India. We are not making use of that cotton. We have only two large cotton mills in the Punjab and the rest of the cotton used to find its way to foreign markets of the world. What has happened to-day? Owing to shipping difficulties that cotton cannot be sent away and consequently the price of desi cotton stands at about Rs. 4-4-0. The question is that if this state of affairs or this over production is the order of the day what will happen?

This production of cotton or wheat—will it pay the person who grows them or will it be as in New Zealand and British Isles where the grower is subsidized by the Government to keep him on in that particular business? Therefore we must apply our minds rather boldly to the question of how we are going to use the products of our land, and turn them into manufactured goods.

Speaking on the question of money, as I was saying we are now spending Rs. 22 lakhs. But what are these Rs. 22 lakhs as compared to the capital required for certain types of industries? Take for instance the textile industry. A mill of say 500 looms and about 20,000 spindles will cost roughly 30 lakhs of rupees. These figures are pre-war figures. A paper factory like the one at Jagadhri will also cost roughly Rs. 30 lakhs. Take a munition factory. Every one's eyes are now directed to the production of munitions. In this case also a factory which can produce 60,000 rifles costs no less than one crore of rupees. When you see the figures, you cannot, but wonder what the Rs. 22 lakhs that the Punjab Government is providing is going to do. In 1921 the money ear-marked for industries was Rs. 2½ lakhs. Of course I am speaking subject to correction. Now it is Rs. 22 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 20 lakhs in 20 years. My point is, with this meagre provision how are we going to finance our industries? (*Interruption.*) My honourable friend, the Premier suggests taking money from the urban classes. We members of this party stand for equalization of taxes both on the urban and rural classes. (*Hear, hear.*) At the same time we do not want to jeopardize the interest of industrialists and capitalists unnecessarily. It is not the intention of this Government to behave like Charles the Bold who razed the important town of Leige to the ground or like one other chieftain of that period who squeezed the burghars of Ghant on every possible occasion. That is not the intention

[**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.**]

of this Government. We stand by equalization of taxes. In this connection I have to make a request to the Minister of Finance and that is, that we must appoint a committee of experts to find out the incidence of taxation on the urban classes and the rural classes. Till that is done I am afraid no one is in a position to answer who is more burdened, the urbanite or the ruralite. (*Hear, hear.*)

Pir Albar Ali : Is the honourable member speaking on the demand for grant for industries ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member is developing his argument.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I am trying to show that money cannot be raised by taxes only to meet the increasing demand for industries. There are only two other sources open to us. One is raising loans for industrializing the province. The second is to invite the industrialists to this province and help them to start certain industries which at the moment are not in being.

In this connection I will draw the attention of honourable members to the Central Industrial Research Board set up by the Government of India. I would ask my honourable friends to read the proceedings of this Board. We have expert scientists on this board as also expert meteorologists. Their researches are placed before the board at its meetings and are thereafter made available to the public. When I was last in Delhi I was told that a particular nut was capable of producing a type of varnish which would stand heat and rain and was better than any enamel so far discovered and that the cost of production of this particular varnish was one-fourth of the cost of any other varnish. I was also told that the Government of India was trying to find capitalists who could put this research to use. What I am saying is that here we have all the preliminary researches made and the spade work done by these scientists and what we need is an organization to make use of these researches. If private enterprise is not forthcoming then there is no reason why Government should not come forward and especially our Government which wants to encourage industries and take up these things. (*Hear, hear*) and make full use of them. I say, this is the best time to develop industries. Two years ago whoever thought that aeroplanes could be manufactured in this country. Now, you might have read in the papers that we are going to have planes made in India by July of this year. We have the material and we have the demand. It is now up to us to start organizations and produce our requirements.

One more thing which I should like to discuss, and about which the Finance Minister made a very strong point in his various speeches, is the factories for the production of machinery. I am told that our railway workshops in India are capable of producing any type of machinery. They are capable of producing guns of high calibre and so on. If they can produce such machinery, why should not a Government factory well organized and well equipped be able to produce the necessary machinery ? I am not talking of big machinery. I am talking of small machinery which can produce pins, nibs, gem clips, nails, screws, latches and such other things, the-

prices of which have gone up four fold. We cannot undertake the manufacture of such machinery because it requires a large amount of capital. Only Governments which have the resources should come to the aid of such industries.

Having said this, I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to one more point which I would like to make. In this country we grow wool and we have one good factory which is situated in Dsariwal. We also produce type of wool which is being used for making blankets in Panipat. But if we have another factory working, I assure the Honourable Minister that wool for that factory also would be forthcoming. There is plenty of raw material only if we would have machinery installed, and I do not think it will be difficult to get hold of machinery in spite of the war, because apart from the European market you will find that some machinery will be forthcoming from Australia. I thought that America was the only place now for machinery, but I was interested in a canning factory and I wrote to Australia and I had a very encouraging reply. They were in a position not only to supply preserving and canning machinery but also a can making machinery which is more intricate than the ordinary canning. In this connection I might draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to what is happening in Delhi in the Stores Department. We have in India now some factories producing canned fruits. There is one factory in Madras which is canning fish for the use of troops. But there is a very large field for fruit preservation. Take for instance, Quaker Oats, Force, Puffed Rice and things like that. These do not cost much and we produce very good wheat here, but the only thing is that we do not have expert knowledge, and if Government had someone to show the way there will be no difficulty. We are now producing a large quantity of Maltas, Eureka lemons, Galgals and I am glad to see that industry has cropped up of squashes. But there is still a lot to be done in the shape of orange marmalade and other citrus marmalades. We lag far behind and if any one were to take that up and produce it of the same quality as Australia, then we will have a great market in that particular line.

Then the manufacture of jam deserves our serious attention. Although the price of sugar is not the same as in other countries, and the price of Australian jam was about four pence a pound and the cost of producing in this country was far more than four pence on account of high cost of sugar and tin, yet now because that Australian jam is not forthcoming, we can develop this line. With these words, Sir, I close my speech.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Mr. Deputy Speaker, there can be no two opinions that the salvation of a country lies only in industrialization. The wealth and prosperity of the modern countries have been built on their trade and industry alone. The Honourable Minister for Finance has been laying the greatest possible emphasis on this aspect of the question in the speeches that he has recently delivered not on the floor of this House alone but also outside. The Honourable Minister for Development in whose hands lies the destiny of the province in this domain of industries says, that he is doing his best. If the feelings of the public were to count, they have been described and they could not

[S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

have been described better than in the Unemployment Committee's report. I am reading from paragraph 64—

Throughout the course of our labours we have been faced with a persistent and wide-spread demand that the State should embark on a well-planned and large scale programme of industrialization. In every memorandum that we have received in reply to the questionnaire, in every meeting that we attended on tour and in the evidence of every witness whom we examined orally at Lahore the chief demand is for industrialization. We have been impressed with the depth of feeling on the subject and the lesson has been driven home to us that if we want to compete and exist in the modern post-war world we must make a striking and basic departure from our present economy which for all practical purposes is an entirely pastoral economy. We must not be misunderstood to mean that we advocate desertion of agriculture as a profession; indeed this is not possible. But what we wish to say clearly and emphatically is that the root cause of our growing unemployment is our unbalanced economy which places far too much emphasis on agriculture and far too little on commerce, trade and industry.

It is these words in which the feelings of the public at large have been described in the Unemployment Committee's report presided over by Sir Chhotu Ram himself.

Speaking in this House on the 20th of March, 1939, Sir Chhotu Ram said as follows :

There is still another matter which deserves our careful consideration. The Punjab Government intend to encourage private enterprise by all means at their disposal. If, however, capitalists fail to come forward, the Government by itself or in partnership with other industrialists embark on a programme of industrial development. But so far the House has not had an opportunity to express its views on the subject. The Government have not yet come to a final decision about it. Not once, but twice or thrice, a notice of resolution has been given by Unionist members with the object of enabling the House to express its views on the subject, but the resolution has not survived the ballot. However, if the resolution succeeds at the ballot this time and the House expresses a favourable view, we shall see that either the Government by itself or in co-operation with capitalists does all that lies in its power to start industrial concerns.

This, Sir, is the language of the Honourable Minister for Development when delivering his speech on the floor of this House on the 20th of March, 1939. I ask him in all seriousness, in all earnestness, as to what he has done during these 2½ years to lead this province to the desired goal. The condemnation of the acts of sins of omission and commission

3 p. m. of this Government could not have been severer than what is contained in the speech delivered to-day by my honourable friend, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, though couched in gentle tone. What does he say? He says that the Honourable Minister of Development is a man of very strong convictions and if he does want to do a certain thing, he is quite capable of finding ways and means to do it. This, Sir, is exactly the complaint of the members from this side of the House. Our complaint is that if the Honourable Minister of Development wanted to further the industries, wanted to industrialize the province, he was a man of such strong convictions that he would have been able to find ways and means to do that. But instead of doing anything to encourage the industries of this province, to lead this province to the desired goal, his own efforts have been concentrated in finding ways and means to victimize a certain section of the people by means of extra, additional, taxation. My honourable friend further said that the Government has not shown so much earnestness in the domain of industries as it should have done. Coming as these words do from a Parliamentary

Secretary, our case is proved to the hilt. The case of the Opposition all along has been that the Government has not in the case of industries shown such earnestness as we had a right to expect of it. My friend went on further to say that the Government has been sleeping in the matter of industries. Now, Sir, I put it to this House, could the condemnation of the Government in regard to its sins of omission and commission in the domain of industries, been severer than what my honourable friend, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, has described them to be, although in very gentle tone? It is true that since this Government came into power, there has been an increase of about 2 lakhs of rupees in the expenditure on industries. But let us consider dispassionately where this increase takes us to and on what this additional expenditure as also the existing expenditure is being used. Coming to the budget, page 459, one finds that out of a grant of Rs. 19,83,000—I am excluding fisheries for the purposes of my present discussion—Rs. 1,21,400 goes towards direction, that is the pay of officers and others, another Rs. 68,800 goes towards superintendence, Rs. 11,28,900 goes towards industrial education. So far as industrial development is concerned, a direct expenditure of only Rs. 3,70,000 is being incurred. Now, I do not decry the efforts of the Government in the matter of industrial education. We on this side of the House welcome this expenditure; but we cannot help remarking that if our progress is to be so slow as it has been so far, it will not be for centuries that we shall be able to raise the head of the province in matters of industrialization to come in line with other countries. The Government is very fond of making comparisons between this poor province and those rich foreign countries when the question of taxation arises. I would ask them in all humility to consider dispassionately, the industrial position of this province as compared with those foreign countries. If they do institute these comparisons re proposals of taxation, there is no reason why they should not compare the poorer position of the industries of this province with the position of industries in other countries. I have shown that out of an expenditure of Rs. 19 lakhs, only Rs. 3 lakhs and some thousands are spent on direct industrial development. All the rest goes towards schools and most part of it goes in the shape of establishment and salaries. These institutions are useful in themselves. I do not deny their usefulness. I do not say they are not necessary. It will take time however for these schools to show results, but as the Honourable Minister of Development himself pointed out, the salvation of the country lies in the immediate starting of industrial ventures of importance either directly as a State enterprise or by joining capitalists to start industries on a large scale.

Coming again to the Unemployment Committee's Report, it is stated there—I will read only the relevant portion—

Accordingly we recommend that Government should immediately set up a small committee of experts representing industrial, economic and agricultural interests to study our resources and requirements and draw up practical schemes for the establishment of large scale industries through direct State enterprise. It should not be difficult for a committee of the kind we advocate to submit their report in six months' time to enable Government to make a start.

Now, Sir, this report was signed on the 26th November, 1938. Two and a half years have already elapsed and I would like the Honourable Minister of Development to take this House into his confidence and tell us whether he did appoint a committee of experts as suggested in his own report and

[S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

what has been the result of the efforts of that committee if it was appointed at all. If it has not been appointed, he will tell us why it was not appointed, and why he has been sleeping over this matter and why he did not persuade his colleagues in the cabinet to assist him in the formation of that committee. I will wait for a reply when the turn of the Honourable Minister comes to speak.

I will quote a few further extracts from the same report to show what progress and in what a short time other countries have made in the domain of industries. I am quoting from page 119 of the minority report.

And then there is the overwhelming evidence pointing to the fact that the wealth and prosperity of all the modern countries have been built up on industry and trade. In the United States of America as far back as 1900 the income from industries was about equal to that from agriculture. In 30 years the income from industries grew to four times that from agriculture. Again the population engaged in agriculture remained stationary, while the total population increased by 47 millions in the interval. The number employed in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits nearly doubled. Similarly Canada, which before the Great War was predominantly agricultural, has since become an industrial country with an industrial income about twice as much as that from agriculture. Sweden is another country which in 1870 had only one-eighth of its population dependent for living on industries and commerce; to-day one-half of its population is maintained by these occupations. Before the War Russia too was largely an agricultural country. In 1913, 42.1 per cent of its gross production was from industry and 57.9 per cent from agriculture; in 1932 the production changed to 70.7 per cent and 29.3 per cent respectively.

That is, in the small period of 19 years the production of Russia from industry went up from 42 to 70 per cent. What a phenomenal increase!

Quoting again from the same report—

President Roosevelt in his book 'Looking Forward' says: 'We know from the figures of a century ago that 75 per cent of the population lived on farms and 25 per cent in cities. To-day the figures are exactly reversed. A generation ago there was much talk of back-to-the-farm movement. It is my thought that this slogan is untrue.'

There is no denying that non-industrialization and poverty go together and excessive dependence on land is a phenomenon noticed only in the poverty-stricken countries of the East. Now, the position is that we in this province have been able to borrow crores of rupees for agriculture betterment and I for one cannot see any reason why our Government should not have paid the same attention to the subject of industries and raised loans if they could not find funds otherwise for the advancement of industries. Lot of funds could be found for industrialization, only if the Government had applied its mind to it. There has been such a waste of expenditure in certain directions that no Government, not even this Government, should have tolerated such a thing even for a minute. For the information of the Honourable Premier, I will read out to him, a few lines from the Report of the Retrenchment Committee just to show how wastefully the funds of this province have been applied during the last three or four years that this Government has been in power. This is not my language, these are not my words, they are the words of the report of a committee presided over by no other a person than the Honourable Finance Minister himself. The report says—

We came across some cases in which the special pays existed even though the original conditions which led to the grant had disappeared. A case in point is the

special pay granted to officers of the I.C.S. placed in charge of certain divisions or districts. We notice that at one time the Punjab Government recommended to the Secretary of State that these special pays be abolished on the ground that the circumstances under which they were allowed as outpost allowances had altered. Accepting this recommendation, the Secretary of State agreed to the abolition of these special pays. We are surprised to see them still being drawn. We have recommended their abolition.

It comes to this, and I wish the Honourable Premier lent his ears to me for a second to know how the Government have been dealing with the funds of the provinces. I am pointing out that certain pays which had been abolished were still being drawn in the time of the present Government.

Premier : Which thing ?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Special pays.

Premier : No, they are misinformed.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Then after the matter was brought to the notice of the present Government by means of this report, which I believe they must have read, they allowed their officers to continue to draw these pays which had been abolished on the recommendation of the Punjab Government by the then Secretary of State. Sir, if I were to say that this Government has been abetting in the matter of continuity of the drawing of these special pays, I would not be wrong. I have every justification to hold that the present Government should not have allowed these officers to draw these special pays which had been abolished, even for a day after this matter was brought to their notice, but I am surprised that nothing whatever was done in this direction and that when a matter of the importance of industries comes before this House the usual plea is taken that they could not do much because of financial stringency. What I am trying to point out is that if this Government had the will, they could have found the means to proceed with the industrialization in a manner which would have done them credit. Again in this report of the Unemployment Committee presided over by the Honourable Minister for Development, it is said that the idea of setting up a State Industrial Bank was very sound and must be given effect to. So far as we know, nothing has come out of this recommendation. This report of the Unemployment Committee, so far as we can find, has been held back for a period extending over 2½ years, that means about half the time of the regime of the present Government, which has normally to go on for five years. If this Government has not been able to discuss much less act on the report of their own committee, where very important suggestions are made for the improvement of the industries, for the bringing in of State Industrial Bank, I do not know what else this Government may have been doing in the matter of advancing trade and industry. It will not be enough to spend a few thousand rupees or even one or two lakhs over new expenditure every year. It is true that the proposed expenditure in this budget has risen by two lakhs. We cannot, however, say whether this excess of Rs. 2 lakhs representing the new expenditure will be actually spent, or surrendered as unspent, but as things are one has only to go to the details of the new expenditure to find that barring two or three little things no new schemes have been brought up on which this expenditure will be applied. The new expenditure will be applied mostly on the schemes that came into existence in the previous years and the continuance of which was necessary. I will refer to the new expenditure starting

S. S. S. Santokh Singh.]

from page 218 just to show that out of the new 27 items of expenditure only 4 are such as could in the right sense of the word be called new expenditure. Others are expenditure on the previous schemes or on the appointment of further staff in aid of these institutions that were already in existence. The only new schemes as far as I have been able to find are the following. I speak subject to correction, if anything further has been done by the Minister for Development in this direction, I shall be grateful if he enlightens the House.

One is the opening of an Industrial School for girls at Multan. This is very satisfactory so far as that goes. We, as I have already said on the floor of the House, welcome this expenditure. This will be a well-deserved institution, which will show some results after certain time. It cannot be expected to show any immediate results. If we want to prosper we must industrialize our province. But this cannot be done by a paltry sum of one or two lakhs of rupees under this Head. If Government really means business, I would request the Honourable Premier to take courage in both his hands to borrow, if he cannot find money by retrenchment. As I have already said the Retrenchment Committee has made proposals for the retrenchment of expenditure of as much as 53½ lakhs of rupees, although to our regret not even five pies have been retrenched out of the recommendations covering the amount of 53½ lakhs of rupees. I think, Sir, any Government worth its name should not have allowed the Retrenchment Committee's Report to lie over for a period of 2 years as a sealed book. Having taken their clue from the recommendations of that very committee in the matter of additional taxation, they should have the fairness, they should have, I believe, considered it their duty to do something in the matter of retrenchments covering an amount of 53½ lakhs of rupees recommended by the same Retrenchment Committee.

I was pointing out, Sir, that so far as the new expenditure was concerned, the opening of an Industrial School for girls at Multan, the creation of a Travelling Demonstration Party for women for the Ambala Division, for training in domestic handicrafts in rural areas and the award of scholarships to Punjabi students for study in the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore, the experimental scheme for industrial research, and addition of a commercial section in connection with the Marketing Organization at Amritsar was an exhaustive list of the new ventures. This is the sum and substance of the improvements that have been taken up by this Government for the ensuing year and it is on this that they are congratulating themselves so much. These few items which will go to cover the new expenditure though useful in themselves cannot industrialize the province. The rest of the expenditure will be devoted to same institutions that were in existence before. I put it to this Government, to the Minister in charge, whether under these circumstances there is any possibility of this province taking its due share in the industrialization within another 50 or 100 years. If something has to be done—done it must be—then a very much bigger sum, crores of rupees are necessary and the Government will be well-advised to find the requisite funds, both by retrenching expenditure and by borrowings. They have borrowed crores of rupees for agricultural advancement and I do not see

why they should not do the same for industries, especially when everybody is agreed that in the industrialization of the province lies its salvation. Before I sit down, I will make an appeal to the Government that whatever little has been done is insignificant. All sections of the House are agreed that the salvation of our province lies in its industrialization, and it is absolutely necessary that as big an amount as it is humanly possible should be spent and at no distant future, on the industrialization of the province to bring it in line with what we find in foreign countries.

Pir Akbar Ali (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no intention to participate in the debate but the speeches made by my honourable friends Sayed Amjad Ali Shah and Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh have prompted me to make a few observations. The latter laid great stress on the industrialization of the province and also severely complained of the inadequacy of the amount earmarked for giving impetus to the growth of industry in the Punjab. But the difficulty is that when we put forward proposals for raising money to be utilised for beneficent purposes, my honourable friends over there get angry with us. I assure them that we are in no way less anxious to see that the Government should spend maximum possible amount of money on industry. But the question arises, from which source is this extra money to come? I believe it is they who are expected to contribute their share for this purpose. In the present hard times, taxation is the only means by which money can be raised and therefore they may rest assured that when new taxes are realized from them enough money would be set aside for industrialization of the province. Again I am constrained to find my honourable friend making great hue and cry in spite of the fact that lion's share of the amount earmarked for this demand, is to be spent in urban areas. In my opinion the rural areas have greater and irresistible claims on this demand as it is they which urgently stand in need of development of cottage industries. I wonder how the Honourable Minister for Development, who is an ardent champion of the cause of the ruralites, has taken fancy to the urban areas. I find since the Department of Industries came under his charge, he has begun to treat the claims of the rural areas on par with those of the urban areas. For instance, if you peruse the budget, you will find that if 28 stipends have been reserved for the rural areas, an equal number of stipends has also been provided for urban areas and so on. I believe that it behoves the Honourable Minister to set aside more money for the rural areas. Then my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah was very loud about equalization of taxes on the rural and urban areas, so that the amount of taxes realized from the respective areas might be spent on them alone. This is a strange suggestion and I do not see eye to eye with it. But may I know who has been paying for the amount which has so far been spent on the Industries Department? It is the poor tiller of the soil who has been bearing the brunt and unceasingly making contributions towards the development of industries in the province. He pays for the growth of industry without receiving any substantial return for his money either in the form of cottage industries or otherwise.

Then, my honourable friend over there blamed the Government for not complying with the recommendations made in the Retrenchment Committee Report. He expressed serious doubts about the *bona fides* of the Government. But may I enquire of him as to who was responsible for the appoint-

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

ment of this Retrenchment Committee? It is the Unionist Government which took this laudable step. If no action has so far been taken on the recommendations embodied in the said report, it is not due to any wilful indifference or reluctance on the part of the Government. It is the protracted famine and present world war conditions that have proved a stumbling block in the way of these recommendations being given effect to. Again my honourable friend conveniently forgot that the other day the Honourable Premier held out an assurance that the aforesaid report was receiving the attention of the Government who would take action at the earliest opportunity. My honourable friend should remember that now he is vaxing indignant at the Government for having failed to carry out those recommendations; but when they would be translated into action, he would be the first to feel the pinch. (*Hear, hear.*) Besides, I may tell him that honourable members on this side of the House are not lagging behind in bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to make effective retrenchment with a view to giving relief to the poor zamindars. For instance, they have been suggesting the abolition of the posts of Deputy Inspector-General of Prisons and the Additional Financial Commissioner. But Government could not help it because the work owing to War and new enactments passed by this Legislature has increased enormously and has, therefore, necessitated their retention.

Next my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, said certain things which call for a categorical reply at my hands.

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

I can say with confidence and without any fear of contradiction that the urban people pay no direct taxes except income-tax and even this tax is not paid by them alone. The zamindars and villagers also pay this tax. There is no special tax which the urbanites alone pay and which the villagers do not pay. I challenge my urban friends to refute this statement if they can by pointing out any single tax which they alone pay to the exclusion of the ruralites. If we leave alone the regular and direct taxes, even then we find that the villagers pay several irregular taxes like the various fees paid to the patwaris. Can the honourable members of this House imagine that the low paid officials like patwaris can manage to make their both ends meet within the paltry sum of Rs. 22 or Rs. 26 per month? The villagers supply various things to them without any price. For instance they give free fodder, free fuel and free houses. It is on the basis of these irregular taxes that the important services of the patwaris are functioning in the province.

Mr. Speaker : Which motion is the honourable member discussing?

Pir Akbar Ali : I am discussing industries and because your predecessor did not stop a gentleman who was speaking on the subject of realization of taxes, therefore, I have to reply to him. My difficulty is that you adopt one principle while your predecessor adopted another principle and it is difficult for me—

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow that discussion.

Pir Akbar Ali : A gentleman before me has been discussing that and your predecessor allowed that discussion.

Mr. Speaker : He might have done that.

Pir Akbar Ali : Now, Sir, take the case of industrial schools. The Government have established these schools in the towns and cities which are often out of the easy reach of the villagers. It is the urbanites who receive the greatest benefit from these industrial schools. The poor villagers cannot get any advantage from them. Then take the question of stipends. Most of them are awarded to the sons of the urban people who live in the tahsil or the district headquarters where the industrial schools are situated. Furthermore, the industries which are taught in the industrial schools are not the industries that the villagers require. For instance, the students are taught how to make tables and chairs. These are articles which the villagers never use and do not need. What they need are agricultural implements and articles of domestic use. But these articles are not prepared by our department of industries. Ploughs are not placed before the students as models which they should learn to construct. All they are trained for, is the making of tables and chairs. Now these are articles of luxury and are mostly used by the towns people. What is the use of these industrial schools to the poor villagers? How do they stand to gain anything from the heavy expenditure on these institutions? The students of the industrial schools should be trained in the art of making agricultural implements, like the modern and improved ploughs, sickles and *kudals*. I do not mean to say that the industrial schools should be closed. What I want to say is that such schools should be established in the villages as well so that the ruralites may also learn and gain something from these institutions. Let there be a fair ratio between those schools which are established in the towns and those that are opened in the villages. Similarly, the industries taught in those schools should correspond to the needs of the population. At present the needs of the urban people are kept in the forefront and the interests of the rural people are altogether neglected by the Department of Industries. After all the industries of cattle breeding and poultry also deserve some attention. Why does the Honourable Minister ignore the claims of these rural industries? The zamindars stand to gain a good deal from the development of domestic and rural industries.

I may also be allowed to make passing reference to the hydro-electric department which was established at a cost of crores of rupees, but which department is not benefiting the rural people at all. Cheap electricity has not been supplied to the tillers of the soil for agricultural purposes as was the original intention of the Government. As a matter of fact the hydro-electric scheme was carried into effect at the expense of the zamindars who paid most of the funds spent on this project. But they have received no benefit from this huge expenditure. Electricity has not been supplied to them for drawing water from wells and for working other agricultural implements. In short 90 per cent of the population of the Punjab is being ignored by the present Government in regard to its industrial policy. It is passing strange that those who pay most of the taxes are not allowed to be benefited by the Industries Department of the present Government in so far as industrial schools are established in the towns only and rural industries are not encouraged in them.

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana, Central Sikh, Rural): Mr. Speaker, I have read the Honourable Minister for Industries' article in to-day's paper

[S. Lal Singh.]

and I have an inkling of what he is going to say at the end of this discussion. The trend of his remarks, I think, will as usual be, that they have supplied so much here, they have created so many industrial schools and they have appointed so many officers and so the industry of the province will take care of itself. I think that this attitude is not sufficient if this province is to be made richer and not to be called for ever merely an agricultural province. We want somebody who will simply go and get the thing done and we do not want to depend on his talk that they have employed so many men and they have got well paid servants. He must be a man who will simply transform the province from "agricultural" into "industrial" province. Upon that alone depends the progress of this country and its becoming richer. You will excuse me if I advert a little upon the very optimistic tone which these Ministers usually adopt. Specially the Finance Minister on the presentation of the budget said that the finances of the Punjab have got something intrinsically good. I submit that there is nothing intrinsically good in the finances of this province and it can be shown from the figures. This province has been living from hand to mouth and the Government has been selling the land of this province. It has sold about 2 crores worth of land and immovable property of this province to keep alive. I admit that it has spent a lot on famine but it met the other expenses by selling the actual immovable property, which I think, is a sign to a certain extent of bankruptcy. I see that the Honourable Minister for Development is in a querulous mood. If he will go into the extraordinary receipts he will find that 2 crores of the income was from the sale of these lands and other property of the province. This, I think, does not at all show that there is something intrinsically right with the finances of the province. The province will be able to stand upon its own legs if the industries take the place, at least a good place from agriculture. I have some humble suggestions to make. The industrial development of our province has got very much to do with its fuel resources; how much power it can produce and in what way it can produce. Punjab alone is not the province which has not got good supply of coal. There are other provinces also, which, although not blessed with good coal have very good record as industrial provinces. Burma is a province which has one of the most inferior coals that India can produce, yet Burma is one of the best developed so far as industrial provinces are concerned. What does this province do? It allows its fuel resources to be neglected. Ten or eleven years ago, on my return from England, I made a suggestion to the then Director of Industries—I think the gentleman has retired now, and at that time no attention was paid to my suggestion—that inferior coal of the Punjab could be utilized to a great extent as other countries are doing. Now, after 10 or 11 years, when pushed to the extreme by the exigencies of war, they have taken up the subject of the utilization of inferior supply of the Punjab coal, and they are thinking of turning that inferior coal to some good use. I think, Sir, in these days for the people of this province to be compelled to pay about Rs. 2 per gallon for petrol and oil fuel, of which the cost of production is about 2 or 3 annas a gallon, is a very hard thing and it is criminal that the Government should allow that state of affairs. In the first place petrol prices should be controlled and in the second place some other substitute must be found out. I submit that there are factories which are using their indigenous fuel of charcoal. Industries.

of the Punjab can be made to produce so much charcoal that it can replace petrol and oil fuels. You will find that the growing source of income of this province is going to be the transport industry, an industry on which thousands of Punjabis live by plying motor lorries. I would submit to the Honourable Minister that if proper research is made and proper appliances are invented, this charcoal can be utilised in place of petrol or oil fuels. There is, in fact, a small agency in Lahore of an invention, which is being utilised in Madras to substitute charcoal or coak fuel in place of petrol fuel. This I, think, should be taken advantage of.

Then, again, what happens is this that the education level of the rural areas is so low that what they should use for agricultural purposes is being utilised for their fuel. I am sorry to refer to the practice of using cow-dung in place of fuel. If the fuel resources of this province manufacture artificial fuels from plant stalks and other waste materials, then the cow-dung could be saved for the purpose of improving agricultural produce. Of course, I know that it requires a little education, not little, but quite widespread education in the rural areas that they should use proper fuel instead of their manure.

Then there is one other thing and it is this that the country, which is rich in the refuse material of agricultural produce, should be able to produce industrial alcohol. People of villages use their cotton plant stalks, their cow-dung and their stalks from *makai*, etc., as fuel just as waste material. These things are full of chemical substances and they can be made to turn out industrial alcohol. I think means should be provided for producing industrial alcohol out of the refuse material of the villages. If we can produce our own alcohol for the purpose of transport or for the purpose of power, that refuse can be converted into riches. I will submit that it is high time that the Punjab Government, who lay great stress on the Mandi hydro-electric scheme for the supply of power not only to cities but also to villages, should take the time by the forelock and give up that idea, because it is admitted that that scheme is almost a failure. Therefore, another source of producing electricity must be found out and there is so much of refuse material from agricultural produce that cheap electricity can be generated and made available to the agriculturists in the villages. One great problem for the people in the villages is to draw water for irrigation purposes. If an ordinary agriculturist of average means were to instal some mechanical plant for watering his fields, it is not at all paying, for the simple reason that his fuels for producing that power are very dear. I have a humble suggestion in this behalf to make and it is this that the practice of the Honourable Minister should be to reject all those old sayings which have been injected by the people who want to exploit this province by saying that the Punjab is an agricultural province, that the Punjab has no steady winds and cannot be an industrial province and so on. The Punjab can be revolutionized into an industrial province being so full of wealth in one form or another. I may draw the pointed attention of the Minister to just two points. Development of wind-mills in areas where winds are more or less steady should be undertaken. An ordinary agriculturist with an outlay of a thousand or 1,500 can very easily instal one wind-mill. What is required is this. The industries or whatever department is in charge should make an experiment and demonstrate to the people that wind-mills can be

[S. Lal Singh.]

utilized for irrigation purposes at least on small holdings. Then again the Industries Minister should help the other small industries, for example, the hotel industry. The Minister should recognise that the Punjab is one of the healthiest provinces in India. People living on sea-side publish big coloured posters inviting people to come to seaside where there are seaports and other places which they so much advertise and which are really not comparable so far as health is concerned with the cities of the Punjab. People should be invited to come to the Punjab and partake its luxuries here so that people can live not only in big cities but in villages also if small hotels or a sort of hotel industry can be developed. What I mean to say is that the Honourable Minister for Development will have to turn his angle of vision and not put his entire energy on revolutionizing the *kisans* and *jats*, but being in charge of the industrial progress of the province he should put his whole heart into it and if he cannot do it himself he should enlist people who can do it for him.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, it is a matter of great regret that so far this Government have not done anything to promote any industry in the province which may benefit the tillers of the soils. On the contrary both the Government and the *sahukars* have exploited them a great deal. But none of them have done anything to benefit them. To-day I propose to put forward some suggestions before the House, which, I think the Honourable Minister for Development, has not heard of before. But before I do so I would request him to consider my suggestions, which I propose to make, dispassionately and do not spurn them away merely because I am urging them. After all my object in sponsoring them is to afford some sort of relief to the poor zamindars and not to win for myself a name only. The reason why I am making this request is that once a deputation consisting of the zamindars of the Jullundur district in which Sardar Sampuran Singh and myself were also included waited on the Honourable Premier and requested him to very kindly make some arrangements for the supply of water to the people of those areas in their district where scarcity was felt. The Honourable Premier while addressing the zamindars pointed out that if they were under the impression that their demand would be met because Sardar Sampuran Singh and Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan were supporting it, they were mistaken and that his Government would not do anything which would make them popular amongst the masses. In view of this I would request the Honourable Minister for Development not to adopt the same attitude which the Honourable Premier adopted and pay a deaf-ear to the suggestions which I am going to make. On the contrary let him consider them dispassionately and try to give effect to them. Anyhow I have already pointed out that so far Government have done nothing to develop any industry in the province which may help the producers of raw materials to get good price for their produce. I may tell you that although the agriculturists produce plenty of raw materials, such as wheat, cotton, oil seeds and sugarcane, still they do not get good price for them. In the first instance foreign countries are benefited by them and next Government and then the *sahukars*. But the agriculturists who put in hard labour to produce them do not get even sufficient price for them so as to

meet their own necessities. I would give you an instance as to how the zamindars are being exploited by others. The honourable members are aware of the fact that the agriculturists grow sugarcane in large quantities in the Punjab. In this connection I may point out that I have seen facts and figures relating to the yield of sugarcane crop of the Jullundur Agricultural Farm. In that farm the yield of sugarcane is from 900 to 1,400 maunds per acre. I have also made experiments myself and on the basis of my personal experience I can say that if lands are given plenty of manures and water one can produce 1,000 maunds of sugarcane per acre. But even though the zamindars produce so much sugarcane still they make no profits whatsoever. It is the sugar mill-owners who reap the reward. For instance, there is a sugar mill working at Phagwara and something like 20,000 maunds of sugarcane are crushed in it daily. This sugar mill works for five months in a year. If we make careful calculations we would find that 3,000 agriculturists supply sugarcane to it for full five months. But what do they get in return? The mill-owners purchase sugarcane at the rate of four annas per maund. Sometime they play another trick, also, that is, if sugarcane happens to be 10 maunds in weight the mill-owners weigh it in such a manner that it appears to be only 7 maunds in weight. In this way the price of the sugarcane which a zamindar gets comes near about two annas per maund. But against this the mill-owners produce 8 to 9½ maunds of sugar from 100 maunds of sugarcane and sell it at Rs. 8 per maund. Thus they make a good deal of profits. But as compared to them zamindars get only a few pice per maund which price is not even sufficient to meet one fourth of the cost of the manures which they use for the growing of sugarcane. Besides, they put in labour all the year round. I think even if the mill-owners buy sugarcane at the rate of 10 annas per maund from the agriculturists and sell the sugar manufactured by them at the rate of Rs. 10 per maund they can make plenty of money. However, my suggestion is that if we organise these three thousand zamindars who supply sugarcane to the Phagwara mill on a co-operative basis and set up a sugar mill of their own that would make the zamindars rich in no time. The Government need not give any money for the setting up of a sugar mill from their own exchequer. Now-a-days lakhs of rupees can be loaned from the banks at 1½ per cent or at the most 2 per cent rate of interest. I am sure that if this suggestion is adopted even in the first year zamindars besides paying up the cost of setting up a sugar mill would be in a position to get in addition the same price for their sugarcane at which they sold it previously to the mill-owners. In this way the machinery will be theirs for nothing. Similarly the producers of wheat and cotton can be organised on a co-operative basis and mills can be started which would benefit the zamindars a great deal.

If with that sum the owners of at least three thousand acres out of the total acreage devoted to sugarcane production form themselves into a Co-operative Union they can very well manage to produce sugar worth twenty to twenty-six lakhs of rupees. Take for instance the case of the Phagwara Sugar Mill, whose total investment is twelve lakhs of rupees while the machinery has cost three lakhs. In the very first year of its working the mill produced enough sugar to get back the cost three times over, as also to clear the title by repaying all interest

[Ch. Md. Abdul Rahman Khan.]

and other charges. If the Honourable Minister were to consult me in this matter, I would give his statistics showing how a zamindar can get as much as Rs. 900 per acre from his sugarcane crop. As I have to deal with a few other things I shall try to be brief in my submissions. We have time and again submitted to the Government that the mill-owners are sucking our life blood by exploiting our helplessness, and, therefore it is very essential that the rates of sugarcane be fixed. But unfortunately the Government have never paid any heed to our requests. We were told that because most of the sugar-mills were in State territories, the Government could do nothing in the matter. In reply I tried to bring it to the notice of the Government that although the mills were situated in State territories, the cane nevertheless, was supplied by the zamindars living in British territory. It is now almost four years since this Government came into power but nothing has so far been done to control sugarcane prices. The carts have to wait for days together before the cane is bought by the mill people and that too for Rs. 3, Rs. 2 or even Re. 1-8-0 per cart load. Again while weighing the canes machines are manipulated in such a way as to be advantageous to the mill management. This is how the zamindars are being cheated and deprived of their due prices.

The Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that even simple villagers earn lakhs of rupees when they go to countries like America and Australia, but educated and sensible men are starving to death in our province. The reason for this strange phenomenon is that America and Australia are highly industrialized countries whereas our province is very backward in this respect and that is why its wise sons have no alternative but to end their misery by taking their own lives. Cotton is sold by us at about ten seers for a rupee and we get it back in the shape of woven material which is sold at ten or fifteen rupees a roll. The main object in forming a Co-operative Union is to keep our raw material to ourselves and to utilize it for manufacturing finished articles in our own country and thus to give a fillip to the development of industries. The poor agriculturists are heavily in debt, so much so that in many cases virtually whole villages are mortgaged with the *sahukar*. If a co-operative union is formed these zamindars can be free men again within a year.

Again take linseed oil. The zamindar toils hard and produces linseed but other countries derive the maximum of benefit from his labours. They extract linseed oil from it which is used in all paints and varnishes and is bought by us at Rs. 20 a can. If this oil is extracted here and the raw material is kept in our own country, the honourable members can well imagine how much benefit our province will derive from it. It is, however, very much to be regretted that the Government have not given any thought to this matter. Milk again is sold at Rs. 6 per maund in Lahore, but in our *ilaga* the price is as low as Rs. 2-8-0 per maund. Now if an attempt is made to make butter and cheese from it we can send thousands of maunds of it to Great Britain during the war when these things are being rationed there. As I have submitted before, no one has given any attention to it; nor is there any hope of the Government doing so. The greatest need of this country is that the industry should be promoted to such an extent that all

the raw material produced in this country may be consumed here and our country may become as rich as other industrialized countries of the world.

Production of cheap electric power, the prime factor in the industrial progress of any country, was attempted by our Government in order to benefit the rural population, but it has been so badly managed that instead of being of any use to the zamindars it has proved to be a continuous drain on the resources of the province. At the time of taking up the hydro-electric project it was given out that the scheme would be completed at a cost of Rs. 2½ crores but after spending as much as 9½ crores the project is far from being worked profitably. Had this work been in proper hands and had it been carried on honestly, it would undoubtedly have proved of immense benefit to this province. But the Government have cared little for working it on a profitable basis and the scheme has been reduced to an item of profit for the corrupt officials of the department.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is irrelevant.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Sir, I am submitting that instead of wasting money on such projects it would be much better for the Government to spend it in promoting industry. I do not wish to harm any one, but my object in saying all this is to urge upon the Government the necessity for working honestly in the cause of industrial progress. Even constructing metalled roads in rural areas so that villagers may conveniently bring their produce to the industrial centres can be a step towards the industrial progress of the province. Our complaint is that a deaf ear is always turned by the Government to our submissions whenever we try to invite their attention to our grievances. For not giving a practical shape to the suggestions made by me the Government need not put forward the excuse of lack of funds as no large amounts of money is required for this purpose. If the Government take it up as an experiment, I am prepared to give free advice to them. We are ready to sacrifice our all if it could help in bettering the condition of the zamindars; because our only object is that the poor agriculturist should derive the utmost benefit from his toils. Accordingly my submission to the Honourable Ministers who suck the life-blood of the zamindars by drawing salaries to the tune of Rs. 3,000 per mensem is to think of these poor devils also. May Almighty God bestow blessings on him who wishes well to the zamindars and may His wrath destroy him who only enjoys at the poor peasant's expense.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Sir, I am saying all this in support of my contention that the Government should do all they can for development of industry in this province (*laughter*). The brown skinned managers of some of the industrial concerns get much more by way of pay than does even the Viceroy. We do not grudge fat salaries to our Ministers, but we want them to do something in order to benefit the zamindars.

Moreover, the zamindars have suffered greatly on account of recent hailstorm. No less than 75 per cent of the crop has been totally destroyed. Even fodder is very scarce. Still land revenue is being demanded from them. Wherefrom are the zamindars to pay these dues? I put this question to the revenue officials and they said, "Never mind, your revenue for

[Ch. Md. Abdul Rahman Khan.]

the next crop will be remitted." Good. It is just like asking the invalid that because he is weak now he should carry a maund on his back but when he gets well he would not be asked to carry any weight. I would request the Honourable Minister of Development to send for me for consultation and act upon my suggestions. I give him my word of honour that I will seek no credit or remuneration for this work; nor will I divulge it to any one that I had made these suggestions. (*Laughter.*) The Honourable Chandhri Sahib has worked with us and has delivered many good lectures. Then both of us used to criticize the failings of the Government and complain of the very things that we on this side of the House are crying about now, but since the moment that his services have been paid in silver by the Government he has stopped saying all those things. Whenever he is asked about it he says:

"After closer examination of the matter it appears that nothing can be done in this matter. The only way we can do something for the zamindars is the way the Unionist Government is doing it."

My submission is that the Government should either think of ways and means whereby the poor zamindars may get more water at cheaper rates or else they should take over the lands from us. In the United States of America, the Government takes over a farm and advances to it a grant of four or five thousands rupees on the condition that the farm will be run according to the instructions of the state officials. With the money provided by the Government the farm is worked under the advice of their officials and thus not only is it made to yield more profits but the farm hands working there also learn better methods of agriculture. After improving one farm the officials go to the next and so the work of improving the farms goes on. But here if one goes to the office of the Director of Agriculture the noise made by typewriters does not let one have a talk with any of the officials there. All the work is being done on paper. How are the zamindars to learn better and improved methods of agriculture? They are illiterate and those who have received foreign education do not care to talk to them. The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye who is very keen upon promoting literacy in the province, used to say that he regarded any one who was not clad in khaddar as naked. Now he himself moves about naked. All that we want is industrial education. It would do no good to teach us—

زبان چوں گوئی میزد کدے کاٹن کائن کرتے ہوں۔

If you are encouraging the use of powders and creams among our youth pray also instruct them in the ways of its manufacture.

The Government can impart vocational education to children in schools if it so desires. If the Government fights shy of incurring expenditure on promoting industrial education I am prepared to do this work free of any charge. But if on the other hand the Government intends to appoint some person for this work they should see that he is a man of character. He should not be like that gentlemen who started work on the hydro-electric scheme estimated at 1½ crores but eventually completed it at a cost of 9½ crores. The Government claim to be a Muslim Government and, therefore, they should

scrupulously maintain honesty in their administration. (*Honourable members*: It is not a Muslim Government) Sorry. I should not have said that because they lack all the things that go to make a Mussalman a good and true Mussalman. (*Laughter*.) So long as they do not follow in the footsteps of such eminent Mussalmans as Omar and Ali they can lay no claim to being Mussalmans. It is said of Caliph Ali that during a war with the infidels he overpowered an infidel and placing his knee on the chest of the man he was about to behead him when suddenly the man spat at Ali's face. Ali at once rose from his chest and said, "Go away man, for I will not kill thee. Originally my sword was going to fall in the name of Allah but if I kill you now, as you have insulted me, I may be guilty of avenging my insult rather than killing you in the name of God." This is how those great Mussalmans viewed things but here our own Honourable Ministers like Mian Abdul Haye and others pass us by with an air of contempt and haughteur disdaining to listen to any of our requests. While those true Mussalmans sought the frank and outspoken people our Honourable Ministers shun the very sight of them here.

We are not afraid of death or imprisonment at your hands if that can make you do something for the relief of poor zamindars. You may do as you please in this life but hereafter when the record of your deeds done in this world is adjudged by the Almighty you will get a taste of His Justice. The Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram always boast of their efforts in removing the curse of poverty under which the zamindars were groaning but so far they have done nothing substantial in this connection. They are probably unaware of the fact that to become a real power a country must be progressive in the matter of its industries. It is only then that the halter of slavery is thrown away and prosperity reigns in the country. In order to achieve that end our Government should forthwith pass a resolution forbidding the use of all foreign-made articles. If people are forced to use paper, cloth, shoes and other goods manufactured in our own province, our people engaged in such trades will greatly benefit. It is a matter of common knowledge that there is no starvation where khadi is preached and used. The Government should create such conditions as may be conducive to the manufacture of such goods in our own province. Our Government is very anxious to enlist recruits for the army, but if they help the development of industry in this province, they can also send finished articles like tents, etc., to the fighting forces.

How regrettable is the fact that a British soldier fighting for his own country gets Rs. 90 as his pay, and our men who are fighting for them get no more than Rs. 14! A British soldier gets Rs. 90 as pocket money because he has no encumbrances, while an Indian sepoy has to send something for his family at home out of those Rs. 14. If our Government is as great a champion and well-wisher of the Indian soldier as it claims to be it should strive to get a rise in his pay.

Sir, I have made these submissions in order to warn the Government of the wrath of God, I appeal to them to do something for the poor zamindars and assure them that in doing so they will only be strengthening their own position.

The zamindars, as a matter of fact, are helpless, down-trodden and poor. But my friends sitting opposite are strong, powerful and have every facility.

[Ch. Mohd. Abdul Rahman Khan.]

You should draw their attention to the fact that one day they will have to appear before the Almighty and then they would realise that my words were based on truth.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat and I think that I have done my duty.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, much has been said from both sides of the House with regard to the industrial policy of the Government. Some of the honourable members have suggested certain useful proposals to the Government in this matter. A humorous speech has also just now been made by my honourable friend, Chaudhri Abdul Rahman sitting opposite who has afforded us an opportunity to take a good lungs exercise by bursting into loud laughs. But what one practically and seriously has to do is to take an account of the income of the province and then realise where the Government stands in this respect. However, it goes without saying that the Government has been enhancing the grant for industries every year since the provincial autonomy came in and so far as industrial education and industrial development is concerned earnest and sincere attempts have been made by the Government in that direction. But I would not hesitate to say that never had the Government so much money at their disposal as to industrialise the whole province and consequently it was not possible for them to materialise this hope which they have been cherishing since long. It is admitted on all sides that the Punjab is an agricultural province and it is believed that it cannot prosper unless industries are started sufficiently on a large scale. It is perfectly true and it would not be out of place to mention that our province is not independent so far as industry is concerned. It has to look to another country for help, for instance the price of our raw material depends upon the export of the same to foreign countries. But as a matter of fact a province not being so rich in income as to start state-owned factories in the whole province, has no alternative but to take a very careful and cautious step in industrializing the province. The House might remember, Sir, that when the hydro-electric scheme was being given a practical shape it was said that the electric power in the province would be so common and cheap that the whole province would be industrialized and it was also said that as a consequence of this the income and the expenditure of the province would be equalized by this scheme and the Government might have some dividend after some years. I wish it could be so. But unluckily the result was very disappointing and the Government failed to increase their income by this scheme of which they were so proud at that time. My submission, therefore, is that the Government before taking any step towards industrialization of the province, ought to think twice so that they may not commit the same blunder again which they have committed once. And if the result of their endeavours is again disappointing the zamindars of the province who are the main source of the income to the exchequer would be affected most adversely, rather fatally. Let me once again submit that so far as industrialization of the province is concerned the Government keeping in view their past experience gained by the hydro-electric scheme, must take opinions of different industrial experts lest this attempt should meet the same fate as the hydro-electric scheme. I believe,

the Government must have grown much wiser now by the failure of certain factories. And it would not be incorrect if I say that all the factories started by the Government have failed very badly in helping the zamindars of the province. For instance a sugar mill was started at Talwandi Rahwali where sugarcane is cultivated in large quantity and particularly with a view to help the cultivator that mill was established there. But you will be surprised to know that every cultivator who would carry sugarcane to that mill was asked to sell it at the rate of 4 annas per maund. As my village is situated nearby—say 20 or 30 miles from that mill, I am fully aware of what happened there. The zamindars of my village say that the mill offered to buy sugarcane at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per maund which amounted to Rs. 12 per kanal. This price was not equal to the expenses and labour put in on cultivation of sugarcane in an area of one kanal and therefore the rate of sugarcane should be enhanced for their benefit. By quoting this instance what I want to point out is that if this would be the result of starting other factories in the province the Government should better not start them on the ground that the zamindars will not derive benefit from them.

Now I come to cotton whose price falls down on account of lack of export to other countries. As this year cotton produce was not sufficiently exported to foreign countries, consequently its price has fallen down.

In the whole province there are only two big cotton factories, one at Okara and the other at Lyallpur. I, therefore, submit that more cotton factories should be started so that the cotton price may be raised.

As regards industrial schools I would like to submit a few words about the Gujrat Industrial School in which weaving and carpentry is taught. The general complaint of the people is that children of non-agriculturist classes are admitted free in that school and they have nothing to pay to the institute. But if a boy belonging to an agriculturist class wants to learn carpentry or weaving or some other craft he has to pay some extra dues besides the fee. Thus injustice is being done to agriculturist classes in that school and, therefore, my submission is that they should exempt agriculturists also as they have exempted non-agriculturists from the payment of fee and other dues and as zamindars unfortunately regard handicraft a mean work to learn and think that menials of a village should adopt this profession the Government should lose no opportunity of winning them on their side by removing this misapprehension prevailing amongst them. It can be removed in case scholarships are granted to zamindars for learning handicraft and other industrial arts and in this way, I am sure, they can be made industrial minded. Besides this, the province is likely to stand in need of skilled labour in the near future when it is industrialised. Under these circumstances it is most imperative that people should be skilled and industrial-minded as to cope with a very important situation which is likely to arise very soon. I must, however, say that the Government should take steps steadily and gradually to the achievement of this object as the proposals made and advices given by the honourable members of the House are practically so costly that they would, if adopted, bring the Government under debt not amounting to lakhs, but millions and crores and I am afraid, the income of the whole province would not be sufficient to pay the interest on that debt. It will lead to nothing but ruination of the province. As machinery cannot be imported on account of the terrible war going on at present on sea and

[K. S. Ch. Pir Muhammad.]

on land the Government should be more careful in spending the money because it will not be well spent if spent on unnecessary things. It is quite true that the province should be industrialized on a large scale. I appreciate the idea. But the present war, as a matter of fact, has made it well-nigh impossible to import machinery as I have already submitted and on account of this handicap, I think, the provincial Government should draw the attention of the Government of India to this point. It is just possible that it may prove helpful to some extent for the Punjab Government.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 17th March, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 17th March, 1941.

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

REFERENCES TO LATE NAWAB SIR MUHAMMAD HYAT KHAN NOON.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): It was with the deepest regret that I heard the news of the death of one of our esteemed colleagues Nawab Sir Muhammad Hyat Khan Noon. Nawab Sir Muhammad Hyat Khan was head of the important Noon family and he was a very respected member of this House. Nawab Sahib, before he entered public life, had a brilliant career in the civil service of the province and rose to the rank of Commissioner. His work was appreciated by both the public and his official colleagues, and his way of dealing with administrative matters was so judicious and so impartial that he earned the encomiums of every one with whom he came into contact. He was after his retirement a member of the Council of State as a representative of the Punjab Government, and there again he discharged his functions with great skill. He was a very respected and important member of the Unionist Party and one of its staunchest supporters. He was unassuming and unostentatious, but his steady influence was a source of strength to the party and I have throughout my contact with him as a party leader known not a single occasion on which he has not been a source of strength to us, because although he was not one of those members who usually get up and speak in the Assembly his counsel and advice were of great value to me and my colleagues. But, Sir, his greatest trait and his greatest achievement throughout his career both as a public servant and as a public man was that he was a living apostle of intercommunal unity and harmony. He not only by precept but also by practice lived up to his conviction and I believe that throughout this province today his death will be mourned by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims alike. I am sure that his numerous friends outside this House and inside this House will join with me in conveying our deepest sympathy to Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon, his distinguished son, and to other members of the family in their great bereavement and loss. Nawab Sir Muhammad Hyat Khan was a gentleman of that generation which believed in amity and goodwill amongst the various communities and amongst the members of various denominations, and I am afraid that the number of such men is so rapidly dwindling that his loss will mean a great gap in our public life. I trust that the very laudable practice of bringing about communal harmony

[Premier.]

which was practised by Nawab Sir Muhammad Hyat Khan throughout his life will be emulated by the younger generation also. Through you I should like to express to his family and particularly to our ex-colleague, Sir Feroz Khan Noon, our deepest sympathy in their great bereavement. I move that out of regard for the memory of our respected and esteemed colleague the House should now adjourn. I may point out for your information that His Excellency the Governor has very kindly agreed to allot another day for our demands for grants instead of today, and since there is no official work fixed for tomorrow, I propose that the Assembly may be adjourned till Thursday.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das (Kangra North, General, Rural): I wish to associate myself with the Honourable Leader of the House in expressing our grief at the sad demise of our distinguished colleague, Nawab Sir Muhammad Hyat Khan Noon. I had known the Nawab Sahib for over 20 years during which period I can say that he was loved by every one of us. Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs loved him alike and held him in great esteem. I had the privilege of being a class fellow of his son and I know that I was treated by the late Nawab Sahib as a member of his family. For the House this is a great loss, and a still greater loss to me personally. I pray that the departed soul may have peace and bliss in heavens forever.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers. Nawab Sir Muhammad Hyat Khan was a great personality. He was Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur and I always admired the tactful manner in which he dealt with the difficult situations that arose there. He was very popular among all the communities and I thought him to be one of the best administrators that we have had so far. We are all very sorry and I was shocked while coming to Lahore this morning to read the sad news about his death. He was respected throughout not as a great father of a great High Commissioner of India, but due to his own original and initial capabilities and qualities as an administrator and as a tactful officer and as a leader of one of the biggest communities in the province. Our full sympathies are with the bereaved family.

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): I join in the expression of grief so feelingly voiced by the Honourable Premier and associate myself with the message of condolence that he proposes to send on behalf of this House to the bereaved family. The death of the Nawab means not only a loss to the Unionist Party of which he was undoubtedly a tower of strength; his passing away means the disappearance from the public life of the province of a very prominent and a very fascinating figure. Reference has been made by the Honourable Premier to a trait of the character of the deceased, a trait which is undoubtedly the most fascinating aspect of his character, namely the fact that he was a friend of all and a centre of attraction to not only Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims but to all Punjabis. We all deeply mourn the death of such a popular personality which means a great and irreparable loss to the province. I, therefore, with these few words, associate myself with the condolences

to which expression has been given by the Honourable Premier and other members of this House.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural): Sir, on behalf of the Khalsa Nationalist Party I associate myself with what has been said about the late Nawab Malik Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon. He was a great friend of our family and I had the privilege of knowing him since my childhood. He was a person who was popular with all, young and old alike. He was a person, who was most respected and loved by all sections not only in this House, but also in the province. Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, not only loved him, but adored him. Sir, this was the time when his presence and services were most needed in this province. He was a person who had no distinction between a Muslim, or a Sikh or a Hindu. He treated all alike. His death has not only caused irreparable loss to his friends and family but to the whole province and India. With these words I associate myself with all that has been said about the late Nawab Sahib.

Mr. P. H. Guest (Punjab Commerce and Industry): Sir, it was a great shock to me when I came into this House and heard about the death of such a well-known figure in the Punjab, and I feel that if Sir William Roberts had known of the occurrence, he would have been here to associate his name and the name of the European community with this proposal. The late Malik Nawab Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon had been in the Government service and in that service he associated himself in many ways with Europeans. And I know that during the last 20 and odd years that I have been in the Punjab, his name has been put forward to us as being one of the most able and co-operating members of the Government service. Since his retirement he had done even more useful work. And when I say that I associate myself with the remarks of the mover I am sure that I am expressing the opinion of all Europeans in the Punjab.

Mr. Speaker: I associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable Premier and other members of the House, who have spoken; and express my deepest sympathy and condolence on the death of the late Nawab Malik Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, who was known to me personally for the last 40 years. He had numerous qualities only some of which have been mentioned by the Honourable Premier.

Now the first question is—

That deepest sympathy and condolence be offered on behalf of this House to the Honourable Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon, who is in England, and to other sons and members of his family.

The motion was carried all members standing.

Mr. Speaker: The next question is—

That the house may be adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, the 20th March, 1941.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly accordingly adjourned till 12 noon, on Thursday, 20th March, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 20th March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ABSCONDERS.

*7621. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table an up-to-date list of the persons accused of political offences who have been declared absconders and state—

- (a) the dates respectively when they were declared absconders;
- (b) the reward offered in each case;
- (c) the reasons for the failure of the Government machinery to bring about their arrest?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : If the honourable member will state what he means by the term "political offences" Government will consider whether it is possible or not in the public interest to supply the requisite information.

Sardar Ajit Singh : My question is already simple. I have asked the Government in my question to tell me the number of persons absconding accused of political offences.

Parliamentary Private Secretary : As there are many sections regarding political offences, if the honourable member will specify the section under which they have been arrested I shall be able to reply to his question.

Sardar Lal Singh : Is it really the difficulty of the Government that it cannot understand what are political offences?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : That is so, Sir.

Sardar Lal Singh : I see.

CONDITION OF HEALTH OF COMRADE RAM CHANDRA, B.A. (NATIONAL) AND OTHERS.

*7622. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the detenus Comrade Ram Chandra, B.A. (National), Feroze Din Mansur, Bhagwan Singh, and Tehl Singh are not keeping good health in Deoli Camp since their arrest;

[S. Ajit Singh.]

- (b) their weight at the time of arrest and at present ;
- (c) list of newspapers and journals supplied to them ;
- (d) the diet given to them ;
- (e) when the Government intend to release them or to put them up for trial before courts of law ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 7619¹.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Honourable Parliamentary Private Secretary please state as to who will be held responsible, the Punjab Government or the Government of India, if unfortunately, death of anyone of them takes place there ?

Mr. Speaker : That question is hypothetical, and, is, therefore, disallowed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, as the answer given by the Parliamentary Private Secretary is vague, I want to know whose will be the responsibility.

Mr. Speaker : But I cannot allow a hypothetical question.

APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOWANCES BY DETENUS.

***7623. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to supply the following information regarding detenus in Deoli Camp—

- (a) the list of detenus who applied for allowances for their dependents ;
- (b) the names of detenus to whom allowances have been given and the sums, if any, so granted ;
- (c) if any applications were rejected, the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : A number of security prisoners detained in the Deoli Detention Camp have applied for allowances for their dependents, but in no case have enquiries justified the grant of any allowance. It is not in the public interest to give further details.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I am given to understand that allowances have been granted to two families only. May I know which are those two families and which are those to whom allowances have not been granted ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have already stated in my answer that it is not in the public interest to give further details.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it not in the public interest to let the public know about the hard up dependents of detenus so that the public may help them financially or otherwise ? Does he consider it in the public interest to keep us in the dark and not allow us to help the sufferers ?

Mr. Speaker : That is an argument.

AGE LIMIT FOR ENTRY INTO SERVICE FOR LL. BS.

*7634. **Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the age limit of 35 years applicable in the case of M.B., B.S. Graduates for entry into Government service is not applicable in the case of LL. B. Graduates; if so, the reasons for this distinction?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : An average medical graduate is not able to take the M.B., B.S. degree before attaining the age of 25 years. Moreover a fresh M.B., B.S. has to gain practical experience before Government can put him in charge of a dispensary. There are no such considerations in the case of other services. In the subordinate services the minimum qualification is a matriculation certificate and in provincial services, where no technical qualifications are required, the minimum qualification is a degree of a recognized University. In the circumstances Government do not consider it necessary to raise the age limit in the case of LL.Bs. The honourable member is, however, informed that in the case of the Punjab Civil Service (Judicial Branch) where a law degree is the minimum educational qualification the age limit is 27 years and in the case of practising lawyers it is raised to 30 years in some cases.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AMONG PATWARIS,
KANUNGOS, NAIB-TAHSILDARS AND TAHSILDARS.

*7635. **Chaudhri Jugal Kishore** : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state, district-wise, the total number of Patwaris, Kanungos, Naib-Tahsildars and Tahsildars employed since the year 1937 up to 31st December, 1940, giving separately the number of these belonging to the Scheduled Castes?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The information is being collected and will be supplied in due course. The question is being treated as an unstarred question.

RETRENCHMENT OF THE POST OF REVENUE *MOHARRIR* AND *AHLMAD*
IN GREY CANALS, FEROZEPUR.

*7638. **Sayed Amjad Ali Shah** : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the posts of Revenue *Moharrir* and *Ahlmad* in the Grey Canals, Ferozepore, have been retrenched; if so, why?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : *First part.*—No.

Second part.—Does not arise.

GRANT-IN-AID FOR NEW SCHOOLS.

*7632. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : With reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 1160¹ asked in the last session of the Assembly, will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the orders according to which no new school can be brought on the grant-in-aid list?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye: A copy each of the Director of Public Instruction's C. M. No. 10426-G., dated the 24th June, 1932, and 3515-A., dated 2nd March, 1938, is laid on the table.

Director of Public Instruction's C. M. No. 10426-G., dated the 24th June, 1932.

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of Sir George Anderson's C. M. D. O. No. 11640-G., dated the 22nd October, 1925, I have the honour to state that in view of the financial stringency no new school can be brought on the grant-in-aid list. The submission of form 'E' statements showing names of schools recommended to be brought on the grant-in-aid list should, therefore, be discontinued until further orders.

Director of Public Instruction's Memorandum No. 3515-A., dated the 2nd March, 1938.

WHEN considering the question of bringing new schools on the grant-in-aid list, it is requested that the following instructions should be followed:—

- (1) In municipal areas no new schools or branches whether municipal or aided should be added to the grant-in-aid list since the department is committed to additional expenditure whenever this is done;
- (2) In district board areas new local body schools may be recognised if the district board has funds for the purpose, as this will not commit the department to expenditure beyond a certain maximum, which it is in a position to calculate. Recognition of aided schools in district board areas should be given sparingly, because the existence of one such school frequently results in the establishment of two more poor aided schools when one district board school would meet the need. If, however, private schools are recognised, it should be on the distinct understanding that they are not entitled to any grant-in-aid and they should at no time be brought on the grant-in-aid list, unless the district board has first been consulted.
- (3) This letter applies to girls' schools as well as to boys' schools.

ADMISSION TO GAKKHAR NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

***7633. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of female pupil teachers admitted to the Gakkhar Normal Training School for the wives of teachers since the school was started year-wise and the number of those among the admitted who were married and who were unmarried with the reasons for admitting unmarried girls in the institution in spite of the fact that the institution was originally started with the object of encouraging the wives of teachers to receive training and with the other object of encouraging co-education?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye:—

Year.	Number admitted.	Married.	Unmarried.
1937-38	18	11	7
1938-39	15	7	8
1939-40	12	9	3
1940-41	15	11	4

Seats in the training class at Gakkhar are first allotted to the wives of pupil teachers under training in the local Normal School for men, who seek admission to it. If candidates of this type are not forthcoming unmarried girls related to teachers are admitted to the class.

HOSPITALS VISIT COMMITTEE, JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

***7636. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) when was the Hospitals Visit Committee in the Jullundur district constituted ;
- (b) what are the functions of this committee ;
- (c) how many meetings of this committee were held in the year 1940 and what were the subjects on which they deliberated ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that this committee, as a body, has never visited the Government hospitals at Jullundur and Nakodar ever since its constitution ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) In 1932.

(b) The functions of the Hospital Visiting Committee are :—

- (i) to inspect the internal arrangements of the hospital and grounds and offer suggestions for the improvement of the efficiency of the staff and promoting the well being of the patients ; and
- (ii) to raise subscriptions from the public for provision of additional comforts and amenities for patients of the hospitals of the district and for providing improvements of the hospitals and to keep accounts of the same.

(c) No meeting of the Visiting Committee was held in 1940 for the reason that no action was taken by the Civil Surgeon, Jullundur, in 1939 for the nomination of members of the Committee for the year 1940. The Civil Surgeon addressed the Deputy Commissioner on the 24th October, 1940, for nomination of the members and the requisite information was supplied by the Deputy Commissioner on the 17th December, 1940. The interval between the 24th October and 17th December, 1940, was taken up in obtaining nomination from the District Board and the Municipal Committee of Jullundur.

(d) The Visiting Committee as a body has never visited the provincialized hospitals at Jullundur or Nakodar ever since its constitution. This was due to the lack of special interest on the part of the President of the Committee and steps are being taken by Government that interest is taken by members of the committee in visiting the provincialized hospitals in the Jullundur district.

CENSORING OF THE ASSEMBLY DAK OF THE M.L.A.S DETAINED IN DEOLI CAMP.

***7624. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Assembly dak of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Members detained in Deoli Camp is censored by the jail authorities ;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): Under the rules governing the detention of these prisoners all letters are subject to censorship. The Punjab Government, however, have reason to believe that official assembly papers are passed on to the addressees as a matter of routine.

Sardar Ajit Singh: Is it not true that the money-orders sent to them by their friends are censored or stopped?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: If my honourable friend would put a specific question about money-orders, I shall be very glad to reply.

DES RAJ CHADHA, B.A.

***7625. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Des Raj Chadha, B.A., has been removed from Lahore Fort to Montgomery Jail;
- (b) if so, when and for how long the Government propose to detain him there and under what law;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Des Raj Chadha, B.A., was tortured by the C.I.D. while he was in Lahore Fort;
- (d) diet given to him;
- (e) the list of newspapers and journals supplied to him; if none, the reasons for the same;
- (f) his weight at the time of arrest and at present?

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

(b) First part, 12th February, 1941, second and third part, he is being detained under rule 26, Defence of India Rules, the period depends on future circumstances.

(c) No;

(d) He is being given the diet prescribed for C class convicted prisoners.

(e) He is allowed to read three daily newspapers.

(f) 184 lbs. on 31st October, 1940, 180 lbs. on 10th March, 1941.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary please define the word 'torture'?

Parliamentary Private Secretary: What I understand by the word 'torture' is the same as my honourable friend does!

Mr. E. Few: Hanging one by the nose?

COMRADE HARKISHAN SINGH.

***7626. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Comrade Harkishan Singh has been brought to Lahore Fort from Montgomery Jail;
- (b) if so, when and the reasons for the same;

- (c) whether it is a fact that the said man has been tortured by the C.I.D. ;
- (d) his weight at the time of arrest and at present ;
- (e) for how long the Government propose to detain him and under what law ;
- (f) whether the Government intend to try him in a court of law, if not, why not ?

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

(b) First part, 16th January, 1941 ; second part, it is not in the public interest to give reasons.

(c) No.

(d) 130 lbs. on 14th December, 1940, 136 lbs. on 1st March, 1941.

(e) and (f) These matters are under consideration.

Sardar Lal Singh : Is the Government prepared to allow his relatives to get a private medical practitioner and get him examined whether he is not being tortured and that he has got no injuries on his person ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : That is a request for action.

Sardar Lal Singh : May I know whether the Government is prepared to satisfy this House by a private medical practitioner being deputed to see whether he has any injuries on his person ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have stated that the Government is satisfied that the gentleman is not tortured.

Sardar Lal Singh : Will the Government kindly state what is the source of that information ? Is it the police ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : No, the Medical Superintendent of the Montgomery Jail.

Sardar Lal Singh : Who is that medical attendant ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I cannot give offhand the name of the gentleman.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Punjabi) : If the Parliamentary Private Secretary says that Sardar Harkishan Singh was not tortured, then may I know if he is prepared to permit us to get Sardar Harkishan Singh examined by a doctor ?

Mr. Speaker : The same question is being repeated.

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have already replied that the information received by the Government is that this gentleman Harkishan Singh by name, has not been tortured and he was examined by the senior officer of the P. C. M. S., and this is the information supplied by him.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Punjabi) : In fact he was tortured and he has got signs of torture on his person. Government's statement is incorrect. If Government is true, why does it not allow us to examine his body which has signs of torture even now ?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a question but a speech.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, BHIWANI.

***7641. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that the Anjuman Islamia, Bhiwani, recently passed a resolution, copy of which was forwarded to the Honourable Minister of Public Works on 1st January, 1941, to the effect that the present strength of the members of Municipal Committee, Bhiwani, be increased to 20 ; if so, the action, if any, taken on it and if no action is contemplated to be taken on it, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether that resolution was received by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes. Local officers have been directed to revise the electoral wards of the Bhiwani municipality so that Muslims get their due share at the time of the next general elections.

(b) Yes.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, ATTOCK.

***7639. Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether he or the Director of Public Instruction has received any report that a majority of the members of the District Board, Attock, have recently submitted a representation to the Chairman of the said District Board against the conduct of the District Inspector of Schools, Attock ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Complaints against the District Inspector of Schools, Attock, have been received. The matter is under consideration.

STRIKE BY STUDENTS OF JAIN COLLEGE AND SCHOOLS AT AMBALA.

***7643. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the students of Jain College, Khalsa School and Arya School at Ambala, went on strike on the 15th January, 1941, and went round the city in the form of a procession on the arrest of Chaudhri Abdul Ghaffar Khan, President, District Congress Committee, Ambala ; if so, the action, if any, taken by the competent authority against the students who took part in these demonstrations ;

(b) whether any action is intended to be taken against the management of such schools and against the students who took part in this strike ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT.

*7627. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of arrests in the province in connexion with the present Congress Satyagraha Movement from the 29th November, 1940, to the 18th February, 1941 ;
- (b) number of A class, B class and C class prisoners among them and the number of detenus, if any ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) 193.

(b) A class	23
B class	37

The balance is made up of prisoners who are either being treated as ordinary C class prisoners or whose trial has not yet been completed in court and in whose case no question of A, B, or C class classification yet arises.

The number of Satyagraha prisoners detained under the Defence of India Rules is 2.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary please state whether any political prisoner made a request for a certain classification when the case was being decided ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : It is not for the prisoners to say what class they want, but it is for the magistrate to give them the class according to their status.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that the magistrate while delivering judgment made a wrong classification in certain cases ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I am not aware of it.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Should we point out certain cases in which actually the classification was very incorrect and the Government was obliged to revise it ?

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO EX-MILITARY MEN IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

*7661. **Mian Abdul Rab** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether there exist any instructions in regard to preferential treatment to be accorded to ex-military men in the matter of recruitment to services ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of such instructions on the table of the House with a list showing the number of persons recruited since 1935 for posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners, Sub-Judges, Deputy Superintendents of Police, Tahsildars, Naib-Tahsildars, Excise and Police Inspectors and Inspectors of Co-operative Societies and Fisheries, Marketing Officers and Factories Inspectors, indicating the number of posts allotted to ex-military men in each cadre ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No. 1958¹ in the current session of the Assembly. A copy of a further communiqué published recently about preferential treatment to persons who have served or may serve in the armed forces in the present war is laid on the table.

Communiqué No. 1888-W. P., dated 11th March, 1941.

Important concessions regarding eligibility for Government service have been announced by the Punjab Government for candidates who have served or may serve in the armed forces in the present war.

In October last, Government examined the question whether some concession in the matter of the age limit for entry into Government service should not be given to persons who had served in the armed forces in the present war, and decided that all persons who had combatant service to their credit should be entitled for this purpose to deduct from their actual age the period spent in the combatant ranks.

They have now given further consideration to the steps necessary to ensure that such persons shall not in consequence of their patriotism be handicapped in the matter of securing subsequent civil employment under the Provincial Government. It would be most unfortunate if possible candidates for the armed forces had reason to feel that by serving their country for a limited period in a combatant capacity they were prejudicing their chances of securing permanent civil employment.

The Punjab Government have accordingly decided to accept the general principle that wherever possible a preference shall be given to men with war service to their credit and that rules prescribing educational qualifications for particular services or posts shall, subject to proper safeguards, be relaxed so as to permit the recruitment of men who have been prevented by their service in the armed forces from acquiring these qualifications. They are also prepared to secure that as large a number of vacancies as possible will be available for service candidates.

These broad principles will without avoidable delay be applied to the various services and posts under the Punjab Government. For the Punjab Civil Service, for instance, which is normally filled partly by direct recruitment and partly by promotions from other services, it has been decided that direct recruitment both by selection and by open examination will, for the present, and in all probability for the duration of the war, be stopped, and the resulting vacancies will be reserved for men with war service to their credit. Meanwhile in order to avoid the dislocation of work which might be involved by vacancies remaining unfilled, it is proposed to re-employ a certain number of retired officers and to promote additional candidates from subordinate services, taking care, however, to regulate their seniority in such a way as not to prejudice the interests of future direct recruits.

It was intended to take a few candidates by selection in April next and a number of nomination rolls are already under consideration. In order to avoid disappointment a selection will in due course be made but the appointment of successful candidates will be conditional on their volunteering for appointment in the Defence Forces and when their turn comes to be posted out in the Punjab Civil Service they will be seconded for military duty. In this way they will be able to qualify for permanent appointment to the service. The Financial Commissioners have also accepted the same principles for appointments under their control and it is proposed that similar instructions should be issued in other departments also wherever it may be feasible.

CANDIDATES FOR TAHSILDARSHIP IN AMBALA DIVISION.

***7644. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and the names of candidates for tahsildarship in the Ambala division who have been working as naib-tahsildars for some time past and the place to which each of them is posted at present ;
- (b) whether any of these candidates has been appointed substantively to the post of tahsildar in 1940 and whether in making such appointments any of the candidates has been allowed to supersede his seniors ; and, if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The question does not state any particular period for which the information is required. It is not the practice to give names in questions of this kind, but if the honourable member will specify any particular case, I will see if the information can be provided. According to the rules, all direct tahsildar

candidates are required to do a course of training as naib-tahsildar for two years; taking the list as it stood on the 15th June, 1939, as the starting point, there were 11 tahsildar candidates of the Ambala division (including Delhi). All have worked as naib-tahsildars at various places according to the rules, and during 1940 orders issued appointing one of them tahsildar substantive permanent and six of them tahsildar substantive provisional. Of the remaining five two are officiating as tahsildar and three as naib-tahsildar. So far as the persons appointed substantive permanent or sub-provisional are concerned, four of them were appointed in the order in which they stood in the candidates list. The remaining three are shown as having superseded a candidate who was senior to them.

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY HAILSTORMS IN HOSHIARPUR AND LUDHIANA DISTRICTS.

***7653. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the average percentage of the damage done to crops as ascertained after *Girdawari* in each village, by a hailstorm which visited on the night between the 28th and 29th December, 1940, the villages Kahlon, Sarnala, Bharta Khurd, Baisyan, Dharampur, Hayala, Jafarpur, Gadani, Thana Banga, Husain Chak, Chhokra, Kote Ranjha, Shaikhay Majara, Neelawal, Dilawarpur, Bilur Kalan, Mahdipur, Thathiara, Nangar Chhanga, Sadarpur Kalan, Phool Makanri, Kanon, Wagara and others in Tahsil Nawanshahr, district Jullundur and several other villages in the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts;
- (b) the reasons for charging land revenue in the face of the damage referred to above from the zamindars of the villages mentioned in (a);
- (c) the nature of the help or relief afforded by Government to those who have suffered on account of the devastating effects of the hailstorm referred to in (a); if no help has been given, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No hailstorm visited the Jullundur, Hoshiarpur or Ludhiana districts on the night between the 28th and 29th December, 1940.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ACQUISITION OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS BY TENANTS IN GANJ BAR.

***7659. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number separately of tenants under the Punjab Colonization of Government Lands Act, 1912, who have acquired and of those who have not acquired proprietary rights in Ganj Bar Colony so far;
- (b) the average number of years for which these tenancies have been held in the colony?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a)

District.	Number of tenants who have purchased proprietary rights.	Number of tenants who have not purchas- ed proprietary rights.
Montgomery ..	4,920	26,684
Multan ..	822	6,672
Total ..	5,742	33,356
(b) Montgomery ..	..	16 years.
Multan ..	..	8 to 20 years.

GOVERNMENT METAL WORKS INSTITUTE AT AMBALA.

***7647. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some students of the Government Metal Works Institute at Ambala went on strike and participated in the demonstrations made on the arrest of Chaudhri Abdul Ghaffar, President, District Congress Committee, Ambala, on 15th January, 1941; if so, the action taken against them?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): There was no strike of the students at the Government Metal Institute, Ambala, in connection with the arrest of Chaudhri Abdul Ghaffar, President, District Congress Committee, Ambala. On the 15th January some students of the Jain College came to the Institute in a procession and incited the students of the Institute to join them. The Headmaster asked the processionists to go away which they did. But it was noticed that some students of the Institute were absent after the recess. The Headmaster called the roll and sent for the absentees through the teachers. Before the close of the school the absentees turned up and were reprimanded by the Headmaster.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know the source from which the information has been supplied to the Government that the students of the Government Metal Works Institute, Ambala, did not take part in the strike?

Parliamentary Secretary : From the usual official source.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : May I know the designation of the officers supplying this information?

Parliamentary Secretary : Headmaster of the school as well as the Inspector of Industrial Schools.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : The information given by the Parliamentary Secretary is wrong because I was present when that strike took place.

Mr. Speaker : That is not a question.

RESULT OF DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR P. V. S., CLASS II.

***7662. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state why the result of the departmental examination for P. V. S., class II, which was held in November, 1940, has not so far been declared and further when that result may be expected to be announced?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : The result of the departmental examination of the Punjab Veterinary Service (Class II) officers has since been announced,—vide Punjab Government notification No. 984-D., dated the 27th February, 1941.

GRANT OF PAROLE TO KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN OF AMBALA.

***7637. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether he has received an application for the grant of parole from Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan of Ambala who has now been transferred from Gujrat to Lahore Jail to attend on his son who is to be operated upon shortly; if so, what action has he taken or intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has been released.

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

***7648. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when was the Special Development Fund mentioned in Honourable Minister of Finance's Budget speech started and how much money has each year been credited to the Fund since then;

(b) the amount of money expended so far out of this Fund each year and the items on which the money has been spent?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) and (b) Attention of the honourable member is invited to paragraph 7 of the printed memorandum explanatory of the budget for the year 1941-42.

GRANT TO PUNJAB TEMPERANCE FEDERATION.

***7649. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any grant was to be made by the Punjab Government to the Punjab Temperance Federation at Amritsar before the present Government was formed; and, if so, how much;

(b) whether the grant has been discontinued by the present Government; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Donations of Rs. 1,000 each were made to the Punjab Temperance Federation, Amritsar, in 1930 and 1931 and of Rs. 500 in 1934; no such donations were made in subsequent years.

(b) *First part.*—No, it had been discontinued previously, *2nd part.*—Does not arise.

Sardar Lal Singh : May I know why this grant was discontinued? Is not the Government in favour of temperance movement?

Minister : It was discontinued in the year 1934.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is the Government prepared to make that grant to the Temperance Society even now?

Minister : That is a request for action which ought to come to me in proper time.

Sardar Lal Singh : Has an application been received by the Government from the Temperance Federation for this purpose?

Minister : The honourable member will have to give a special notice of that question.

CORRUPTION AND EMBEZZLEMENT OF GOVERNMENT MONEY BY
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF JAIL DEPARTMENT, HISSAR.

***7654. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that the Superintendent of Jail at Hissar informed the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, at any time during the last two years that some misunderstanding existed between the Assistant and the Superintendent of Jail at Hissar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Superintendent brought certain charges of corruption, embezzlement of Government money and stores and of irregularities on the part of the Deputy Superintendent of Jail at Hissar and gave in writing that he was prepared to substantiate the charges made; if so, whether any inquiry was conducted either by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, or the Superintendent of Jail at Hissar; and, if so, with what result, and, if no action was taken in the matter, the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) The position is not correctly stated. The fact is that in May, 1941, the Superintendent of Jail informed the Inspector-General that there had been some misunderstanding between the Deputy Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of the Jail at Hissar.

(b) Enquiries revealed that by mistake in an article manufactured for jail consumption yarn different from the one charged for had been used. Rupees 2 being the cost of this yarn was recovered from the Deputy Superintendent who was responsible for the mistake in his supervisory capacity. There was no question of corruption or embezzlement of Government money by the Deputy Superintendent.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE SUR SINGH.

***7651. Dr. Satya Pal :** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 7304¹, asked on 9th December, 1940, will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether Government has so far been able to come to any decision with regard to the removal of the additional police post at village Sur Singh ; if so, the nature of that decision ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Yes. Government have not yet seen fit to withdraw the additional police post.

Sardar Lal Singh : When does the Government intend to withdraw it ?

Parliamentary Secretary : When the state of crime in the village permits its withdrawal.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE SUR SINGH.

***7652. Dr. Satya Pal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

- (a) the number of cognizable cases in village Sur Singh registered at the Bhikhiwind police station and the nature of each case between the period from 1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1940, and also between the period from 21st August, 1940 and 26th February, 1941, respectively ;
- (b) the number of accused belonging to village Sur Singh involved in each such case ;
- (c) the number of the accused belonging to village Sur Singh, police station Bhikhiwind, sent up for trial by the police in courts of law ;
- (d) the number of the accused convicted by the court in each case and the section under which each of them was convicted ;
- (e) the date on which the town police post was located in the village and the strength of this police post on 1st March, 1940, and 26th February, 1941, respectively ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : The information asked for by the honourable member is given in the statement laid on the table.

Statement.

		THE NUMBER OF THE COGNIZABLE CASES IN VILLAGE SUR SINGH REGISTERED AT THE BHEHWIND POLICE STATION AND THE NATURE OF EACH CASE BETWEEN THE PERIOD.		THE NUMBER OF ACCUSED BELONGING TO VILLAGE SUR SINGH INVOLVED IN EACH SUCH CASE.		THE NUMBER OF THE ACCUSED BELONGING TO VILLAGE SUR SINGH, SENT UP FOR TRIAL BY THE POLICE IN COURTS OF LAW.		THE NUMBER OF THE ACCUSED CONVICTED BY THE COURT IN EACH CASE AND THE SECTION UNDER WHICH EACH OF THEM WAS CONVICTED.		Date on which the Town Police Post was located and the strength of the Police Post on 1st March, 1940, and 28th February, 1941, respectively.
		1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1940.	21st August, 1940, to 26th February, 1941.	1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1940.	21st August, 1940, to 26th February, 1941.	1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1940.	21st August, 1940, to 26th February, 1941.	1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1940.	21st August, 1940, to 26th February, 1941.	
	Total number of cases registered.	71	8	89	3	81	3	34	1	
	Nature of each case.									
1	Burglary (454, I. P. C. to 458, I. P. C.)	30	3	13	1	5	1	5	1	The Town Police Post was located on 1st April, 1928.
2	Theft (379, I. P. C. to 382, I. P. C.)	9	.	6	.	6	.	1	.	The strength of the Police Post on 1st March, 1940, was 1 Head Constable and 10 Foot Constables.
3	Robbery (382, I. P. C.)	1	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	
4	Hurt cases (325 to 329, I. P. C.)	13	1	32	1	32	.	8	.	

The strength of the Police Post on 26th February, 1941, was 1 Head Constable and 10 Foot Constables.

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Hart and rioting (324/148, I. P. C.)	3	..	15	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Attempt at murder (307, I. P. C.)	2	..	6	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty (332, I. P. C.)	1	..	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Assault on woman (354, I. P. C.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Pending in Court.
Kidnapping and abduction (363/366, I. P. C.)	2	..	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rape (373, I. P. C.)	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Assault on public servant (353, I. P. C.)	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Pending in Court.
Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc. (429, I. P. C.)	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mischief to canal water (430, I. P. C.)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Possession of illicit arms (19-11-78, Arms Act).	5	..	6	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Possession of illicit liquor (61-1-14, Excise Act).	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Restriction of an habitual offender (17-5-18, Habitual Offenders Act).	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defence of India Act and Rules (Rule 38)	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number of cases registered.	71	8	89	3	81	34	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE LAW COLLEGE, LAHORE.

***7645. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that all clerks from top to bottom in all branches of the office of the Law College, Lahore, are non-Muslims ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that out of 10 or 12 chaprasis in that college only 2 are Muslims ;
- (c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the reasons for the inadequate representation of the Muslims in this service ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye¹ : (a) Yes.

(b) There are seven chaprasis in the College of whom two are Muslims ;

(c) I regret it is not possible for me to answer this question as appointments under the University are not made by Government, but by the University itself.

MASS DRILL.

***7650. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under his consideration for introducing mass drill in the villages of the province in the interests of good physique and health of the people of the province ; if so, when it is likely to mature ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : No such scheme is under consideration. It may, however, be stated that mass drill forms an important part of physical training work in all schools, and that village games, clubs, sports, etc., are encouraged by Assistant District Inspectors for physical training.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M. L. A.s

Mr. Speaker : I have to read out to the Assembly the following applications received from four members of the Assembly, for permission to be absent from the Assembly :—

LALA BHIM SEN SACHAR writes: I have the honour to state that since the 10th January, 1941, I am undergoing imprisonment for one year in connection with the Congress Satyagrah movement. I shall therefore be obliged if for the period of my stay in jail the Chamber would feel it convenient to excuse my absence from its meetings.

LALA BHAGAT RAM CHODA writes: I shall feel highly obliged if you kindly grant me leave and excuse my absence from the sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly for a period of 6 months.

MAHANT PREM SINGH writes: Kindly allow me to remain on leave from the Assembly for a year and oblige.

SARDAR SAMPURAN SINGH writes: I shall feel highly obliged if you kindly grant me leave and excuse my absence from the further sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

The question is—

That the permission asked for by the honourable members be granted.

The motion was carried.

¹As this question savours of communalism it was treated as an 'unstarred question' and the answer was laid on the table.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

INDUSTRIES.

Industrial policy.

Mr. Speaker: The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Industries.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, it goes without saying that industries have made sufficient progress during the present regime. Several new factories and mills have been started, and especially in Amritsar, Ludhiana and Sialkot a number of new factories have come into being making these cities the centres of various industries. Our industries have undoubtedly received a fresh impetus under the Unionist Government. Besides, the present Government have established a Marketing office and it is gratifying to note that this institution has proved highly beneficial. The above-mentioned marketing organisation has been set up for the benefit of handloom weavers with its depôts at Amritsar, Multan and Hoshiarpur. Again, a model pottery laboratory has been established at Lahore to revive the once famous and flourishing industry of this province. In short the Unionist Government has taken several steps to promote trade and industry in the Punjab with the result that labour too has been benefited and the number of labourers to-day is more than it used to be in the past. No doubt owing to war some industries have received a set-back. But certain others have undoubtedly made a great progress. Thousands of rupees are granted to industrialists by way of subsidies. Demonstration parties are touring throughout the length and breadth of the province to acquaint people with various industries. Then a Research Laboratory has been placed on a permanent basis and a provincial stores purchase department has been set up which is the envy of the other provinces of India. Several articles which were previously imported from other provinces at a great cost are now purchased here in the Punjab with the result that local industries are encouraged by this ready market. On the whole the sum expended on industries in 1939-40 was Rs. 18,79,808 while Rs. 22,23,600 are provided in the budget of 1941-42. It clearly shows that an increase of 20 per cent has been made under this head, within a short period of two years only. While admitting all this I cannot help saying at the same time that the sum provided for industries is not sufficient for the industrialization of the Punjab to the same extent to which we want. The big task of industrializing the whole of the province cannot be accomplished with the help of this sum. A much bigger sum is required for this purpose. I feel it my duty to mention the shortcoming of the Government even as I have appreciated the good work it has done. Much more has yet to be done by the Government towards the industrialization of the Punjab and I am confident that even the Honourable Minister must be feeling the necessity of taking further steps in this direction. What has already been done is good so far as it goes. But it does not go very far. A good deal has yet to be accomplished. A further effort to industrialize the Punjab would result in the increase of prices of the local raw material whereby the zamindars stand to gain a good deal. Besides, the conditions

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

of labour will be ameliorated by the development of industries. Both the urban as well as the rural population will benefit by the development of industries. As a matter of fact India has been in the past a great industrialist country. With the advent of the British Raj our industries received a great set back. The foreign rule dealt a severe blow to our industries. India was always a rich country, that is why kings like Alexander the Great used to be attracted by this country. In the days of Shahjahan our industrial products used to be exported to foreign countries. But now the conditions have changed. It is we who import most articles of use from foreign countries. Our position as industrialists has worsened since the British set their foot in India. Our cloth industry was known all the world over. It is time that we again revive the old old industries, so that our country may once again become prosperous and happy.

Another reason for industrialization of our country is that the pressure on land has increased to a breaking point and it can no longer support the rural population. The rural population is turning towards the cities for finding their livelihood. The present is the age of industry and we should look to this point and develop our industries so that the population may be able to earn their livelihood. For this purpose we should take to machinery rather than to mere domestic industries and handicrafts. No doubt the products of handicrafts are more durable. But the products of machines are beautiful and cheap. We do not need beauty alone and for this purpose we should certainly pay heed to durability and encourage handicrafts. But we should not at the same time lose sight of the fact that things cannot be produced on a large scale without the aid of machinery. I would certainly urge upon the Government to start factories on a small scale. Punjab is not a rich province. You cannot open here mammoth factories like those in the United States of America. You cannot afford to invest in factories crores of rupees. We must start with small scale industries by opening up small factories requiring small capital. These factories should be in the first instance opened by the Government on the same lines on which they were opened by the Japanese Government in Japan. The Japanese Government sent their men to various European countries as apprentices. They learnt various industries there and after their return to their own country started the industries in which they had got training in Europe. In Japan mostly there are not huge factories. Similarly our Government should send men to other countries to learn different industries. And in my opinion instead of sending them to America and Europe they should be sent to Japan to get training in different industries. There is large scope for industrialization in the Punjab. Although some industries have been started in our province still there are many others which can be started but have not been started so far. Government should find out the articles which are chiefly imported into our province and then find out which of them can be locally manufactured by investment of small capital. After that let them open factories to manufacture those articles. This will provide employment to thousands of people. Other countries have been doing that. In Germany synthetic indigo was manufactured in view of similar consideration. German Government found that every year India exported indigo worth about rupees 2 crores. They in order to save the money with

which they purchased their supply of indigo from India and also to secure orders for indigo from other countries manufactured synthetic indigo with the result that they attracted custom so far as indigo is concerned at the cost of Indian indigo. They had to spend about one crore of rupees on research alone which produced synthetic indigo. The Punjab Government can also do the same on a small scale with regard to industries which can be easily started in the province.

Another point which I want to stress on the attention of the Government is this. Pioneers of industries have always to bear heavy losses. Private venture, therefore, in the field of industry is always uncertain of success. The best thing, therefore, to do is that the Government should themselves start industries by investing Government money in them. They can very easily float a loan. The rates of interest given by banks are usually 1½ per cent. But notwithstanding these low rates people put in their money in the banks. If the Government were to float a loan I am sure that they can raise any amount they like in spite of the present war. The credit of the Government is more than of any bank. There is always a danger of failure of banks and people losing their money. But this cannot happen with a Government. Even if one government is ousted the succeeding government pays up all loans which the preceding government may have taken for a beneficent object.

The next thing I want to suggest is that the Government should invest 51 per cent of the capital from their own pocket and the remaining 49 per cent should be that of the public. As 49 per cent of the capital will be that of the public the Government officers and public men who will be in charge of the industry shall have to be more careful and observe economy. It is common knowledge that the departments show little care for governmental funds. I once went to America. I travelled in a ship whose name was George Washington. That ship belonged to the Government of the United States of America. The staff of that ship consisted of 800 men while the total number of travellers on board the ship was only 600. This was in the case of a government which is one of the best and most progressive governments in the world.

If that is the state of affairs that prevailed in an American Government owned ship I can well imagine what would be the condition in wholly state-owned factories. If at present Government decide to start wholly state-owned industries they may be in a position to make some profits so long as the war lasts. But after its termination the conditions will undergo a great change and unless a strict control is exercised on such factories from the very beginning we cannot hope for better results. Anyway if Government start partially state-owned industries that would go a long way in providing work to thousands of unemployed people who day in and day out stand face to face with hunger and starvation. Besides they should also give financial assistance to private enterprisers so that they may be encouraged to start industries in the province.

Now Sir, I would like to make another suggestion and that is, as the Honourable Minister has lot of work to do he should get the services of another Parliamentary Secretary to help in discharging his duties. To my mind there should be two Parliamentary Secretaries attached to the Minister for Development. One of whom should be entrusted with the task of agricultural development and the other should be made incharge of industrial

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan:]

development. The reason why I am making this suggestion is that it is impossible for the Honourable Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary to cope with the work of this department without putting undue strain on their nerves. Consequently if another Parliamentary Secretary is appointed then the work of the department could be divided. This suggestion if adopted will go a long way in giving ample time to the Honourable Minister as well as the Parliamentary Secretaries to devise new schemes for the development of the province. My submission is that the work of any department can be carried on efficiently only if proper attention is given to its working. To carry on the routine work is quite an easy job but it is most difficult for any single individual to think out new schemes especially when he happens to be over-worked. It is in view of this reason that I am suggesting the appointment of another Parliamentary Secretary for assisting the Honourable Minister to discharge his duties without putting undue pressure on him. In this connection I would also like to point out that the Director of Industries is very over-worked and that he cannot find time to apply his mind to the devising of new schemes. I am personally aware of the fact that he has actually to work for 10 or 12 hours daily. He has to perform multifarious duties. For instance, he has to supervise the working of the Stores Purchase Department, Industrial Education, Industrial Intelligence, Industrial Research, Special Development Programme, Administration of Labour Acts and Administration of State Aid to Industries Act and so on. In addition to these duties he has to perform other functions as well. For instance, he has to perform the duties of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. I ask, when a person is loaded with so much work how is it possible for him to put forward new suggestions for the promotion of industry in the province? It is therefore my suggestion that the Director of Industries should be relieved of some of his duties. Those duties may be handed over to officers of other departments who have very little work to do. I personally know that there are many officers of Government who have only to work for two or three hours daily. Now, if some of the duties entrusted to the Director of Industries are made over to them that would give him some spare time to devise new schemes for the development of industries in the province. Sir, when I was a member of the Central Legislature I knew many officers who had to attend their offices for two or three hours only and the rest of the time they spent in playing tennis and other recreations. Similarly, there are many officers in the provincial services who have very little work to do. If the Honourable Minister makes some efforts he can find out such officers and hand over to them certain branches of this department. It is really unfortunate that in the Government services some officers are over-worked while others have little work to do. I may submit that if in my factory I find that any employee has too much work to do as compared with his colleagues I would at once adjust the amount of work between them. But apparently it is very difficult for the Government to do so. We often find that some officers are loaded with work while others have to perform very light duties. The result is that the officers who have lot of work to do, do not find time to make new suggestions or to plan new schemes. What is therefore required is that work of the officers should be adjusted equitably. That would go a long way in raising the standard of Government departments.

There is yet another matter which requires the urgent attention of the House. That is that Government should give increasing opportunities to the business men and industrialists to associate themselves with the working of this department. In this connection I may point out that I have been a member of the Joint Development Board for the last 10 or 12 years but I regret to say that the said Board has done very little work as compared to the expenses that have been incurred on its maintenance. Its meetings are rarely held and that is because there is no responsible work for it to do. I do not say that it should be abolished but what I mean is that persons who possess the necessary talent as well as sympathy for the province be associated with its work so that new schemes be planned for the promotion of industry in this province. In addition the said Board should be given some powers as well. Let me tell you that if its functions remained of an advisory nature as they are at present that would not serve any useful purpose. In that case what the members are doing is to attend its meetings and discuss matters for two or three hours, draw their travelling allowance and then wend their way. In this way Government will not be able to promote industry in the province in the manner in which they desire to do so. What is required is that at present private persons should be associated with the working of this department in such a manner that they should feel their responsibility. If that is done then the public would be in a position to ask them as to whether they have done anything for the good of the province or that they had only been attending the meetings of the Joint Development Board for making their travelling allowance. When such a Board with powers is constituted it will certainly put forward good suggestions which could be given effect to by Government. Besides some funds should also be made over to its control. By this I do not mean that lakhs of rupees should be entrusted to it but what I want to impress upon the House is that some funds should be entrusted to it so that it should feel its responsibility. I have every hope that the Honourable Minister would give very careful consideration to the suggestions which I have made. With these remarks I resume my seat.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban), (*Urdu*): Sir, the lot of a country or a province cannot improve, unless the economic condition of its people is ameliorated and their earning capacity is increased. But that can be done only if industries are promoted in this province. We see that at present the population of our province is $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores—it is possible that according to the new census it may reach three crores—and its income is only 12 crores of rupees. But it is a matter of great regret that the Industries department gets Rs. 20,19,600 only. No doubt this year this grant has been increased, but after all what is that increase? Rs. 2 lakhs only. Sir, you are aware of the fact that there is a good deal of unemployment in the province. I think that only 10 per cent of the people of this province are employed. But even they, who are fortunate enough to get some employment, have to support large families so much so that one earning member has to support as many as 20 non-earning members of his family. This is a matter to which every well wisher of the Punjab must give serious attention. Only a few minutes before my honourable brother Shaikh Sadiq Hassan during the course of his speech drew the attention of the Government to certain matters. But along with that he was also pleased to observe that the Punjab Government was

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

very keen on promoting industries in this province. If that is so-I ask what is there to prevent them from giving effect to their desire? (*Minister for Development: Funds*). If funds are forthcoming for other things there is no reason why they should not be forthcoming for the development of industry. If Government have the will to take any steps in that direction I can point out hundred and one ways provided there is some one to give effect to my suggestions. Let me tell the Government that if they want to develop industries in this province they can do so very easily. It is no argument to say that funds are not forthcoming for the purpose. If they have not funds they can float a loan for the purpose and can undertake the industrialization of the country in right earnest. This is not something which is difficult for the Government to do. It is my considered opinion that Government have failed to remove unemployment from this country. In the case of the educated people this evil has assumed serious proportions so much so that thousands apply where even one hand is wanted. Sir, it is the first and foremost duty of every Government to give its serious attention to the encouragement of industries in the province. This is the only means by which peace and tranquillity can be maintained in the province. The unemployed always fight with each other. In fact unemployment is a curse which compels people to commit thefts and dacoities. I think if people have work or if work is provided to them they would not commit such heinous crimes. In this way the money which the Government is incurring on the police for the maintenance of law and order in the province would be saved and can be spent in some other useful purpose. Sir, you see that the health of the people of this province is very good and they can manufacture very easily those articles which are required for use in the province. But against this the manufactured goods of those provinces, whose people are considered to be physically weak, are imported in large quantities in our province. Is it not a matter of great regret that we depend for small articles on other provinces? After food man needs some sort of dress for himself. But it is very unfortunate that although our province is a great producer of cotton still its people do not get sufficient clothes to hide their nakedness. Its main reasons are as follows: (1) The poverty of the people. (2) Nobody cares to manufacture cloth in this province.

The third is that it is very expensive. Sir, the secret of Japan's industrial progress lies in the fact that the Japanese industrialists first acquainted themselves with the areas of consumption in India and the nature of their demands. They discovered that 90 per cent of the population was poor and could afford only those articles which were very cheap. Had our Government given their attention to this matter they would have set up several cloth mills in the province by now. An honourable member has just now mentioned that *khaddar* is not generally liked by our people. It is because besides being dear it is not even good to look at. People mostly like that cloth which is cheap as well as pleasing in appearance. Japanese made linen is preferred for its cheapness and durability to the one manufactured by the Delhi Cloth Mills. I would like to ask this question from the Government that if they cannot do any thing else is it impossible even to establish some textile factories? The necessary funds can be easily had from the moneylenders whose business has been crippled by the

moneylending Acts, and is practically at a standstill, or else companies can be floated by selling shares. Many a time the Government has declared that a loan of a crore of rupees will be raised. Then it was said that 8 crores of rupees and not one crore would be raised, but nothing has been done so far. Although our province is admittedly a poor one yet if the Honourable Minister of Development were to advertise that a loan is to be raised many crores of rupees will be collected in a few days. If such a step is taken it will not only meet the requirements of the Province but also help in removing the curse of unemployment to some extent. Lakhs of people will get employment and earn their livelihood.

Imitation *daryai* (a silk cloth) which used to be imported from Japan is now manufactured at Jullundur. It is prepared in two different widths. The one having smaller width is sold at four annas per yard and the other which is of greater width is sold at eight annas a yard. It is not only used in the Punjab but is also being exported to other provinces. It is liked by European ladies as well who use it for the lining of their warm clothes and for making pillow covers, window curtains and cushions. I have heard many European ladies remark "This cloth is very wonderful. It is really very good and cheap too". But Sir, it has one defect viz its colour is not fast. We used to import dyes from Germany but now they are not available on account of the war. If the Government open a factory for the manufacture of dyes we can get fast colours for our own use as well as for exporting to other provinces. It will prove a very profitable enterprise.

Then take the case of Allopathic medicines which have become too costly on account of the war and cannot be imported in any appreciable quantities. The Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works are preparing these medicines and we have to import them from that province. Why cannot these medicines be prepared in the Punjab? If the Government starts such a factory it will very soon find out that besides earning a great profit it will be doing immense good to the people of the province. The climate of our province is very good and in spite of poverty and starvation the health of the people is not bad either. I mention this to point out that if they are provided with work, they will acquit themselves more satisfactorily than the people of other provinces. If the Government does something for the development of industry in the Punjab, we can, besides meeting our own requirements, export our goods to other provinces. But it is a pity that at present our province is dependent not only on foreign countries but on the various other provinces of India as well. We get our utensils from Moradabad, Padlocks from Aligarh, Saries and their borders from Benares and Ahmedabad. If all these things are manufactured in India, I do not see any reason why they cannot be made in our own province. Surely they can be manufactured in the Punjab and our Government should do well to get them made here.

Now let us turn to electrical goods. While there are a number of electric supply companies in our province all electrical goods from an ordinary bulb to electrical energy producing engines are imported from abroad. Now that electric bulbs cannot be imported from Holland and Belgium on account of war, Japan has started exporting bulbs of one watt to a 100 watts priced at a few annas. In spite of the fact that electrical goods worth lakhs of rupees are imported by us we have never tried to manufacture even ordinary

[Begum Rashida Latif Bajik]

bulbs in our own province. There are numerous other things for which we have to depend on foreign countries. Out of them there are a good many things for the manufacturing of which the Government will not require highly expensive machinery or a huge amount of money, while the profit accruing from the enterprise will rise up to crores of rupees. If nothing more we can at least produce enough of such goods to meet the requirements of our own province.

Sir, I am not unaware of the fact that industrial schools for women have been opened this year in Multan and Rawalpindi. But while the number of such schools is being increased there are no arrangements for providing work to the girls trained in these institutions. Only a few of the trained girls get any employment and others have to go back to their respective homes with no prospects of benefit from their training. If along with these schools some Purchase departments are established women will be able to sell the articles prepared by them at home to these departments. The Industrial school at Lahore has no building of its own. Last year also I drew the attention of the Honourable Minister of Development to the necessity of erecting a decent building for the school. There should be a boarding house attached to it so that the students coming from the countryside may not have to face any difficulty in the matter of residence. The Government should pay special attention to this matter.

Moreover, I want to impress it upon the Government that there is no dearth of workers. On the other hand there is no work for them. The Government should take into consideration the methods adopted by Japan for the development of such industries. For instance toys are made by women at their homes. One of them prepares its eyes or some other part, another colours it and similarly other processes are completed. After a week a man comes to the house, pays the workers their wages and takes away the things made by them.

The development of industries should be the very first concern of the Government so that the province may be rid of the curse of poverty. A few people may be called rich but in reality unemployment is playing a havoc with all classes and sections of the people. So many people come every day to me in search of employment. They can find no work. Educated youngmen are often driven to the extreme of committing suicide for want of employment. It is not the duty of the Government alone but of every member that he should try to do his bit in the matter. A good many speakers have drawn the attention of the Government to this question and I also urge upon the Honourable Minister of Development the necessity of establishing some factories, no matter whether they are for manufacturing gold or silver articles or muslin and other kinds of cloth. And the Government must see to it that may it be cloth or some other indigenous articles, their prices should not increase so that the people may be in a position to purchase indigenous articles instead of those manufactured in foreign countries. Secondly if the Government are really desirous to encourage and popularise the use of articles manufactured in our country, I would suggest that they should establish a factory for preparing medicine. It is well known that *desi* medicines prepared by indigenous process is found unclean and therefore the Government should see that *desi* medicines thus prepared must be clean enough for use. In this way the Government can

make improvements in the preparation of *desi* medicines by which, I am sure, the people of countryside would gain much. Besides, it is necessary for the Government to develop Vedic treatment and in this connection I would say that they should open dispensaries at various places. It goes without saying that *desi* medicines being comparatively cheap can be had easily. But the general complaint is that that is prepared by an unscientific process. My submission, therefore, is that if the process of preparing that medicine is improved our *Tib* would gain much and on the other hand the general complaint of people would stand no more. So far as medicines used in allopathy are concerned I must submit that if you carefully consider it to how these medicines are prepared you would come to know that not much is spent on their preparation. The fact of the matter is that very little amount is spent on original medicines so much so that if it is prepared here it would cost a few pice for which our chemists charge at least one rupee. This submission of mine is very important, therefore, the Government should do a great deal in this respect. I would now close my remarks with the following proposals. The building of the Lahore Industrial School for Women should be state-owned building and Boarding Houses should also be attached to it. Store and Purchase Department should be established every where. This is not only my wish but the Industrial Department itself is desirous of this fact. Thirdly, subsidies should be granted to private industrialists for their encouragement.

With these remarks, Sir, I close my speech and hope that one day my proposals would be materialised by the Government.

Mr. P. H. Guest (Punjab Commerce and Industry): Mr. Speaker

after having listened to the speeches delivered during this debate one would think that industrial development is a thing that can grow up in the night or perhaps all that it requires is for Government to lavishly expend their funds. Nothing can be further from the truth. There is no doubt that the present is a very opportune moment to attempt industrial expansion, but one must realise that the very conditions that create this industrial opportunity have in themselves the seeds of self-destruction and we must be very careful as to how we proceed, for some time or other this war will end and then, unless we have proceeded on a very sound industrial programme, we will come to an industrial debacle. It is for this reason that I wish to put forward my views as to the steps that I consider the Government should take in this fundamental clearing of the ground or preparing of the soil for this very young industrial growth. The first and the foremost pre-requisite of sound industrial development is the feeling of a sense of security.

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

If you are going to have disturbances, then the whole of the industrial development will be retarded and the new born industries will die. When we consider what Government has done in this respect, I think we can have no cause for complaint. I think it has been quite clearly demonstrated that Government have given clear indications that law and order must be maintained and will be maintained. So, I do not think we need fear, that there will be any lack of feeling of security. The next prerequisite to sound industrial development is a feeling of confidence. Unless there is

[Mr. P. H. Guest.]

an atmosphere of confidence, industrial development will be very slow and very hesitant. The present Government have taken many steps in this direction. The one Act whereby certain industries at least are subject to control is one which definitely goes to create a feeling of confidence. By this Act industries can be regulated; they can be distributed and over production, which is the nightmare of industrialists, can be avoided. In other respects the Government have also contributed largely to this feeling of confidence. But I regret that in certain legislative measures that feeling of confidence has been very severely jeopardised and I know certain instances where, prior to certain legislations to which I will refer, a number of industrialists from other provinces were very seriously contemplating developing their industrial activities in the Punjab instead of doing so in their own provinces where this feeling of confidence had been very definitely shaken. Unfortunately, I must say that recent taxation measures have shaken that confidence very much. I do not wish to say any more on this one particular subject of taxation measures, but I do most strongly support our friend Mr. Amjad Ali in his proposal that a special small committee of experts should be employed to go carefully into this question of the incidence of urban and rural taxation. We should have men who have nothing to do with the Punjab, who have nothing to do with the urban interests or with rural interests, but let it be a purely economic enquiry by economic experts who would be unbiased and I feel that the results of that committee be it in favour of one community or the other will do a great deal to restore that spirit of confidence which had been lacking so far.

There is one other legislative measure, which, I think, has seriously affected the industrial development in the spirit of the development; and that is the legislation which has undoubtedly completely crippled one industry, which I consider, is immensely suited for the Punjab, and that is, the oil hydrogenation industry, which at present is producing "vegetable product". There seems to be a feeling amongst some of the members of this House that the manufacture of this vegetable product is injurious to agricultural interests. I can only point out to you that one country which is a predominantly agricultural country and is almost entirely a dairying country, a country which is devoted to milk products, has by developing this oil hydrogenation industry brought to its coffers crores and crores of rupees, without affecting the dairy or the milk products industry of that country in the smallest degree. That country is Holland. The milk products industry of Holland has not been affected by the introduction of the oil hydrogenation industry, which has given crores and crores of rupees to that country. In Holland the material used for oil hydrogenation is imported from abroad, much of this comes from India. In the Punjab there is a great scope for the oil hydrogenation industry and I only hope that some time in the future that Act will be amended sufficiently to allow this great industry to develop.

I had already mentioned the two important prerequisites for the satisfactory industrial development, that is, security and confidence. But there is also a third pre-requisite, and that is technical and industrial education. I was surprised to find that the one member of this House who told us that technical and industrial education should be set right, was the lady Parlia-

mentary Secretary who suggested that technical education should come under the control of technical educational experts. After all technical education is education and it must be controlled by educational experts. I will go further than the lady member suggested. I consider it so important that I would suggest that a Deputy Director of Public Instruction should be given the work of organizing technical education on a proper scale. And if I am asked. Are you going to increase the Government officers? Are you going to spend more money? I shall say "no". Certainly you must get the right men in the right job. But if I am asked, where the money is to come from? I would say that it must come from the grants given to higher academic education. What is the position in this province to-day. Punjab University B.A., is quite prepared, and not only prepared, is very very anxious to take a clerical post carrying a pay of Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 per mensem. Compare that with a partially educated mechanic, a steel die maker. That mechanic can earn Rs. 200 per month; yet the B.A., of the Punjab University draws Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 a month. (*An Honourable Member*: You can get a B.A., on Rs. 25) I was merely thinking of respectable employers. You can also find men, who, when they draw their pay, put their thumb marks on the receipt stamp, they draw good pays. There are people working for me, they are completely uneducated, but they are technical experts and they draw sometimes five times more pay than a Punjab University B.A. I think it is time that this technical education should be taken most seriously in hand so that we can have a broad basis for industrial development by the time when the reaction sets in after the war. I have given you, Sir, what I consider the fundamental requirements for setting up solid industrial development. I could spend much time in going into details of the immediate requirements. But I will put forward one point in this connection. I consider that it is really the duty of Government, not perhaps so much, to subsidise industries (although I think that may be required in some cases), but to make sure of the development of primary industries. And here again I have to join with the lady Parliamentary Secretary, when she referred to the development of industries where the raw material is available in this province.

I consider that it is the duty of the Government more to assist in the establishment of factories by arranging adequate supplies of raw materials rather than unnecessarily entering into industrial activities. As an instance I will cite the case of the ceramic trade. There are many clays in this Province but there is no ceramic industry really worth the name here. I know the Industries Department is going on analysing the clays sent to them and investigating how this or that clay can be useful, but if the ceramic industry is to be developed, the essential requirements are as to how much clay of a certain type, which will produce a certain product, is available. I think that it is the duty of the Government to give us such information. For example I am quoting clay. If the Government will tell the industrialists that they will be able to find out and tell them how many tons of clay can be expected in a given area, I have not the slightest doubt that money for the development of that industry will be forthcoming. I feel that it is really an important matter that instead of playing about with small industries let them grow gradually—the Government should concentrate on primary industries and concentrate to the extent that they may be able to tell the industrialists all they can about raw materials and also as to how they can

[Mr. P. H. Guest.]

protect the industrialists with regard to the cost of the raw materials. We should not have great fluctuations in the cost of raw materials. I will give one minor instance of what has happened in connection with essential oils. The Honourable Premier referred me to essential oils and suggested that it was possible to do something so far as essential oils are concerned. A few years ago the Government of India spent a certain sum of money and discovered that a wild grass—which is not cultivated at all and grows wild in this Province—contained quite a useful oil. This was investigated by a friend of mine and he got very good reports on this oil. They prepared a certain quantity of the oil and found that by including the royalty on the grass—wild grass that was growing—and including the cost of collection and giving the zamindars concerned a suitable royalty, it could be made into a paying proposition, but as soon as the plant was fixed up—fortunately for this gentleman the plant was not very expensive—the zamindars decided that this wild grass—which neither man nor beast could use had greater value and therefore they put the value at such a height that the party concerned stopped the work. Now, therefore, we want the Government to be prepared to assist the industry in controlling the prices of raw materials. We do not want the industrialists to get all the plums—let them be distributed—but let them have some assurance that when a large industry is started, the prices of raw materials will be kept within reasonable limits. I have no more to say. (Voices : Question be now put).

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab Landholders): Sir, I rise to request the Government to pay more attention to industries which relate to agriculture. Ours is an agricultural province and anything done to ameliorate the condition of the zamindars will be very much appreciated. I am glad to remark that lot is being done in this direction but I believe that if the industry is further developed, it will give us very good results. In this connection I would like to make a few suggestions. Take fruit industry. The first thing is that propaganda should more vigorously be carried out. I know that at present the Punjab Fruit Development Board is doing great propaganda but it would still be better if they impress upon the villagers that more fruits should be grown, more fruits should be eaten. The suggestion that fruits should be eaten in abundance should be carried to every nook and corner of our province. The propaganda should be on scientific lines so that everybody should know and realise the worth of the fruit industry. I would now like to draw the attention of the House to marketing. I wonder if the Government has ever realised what income do the fruit plants of small people in rural areas bring. I would say, without fear of contradiction, that the fruit produced in those areas is running to waste because there is no proper arrangement of marketing. In case proper arrangements of marketing of fruit are made for those people who have got small fruit gardens and fruit trees, I am sure that such people in rural areas will have lot of wealth added to their resources. Then I come to the question of freight charges. The Government should impress upon the Government of India that freight charges should be reduced because they are at present rather high. It will be of interest to the House when I tell them that the Bombay Government, after persistent representation and agitation, got a reduction in railway freight. Then there is the question

of transport. There should be some adequate arrangements for the transport of perishable vegetables and fruits, and I would suggest that during the hot weather some arrangements should be made and cold storage vans may be introduced for this purpose. I would like to say something so far as the preservation of surplus fruit is concerned. I think that the Government should be congratulated because our province is heading other provinces in this respect. We are having very good sales and the results are very satisfactory. Lemon squashes, grape juices, tomato-ketchups and various other sorts of articles are being produced in abundance. But I still maintain that the trade is still in its infancy and some protection should be given to this industry. I would like to inform the honourable members of this House—probably they are aware of it I cannot say—that there is import of fruit juices and canned fruits in India to the extent of three crores of rupees annually and in case some protection is given to our industry, there are very good chances for us to develop this industry. I would, moreover, suggest that the persons who have set up factories for this industry should be encouraged so that the industry may prosper. I hope, Sir, that the suggestions which I have made will be carefully considered by the Government and sympathetically dealt with. With these words I resume my seat. (*Voices*: The question be now put.)

Chaudhri Ram Sarup (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, many honourable members of this House have stated that the amount provided for the promotion of industry in the province is very small. I think promotion of industries does not depend on money but it depends upon some other factors. Had it been only a question of money then there is no dearth of money in the province. The banks are full of money. Industries can develop in such countries which are free to make alliances with other countries. Unfortunately we are not in a position to enter into any trade alliance with any country freely. At present we are sending our raw material to other countries and those countries can force us into buying the goods prepared by them. If we refuse to purchase their manufactured goods they would refuse to purchase the raw material required by them from us. We are not in a position to force any country to purchase from us any goods that may be prepared by us. Under the present circumstances we are not in a position to make alliances with other countries freely. Independence is required to entitle us to make any such alliances.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das: What do you understand by provincial autonomy?

Chaudhri Ram Sarup: Provincial autonomy means that we are free so far as internal affairs are concerned. It does not mean that we are free so far as external relations are concerned. I am talking of independence so far as external relations are concerned.

Sir, what is required is that we should start cottage industries for the benefit of the poor zamindars. The rural population have to sit idle about nine months out of a year. They have work only for three months in the year. If Government could make arrangements to provide them employment during the period of nine months of no-work their financial condition will certainly improve. Mahatma Gandhi stressed the need of Khadi in order to help the poor rural people. But rich men always take advantage

[Ch. Ram Sarup.]

of all things. They started manufacturing Khadi by machines to profiteer by the beneficent movement started by Mahatama Ji. As the British made cloth was boycotted by the Indian the Khadi prepared by the Indian capitalists sold like anything and they earned a lot. In this way the real purpose of starting the Khadi movement was defeated. I do not mean that I grudge any profits to our Indian industrialists. What I mean is that the interests of the poor zamindars are more dear to me than the interests of the rich capitalists. At present some textile industries have been started in this country by the Indian capitalists. The Indian made goods sell at the same prices at which the foreign made goods sell here. But the articles prepared in Indian factories do not compare well with those prepared in other countries. The price of a dhoti made by a local industrialist is the same as that of one made by some foreign manufacturer. But whereas the dhoti made by a foreign industrialist lasts one year the dhoti made by a local industrialist does not last more than four months. Moreover the cloth manufactured by a machine is not so durable as that which is hand woven. But as the machine made goods are showy they attract more custom and thus the hand made goods do not sell. In order that the hand made goods may sell the Government will have to make special arrangements. We know that Dhaka Muslin was famous all over the world. It was because special facilities were provided to the weavers who prepared it. Even to-day our artisans can prepare such fine goods only if they are provided facilities for marketing, etc. What is required is that the Government should encourage our artisans by making arrangements for the sale of goods prepared by them. By machine made goods the profits go to the rich industrialists and this sort of industrialization of the country does not help the poor people. The interest of the capitalists is always to start large factories operated by machines. They, therefore, always stress the need of providing more funds in the budget for granting loans to the industrialists. If the Government were to undertake to start cottage industries in the villages it would not cost much. But its benefit will go to the poor zamindars. We know that the zamindars have been spinning with hand from times immemorial and they have been wearing the Khadi prepared by the village weaver. *Desh Bhagat* is not one who purchases Khadi made by machine but *Desh Bhagat* is only that person who purchases Khadi for his use from a poor weaver. The profits from goods made by machines go into the pockets of the rich people while the profit made by the sale of hand woven Khadi goes to the poor weaver. The Government should make marketing arrangements for hand made goods made in the villages.

In village primary schools Government should start industrial classes also. The standard of education in the past was high. There were district and session judges who were only matriculates but they used to write better English than our present day graduates. Previously education did not cost much. One had to spend only about Rs. 100 in order to pass the Matriculation Examination. But in these days one has to spend at least Rs. 40 per month in order to be a matriculate. It means he has to spend Rs. 480 annually in order to become a matriculate. But the matriculates of some thirty years back were abler than our matriculates of to-day.

Sir, it is a matter of great regret that everybody in this country wants to copy European countries in each and every matter. They do not think

that those countries have plenty of funds at their disposal while we have not. To-day almost all the honourable members have stressed only one point that Government should open big industries in the province and in support of their contention they went the length of citing instances of highly industrialized countries like Japan, U. S. A., etc., etc. It appears that while making such suggestions they have conveniently forgotten that ours is not an independent country. The countries whose instances they have cited are free to adopt any policy they like and to start any industry they chose to do so. But we cannot. We are, as a matter of fact, working under certain limitations and consequently we can go only to that much length to which our resources allow us.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : May I, with your permission Sir, ask one question from the honourable member? He has in the course of his speech expressed his regret that Government have not paid any attention to the encouragement of cottage industries in the province. My submission is that if he takes the trouble of looking up page 476 of the Budget he would find that Government have not provided even a single pie for the said purpose. May I know as to what he has to say about it?

Chaudhri Ram Sarup : I may tell my honourable friend that all the details have not been given in the Budget. That is rather good from our point of view because in this way Government would be in a position to spend the money earmarked for the promotion of industry in the manner which would be most conducive to the welfare of the public at large. We have every hope that a considerable part of it would be set apart for the development of cottage industries in the province. Besides what I have been stressing in my speech was that not only a small sum but the whole of the provision made for the promotion of industry in the province should be spent for the development of cottage industries. I think whatever money is not spent for the welfare of the poor is not well spent. In the circumstances I would urge upon the Government to spend every pie in order to afford relief to the poor and needy and I hope the honourable member over there would also support our demand wholeheartedly. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. E. Few (Anglo-Indian) : Sir, the Budget debate in other years has centred on General Administration and Police on which all the heavy artillery has been trained, but this year Police has given place to Industries. The speeches tended to show that the industrial side had been wilfully neglected, but such is not a fact. The House showered bouquets on the Finance Minister for a good and sound budget and if we bear in mind that the budget is the outcome of collaboration of the entire Cabinet we must admit that the entire distribution is equitable and holes cannot be picked against any department. This province is sadly in need of development and creation of industries at the present time is most opportune to go boldly forward, but it is all a matter of finance and of this there is plenty in the province but buried and gathering rust. Why is America and other western countries rich simply because all their money is in circulation and every penny brings in another one. I was informed by an authority of repute that there was at least 100 crores buried in the Punjab : that this gigantic sum belonged to the non-agriculturalist classes and why should it rust instead of developing the province. Hoarding is peculiar to India on account of the centuries of unstable govern-

[Mr. E. Pew.]

ment when it was the best means of safety but now that we are enjoying stability and the government is in the hands of the people, there should be no fear in circulation. The non-agriculturist community having the cash it cannot be said they have no brains as only the other day the Premier said that out of 57 or 75 Engineers in service all were non-agriculturists. Sir Gokul Chand is a leader of that community: he is also a pioneer in industries as one can see by his bold venture in starting the Steel and General Mills which is of great use to the Punjab in the present crisis. He should rise to the occasion and instead of challenging jobs for Hindus here and there should lead his community to unearth but 5 per cent of the buried wealth and the industrial development of the province would be assured and it then would be the richest province in India.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour) (Urdu): Sir, The arguments advanced by Chaudhri Ram Sarup have surprised everybody. He has been pleased to remark that an industry can be started without any capital whatsoever. If by this contention he means that an industry can be started by the Government without investing the Government money, I am prepared to concede the point, but if he means to say that an industry can be started without any investment even by private capitalist then I beg to differ from him.

There is no gainsaying the fact that a step towards the development of industries in this province is very urgently needed. Any industrialization would besides being of immense good to the people and province, will also remove the unemployment to a great extent and further it will be conducive to communal harmony and also beneficial to the labouring classes. Sir you will see that this department is under the charge of Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram who is known throughout the province for the courage of his conviction and his tenacity of purpose. It is said that if the Honourable Minister takes it into his head to do a certain thing no amount of opposition can damp his enthusiasm or flag his determination. This fact is borne out by his getting the urban taxation measures recently passed by this House in the teeth of universal opposition and agitation. I am confident that if he once turns his attention to the industrial development of the province, his unbounded energy will accomplish it in no time. Our Province is far behind the other provinces like Bengal and Bombay and there is an unlimited scope for further industrial development of the province. A lot can be done if only a start is made by the Government. There are so many lines in which a decent start can be made. Take for instance electrical goods. Neither electric bulbs nor switches nor meters nor cables nor poles are manufactured here and I am sure that nothing can hinder the manufacture of such goods in this Province if the Honourable Minister once diverts his attention to it. He has the requisite power and with a very little expenditure of public money he can run a very profitable industry. In connection with the general development of industries it would be much better if we were to review the work of the Industries Department of the last four years, i.e., since Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has taken over charge, and find out the extent to which progress has been made. In order to do this I propose to make certain comments on a recent statement issued by Honourable Minister which was published in the press. In doing

so I would offer my humble suggestions and if the Honourable Minister deems fit, he may take action accordingly. In its introductory paragraph the Honourable Minister has urged us to bear two things in mind. He says:—

If they had made due allowance to the two limiting factors, that of protracted famine conditions which placed such a terrific strain on the finances of the province and that of the war which has made it well nigh impossible to import machinery they would have been less uncharitable.

He has raised two points in this paragraph. He himself admits that this province has not been industrialised to an extent to which it should have been and for this failure he gives two reasons. One is the famine in Rohtak and Karnal and the other is war. According to him both these factors have been a drain on the resources of the Province. I admit that it has been so but may I point out that in furthering the cause of the industrial progress of the province it is not essential for the Government to invest their own money in opening new factories. You need not invest Government money on machinery for setting up these factories. You could either float a loan in accordance with the recommendation contained in the resolution adopted by this House during the present session, or else you could encourage private enterprise to come into the field. It is, therefore, not a very sound argument to advance that famine has been one of the reasons for doing so little towards the development of industries in the Province. Besides, the preliminary work to be done before taking up the industrialization of the Province is so important that even if that is undertaken now it will stand us in good stead later on. Regarding the second argument that the war has created many obstacles in our way, I beg to submit that this should have been in fact an incentive to undertake at least such industries which could be properly established due to the war conditions and are to the best interest of the country. The prevalence of war is all the more a reason that industries should be established. It is undoubtedly true that we could not undertake the manufacture of certain commodities, still we could manufacture many small and highly useful articles. As my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah whose point of view was also different from that of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, remarked that the war has on the contrary helped the industry of this country to such an extent that an aeroplane factory has been brought into existence on account of it. Instead of taking advantage of the war here our Government is using it as an argument against any development of industries of the province. Now that on account of the conditions created by the war imports have badly suffered cannot we make an effort at meeting our requirements from within. If the Government gives a little attention to this matter I am confident that a lot can be done in the way of industrial progress even in these troubled times. Further on in the introductory paragraph he says:—

It may also be stated that the proportionate increase in the Industries Department is higher than in any beneficent department.

Here one thing which has been overlooked is that there is a world of difference between industries and beneficent departments. The latter covers hospitals, grants in aid to schools, etc. Any increase in the demand on account of additions in establishment, etc., does not necessarily mean that the increase has been on account of any new industries that may have been set up. By questioning this proportionate increase I do not mean

[R. B. Sohan Lal.]

to say that the Government have done nothing, but what I mean to assert is that whatever has been done sadly falls short of even very conservative expectations. What I am objecting to is that the increase in expenditure

2 P.M.

is not due to the allocation of more funds for industries, but on the other hand a substantial portion of it has been spent on establishment and other such items which means no relief to the industries proper. Strictly speaking as much as Rs. 12 thousands have been spent on Industrial education while 8 lakhs have been spent on staff and only about a lac or two has been spent on development.

Now, Sir, let me make brief comments on the points which have been published in the Civil and Military Gazette under the name of the Honourable Minister for Development. First point raised by him is as follows:—

Provincial Stores and Purchase Department has been set up.

This is good that our Government has set up this department. But I understand that with the inauguration of provincial autonomy every provincial Government had established this department in their province. Anyhow I would like to make a few observations with regard to this department. Previously, as the requirements of every province were met by the Central Stores Department wholesale rates were always low owing to large orders. Supposing the Central Office has to provide 200 articles of a particular type to each province then collectively the demand will become a large one and therefore the wholesale rate will be lower. But now when a Provincial Stores and Purchase Department has been established here, I am of the opinion that the Punjab Government may not be able to buy certain articles at such a low price as Central people at Delhi used to buy because of the comparatively smaller requirements. My submission is that the Honourable Minister for Development or the Industries Department may pay attention towards this aspect of the matter and in case Province can save large amounts by placing orders through the Central Department, order for those particular items may be so placed in case difference is worth our while.

Secondly the Government have been working this Department for the last two years or so and not even a single report has come out as yet about the achievements of this particular department which is responsible for making purchases worth lacs of rupees. Sir, we are to see that by setting up this Provincial Stores and Purchase Department how much saving has been effected, and if the Government is losing on this department even then light should be thrown on it. My submission, therefore, is that it would have been much better if the Government had published a report showing the detailed accounts of expenditure, income, saving and present expense of the department and previous commissions paid on purchases made through Central Government. Now let me come to the second item which is like this:

A general survey of the province both by districts and by industries has been undertaken which has not been attempted in any other province.

The Government has taken up this step. Well and good. But a general statement made by the Honourable Minister for Development does not give us full satisfaction. I thought either the Government inadvertently did not go into the details of this matter or they did not want to publish it in the newspapers. Accordingly I studied the Annual Report published

by the Industries Department to obtain more information on this particular point. But all my efforts were in vain and I failed to get more information about this matter. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to throw more light on the following points :—When was this survey undertaken ? What progress did it make during the last year ? How much money has been spent on it so far ? Who were those experts who carried out this survey ? Whether any schemes have been prepared so far ? What steps Government propose to take in giving a practical shape to those schemes ? When will those schemes be published ? These are my points on which I want the Honourable Minister in charge to throw light, although it has been stated by him in a general form that industrial survey has been carried out which has not been attempted in any other province. May I submit that it is very easy for him to say so. But so far as real industrial benefit is concerned I must bring home this fact to him that that lies in the consequential development of industries and not in mere survey of the whole province. Unfortunately the Report of the survey has not been published as yet and we are therefore not in a position to make comments on it. Had it been out we would have made sufficient comments accordingly. But at present in the absence of detailed information regarding this important subject we cannot discuss it nor is this general statement of any use to the province. If the Honourable Minister for Development is pleased to give replies to my questions which I have just put to him during my speech then I may be able to say a few words more in this respect.

Then, Sir, as regards preliminary work it has been said that owing to war it is well nigh impossible to import machinery whose cost has risen very high and it would be, therefore, undesirable to add to the burden of the province. I beg to differ, Sir, and so far as my opinion goes, I would say that preliminary industrial work has nothing to do with war and foreign machinery. As we have much raw material in our own province, I do not see any reason in hesitating to start with preliminary industrial work. For instance we can ascertain as to what raw materials are available in the Punjab with a particular reference to such raw materials which are not available in other provinces. Therefore exhaustive and thorough survey should be undertaken of firstly raw materials, secondly resources, thirdly research work already done in these connections and the possibilities of further research and laboratory examination. We should know the present consumption of particular kinds of goods and quantities of import from foreign countries and the capital necessary for setting up that particular industry. All these preliminary enquiries have nothing to do with the present war. It will certainly prove beneficial and useful both for the province and the Government.

Then the question of wherewithal for the establishment of industries arises. Naturally you would say that the survey would not serve any useful purpose if the Government lack the necessary funds to start those industries. True. But if every year the Government continue to put us off by saying that the financial stringency stands in their way to make sufficient provision for the development of industries in the province then I can emphatically say that the industrialization of the Punjab would ever remain a pious wish—a dream never to be realised. However, I feel that capital would be forthcoming if the Government set up to my suggestion and tha t

[R. B. Sohan Lal.]

is this. They should publish the reports submitted by the specialists and experts giving thereby full particulars and data regarding the articles intended to be manufactured profitably in the province. Then they should appoint a committee consisting of a few experts and industrialists and some of the honourable members of this House to examine the reports thoroughly. The findings or the recommendations of this Committee need not be binding on the Government. The Committee should tender its suggestions in a purely advisory capacity. As a matter of fact I have not the slightest intention to fetter the discretion of the Government in this matter. When the Committee has submitted its opinion regarding that report, the Government should, in all seriousness, decide as to what industries they should undertake either by themselves or in partnership with private capitalists. After arriving at a definite conclusion if the Government find that they possess the required capital for undertaking those industries, well and good, but if they feel that they are not in a position to take the initiative, they should try to create that confidence in the minds of the private capitalists, who have already been shattered owing to the enactment of certain legislative measures. I am sure, if the Government succeed in winning the confidence of the people by supplying them the correct information about certain industries, the latter would gladly invest their money. When the capitalists come to know of the cost of production, the demand of the commodity to be manufactured, the conditions of the market and expected profits, etc., they would certainly feel encouraged to invest their capital in that particular industry. In this way our province can be rapidly industrialised. I may again state at the cost of repetition that this matter has absolutely no connection with war or famine conditions. It is my firm conviction that it is the imperative duty of the Government to carry out the complete survey of the resources of the province. If the Government vigorously pursue this matter, I see no reason why industrialization should not receive a great impetus. I am sure the publication of such reports would go a long way to promote the industrial development of the province.

Then the next item in that article is that—

- (3) The services of an eminent economist of progressive ideas—Professor K. T. Shah—were specially secured for drawing up a plan of industrial development in the province. This plan is now under consideration of Government :

I cannot help saying that the Honourable Minister has utterly failed to throw any light on this subject. The report submitted by Professor K. T. Shah ought to have been published by the Government in the newspapers so that it may prove helpful to the people interested in industries.

Then item No. 4 is that—

- (4) The Research Laboratory has been placed on a permanent footing, and a Research Fund with a nucleus of 1½ lakhs was started two years ago. An amount of Rs. 10,000 is being added to this fund in the 1941-42 budget.

For the present I have no intention to offer any detailed comments on this point. But I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the efforts made by the governments of foreign countries which he so glibly quoted in matters of imposing taxes. Besides if he cares to look at the amount of money spent even by private companies in Bombay and Calcutta on research work, he would realise that the paltry sum earmarked by him

for this purpose pales into insignificance before it. I fully realise that it would not be possible for the Honourable Minister to reply to all the points raised by me but my main object is to bring these things to his notice so that he may take advantage of them when applying his mind to the industrial development of the province.

The next item No. 5 taken up by the Honourable Minister is :—

A marketing organisation with depôts at Amritsar, Multan and Hoshiarpur has been set up for the benefit of weavers.

As regards this point I have nothing particular to add except that the Honourable Minister has made a vague and general statement. He has not cared to apprise us of the output of the depôts. Again it is not sufficient to say that certain depôts have been opened at certain places. We must have fuller details about their working.

Then item No. 6 runs :—

A modest beginning was made last year for helping the educated unemployed with a lump-sum provision of Rs. 20,000.

I want to know whether any action has been taken with regard to the provision of this amount or will it lapse in due course. It is strange that the annual report published by the Department of Industries does nowhere make a mention of this matter. Of course in the Memorandum of the Budget at page 128, paragraph (12), it is stated :—

- (12) As a step towards relieving unemployment and with a view to encouraging small scale industrial enterprises a sum of Rs. 20,000 was set apart for grants to educated young men to enable those who have been trained in a particular industry to set up that industry and to help those who are already engaged in manufacturing enterprises to develop and expand their activities. The applications received for the grants have been examined and submitted to Government for sanction.

I know this is provided in the budget, but that what action is taken by the Industries Department on it. My apprehensions are that the applications mentioned therein will become the victims of red-tapism. There is no wonder if the Government take years to sanction those applications. If the Government had given much wider currency to the schemes under which they intended to help the educated unemployed, the people would have been satisfied with the proper use of public money by the Government.

Then item No. 7 is that :—

The services of a tanning expert from Bengal were secured for re-organising and placing on a more efficient footing our Tanning Institute at Jullundur :—

Now this matter is not the least connected with the industrial development of the province. I see no reason why the Government should take any special pride in securing the services of an expert from Bengal. I may mention here that every day, in the course of the administration of the Government transfers and promotions are taking place. Some places are being filled up by experts where experts are necessary. Have ever these transfers and promotions been considered as the exceptional achievements of the Government.

Then item No. 8 is that :—

A model Pottery Factory has been established at Lahore to revive the languishing ceramic industry of the province.

[R. B. Sohan Lal.]

Mere information of this kind does not satisfy the public. The Government should publish reports about the working of this factory and also furnish details regarding the working cost and the margin of profits and other allied matters of the factory.

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

Then item No. 9 is that—

“About a score of Travelling Demonstration Parties have been formed for training both men and women in ordinary handicrafts”:

Here again I have to repeat my complaint. The Honourable Minister has failed to give a full account of these Demonstration Parties. He should, for the satisfaction and in the best interests of the public, publish reports to the effect that so much amount of money has been spent on this work and so many persons have been trained by these parties.

What the Government should do is to give us the sum total of their actual achievements so that we may be able to judge impartially.

Coming to point No. 10, I have nothing to say. Further on the Honourable Minister says under item number 11 that

A resolution sponsored by the Unionist Party has been passed urging upon the Government the advisability of undertaking large-scale industries either by itself or in partnership with private capitalists.

Sir, I agree that this resolution is a good thing. The credit of having passed it goes to this House. The Government can only take credit if it carries this resolution into effect. I request the Honourable Minister to point out the various steps that he has taken in obedience to this resolution of the House. He can take credit if he succeeds in telling the House as to how far he has actually acted upon the policy laid down in this resolution. The mere fact that this resolution was passed in this House does not go to prove that the Government has done anything substantial. As a matter of fact it appears that the Government has not so far acted on this resolution of the House. Let the Government come out with facts and figures to indicate the extent to which it has acted on the advice of this House.

The 12th point of the Honourable Minister is as follows :—

The State Aid to Industries Act was also amended so as to make village and cottage industries eligible for subsidies.

Here again a reference is being made to paper transaction only and not to hard and solid facts showing the actual steps that have been taken by the Government under this legislation. Mere propaganda will not help the Government very much. Deeds and not words are wanted by the public. What we want is that the Government should state as to what it has done under these Acts and resolutions which this House passed. How many people have been granted subsidies under the State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Act and what sums have been so granted? What the Government does is simply to provide a sum in the budget and then to keep it unspent till the end of that financial year. After the expiry of that year the said sum is stated to have been lapsed. Thus in reality all this is a paper transaction and nothing else. To show a sum in the budget for some specific purpose and then not to spend it is mere jugglery of words which will deceive no intelligent person in the world.

Now the 13th point of the Honourable Minister of Development read as :—

A scheme for setting up a bicycle factory was drawn up by the Director of Industries but had to be given up in consequence of financial stringency with the result that the idea conceived in the Punjab was given a practical shape in another province.

Now this is really a very strange argument. If our Government does something which no other Government has done, it takes credit for having done so. But even if it fails to do what another Government has actually performed in a neighbouring province, even then our Government claims credit for itself. For instance it was boasted by the Government that it had undertaken an industrial survey of the province while no other Government in India had done so. We accepted the claim of the Government. But now when this Government had failed to set up a bicycle factory and another Government in a neighbouring province has actually established a bicycle factory, our Government is still claiming credit for what others have done. This amounts to empty vessel making much noise. Whether this Government does something or fails to do something, it must claim credit in every case. I am reminded of a proverb which says, "Head I win, tail you lose". That is a queer way of putting things before the House. If other Governments fail to achieve something which this Government succeeds in achieving, it boasts of its achievement. But if another Government does something which this Government fails to achieve, even then it claims credit. Papers publish what the Ministers say and thus their propaganda is made while nothing actually is being done. Several instances can be given in this respect. But I will give only one example. In 1940 an industrialist, The Indian Manufacturing Company, Lahore Cantonment, manufacturers of prams and cycle parts applied for a loan of forty thousand rupees and he also offered to give proper security for this. After prolonged investigation and consideration it was decided by the Government to ask the applicant if he was prepared to accept a loan of fifteen thousand rupees instead of forty thousand rupees as applied by him. To this also the applicant agreed. After this papers were again placed before the authorities but the Government at this stage turned down even this proposal on the plea that he was a rich man and he could, therefore, manage the necessary money that was required for the purpose. This attitude is strange indeed. If a person fails to furnish security, he is not given any loan because he is regarded too poor to fulfil the obligations. But if he happens to be rich enough so as to offer security, his request is also turned down. In the first instance this man was kept in suspense for a very long time and in the end his request was rejected for no fault of his. This is how the Government is aiding industrialists in this province. If a poor man asks for help, he is denied the required help because he is poor. But if a wealthy person asks for help, his request too is rejected because he is wealthy. Even this rejection takes place after keeping the applicant in great suspense for a pretty long time while industrialists can ill-afford to waste their valuable time like that, and moreover, it is a strange argument because help demanded was for the industry and not for the applicant himself.

I may now come to the 14th point of the Honourable Minister which reads—

The expansion of the Shahdara Government Weaving Factory had also to be abandoned on the ground of financial stringency.

[R. B. Sohan Lal.]

Now here I agree with the Government in so far as it has not risked its capital during the period of the war. Money should not be wasted uselessly on expansions when war is going on and when everything seems to be in the melting pot. I hope the Finance Department will strictly adhere to this policy of caution. I wish other departments of the Government had also followed this practice. But I am sorry to note that some of them go on undertaking new works involving additional expenses. It was wise on the part of the Punjab Government not to expand the Shahdara Government Weaving Factory.

I am glad that fifteen or twenty thousand rupees have been saved by abandoning the expansion of the Shahdara Government Weaving Factory. I wish other departments who are wasting lakhs of rupees should also observe economy in their expenditure.

Next I come to point 15. It is—

About half a dozen other industrial schemes of varying magnitudes with details sufficiently worked out had to be put aside because funds were not available in consequence of the strain to which our finances had been subjected by the requirements of famine relief.

I think this argument of strained finances due to famine relief has been repeated for the second or third time. In this way you have made sixteen points relating to your achievements. I do not want to waste the time of the House by repeating my remarks. Moreover putting aside of the schemes is no Industrial development.

Last is the point sixteen. It is—

Two large scale schemes, one textile and other relating to the manufacture of glass which Government had every intention to encourage actively, failed to materialize because of the intervention of war conditions.

Here again the same excuse of intervention of war conditions has been repeated. In item No. 16 you say that you were very keen on starting textile scheme and other schemes relating to the manufacture of glass. If you had been really keen on starting the textile scheme you could have done it before the outbreak of the present war. If you had done it then you would have earned the capital invested by this time. It required only a capital of twenty-five lakhs of rupees. If you had invested it on the afore-said industry during these two and a half years of war you could have easily earned back the substantial portion of the amount invested and could have invested it in some other industry. I realize that by dealing with the statement of the Honourable Minister item by item I have taken a good deal of the time of the House. I will in the end make one request to the Government. An honourable member of the House said that the Government would every year bring in a new measure of taxation. I see the Honourable Minister for Development is nodding his head thereby indicating that they do intend to bring in new measures of taxation every year. You have also listened to the suggestion made by Syed Amjad Ali Sahib about the constitution of a committee. I hope you will consider his request. Then honourable member Shaikh Sadiq Hassan made a few remarks about a development board. He also said that he attends the meeting of one such committee and earns his travelling allowance. He is a frank man and states things frankly without holding back anything. Such committees are of no use

If you are moved by a genuine desire to industrialize the province you should constitute a committee consisting of industrialists and experts to prepare a report on the subject of industrialization of the province. And after that report has been presented and the Government finds that they are not able to carry out the recommendations of that committee then let them place it before the public inviting the capitalists to come forward and take up the work of industrialization of the province. I wanted to make only these submissions. I hope the Government will very kindly consider them sympathetically.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, just now Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal has finished his speech. He is well versed in this subject. He was prepared and, therefore, I think, he has been able to give some constructive suggestions as to the way in which the industrialization of this province can proceed. But I must confess that I have no claims to be an industrialist or an economist. And moreover what I am saying, I am saying quite unprepared and saying as a layman and what a layman can say on this subject. There is a great cry in this province that there should be industrialization. What does this industrialization mean? We want this province to flourish. Let us now make some line of thought on which we may proceed. If we go on copying foreign countries like America or Japan or even Russia and England, I think we cannot succeed; because our needs are quite different, our sources and materials are quite different, our ways of living are quite different. We cannot copy them. We have copied them in our dress, in our Government; we have copied them in education, we have copied them in each and every sphere of life. Now, let us stop this further copying and let us try to meet the requirements or exigencies of our own times and of our own province. Sir, if this industrialization means perpetuation of capitalism or that capitalism may flourish, if that is required by industrialization, then here on the floor of this House I would say that this is most unwelcome and that this should not be done.

If this industrialization means the flow of money from the big millionaires to the poor people, then I would heartily welcome it. Therefore, with this idea in view we should proceed on the lines which would conduce to this line of thought and not to the other. The British Ministers say that there shall be new order after the war. What that order will be nobody can say but everybody is certain that the new order will bring in plenty and prosperity, more food and more money to the poor and labouring classes. If that new order is not to come up, I think the whole of the present cry for war or for materials or for achievement of victory is quite useless. I would not say that we should so industrialise our province that there should be a number of cosmols or kolkhousi like the Soviets, but what we should do is to devise such methods whereby the industries should not be in the hands of only big people and the Government or the State merely an on-looker only to legislate for them as regards their labour and have nothing to do with the profits or enterprises of industrialists. Under the present limitations and the circumstances it is difficult for us to start industries or for the State to start big concerns just now and say that there is great assurance to us that we are immune from the clutches of big millionaires. At the same time I am of the opinion that

[Khan Mhammad Yusuf Khan.]

if a good start is given, the work is half done and we will be immune from these people. If this zamindara Government is trying to say to the public at large that they have achieved great successes, that they have released the poor peasants from the clutches and cruelties of the sahukars, then they should also say that we should also be on our guard that from one sahukar we should not allow the peasant to go to the clutches of the other sahukar namely, the big industrialists. There should be enough room for private enterprise. We are not in a position to say that private enterprise should be totally abolished but we should proceed cautiously. I would, therefore, like to suggest to the Government that they should, to some extent, turn deaf ears to the cries of the big millionaires that there should be industrialization in the province. They should try to reconcile both these views—the views of the capitalists and views of the socialists—according to the requirements of the time so that when our province is industrialised, we may find that every man is getting things according to his needs and money is not hoarded by a few persons who can be counted on fingers' tips in the province. This should be the background, the line of thought according to which we should develop our industries. I would suggest here something about my own district. As the Honourable Minister of Development is fully aware, Rawalpindi district or Rawaipindi town is a great fruit market in the province as it is in the vicinity of Murree and Kashmir. If proper care is taken and good means are adopted, then I am quite confident that within a few years' time we can find there a good number of factories for the preservation of fruits and manufacture of fruit juices and other articles such as jams, marmalades, etc. I would suggest that the Government should find out some young men who have got aptitude for such work and give them proper training, afford them scholarships if needed and some other facilities so that they may be able to develop such small scale concerns. This would lead to much good for the district as a whole. The Government has already stated that they had got a survey made in the province in this connection. Their survey might have revealed something to them and they might have come to the conclusion as to what sort of factories or concerns would be most suitable in this province. They should hurry up with this matter and take action as soon as their financial and other difficulties permit them to do so. I am quite at one with those who say that there should be industrialization but I am against those who say that there should be industrialization by big people, so that I feel that the Government should proceed with the industrialization with great speed but with great caution.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division General, Rural): Sir, when I came here I did not expect that I would take part in the debate and even now I think I must start by making an apology in view of the remarks which the Honourable Premier was pleased to make the other day though perhaps I should dismiss all those remarks with the contempt that they deserve. No greater outrage on veracity was ever committed on the floor of the House even by the Honourable Premier than the outrage committed by him on veracity on that day.

Mr. Speaker : Is the honourable member giving a personal explanation?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : This is by way of preliminary remarks. If you think that I should not say anything, then I will not.

Mr. Speaker : No speech then. You can give this personal explanation.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I thank you very much for giving me this liberty.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : All right, I shall only defend myself.

Mr. Speaker : You merely explain.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Yes, I shall only explain.

Minister for Development : He has to speak on the subject of Industry. (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Speaker : But he says that some remarks were made against him. (*Interruption.*)

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I do not know who is the Speaker, whether the Honourable Minister for Development or you.

Minister for Development : I have perfect right to draw the attention of the Chair to...

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : The Honourable Speaker allowed me to speak.

Mr. Speaker : If he wants to speak to the motion before the House, he is welcome but if he does not want to speak on that motion then the only thing that can be done is that he may want a minute or so to make a submission.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : If you do not want me to speak on both...

Mr. Speaker : No speeches are to be made on personal explanation.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : There is no question of personal explanation. I have said enough perhaps and the world knows how much truth there was in what the Premier said. I am now going to speak on the motion. I think I have not yet attained that stage of yogic perfection, not to speak of the stage of *samadhi*, that I should sit here silently day after day and month after month and refrain from taking part in any debate because of the Premier's remarks. Therefore, casting that aside and being prompted by a sense of public duty which must rise above everything else I would continue to speak whenever I find that I have something to say on the subject before the House.

On this subject, so far as I have been able to follow the debates, there seem to be four schools of thought so far as industry is concerned. One school of thought was represented by the Honourable Finance Minister the other day when he was replying to the general debate with particular reference to industries. He said that the development of industries mainly and primarily depended upon the attitude of the Central Government. In the brief remarks which he made this was the principal note which he struck. Day-before-yesterday, when I was in the train, I was reading a newspaper in which I happened to come across the speech made by the Commerce

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

Member, Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar—and the Honourable Finance Minister probably knows what I am going to say—he would know and those who read his speech would know that he said that it was the concern of the provincial Governments primarily and particularly and that the Central Government in fact, had very little to do with the development of industries. This is the second school of thought so far as industry is concerned. Then we heard a third theory from Mr. Few, who just spoke for a few minutes on the motion before the House. He said that it was not at all the concern of the Government, it was the concern of private individuals and it was the business of the people to develop industries or not and he was pleased to say that it was not the duty of Governments at all to take any trouble for the development of industries and that it was for men like myself to do the needful. He honoured me by mentioning my name, as he considered me, as a pioneer of industries and he asked me to go about and dig up a hundred crores of rupees which the members of my class, the non-agriculturists of this province, had buried underground. He said that if I could dig up even 5 crores or a fraction of that amount from underground all kinds of industries would be developed in this province. Then the last speaker, who just preceded me has come forward with another theory and represented another school of thought. He said that the capitalists should never be allowed to come into this field—he did not speak very distinctly and if I do him any injustice or misrepresent him, he will kindly correct me. His view seems to be that these capitalists are very voracious people and they will make big profits and they would be substituting another class of *sahukars* in place of the *sahukars* whom this Government has succeeded in destroying, and, therefore, if any industry is to be developed, it should be developed—this is what he probably meant to say—by the poor people or it should be taken in hand by the Government itself, so that no profits or in any case no large profits should go into the hands of the capitalists. These are the four views which we have to consider. The Punjab Government complacently can say that it is the concern of the Central Government; the Central Government says that it is the concern of the provincial Governments, Mr. Few says that it is the concern of no Government but it is the concern of private individuals and another gentleman says that private individuals should be watched very carefully that they do not make any large profits. Now, Sir, if all these views are correct, then it means that some angel must come from Heavens to develop the industries of this country. It would have been something if it had been said that a judicious and carefully considered combination of all these parties would be necessary for the development of industries, and I would have had no quarrel. The Honourable Finance Minister can be considered right inasmuch as the question of protection for the nascent industries is concerned. He would certainly be on firm ground in saying that unless there is sufficient protection provided for new industries, the provincial Government would not be able to do very much for the establishment of new industries. If Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar had said that the Central Government is prepared to give protection where it is needed, but it is the provincial Governments which should raise capital or should persuade capitalists and encourage them to set up industries, he would have also been right. Probably he meant that. Then, if Mr. Few had said that private enterprise should also

be necessary for the development of industries but at the same time both the provincial Government and the Central Government should help them, he would have been perfectly right. In the same way, I think my honourable friend Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan, would have been right if he had said that the Government should see that where it affords some help to the capitalists the capitalists should be properly watched and a careful eye should be kept on the management if the Government has subscribed any part of capital for the concern or has in some other way rendered some help to the industry. My submission is that everybody has spoken only a part of the truth—I do not say that they have not spoken the truth at all or whatever they said was incorrect.

Minister for Finance : I only spoke for 5 minutes.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I said so, that he made a few remarks. He could say something more but the lack of time did not permit him to do so. But certainly he did make a reference to the Central Government and said that the provincial Government could not do much unless the Central Government came to their help. I hope, I am interpreting correctly what he said on that occasion. If he had time he could have said much more on the subject and made his position clear. I have no quarrel with it. But all I am interested in saying is this that all these four aspects must be kept in view. In the first place I do not know if a hundred crore of rupees are buried underground in the houses of non-agriculturists. I think, if they had anything, they must have dug it up by now to live upon it because whatever else they possessed they have lost and I do not think that there is much hoarded wealth now in the Punjab. In any case it is very difficult to make an estimate of what is lying underground unless it was buried in the presence either of Mr. Few or some other representative of the Government. The question, therefore, is what the provincial Government are prepared to do in this direction. They can ask the Central Government for help when they start new industries and they can say that in the beginning they cannot stand competition and that they want protection. The Central Government do grant protection to steel, they do grant protection to sugar and comparatively speaking to some other industries also. In any case, the Central Government should protect the Indian industries against foreign competition. That might be done. But that question arises only if the provincial Governments are prepared to do something. I think it would be unfair on my part to say that within the limited means at the disposal of the Punjab Government, as provided in the budget, they have not done what they could do. They have done something and whatever little has been done should be acknowledged with appreciation and gratitude. The complaint is not that they have done nothing whatsoever, but that they have not done what could be done when the finance is also a transferred subject. This excuse could be urged with justification and I think with success during the time of the bureaucracy when finance was not a transferred subject and for every single penny the Minister of Industries as well as the Director of Industries had to knock at the door of the Finance Department. The Finance Department was not prepared to provide sufficient funds for the development of industries. I shall not go into the question as to why they were not prepared to be as liberal to provide funds for the development of

3 p.m.

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

industries as governments in other countries are. The reasons are obvious. If India becomes self-supporting in industry and can manufacture everything that it wants in the same proportion Great Britain would starve. Therefore I think every patriotic Briton would first look to his own country and cannot show the same solicitude for the development of industries in countries which are under its rule. I want this Government to be equally patriotic. Just as the British people look to the development of their own industries, this Government and the government of every province in this country should be equally patriotic and should do their best to encourage industry. The complaint is that the Government has not done its best; not only it has not done its best but it has not done even very well so far as the development of industries is concerned particularly so far as large-scale industries are concerned. My honourable friend said that millionaires should not be allowed to come in. My submission is that no industry can develop without capitalists. Unless there is money no industry can be developed, and people who cannot make two ends meet cannot finance large industries. The other method is joint stock companies. This is a way in which smaller people can also help and various concerns which have so far been run in this country with very few exceptions have run on joint stock system. There is in this no room for domineering capitalism. If a number of persons combine and subscribe say a thousand rupees each they will be able to raise a substantial sum. None of them can be described as a capitalist. A concern may consist of thousands of poor persons who have contributed small amounts to raise the capital for that concern. The question, however, is whether there are people in this country who are in a position even to subscribe on this small scale. My submission is that their number is very small. Capital is always shy: it is much more shy in this province. I need not give reasons; the reasons are obvious. One of them certainly is that this province has so far been a province of agriculturists and not a province of industrialists. Therefore, they are not prepared to run risks, and as I have always been saying no new concern of any importance can be floated unless somebody is prepared to run that risk. If nobody is prepared to run the risk and everyone wants a guaranteed dividend of 10 or 12 per cent to start with, no industry can be floated and no big concern can be taken in hand. It is, therefore, necessary that someone else who is in a position to take the risk should take the risk or in any case a part of the risk and that someone else can only be the Government and not a private individual. Private individuals do run risks when they subscribe for the floatation of a large concern, but the extent of their risk is limited and they cannot go very far unless the Government is prepared to join them and is prepared to share a part of the risk. That is the first thing that the Government should do. Unfortunately so far, whether it is in the time of this Government or the previous Governments, the Punjab Government has not been able to invest any large sums in any concern. One concern was floated no doubt at Sonipat in which the Government, I think subscribed about 2 lakhs and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ was paid. That was about 15 years ago. I do not want to go into that question but somehow that failed. Those who were in charge would know why the concern failed. It was run by the Department of Agriculture and not by the Department of Industries. It was a joint stock company. There were some private

directors and there were one or two Government directors. It was the Department of Agriculture that was in charge of the concern; but simply because that concern failed it should not in any way frighten the Government. Private concerns also fail. Many industrialists run private concerns; for years and years they go on investing without making any profit. That therefore should not deter the Government from taking further risks. As I have submitted no concern can be run unless Government is prepared to risk its own money like a private individual. If it is not prepared to run a concern entirely at its own cost it should be prepared to join private individuals. We have been told that a great economist Mr. K. T. Shah came to the province and made a survey of the province and has submitted a report regarding the industries which can possibly be set up in this province. I do not know exactly what the scope of the enquiry was. My submission is that it was not a bad thing to take the advice of a person whom they considered to be very competent; but personally I feel that the Punjab Government knew enough of what was necessary and what could actually be achieved in this province. What is our present condition? If you just make a survey of your daily life—I do not mean you personally—I mean the daily life of a well-to-do Punjabi, what do we find? From morning to evening he is dependant on imported things. Early in the morning he gets up, goes to the bathroom; foreign imported articles are there for his convenience: even the paper he uses is imported from foreign countries. He cleans his teeth with a foreign tooth brush and uses foreign powder or paste. He probably takes his bath in a foreign made tub. The soap he uses is perhaps foreign made, and if he uses any scent or cosmetics, ladies particularly, they are mostly foreign. When he comes out of the bathroom he puts on his clothes all foreign with few exceptions. He goes to his breakfast table and what does he find? Probably the linen is foreign, cutlery is foreign, plates and glasses are foreign. Porridge or pottage is foreign, jam and sauces are also foreign: almost everything is foreign there, because he does not feed ordinarily on 'basi roti' and butter and 'lassi'. His tea is foreign and sometime ago his sugar used to be foreign: in the houses of more fashionable people even sugar is foreign. The same is the case with other meals. He rides in foreign motor cars, uses imported petrol, in any case part of it, the lubrication of his car is dependent upon imported stuff, and so on. The newspaper which comes to his breakfast table in the morning is printed on foreign paper. All these things are foreign. Is not that a sufficient indication as to what is required to be done in this province? If we fall ill, we have to depend upon foreign medicines. All these things should be manufactured and can be manufactured in this country. All kinds of chemicals, drugs, most of the textile materials, all kinds of cosmetics, all kinds of porcelain things can be manufactured in this province. The only thing is that as these industries would be new, private individuals may not be prepared to run risks. Therefore, it is necessary that the Government should select some of these industries immediately and should either start them as demonstration factories or they should induce some private individuals to join them. They should be prepared to subscribe part of the capital. That is a sure way of raising capital. The Minister for Development will pardon me if I remind him of this, as I have already once done before, that he should guarantee a minimum dividend on capital. If that can be done, that will be the cheapest

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

and surest way of inducing people to part with their money for industrial concerns. Now people do not want to run risks, because they do not know how long it will take to develop an industry before they can hope to get a dividend. But if the Government were to guarantee that they would be paid five per cent or four per cent for so many years on the capital they subscribe, many people would be ready to subscribe and yet the Government may not have to pay even a penny from their pockets. I do not know if this experiment has been tried before, but if once they try this experiment they will find that it is possible that they may not have to pay a penny because the concern might become a paying one straightaway; and if they have to pay anything at all it will be only for a year or two. But even that would come back to them when the concern becomes a flourishing one. This is one of the surest ways of raising money. But the will must be there. I do not mean to be personal, but I honestly feel that if the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Development were to exchange some of their departments, and if the Finance Minister takes over the department of industries and gives in exchange the jails department—I think the Minister for Development can administer jails quite well, because he will find quite a number of his own people there and they would also be happy to have a member of their own class to look after them—then the Finance Minister would certainly be in a much better position to do something for industry. Because after all it is a question of mentality. I am not here in any way accusing the Minister for Development of lack of sympathy. It is a question of mentality and it would take many many years for him to get into the commercial and industrial mentality. That mentality is not acquired in a day. A person brought up in commercial and industrial environment would naturally find it easier, his mind would be more easily drawn into it, than a man who has been brought up on the furrows of ploughed fields. For agriculture he is certainly a much better Minister, but for industries the Finance Minister would certainly be much better and more suitable. If, therefore, they exchange these departments and the rest of the Government entertain views as the Finance Minister said they do, then the state of industry in this province may be very much better than it is at present. I do not want to go into details any further as my honourable friends have already spoken on the subject and as I have already taken more than my share of the time.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu): Sir, as many as twenty-two honourable members of this august House have given expression to their views on the Demand under consideration. This indicates that every section of the House is deeply interested in the subject of Industries. Many things have been said and different opinions expressed in regard to this matter. Some honourable members hurled accusations against the Government from their own point of view and others levelled criticism against me personally according to their light. But I believe that میرے پاس جواب نہیں ہے and therefore I would make no attempt to reply to their arguments. Besides, I have not sufficient time to dispose of all the points raised by them individually. However, there are certain fundamental facts which I want to

bring home to the honourable members in order to clarify the position of the Government.

Some of my honourable friends seem to have persuaded themselves into a belief that the Government have neither any desire to promote industries nor have they any policy to bring about industrial development in the province. It has particularly been mentioned that the Minister in charge of the Industries Department has absolutely no sympathy worthy of the name for the industries of the Punjab. I emphatically and categorically deny this baseless charge against Government and myself. The fact of the matter is that the Government are neither lacking in a desire to extend a helping hand to industries nor is it their policy to shut the door of financial help to the industrial progress of the province. As regards myself, I assure the House that there is no lack of keenness in me for giving fillip to the industries in the Punjab. I see no need of entering into hair-splitting arguments to prove my *bona fides*, as even a person of ordinary common sense can realize full well that if industrialization takes place, it will usher in an era of prosperity and plenty for the province. That is, unemployment will be reduced; the condition of labouring classes will be ameliorated; the goods which were previously imported, will begin to be manufactured in our own province to the greatest benefit of the public at large, and at the top of it the backbone of the province, I mean the zamindars, would flourish because their raw produce would fetch better price and find a ready market. In view of this, to accuse me of being devoid of sympathy for the industrial development of the province, is most unfair and uncharitable on the part of my honourable friends opposite. I am fully alive to the fact that these commodities, which in their raw shape are sold by the maund and by the seer would when manufactured in other countries sell by the seer and chhatank. If our raw produce is converted into manufactured articles in our country our money will remain in our own country. It is obvious that in this way zamindars, labourers, and trading classes will all share in the general prosperity which will result from the industrialization of the province.

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

I can, therefore, assure the House that the charge of the honourable member that the Punjab Government has no sympathy with industrialization is not based on any reasonable ground. It only indicates that he has caught the infection of suspicion and distrust from the present times which are surcharged with these unfortunate feelings. I am sure he will realize his error after a little calm reflection and dispassionate thinking. I am, however, inclined to agree in the suggestion made by him about transferring the portfolio of industries to Sir Manohar Lal. I know that the Finance Minister has close connections with the capitalists and the industrialists of the Punjab, and he enjoys greater confidence of the moneyed classes than I do. The Department of Industries may, therefore, be expected to grow and make greater progress under Sir Manohar Lal who besides being an expert economist has much greater direct experience of industries than myself. I admit that I do not possess the knowledge and experience which he possesses in this line. I have already been thinking of requesting the Honourable Premier to transfer the Industries Department to Sir Manohar

[Minister for Development.]

Lal and give me some other department instead or give me a little more time to go about. I assure my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang that I propose to make this request to the Premier.

It has been further alleged that provision made in the budget for the Industries Department is very inadequate. The grant under this head was 14 lakhs in the budget of 1936-37 when we took over from the previous Government and now we have provided a sum of more than 22 lakhs. This shows an increase of 56 or 57 per cent over the grant of 1936-37. Now one or two honourable members have stated that this sum of 22 lakhs will be mostly spent on the personnel, etc., and a very small portion no more than 1½ lakhs will be spent directly on the development of industries. This charge too is not well founded. The fact is that 2½ lakhs have been provided specifically for this purpose in the schedule of New Expenditure and 2½ lakhs find a place in the ordinary budget. So a sum of nearly 5 lakhs has been provided for the promotion and development of industries. On the whole 90 per cent of this grant will be spent directly on the development of industries alone. It is, therefore, wrong to say that a large part of this grant will be spent on establishment and only a small portion, above 1½ lakhs in all, will be spent directly on development of industries.

All the critics, however, ignore some very real difficulties that beset our path and on account of which the Government has not been able to promote the cause of industries to the extent to which it desired. I will now proceed to enumerate the limiting factors which have militated against satisfactory pace of progress in the industrialization of the province.

As soon as we came into office, a number of natural calamities befell this province. Hailstorms, drought and famine came in quick succession and placed a terrific strain on the finances of the province. Do honourable members imagine that a Government which has had to spend about two crores and seventy-six lakhs of rupees on famine alone could have undertaken heavy industries on a large scale during the short period of three years? It is not an ordinary thing to be called upon to spend about three crores of rupees within three years on famine relief work especially when the annual budget of the Government is about 11 to 12 crores only. Under these circumstances it was not possible to spend more on industries than we have spent. The other limiting factor of which the critics of the Government have taken no notice is the war and its effects, both financial and general.

Some of the honourable members have stated that the war has afforded opportunities to develop certain industries of which the Government has made no use. Let me assure the House that war is not merely being mentioned as a lame excuse. It has made the import of machinery practically impossible. I take it that when the development of industries is stressed by the members, it is only the large-scale industries that are meant and not cottage industries or handicrafts. For the setting up of these large scale industries we certainly need big machines. But there are innumerable and insurmountable difficulties in the way of importing heavy machinery from abroad. Besides, even if there were no difficulties of shipping, machinery for purposes other than war is not available and all the factories of America and England are busy producing war material and cannot be

spared for any other purpose. Furthermore, even if any American or English factory or firm were prepared to manufacture the machinery that we need, we cannot import that machinery, because no shipping will be available unless we obtain a certificate of priority from the Government of India. That is why large-scale industries have not made much headway. The third limiting factor was that until recently Government had not received a clear mandate from the House on the policy to be followed. There were various suggestions before the Government. Some honourable members suggested that the Government should not concern itself at all with industries which were the exclusive concern of private capitalists. Some recommended a joint effort on the part of the Government and private individuals, while others advised that entirely new and untried industries should be started by the Government and after they have been proved to be profitable they should be handed over to private capitalists. The House had given no definite verdict so far. So, we could not adopt any single course with confidence. Now in last January the House passed a resolution sponsored by the Unionist party urging upon the Government the advisability of undertaking large-scale industries either by itself or in partnership with private capitalists. No doubt is now left with regard to our policy. We all know what the House desires us to do in this behalf. The difficulties placed by famine in our way seem happily to have been removed. War, however, still remains in our way. We can, therefore, neither start large-scale industries ourselves in the absence of the required machinery which is so essential and which is not available due to war conditions, nor can we help the private capitalists at the present stage. The circumstances certainly force us to wait till the successful conclusion of war. I wish that this waiting were not necessary.

However the views of any individual member on the subject of industrialization will now carry no weight as the policy to be followed by the Government regarding it has been clearly prescribed by the House in their recent resolution. We are bound by the mandate of the House and we will try to implement the terms of that resolution as soon as condition permit.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang referring to the Honourable Finance Minister's remarks that so many important factors affecting industrial development rested with the Central Government, stated that he failed to understand the significance of those remarks. The significance of the remarks of the Honourable Minister for Finance is as clear to him as it is to me. (An honourable member: But he is asleep). No. You are mistaken. He is not asleep. He is concentrating his mind on something. The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal never meant to shift the responsibility of developing industries from our shoulders to those of the Central Government. What he meant was that there were some factors which have a close bearing on the subject of developing industries in the provinces and that those factors are under the control of the Government of India. For example, tariffs, and ratio of exchange depend upon the policy of the Central Government and they immensely affect trade and industry of the country. In addition to these factors which influence industry there is the question of railway freight which, again, is a Central subject. A concession in railway freight can help an industry a lot. But it is not within our power to grant

[Minister for Development.]

that concession. It is up to the Railway Board to grant a reduction in freight. We have been applying to the Railway Board for reduced rates of freight but without avail. What the Honourable Finance Minister meant was that the Punjab Government would do all that was within their power to help industries in the province. He never meant to shift the responsibilities of developing industries in the province from their shoulders to those of the Central Government. It is most unfortunate that some honourable members are biased against this Government and they spare no occasion to run them down. I agree with a good deal of what the honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand stated in his speech, but not with his interpretation of the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal's remarks. The Honourable Minister for Finance only wanted to bring to the notice of the House some factors which immensely influence the development of industries in a province but are under the control of the Central Government.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : That stage comes later—the stage of the Central Government.

Minister for Development : But you will admit that these factors do influence the development of industries in a province from the very start. We have been doing what we could in the matter but we cannot help a thing which is not under our control. We cannot help so far as these factors and other conditions like those created by the present war are concerned. The obstruction caused in the way of the industrial development of the province by war is not within our power to remove. As regards the other two difficulties namely, lack of funds owing to famine and absence of a definite verdict of this House on the subject of the development of industries in the province, they have been removed. And now it is to be seen whether we take any steps to implement the terms of the resolution of the House recommending the starting of partly or wholly state-owned and state-managed industries in the province. But you cannot expect us to do all this overnight. First we will have to make arrangements for the funds and then chalk out the lines on which to start the work of industrial development of the province. On the one hand the Government should be prepared to start an industrial development scheme and on the other the capitalists should be ready to help the Government in their resolve. If the capitalists are willing to help the Government to undertake a scheme of industrial development the Government in the presence of the resolution of the House is bound to take up the work of industrialization.

I may, however, be allowed to repeat once again that Sir Manohar Lal is in a much better position to influence the capitalists and to persuade them to invest their capital in industries. He is in close touch with them and they have more confidence in him than they have in myself.

Next I come to the complaints made by the honourable members representing rural areas. No doubt in the matter of industrialization proper, attention has not so far been paid to rural areas. Up to this time the tendency has been to open industrial centres in towns alone ignoring the interests of the voiceless millions who live in rural areas. Large sections of rural masses mainly depend upon industries but little has been done to help them by opening new industries in rural areas. To a large extent

their grievance is genuine. But since last year the conditions have changed. Last year we passed a measure to subsidize cottage and village industries. One great difficulty in the way of a zamindar desirous of getting a loan for industrial purposes was that his land could not form a security for the loan as under the provisions of the Land Alienation Act it could not be attached or sold in execution of a decree. But now a zamindar can take a loan on the security of his land which can be attached in execution of a decree without in any way affecting his status as a notified agriculturist or any portion of his land other than the area offered in security. This amending Act has also been enacted by this honourable House with the result that under its provisions agriculturists would also enjoy the same facilities as had been enjoyed by others in the matter of taking out of loans for the encouragement of industries.

Now I come to the question of granting of subsidies. Previously subsidies were granted to industrialists for research work only but now under the provisions of the State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Act agriculturists would also be in a position to get them for the development of cottage and village industries. As a matter of fact any person, whether he is a resident of a city or of a village, who sets up a cottage industry would be entitled to obtain subsidy from Government and in the year under review such subsidies have been granted. Besides, a modest sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided in the Budget to be given to those educated unemployed who possess the necessary ability, talent and desire to set up some sort of industries but who have not got sufficient funds to do so. Out of this sum they will be given financial assistance in accordance with their needs. In addition a considerable sum may be set apart which will be disbursed through the Deputy Commissioners for the promotion of cottage and village industries. In the face of these hard facts no one can say that nothing is being done for the people living in rural areas. The trouble is that there are several difficulties in the way of affording this kind of relief to the agriculturists. Now those difficulties and obstacles are slowly melting away and I hope time will soon come when we shall be in a position to give as much assistance to agriculturists as we wish to give them.

It appears from the speeches of the honourable members that they do not know as to which Travelling Demonstration Parties have worked or are at present working in their districts with a view to promote industries in the province. Let me tell them that there are no less than 25 Travelling Demonstration Parties which are touring the different districts of the province and are imparting industrial training to poor people in rural areas. Many honourable members have observed that they have no knowledge whether any Travelling Demonstration Parties have toured their districts or not. I do not understand why they have not come to know about their working in their respective districts. For my part I have issued instructions to the Travelling Demonstration Parties in clear, definite and unambiguous terms that whenever any one of them intends to start work in any district it should inform the Deputy Commissioner or the Revenue Assistant or the Tahsildar of the place of its arrival and explain to him the purpose of its visit and request him to give instructions to it which it will try to give effect to. In other words if any Travelling Demonstration Party proposes to start work at the headquarters of any district it should inform

[Minister for Development.]

the Deputy Commissioner of its arrival and get necessary instructions from him in the selection of the centre of their activities. Similarly, if it intends to work at the headquarters of any sub-division or tahsil it should try to get instructions from the Sub-Divisional Officer or Revenue Assistant or the Tahsildar of the ilaga, as the case may be, as to where it should start its work so as to benefit the maximum number of people. That is not all. They have further been instructed that whenever any Travelling Demonstration Party proposes to start work in any district it should place itself in touch with the local M.L. A.s and try to get assistance from them with a view to achieve the best possible results. Now in order to provide against possibility of any Demonstration Party avoiding making contact with the M.L. A.s on the ground that they happened to belong to parties other than the Unionist Party I have instructed them in unequivocal terms that they have no business to make inquiries regarding the party allegiance of honourable members. They must seek the help and co-operation of all local M. L. A.s whether they are Unionists, Congressites, Independents Hindu Mahasbhaites, Sikhs or Muslims. Their business is to go to them and seek assistance from them. In the presence of these definite instructions if any Demonstration Party fails to establish contact with the local M. L. A.s it is for honourable members to intimate to me in writing that the Demonstration Party working in their districts has failed to see them in connection with its working in their district. On the receipt of such an intimation I shall be in a position to call upon the Party to explain the reason of its failure to obey departmental instructions. Moreover the said parties have been instructed that after working in the District, Sub-Divisional and Tahsil headquarters they should also turn their attention to rural areas, and so far as possible try to start work in central villages with a view to impart industrial training to a large number of people. Now these are the instructions that have been issued to the Travelling Demonstration Parties. If they fail to carry them out it is for the honourable members to let me know about this dereliction of duty. I assure them that if on inquiry any Demonstration Party fails to furnish a valid explanation it shall be strictly dealt with.

Now, Sir, it has been urged by almost all the honourable members that Travelling Demonstration Parties have not done any work for the development of industries in their districts. My honourable friend Raja Farman Ali Khan, who at present is not in his seat, also made a similar complaint and pointed out that nothing had been done to promote the cause of industry in his district. Let me tell him that only recently an industrial school for girls had been opened at Rawalpindi. After Lahore and Ambala, where fortunately industrial schools for girls exist, Rawalpindi is the first place where an industrial school for girls has been opened. Besides, provision has been made in the Budget for the establishing of an industrial school for girls at Multan. Generally speaking, I can confidently assert that there is not a single district in the province where one of the Travelling Demonstration Parties has not worked.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: Nobody has written to me in Lyallpur.

Minister for Development: My honourable friend is so very busy, otherwise that he cannot find time to stay at Lyallpur much.

Now I will read out the names of the Travelling Demonstration Parties and the places where they have worked or are at present working. They are: (1) *Government Travelling Weaving Demonstration Party Punjab*; This party has worked at Hyderabad, Bhakkar, Mianwali and Little. At present it is working at Dullewala. (2) *Government Travelling Weaving Demonstration Party for Muzaffargarh District*: This party has been working at Leish for a long time and is continuing its work there. It has been granted extension twice or thrice at the request of local weavers. One of its branches is working at Kote Sultan and another at Kote Adu. (A voice: This party has not visited Muzaffargarh tahsil.) I have not said that Demonstration Parties have visited each and every tahsil, but what I have asserted is that there is not a single district where some one of them has not worked.

Lala Sita Ram: On a point of order Sir. The question of Demonstration Parties has already been discussed under a separate cut motion and a reply has been given by the Honourable Minister. Consequently I do not think that he is relevant in discussing this subject once again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is no point of order involved.

Minister for Development: I am within my right in discussing this subject because it falls within the purview of the Industries grant. The other parties are: (3) *Wool Spinning and Weaving Demonstration Party, Fazilka*: This party has worked at Fazilka for some time and is continuing its work there. (4) *Wool Spinning and Weaving Demonstration Party, Palampur, district Kangra*: This party has worked at Kangra and is continuing its work there. (5) *Travelling Demonstration Party for developing ban and rope making in the Gurdaspur district*: This party is working at Gharuta in the Gurdaspur district. (6) *Wool Teasing, carding and Finishing station, Kulu*: This is not a touring party, but a permanent institution. (7) *Travelling Wool Spinning and Weaving Demonstration Party for the rural areas of the Rawalpindi district*: This party is working at Kalimteli.

Another Travelling Weaving Demonstration Party for Eastern districts is at present working at Panipat. There is still another Party for central districts which is for the present working at Panipat instead of the central districts for which it was meant. This arrangement has been made in order to execute an order for the supply of blankets to the Army. There is one Travelling Dyeing Demonstration Party which has already worked at Jullundur, Rupar, and Kohrali and is now carrying on its work at Morinda. Another similar Party has worked at Chakwal, Bhaun and Jalalpur Kiknan and has recently been transferred to Jalalpur Jattan. Then there is a Women's Travelling Demonstration Party which has given demonstrations at Nurpur, Dharmasala and Palampur in the Kangra district. Another party for women in rural areas has worked in Taxila and is at present working in Campbellpur. Again there is a Travelling Demonstration Party for glue making which has been demonstrating at Rewari and Multan and is at present working at Basi Modasa in the Hoshiarpur district. Then there is a Demonstration Party for better vegetable and essential oil making. It has already worked at Hissar, Rohtak, Jhajjar and Gurgaon and is now working at Punahana. A Travelling Demonstration Party for the Development of Pottery in the Punjab is working at Gujranwala now-a-days.

[Minister for Development.]

Another Travelling Demonstration Party to teach improvements in extracting Ammonium Chloride has been working at Gomthala, Karnal and Kaithal. Still another Travelling Demonstration Party for making Carbonate of Potash has worked at Kot Khai and Sabathu and is now at work at Shahabad in Karnal. The second Travelling Demonstration Party for vegetable oils extraction is working at Panipat and the second glue making Demonstration Party is carrying on its work at Tala Gang in the Attock district. A Demonstration Party for the manufacturing of soap and allied products is at present at Tarn Taran. Another Demonstration Party for helping blacksmiths worked for some time at Aurangabad and Dhauj (Gurgaon) and is now working at Dharapur. Then there are two Tanning Demonstration Parties. One of them has worked at Odherewal (Jhelum) and is at present working at Tala Gang. The second worked first at Bhiwani and is now at Sirsa. The Travelling Demonstration Party for Silk Cocoon reeling has worked at Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Shahpur, Kangra and Sialkot, and is now working at Rawalpindi and Jullundur. This long list is sufficient to show that so far as the development of small industries in rural areas is concerned the Government has not been found wanting in its duty. It is doing duty properly and will go on doing it in future.

I have set forth some other important things in an article to the Press, which have been done by the Department of Industries so far. I would like to read it out before the House :

The following concrete facts should also be borne in mind when judging the attention which the Unionist Government has given to the cause of industrial development.

My honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal strikes a discordant note in respect of our starting a Stores Purchase Department in this province. He warns the Government to see that they may not have to pay a higher rate for their contracts now than that paid when they made their purchases through the Indian Stores Purchase Department. In the same breath he says that the Government has done a very good thing in setting up this department. I fail to understand the argument of my honourable friend. Either the Government is right in setting up this department or it has made a mistake. How can the Government be both wrong and right at the same time. The underlying principle of a Provincial Stores Purchase Department is to patronize and stimulate local industries. This we have done. Therefore my honourable friend should either say that this action on the part of the Government is right or wrong. So far as the Government are concerned we think we have done the right thing.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : What I said was that the Government had done very well in setting up the Provincial Stores Purchase Department but I also wanted the Government to satisfy themselves in respect of the rates that they will have to pay so that they may not have to spend more in this manner. I did not say that the Government had made a mistake.

Minister for Development : I understand my friend quite well. Incidentally, it is the first time that the speech made by Begum Rashida Latif Baji was very coherent and to the point, but on the contrary the speech of my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal was devoid of all coherence and cogency.

Anyway, Sir, during this year we have made purchases to the value of Rs. 12 lakhs through the Provincial Stores Purchase Department whereas our average annual purchases amount to Rs. 60 lakhs. It is probably because the department was set up late in the year that our purchases through it have so far been of the value of Rs. 12 lakhs only. Even so we have saved one per cent on commission and another one per cent on inspection of stores, although in some cases we have had to pay inspection fee. In all we have saved something between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000 in the current year. This year goods worth Rs. 12 lakhs have been bought through this department which has resulted in a saving of about Rs. 24,000. My

4 p. m.

friends should not regard it a meagre sum, as finally we would be in a position to purchase goods worth about 60 lakhs a year. This will result in a saving of one lakh and twenty thousand rupees. The greatest advantage of having this department is that we can purchase freely goods made in our own province and thus encourage local industries. With the Central Stores Purchase Department as our agents the complaint was that Punjab industrialists did not secure sufficient orders. This complaint has now been removed. It shows that the Provincial Stores Purchase Department is a great asset in helping local industrialists and stimulating local industries. It is, therefore, crystal clear that this department will do very useful work so far as the development of industries is concerned.

Then the second point to which I have invited the attention of the honourable members is this :

A general survey of the province both by districts and by industries has been undertaken which has not been attempted in any other province.

But how regrettable it is that my honourable friends instead of appreciating this attempt of the Government have levelled uninformed criticism against us asking as to why this survey has been conducted and what data has been collected so far and whether it will be collected within a year or so ! No, it cannot be collected in a year. At first we estimated that the least period of time required for completing this survey would be three years, but later on we felt that instead of three years five years were more likely to be needed. Let me also point out in passing that we cannot be charged with unreasonable delay as any province which takes up this survey will find that it cannot complete it very expeditiously. For instance, this work of industrial survey was taken up by the Congress and so far as my knowledge goes not a single full-fledged and detailed report about any section has been published by them so far. I do not blame the Congress for this. The reason is quite obvious. The work involved is so intricate and enormous that greater despatch is not practicable. The Congress and ourselves have both been unable to finish the work so far. Both started about the same time. I, therefore, in view of the enormous and complicated nature of the work, believe that the survey will take approximately five years to finish. I am also clear in my mind that only a complete survey will enable us to place industrial development on a solid footing. If you do not know where raw material is found in abundance, if you are not aware where it is consumed or where it is likely to be consumed, if you know little about the availability of labour and their wages, I am sure, you can never be able to chalk out a

[Minister for Development.]

comprehensive programme in regard to industries. For this simple reason it was considered most imperative to collect data in respect of all relevant matters. In view of the fact that we set an example which was also taken up by the Congress (*hear, hear.*) our friends ought to have complimented us instead of criticizing our industrial policy in a manner which is anything but just and fair. It is a pity that our opponents have such a vitiated mentality.

Now I come to the third item which is as follows :—

The services of an eminent economist of progressive ideas—Professor K. T. Shah were specially secured for drawing up a plan of industrial development in the province. This Plan is now under the consideration of Government.

I think that those of my honourable friends who are interested in industries, economics and Congress activities should know that Professor K. T. Shah is an able and eminent economist of progressive views and is considered by many as authority on this subject. I may also tell the House that he was the gentleman appointed as General Secretary of the National Planning Committee set up by the Congress. I may also be permitted to suggest that the most essential thing in drawing up a plan of industrial development is industrial data. We placed all the available data before him. We also encouraged him to visit all the important industrial centres. Professor Shah has completed his Report on industrial planning for the province. The Report has been printed. It may be regarded by some people as incomplete, but the author has based it on all the material available to him. I may also point out that the Government will soon be actively considering that report. Until then it cannot be said which of the recommendations made therein would be accepted by them. But as the report prepared by this eminent economist is with us we should be in a position to say that, funds permitting, we can undertake this or that industry. Now when we have started on right lines to prepare the ground work for establishing industries, we will start them as and when suitable opportunities offer themselves.

My fourth point on which I want to say a few words is this :—

The Research Laboratory has been placed on a permanent footing and Research Fund with a nucleus of 1½ lakhs was started two years ago. An amount of Rs. 10,000 is being added to this fund in 1941-42 budget.

Here also we have broken fresh ground. No other Provincial Government has attempted anything in this line so far. Research Fund has been instituted by the Punjab Government alone. Considerable amounts of money are invested by industrialists but in most cases owing to lack of previous research the money has failed to give desired fruits. But the Government has realized this difficulty and now industrialists will get better results out of their investments. I have no doubt that honourable members will admit that research work is most essential for success in industries and is, therefore, the greatest necessity for industrial development. My honourable friends who are really interested in industries should feel gratified that we have made a beginning in the right direction though it will require a great deal more money before it can render efficient service.

Then the next item runs as follows :—

(5) A marketing organisation with depots at Amritsar, Multan and Hoshiarpur has been set up for the benefit of weavers;

Well, Sir, this arrangement has been made entirely with a view to ameliorating the condition of those poor people about whom my honourable friend Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan thought the Government had done nothing worth the name to better their lot. The same honourable member also complained that the Government had always tried to safeguard the interests of the capitalists while they never cared to look after the welfare of the indigent and down-trodden weavers. I may tell him that the establishment of a marketing organization with depôts at the district headquarters mentioned above, is an important step taken by the Government with the sole object of benefiting the weavers. It is contemplated to open more branches of these depôts at different places in order to provide increased marketing facilities to this class of artisans. Now the reason why the Government were previously not in a position to give the full economic benefit of the scheme to weavers, was that owing to financial stringency Government had to seek the co-operation of the capitalists for providing working capital. The result was that the lion's share of the profit accruing from the working of depôts went into the pockets of these capitalists. Now the present Government have removed this difficulty and have set apart a sum of Rs. 50,000 as working capital. Consequently we shall be able to benefit the weavers in a greater measure. A large part of the net profit will be utilized in bettering their condition still further.

(6) A modest beginning was made last year for helping the educated unemployed with a lump-sum provision of Rs. 20,000.

I have already dealt with this point.

(7) The services of a tanning expert from Bengal were secured for re-organizing and placing on a more efficient footing our Tanning Institute at Jullundur;

I have already commented on this.

(8) A Model Pottery has been established at Lahore to revive the languishing ceramic industry of the province;

Now the honourable members must be aware that earthenware were produced in large numbers and variety by the *kumhars* (potters) of this province. These *kumhars* numbered from 8 to 10 lakhs. But during the last so many years the ceramic industry received such a serious set back that their number has dwindled down to 3 or 4 lakhs. There can be no gainsaying the fact that this industry used to be one of the most flourishing industries of the province. The art of pottery was perfected to such a high level, that our earthenware were in demand everywhere. Besides manufacturing, enamelling and painting of earthenware was also done. But unfortunately owing to lack of patronage and support of the ceramic industry, the artisans got disheartened and left the trade to find their livelihood in other spheres. Now with a view to revive this ancient industry the present Government have established a model pottery factory at Lahore to manufacture articles of artistic designs. Artisans will also be trained in enamelling and painting. It is expected that the ceramic industry is bound to receive a great impetus in the province.

(9) About a score of Travelling Demonstration Parties have been formed for training both men and women in ordinary handicraft;

I have already expressed my views about this matter.

(10) Some of our Industrial Schools have been turned into centres for training technicians for the army and are reported by the Technical Recruiting Officer to be doing excellent work;

[Minister for Development.]

In this connection I would like to address a few words to our critics. I think it is not fair that they should always try to find fault with the Government and place before the public only the dark side of the picture. They should also have the fairness to appreciate the good work done by the Government and give them the credit where it is due. Now the Industrial Schools of our province are considered to be the best in the whole of India. They need not be taken to be the best because I say this, but because it is the considered opinion of eminent personalities from other provinces who visited these institutions. For instance, when the All-India Industrial Exhibition was held here, many eminent visitors including Congress Ministers visited some of our institutions. They expressed great appreciation of the work done there and formed a very high opinion about them. In this connection I would like to make special mention of the celebrated Mr. Kumarappa of the All-India Spinners Association, who also visited our industrial schools. He paid a generous tribute to the Punjab and said that these were the schools which had been really started on lines calculated to ameliorate the miserable plight of the poor.

There is another certificate which speaks volumes, and has been granted by the Army Department of the Government of India. The Army Department expressed great satisfaction at the type of industrial schools which we had here in the Punjab, better fitted for practical training than those anywhere else in India. Again, the Technical Recruiting Officer found these schools to be of great practical value in training technicians needed for the army. In view of these encomiums earned by the Punjab Industrial Schools, it is the height of injustice and unfairness on the part of our critics to indulge in unqualified adverse criticisms.

- (11) A resolution sponsored by the Unionist Party has been passed, urging upon the Government the advisability of undertaking large-scale industries either by itself or in partnership with private capitalists;

I have already discussed this point in sufficient detail.

- (12) The State-Aid to Industries Act was also amended so as to make village and cottage industries eligible for subsidies;

This matter has also been already discussed.

- (13) A scheme for setting up a bicycle factory was drawn up by the Director of Industries but had to be given up in consequence of financial stringency with the result that the idea conceived in the Punjab was given a practical shape in another province;

Some of my honourable friends did not spare us even on this account. They said that the idea conceived was no doubt a laudable one, but of what use to us when it could not be translated into action by the Government. They remarked that although the idea originated with us yet it was another province which derived benefit out of it. According to them the province which had given that scheme a practical shape deserved credit. I quite agree. But nobody should deny us the credit for originating the idea. (Hear, hear.) I would, therefore, ask my honourable friends opposite to desist from indiscriminate criticism. We believe in plain speaking and call a spade, spade. We have said that owing to financial stringency we could not see this scheme through; and unless you possess the necessary funds you cannot do anything substantial, however beneficial or lucrative your schemes may be. If another province has been able to carry this

scheme into effect, all honour to it. We have at least this consolation that poor people would be benefited by it and that the money of this country would to some extent, remain here and not fly to foreign countries.

- (14) The expansion of the Shahdara Government Weaving Factory had also to be abandoned on the ground of financial stringency ;

Those honourable members who are residents of Lahore, or are connected with any industrial concern must be aware that a Demonstration Government Weaving Factory was set up by Government at Shahdara, many years ago. There was a time when this factory was on the verge of being liquidated. One year the loss mounted up to Rs. 60,000. Of course I am alluding to its working under the regime of another Ministry. Gradually while Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang was in charge of Industries the loss began to decrease until it was eliminated altogether and reasonable profits took its place. Last year it earned a net profit of Rs. 56,000 (*Cheers*). Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, a little while before laying down the reins of his office, passed orders that the factory having proved the success of the experiment should be sold away to private capitalists. I need hardly say that while I appreciate ungrudgingly the useful work done by the venerable Doctor, I also feel no hesitation in exposing his mistakes. The factory which ran at a loss for some years had begun to earn reasonable profits. But Dr. Narang, in his wisdom, decided to sell it away to private capitalists. Now these capitalists are extremely greedy. Their avarice knows no bounds. When this factory was put to auction, they entered into a pool and would not pay a reasonable price. In the meantime the Ministry changed hands and the Director of Industries told me that private capitalists were not prepared to pay a proper price. I asked the Director why Government should be so keen to auction it. He said that there was a strong school of economists who thought that it should be the policy of the Government to take the initiative in establishing a certain industry and when it is in a flourishing condition, they should hand over the same to private individuals. I told him that I did not belong to that school. So, the idea of selling the factory was dropped under my direction.

The pitch of profits began to improve until the factory yielded a net profit of about 56,000 rupees. The Government felt encouraged by the happy results of its policy and its management of the Factory. We proposed to expand it in the hope that it would yield yet higher profits. I personally think that if we had spent another seven lakhs on expansion we should have earned a profit of five lakhs in a single year. However, sometimes circumstances are so strange that one cannot afford to buy things, even at very cheap rates. There is a saying in the south-east of Punjab—*take hathi mahnga*—it is sometimes dear to purchase an elephant for two pice, that is, when one is out of funds. One's capacity to buy has always a strong bearing on one's making a bargain. So when we found that we could not afford additional expenditure for the expansion of the Shahdara Weaving Factory we sadly gave up the idea. That was certainly against our inner wishes. But one has to cut one's coat according to one's cloth. The expansion would have certainly paid us immediately, particularly owing to the outbreak of the War. But we could not shut our eyes to the hard facts relating to our finances and our commitments. That is why we have given up the scheme of expanding this factory.

[Minister for Development.]

My fifteenth point reads as under :—

About half a dozen other industrial schemes of varying magnitudes with details sufficiently worked out had to be put aside because funds were not available in consequence of the strain to which our finances had been subjected by the requirements of famine relief.

I may assure the House that there were included in them some schemes which if they had been carried out, the Government would have expected a yearly income of several lakhs from them. We had reasons to expect profits. But the Finance Department could not afford any funds for their completion.

The 16th point in my article reads as follows :—

Two large-scale schemes, one textile and the other relating to the manufacture of glass, which Government had every intention to encourage actively, failed to materialize because of the intervention of war conditions.

One of these schemes related to the opening of a cloth factory and the other to the manufacturing of glass. All the necessary consultations between the Honourable Premier and the Minister of Finance and myself had taken place and we were willing to open one factory in combination with private capitalists. But the pity is that war intervened. Under war conditions no machinery could be purchased or imported into India from abroad. We tried to obtain a priority certificate for the import of the necessary machinery. But a priority certificate was not easy to obtain, because only that material could be imported which was needed for the prosecution of war. So we could not succeed in this object.

Then there was a scheme for manufacturing glass bottles as there is a large demand for bottles in our province.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Punjab) : Obviously the Government wanted bottles for liquor!

Minister for Development : The honourable member seems to be judging others according to his own notions. In his mind bottles are associated with liquor alone and that is why he has not been able to think that bottles may be needed for other purposes as well. For instance, all the chemists and sellers of medicines require bottles. Several kinds of useful syrups are kept in bottles. One factory of Michell alone needs 80,000 dozens of bottles for bottling their squashes and cordials.

But we are sorry to say that due to war conditions we could not put any of our schemes into practice. But if there is any gentleman who after carefully realizing our difficulties thinks that we have been indifferent towards industrialization, he must be trying willfully to ignore the truth. There must be some *khadasat* in his mind.

Sardar Ajit Singh : A point of order, Sir. Is the word *khadasat* a parliamentary expression?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It is an Arabic word and its implications will be considered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question is—
That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100

The motion was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The question is—
That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,23,600 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.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p.m. on Friday, 21st March, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 21st March, 1941.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2.30 p. m. of the clock.
Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY HAILSTORM IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***7656. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that there was a heavy hailstorm on or about 7th February, 1941, in some towns and villages in the Rohtak district; if so, the extent to which the crops have been damaged in that area;
- (b) the names of the towns and the villages in the Rohtak district visited by hailstorm;
- (c) whether the Deputy Commissioner of the district or any other local officer visited those villages soon after the calamity and whether any of them reported the matter to the Government;
- (d) the action taken so far by the Government on that report?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No, the hailstorm was light and did not cause any damage.

(b) Gohana, Mundlana, Chirana, Khandrai, Guryani, Jhajjar, Mandora, Jatola and Manoli.

(c) and (d) Further inquiries are being made, but no report has been made to Government.

AREAS SOWN IN THE FAMINE-STRICKEN SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF THE PUNJAB.

***7657. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether sufficient rain has fallen this year in famine-stricken southern districts of the Punjab to enable the zamindars to sow their crops;
- (b) how much area was sown in these districts before or how much of it has been sown after the fall of rain this year;
- (c) whether the relief granted on account of famine in these districts still continues?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes; the rain on the whole has been satisfactory.

(b) The time and labour in the collection of the information desired will be incommensurate with the results.

(c) Relief is being given in certain parts of the Hissar district.

NOTICES OF EJECTMENT AGAINST TENANTS AT HISSAR.

***7658. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of notices of ejectment issued by the Revenue Officers at Hissar against tenants-at-will or against occupancy tenants living in *Mauza Mangali* in 1939-40 with the reasons for issuing such notices ;
- (b) number of appeals filed against these notices and the number of those accepted *in toto* or partially ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) *Nil*.

(b) Does not arise.

ACQUISITION OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS BY TENANTS IN NILI BAR.

***7660. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number separately of tenants who have acquired and also of those who have not acquired proprietary rights in Nili Bar Colony so far ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

Majawars.

***7663. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the *Majawars* of Chak No. 88 Shahkot, district Sheikhupura, have recently been declared to be Rajput agriculturists under the Punjab Alienation of Land Act ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that their applications for being declared members of an agricultural tribe were rejected in 1923 and 1925 ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the mortgages which some of the *Majawars* had executed in favour of some non-agriculturists long before 1927 have been converted into usufructuary mortgages ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) *Majawars* of Shahkot who were recorded as *Majawar Khokhar*, *Majawar Bhatti*, *Majawar Tur* and *Majawar Rathor* were on enquiry found to be Rajputs. They were therefore entered as Rajputs in the revenue records three years ago ;

(b) In 1923 these *Majawars* applied for notification as an agricultural tribe, but the application was rejected. No papers are traceable about any application in 1925 ;

(c) No. Three cases for conversion of their mortgages with possession into usufructuary mortgages for a fixed term are pending.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M. L. A.s.

Mr. Speaker : I have to read out to the Assembly the following applications received from two members of the Assembly, for permission to be absent from the Assembly :—

SARDAR BALDEV SINGH WRITES : I shall feel highly obliged if you kindly grant me leave and excuse my absence from the further sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

SHEEMATI SHANNO DEVI WRITES : I shall feel obliged if you kindly grant me leave and excuse my absence from the further sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

The question is :—

That the permission asked for by the honourable members be granted.

The motion was carried.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (3RD INSTALMENT), 1940-41.

Minister of Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (3rd Instalment) for the year 1940-41. The demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

MEDICAL.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,66,400 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 Medical.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : On a point of order. During the last few years two demands were selected by the Government and two by the Opposition. This time the Opposition did not like to select any demand and it was thought that after the Government had selected their two demands, then the order of the demands would be from demand No. 1 onwards, so that we could discuss as many demands as possible during the period allotted to us. But now they begin with demand No. 17, then they have demand No. 25 and then 3, 4 and so on omitting demands Nos. 1 and 2. Is it because they are afraid of land revenue being discussed. Last year also land revenue was not discussed. I, therefore, suggest that we should take up demand No. 1 and then go in that order till we reach the end.

Mr. Speaker : As the Opposition did not care to have any demands specially discussed, they can be discussed in the order in which the Leader of the House has arranged them.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Is it open to the Premier to first take up demand No. 25 and then 3 and 4 and leave out others ?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is referred to rule 138 which says—

The demands for grants shall be arranged in such order as the Leader of the House may intimate.

(Mr. Speaker)

Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,66,400 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 Medical.

Superintendence of Medical Department.

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 93,200 on account of 38-A—Medical Establishments be reduced by Rs. 1.

I think it very wise on the part of the Government to have given us an opportunity to discuss this department because there is a lot to be said against the present superintendence of this department. At the fag end of the term of this Assembly, some important points should be placed before the Government for its consideration. The Annual Report on the Working of Hospitals and Dispensaries from which I have prepared material for this discussion is for the year 1938 and that I understand is the latest report on the subject.

It can be said offhand that the Medical Department, as it has done its work during the last three or four years, has not even touched the fringe of the problem and diseases in the province continue to increase. The figures in the report do not indicate anything very definite. On page 13 of the Annual Report on the Working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Punjab for the year 1938, the Department in a way itself admits—

The percentage of the total population who attended the hospitals and dispensaries for medical relief works out to '73. This, however, does not give a full indication of the suffering humanity in the Province as most of the sick prefer to be treated at their homes and others are treated by Vaidas and Hakims and some for one reason or another do not resort to any treatment.

This is an admission that the Medical Department has not reached the bottom of the society where really its work lies. It has gone on in its old-fashioned methods. In fact the ways and methods of the bureaucracy which used to be are still there in full power. It is common knowledge that the old bureaucratic officers had put all these departments in the palm of their hands, so that they could control the very destiny of the nation and those methods are still there. That handiwork of theirs full of underhand methods, full of all sorts of suppression of real national needs is still there. That network has not at all been cleared. What has happened is this. The place of the old bureaucracy in a way has been taken over by the new one and they have gone on as if it were, smoothly carrying on the behests of the old one, and therefore I submit that we do not see any bold scheme of providing medical aid to the villages, to the poor down-trodden people who cannot afford to pay, and there is no revolutionizing or radical method to solve the problems that were there for decades past. You will find that this very report itself betrays their workings. Now you will find that the income and expenditure of the hospitals is given. My criterion of judging whether the Medical Department is efficient and doing its work is that something substantial should be spent on its real job and that real job is to provide medical remedy for the sick and the wounded. These figures collected from this book are very illuminating. In a way they ar

very embarrassing to the Government, because this will show that although about 51 lakhs of rupees is budgeted for this department, hardly 6 lakhs of rupees go towards the real expense of drugs and medicines. In a way lakhs of rupees are spent just to administer that small amount of Rs. 6 lakhs, and how is that 6 lakhs of rupees spent in the various hospitals of the province? I think these hospitals can be divided into three categories: Hospitals in the district headquarters or in cities, hospitals run by conscientious people like the Missionaries and hospitals in the villages or very small towns. You will find that there is a great disparity between these three kinds of hospitals. In the cities quite a large amount is spent. Missionaries, perhaps they are very conscientious, spend a lot on medicines whereas in the villages according to the figures supplied to me it appears that hardly simple water is supplied to the ordinary patients there. Taking these figures, in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, according to the daily average of 1,100 people per day the total amount spent on medicines is about Rs. 7,000 that works out to 3 annas per patient. That is, medicine supplied to those patients at the Mayo Hospital at Lahore, works out at 3 annas per patient and if we were to go into the figures for other wards where people are treated charitably, they would be even still less. Unfortunately those figures are not given in the book, but naturally people who pay should get at least their money's worth, and I wonder whether they get anything at all worth the name of medicine in the wards where people are treated charitably. Still I think 3 annas per patient in the Mayo Hospital is something that can be appreciated. Then let us come to the Civil Hospital at Amritsar, where the cost per dose works out to $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas. In the Walker Hospital, Simla, a single dose of medicine works out to be Rs. 3-4-0 for one patient. I have worked out the cost per dose like this. I have taken the daily average number of patients, multiplied the number by 365 (days), and dividing the whole sum of money outlayed on medicine it works out to be Rs. 3-4-0 for the Walker Hospital, Simla, whereas for the Mayo Hospital here at Lahore it is 3 annas, for the Civil Hospital at Amritsar it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas. I may point out that the Walker Hospital is reserved for Europeans only, perhaps that is the reason for the high cost of medicine per patient. Then the Ripon Hospital which is also at Simla, a single dose of medicine works out to be 3 annas. Coming to the Mission Hospitals, take the Mission Hospital in a rural area, I mean the Mission hospital at Palwal in district Gurgaon, there the average dose of medicine to one single patient comes out to be 6 pice, that is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas. I must state here that when I speak of a single dose of medicine, I do not know whether it is for only one dose or whether it is for several doses given to one patient at a time, because if it is more than one dose, six pice would come to nothing, practically it may be even for distilled water. Then comes the climax. There is a dispensary at Risalpur which is a rural dispensary. It is not a Mission dispensary. There one dose per patient comes out to be one pie, not even one pice. I do not know whether it is correct, because this state of affairs appears to be simply impossible. The total cost of medicine for the Risalpur dispensary is Rs. 225, and one pie per dose is hardly the cost of distilled water or *aqua pura*. Then there is the Jagadhri Mission Hospital, there it is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas. Then in the Civil Hospital, Ambala City, it is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ pies per dose. There is another place in the same district and it is the strangest case where the cost is one-seventh of a pie. The total amount—a

(S. Lal Singh).

very magnificent sum for the whole dispensary in the whole year is Rs. 86! Then there is the Sialkot Mission. There it is two annas. There is the rural area Kaliawali in the Sialkot district where it is only half a pie. Then in the district of Gujrat, Jalalpur Jattan there is a Mission Hospital run by the Missionaries, there it is two annas, but in the same district in the rural dispensary of Barnali it is 4 pies. I shall certainly require this agriculturist's Government to tell some of these villagers what they can possibly do in these particularly dear days when the prices of medicines have gone up two times and three times and in some cases even much more than that, what can they buy for one pie or half a pie. It is simply astounding. Then in the Mianwali district the Civil Hospital gives half an anna which is comparatively speaking a very good sum. Serai Kala rural dispensary gives only half a pie. Then there is another feature of these figures. In the district headquarters it seems the civil surgeon or whoever is in power keeps a bulk of medicines for himself because in all districts quite a good percentage of the drugs and medicines is devoted to the district headquarters or the city population. In Gurgaon out of a total sum of Rs. 15,000 for medicines about 5,000 goes to Gurgaon and Rewari alone. In Karnal out of a total of 16,000 about 4,500 goes to Karnal, Shahabad and Panipat, all towns. In Hoshiarpur out of a total sum of 11,000 for medicines, 4,000 goes to Hoshiarpur and Mukerian. In Lahore out of a total of 84,000, 70,000 goes to the Mayo Hospital, 14,000 only goes to the rest of the district. In Amritsar out of a total sum of Rs. 44,000, the Civil Hospital receives Rs. 31,000. In Gujrat out of a total sum of Rs. 12,000 about Rs. 8,000 goes to three towns, Jalalpur Jattan, Phalia and Civil Hospital of Gujrat. So these figures, if they at all show anything, they show that the supply of medicines in the rural areas is a mere eye-wash and if the Honourable Minister sitting complacently there thinks that he is carrying on his duties, I think, either he does not know the state of affairs or if he knows, he is simulating because it certainly is the people's due that he should explain to the people what this absurdly low cost of these medicines does to the people and how they can be cured, because I think it is impossible to cure any body with half a pie or one pie. My honourable friend Dr. Gokul Chand Narang says it is Nature that cures. If the Unionist Party takes up that attitude I think it will be welcomed. We find that the top-heaviness of the whole administration of the Medical Department is in full swing as it used to be before. On the surface it appears that new schemes are being adumbrated but as soon as we examine these new schemes, we find that there is nothing substantial under the thin veneer of the surface.

Now I come to the subject of administrative side of the department. I am sorry that I must refer to that heaven born service I. M. S. which continues in full force as it used to be. I understand that the origin of the I. M. S. was that this was a service required by the Imperial Government for military exigencies just as the present one. But curious it is that although there is a war on, these gentlemen of the I. M. S. still continue in their civil appointments.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member does not appear to be relevant. The object of his amendment is only to criticise the Superintendence of the Department.

Sardar Lal Singh : The head superintendent of the Department is an I. M. S. officer. Certainly to prevent my speaking again you will allow me to discuss these things once for all. I intend speaking on all the three motions of mine at one time.

Mr. Speaker : I have no objection.

Sardar Lal Singh : My information is that medical officers are being recruited for the War and they are being given posts of Majors to start with, but I am surprised to find that all these people who are holding these posts, they have not been removed and they still continue in their civil employ. It is a matter of history that during the last war the I. M. S. proved to be a failure for many reasons. One of these reasons was that in the beginning they are not adapted for civil work and when they are put into civil posts they know that they are irremovable by the Government. It is like diarchy that is still going on under the provincial autonomy. I understand that the Honourable Minister over there has not got power even if he wanted to remove them.

Minister for Education : Then why criticise the Government if you know that ?

Sardar Lal Singh : I want to know what efforts have you made to remedy this state of affairs. I want to know what efforts have this Government made to provide for provincial autonomy. Why is it contented with half provincial autonomy ? Why does he not cry that he has not real mastery ? He knows that he cannot remove these officers. If these posts are reserved for I. M. S. officers and he cannot remove them, he should make a hue and cry and he should say that he cannot do it and that the state of affairs should be mended. Why does he keep mum ? Why does he not say in this House that he is powerless and that his department is suffering ?

And what is more ? Now I will come to the other matter. This Government lacks in carrying out its own recommendations. In the Report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee, in paragraph 125 they say with regard to the reduction in the number of I. M. S. officers—

3 p. m.
On the subject of the recruitment to superior posts in the Medical Department which are no longer reserved for the I. M. S., the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in his evidence before us agreed in general that the Government should lay down a definite policy to choose the best men available from whatever source, for all such non-reserved superior posts, whether they had hitherto been held by the I. M. S. or P. C. M. S. We recommend that, as vacancies occur in the list of posts at present held by I. M. S. officers in the Punjab Medical Department which are not borne on the cadre of that service nor reserved for members of that service in this province, these should be so filled as to reduce their number to zero, i.e., no I. M. S. officer should be appointed to the posts not reserved for them, when these fall vacant by the retirement, transfer or death of the present incumbents. It was further noticed from a resolution of the Government of India, Defence Department, No. 205, dated the 25th March, 1937, that the Secretary of State and the Government of India had definitely agreed that the number of I. M. S. officers in civil employ in the Punjab should be 17 and no more.

Is it or is it not a fact that the number of the I. M. S. officers at present in the Punjab is in the neighbourhood of 84 while in this Report of the Retrenchment Committee, the Government itself agreed that these officer

(S. Lal Singh)

should not be more than 17? Will the Honourable Minister in charge of this Department let us know why did he agree to this double the number. From the figure I find that about 34 I. M. S. officers are in the Department and they are now holding the posts. He is doing, I think, a grave injustice to the people of the P. C. M. S. trained out for this special purpose and serving this Department. Why are these I. M. S. people being retained. I am not casting any reflection on any individual person, I know there are among them many Indian I. M. S. officers, very brilliant doctors indeed. But what we object to is the principle. The principle is this that if there is provincial autonomy, this province should have the power to recruit its own men from the Punjab Civil Medical Service or from amongst its own Graduates. When these people will find that they are under the thumb of the Honourable Minister, they will do their work much more efficiently than these I. M. S. officers. These I. M. S. officers are not responsible to the Minister or to this House. Their posts in a way are secure. They are sure that if they are removed from here they will go to Military side and they will remain there. I think the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department will enlighten this House, why is he keeping such a large number of I. M. S. officers and why these posts are not given to the P. C. M. S. officers. It appears that if the present policy of the Government continues as it is in this matter of retaining the I. M. S. officers, it will take another 20 years to clear them out and nobody can say what will happen after 20 years. It comes to this that these I. M. S. officers have made this Department secure for themselves and their removal will take another two decades and I think it is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Now, I should like to come to another point, and that is the post of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. I think, Sir, this post of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals is to a certain extent responsible for the inefficiency of this department. An Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals comes here only for a year or 18 months or even less and then he goes to a higher job. During this small period when he is here, it is not possible for him to effect salutary or basic changes in the working of that department. What improvement can he effect in this department, while his hands are otherwise full with other departmental work and administrative work. He has got the work of transfer of about 7 or 8 hundred people and he has got other works to do. I know, Sir, that 3 or 4 Inspectors-Generals of Civil Hospitals officers have come and gone within a very short period. It was not possible, I submit, even for the most brilliant of them, to have done something for the department during that brief period, that they were here. Their hands were full of administrative works. They could not have any time to devote to any new scheme which they might have had by their sleeves. Besides, this officer goes out for inspection and 52 lakhs of rupees pass through his hands. This officer's hands are full otherwise and he has no time to look to the medical problems of the province. He goes to a higher job before he has been able to do something lasting for this province. Therefore, I submit that something should be done to retain a good Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for some longer period so that he may be able to do something lasting and effective for this province. I also suggest, Sir, that as there are independent inspectors in various other Departments of the Government

why not appoint an inspector for this department also, who can go and inspect the dispensaries and find out what the doctors in charge of those dispensaries are doing there.

The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals cannot, during that period of one or two days, do anything substantial for any dispensary which he may inspect. Then there is another very curious thing in this department. It has been centralised to such an extent that all the money has to be spent through the hands of one man, that is, the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. The doctor in charge of a district dispensary is considered fit to give his certificate on the most valuable questions such as the *post-mortem* examination. He can conduct the *post-mortem* examination behind closed doors and give his opinion. In that respect he is trusted by the highest judicial authority in this Province but when it comes to a matter of spending some money, his hands are tied to such an extent that he cannot do anything. Beyond the contingency that he has, he cannot spend one pice more even if he thought that a man were dying at his door. I think this centralisation is obnoxious and should be removed. These people should be given some latitude in the matter of spending a little money where it is necessary. The Medical Department employs *dais* on 'result system'. Why not try these things as well on the 'result system'. If they give good results, why should they not be given powers to handle a little money within their small spheres? Then I come to the working of the hospitals. I have already given some very enlightening figures from the Report. It is a question worth examining. What is the value of these small charges for medicines? The Honourable Minister may reply that these doctors are in the habit of inflating figures or there is something wrong with the figures. If there is anything wrong with the figures, it is the department to be blamed. The question arises, why do they invent figures and why do they place false figures before the Province and thus waste time and money of the Province. There is certainly something that might be actuating them to invent figures. That might be red-tapism, bureaucracy or some rule or something else due to which they are compelled to place false figures in their reports. It might be so or it might not be so. If the state of affairs really is that actually more drugs or medicines are supplied than are mentioned in this Report, then we are entitled to know why? There may be hundreds of people getting less than the average and some people may be getting more. Why is this absurd state of affairs allowed to continue. Why are people of outside countries made to believe that the Punjab Medical Service simply doles out *aqua pura* and nothing more. There is another feature of these hospitals and that is that where there are more than one doctor in a hospital and there is accommodation for the indoor patients, there is competition in the hospital and the beds are more or less empty and where there is only one doctor, there the beds are full.

Minister for Education : Are you quoting from the Report ?

Sardar Lal Singh : Yes, I am going to quote. (*Interruption.*) Let us take the case of Civil Hospital, Jullundur headquarters. The number of beds there is 212. The daily indoor average is only 86. Then there is the Civil Hospital at Banga which is a small place. The beds there are 150 but the daily average of indoor patients is 156. This is your Report. Then

(S. Lal Singh)

there is the Phillaur Hospital. Beds available there are 12 but the average of daily indoor patients is 20. It means simply this that wherever there is mutual competition between two doctors, there each one tries to do nothing for the indoor people and, therefore, the indoor people who would come into the hospital, suffer and what is supplied by the Government is not availed of. Then there is the Civil Hospital in Ferozepore town. The beds available there are 46 but the daily indoor average is only 22. I won't quote Moga eye centre. I feel that this stage of affairs requires being looked into and I would suggest that doctors with complementary qualifications be put in hospitals where there are to be more than one doctor. One may be a physician and the other may be a surgeon. One may be qualified for one thing and the other for the other so that their work may not overlap and they may not compete for one and the same thing. Then take the eye centres. The diseases of the eye prevail very largely in this Province. I think the largest number of sufferers in this Province are having diseases of the eye—hence the importance of eye centres. I think the Honourable Minister will agree with me that the eye centres are the creation of the P. C. M. S., for example, of Rai Bahadur Dr. Mathra Das. It was he who made the eye centre at Moga so very popular. It was so popular that thousands of people flocked to that place. The other eye centre is Gojra. There also is the P. C. M. S. gentleman who has come in the forefront and it is our own people, recruited by the Punjab Government, who come to the rescue of the people suffering from eye diseases. If that is so, if the eye centres are popularised by the doctors of the P. C. M. S., why should they not be given encouragement so that there may always be one or two doctors there to continue that work after the man at the top has somehow been removed or has gone. What happens when the expert leaves the hospital when that very hospital has attained lot of fame and people have gained confidence in that hospital and they begin to flock to that hospital in thousands. All at once that man is removed without there being anybody to replace him. The people are cheated. They come to that place and find another man who is not efficient at all in that work. So I would suggest that these eye centres should not be neglected as they appear to be so neglected. There should be some pupils kept there to be trained under that expert doctor so that one of them may be able to carry on that work at that very place. The doctor who was at Moga used to go to Burma, stay there for a few weeks and have roaring practice there day in and day out and would come back with his pockets full of money. This sort of people should be certainly encouraged and the departmental work should be so arranged that the eye centre goes on flourishing as before and makes progress.

Now, Sir, about the working of the Medical Department in rural areas, two ways have been devised.

Mr. Speaker : Does the honourable member wish to discuss his other amendments as well ?

Sardar Lal Singh : I am discussing all the three amendments together. I would only take about 5 minutes more. About the rural dispensaries two ways have been devised. One is to allow a little travelling allowance to the dispensary doctor and let him tour the villages and give him Rs. 10 as allowance and the other is to subsidise certain practitioners

and put them in the villages. Will the Honourable Minister let us know whether it is a fact that these subsidised practitioners will be paid from village people; whereas hitherto it has been the practice that the Government paid out all the pays of the doctors. But in the villages of what they have to be paid Rs. 60 are paid by the Government, and the other Rs. 60 are to be paid by the district boards or the village members of that hospital. Why should these poor people be made to pay, whereas other rich people, who can afford to pay, they are not made to pay in cities, but the people in villages are made to pay. There is another snag to this rural dispensary affair. The pay of these doctors will be only Rs. 60, whereas now if you want hospital assistants to go to the war or to take up other job, you will have to pay at least Rs. 125. Wherefrom you will find people for Rs. 60, unless they are rotten, third-rate people and who have failed everywhere. This is not the way to encourage rural dispensaries, this is the way to discourage them.

There are only two items more to suggest. One thing is that no money has been provided for the research work at all. For the industrial research work Rs. 49,000 have been provided and Rs. 6,00,000 have been provided for agricultural research work, but for the medical research work or even for the research of indigenous drugs, our own drugs, nothing has been provided.

Another thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister is that although lots of operations are being carried out in the hospitals, there is no trained anaesthetist. There is one here in the Mayo Hospital. I think regular anaesthetic training should be given to doctors and they must be specialised in that thing so that when they go out to dispensaries they can make use of that knowledge. What happens now is that the doctor performs the operation and the compounder goes on giving chloroform and I have no doubt at all in my mind that there are always some cases where people die under chloroform due to defective anaesthetic training. With these words I move my cut motion.

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

That the item of Rs. 93,200 on account of 38-A—Medical Establishments be reduced by Re. 1.

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): Do I take it that the House is really engaged in the general discussion which I intended to raise by means of my cut motion?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member may speak without moving his amendment.

Malik Barkat Ali : Sir, in supporting this cut motion I desire to draw attention to certain aspects of medical policy as pursued in this province, which should have vanished simultaneously with the establishment of provincial autonomy, but which unfortunately still continue to feature in and dominate the administration of the Medical Department. The first and foremost matter which I shall discuss is the relative position of the officers of the I. M. S. in the Medical Department of this province. This House is probably aware that ever since the establishment of British Rule, the Indian Medical Service, which is essentially a military service, has dominated the Medical Department and practically all prize

(M. Barkat Ali.)

posts in the medical service in India were earmarked for the officers of this service. Public opinion, the provincial medical services and the independent medical profession all protested against this virtual monopoly and control of the Medical Department by the officers of the I. M. S. and to the credit of the Secretary of State, be it said, that on every occasion when he took a step, forward in the direction of moving this country towards self-government, he announced a substantial reduction in the number of I. M. S. officers, whose employment was made obligatory on the provincial Governments. Surely, the House will not expect me to go into the history of this question, but I will state the position as it existed shortly before the introduction of provincial autonomy under the Government of India Act, 1935. On the 25th March, 1937, there was published a resolution No. 205 in which it was stated that "the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India have agreed that with effect from the introduction of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935, the following changes will be made in the organisation, distribution and terms of services of the military medical service in India excluding Burma." I will naturally not deal with the details of that resolution. But I will only place that part of the resolution which relates to my province. Regarding the Punjab it was laid down in appendix II of the resolution that it shall be obligatory on the Punjab Government to employ 17 I. M. S. officers. Out of these 17 I. M. S. officers, 13 were Europeans and out of these 13 European officers, 8 constituted the war reserve, the remaining 4 were Indian officers of the I. M. S. The House will thus see that on the 25th March, 1937, the Secretary of State announced in deference to public opinion that the strength of officers of the I. M. S. whose employment shall be obligatory on the Punjab Government was fixed at 17. One would expect that after this announcement of the Secretary of State, a popular Government would take effective steps to carry out and implement that concession made by the Secretary of State to public opinion in this province. What are the facts? We find, Sir, that in the year 1938—and that is the latest year, the report of which is available at the present moment,—the number of officers that were employed in the Punjab was 34. In the year 1939 the number of I. M. S. officers employed in the Punjab was 36. It was originally 34, but 2 more I. M. S. officers were actually appointed in the year 1939. There is a reference to this fact in the debates which took place on the floor of this House on the 24th March, 1939, on a motion made by the then Opposition Leader. So far as the figures for 1940 are concerned I really do not know the strength of the I. M. S. officers employed in the Punjab: it was probably in the vicinity of 34. I have waded through the pages of the present budget and find that the number of I. M. S. officers who will be employed in the Punjab for 1940-41 is 30. These 30 are made up of the following: I give the figures for reference and check by the Honourable Minister so that in case there is a mistake I will gladly welcome that the same is rectified and corrected. This strength of 30 I. M. S. officers in the Punjab is made up of—

Inspector-General of Civil Dispensaries	..	..	1
Civil Surgeons	..	..	14
Professors in the King Edward Medical College	..	..	8

Principal, Amritsar Medical School	..	..	1
Superintendent, Mental Hospital ..	..	..	1
Chemical Advisor .. ..	..	..	1
			<hr/>
Total	..	..	26
			<hr/>

To these the following three may be added, as being employed in the Department of Prisons—

Superintendent, Central Jail	..	..	1
Inspector-General of Prisons	..	..	1
D. I.-G. of Prisons	..	..	1

One I. M. S. appointment is to be held by the Director of Public Health.

The House will therefore see that as against the 17 officers, whose employment is certainly rendered obligatory upon the Punjab Government, the Punjab Government has been keeping 34 in 1938 and 36 in 1939, and in 1940-41 they propose to keep 30 I. M. S. officers. This question was raised on the floor of the House, namely, the unusually large number of I. M. S. officers which the Government was retaining in the province, on the 24th March, 1939. The then Leader of the Opposition Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava pointed out that this policy of the Punjab Government really amounted to a renunciation of the powers which had passed to it under the Government of India Act, and further has the effect of saddling the exchequer with an expenditure which could easily be avoided. I shall just refer the Honourable Minister to page 708 of volume 8 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly debates, where this complaint is voiced forth by the then Leader of the Opposition. This is what he said—

Besides, it has been stated on the floor of the House that the Punjab Government has to keep these I. M. S. officers in their employ under the provisions of the Government of India Act. In this connection I may submit that the relevant section of the Government of India Act has been quoted in this Gazette. In that section the number of I. M. S. officers that has been fixed is 17 only. It is nowhere stated that under the Government of India Act the Punjab Government is in duty bound to retain all the 34 I. M. S. officers in their employ. Even if we take it for granted that the Punjab Government was bound to retain all these 34 I. M. S. officers in their employ, may I know why they have appointed two new I. M. S. officers.

The Honourable Minister tried to meet this part of the criticism in his reply which appears at page 723 of the Debates. I will read out this reply and will then discuss it to show to the House that this reply of the Honourable Minister cannot stand examination. This is what the Minister said—

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition referred to the I. M. S. officers. Unfortunately, he has not been able to understand the correct position as regards the I. M. S. officers. Our hands are tied. Blame cannot be laid at the door of the Government. It was only another prominent member of the Congress Party, I mean Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, who spoke after my honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta had spoken, and who said that Mr. Gupta's criticism of the Punjab Government was not a correct one. He referred to the Government of India Act and he admitted on the floor of this House that the blame lies with the constitution and not with the Punjab Government. I have not the time at my disposal to make detailed references to the various orders and *communiqués*, but in a nutshell the position is this, that although according to a certain *communiqué* we are required to have only 17 I. M. S. officers, yet by virtue of another order and by virtue of section 246 of the Government of India Act, we are bound to retain those officers whose rights have been protected.

(M. Barkat Ali)

The House will realise from this extract which I have read out that the position of the Honourable Minister in this matter is that his hands are tied and he cannot help the situation, however, much he may like to reduce the number of I. M. S. officers to the statutory minimum of 17, as laid down by the Secretary of State. I have read section 246 of the Government of India Act and it appears to me that that objection of the Honourable Minister has no legs to stand upon. What does section 246 say? It lays down that there are to be certain appointments, whether in the Indian Civil Service, in the Medical Service or the Police Service, which are designated as reserved appointments and with regard to these reserved posts it is laid down by section 246 that no provincial government can touch these reserved posts. My contention is that section 246 only applies to the 17 reserved posts for I. M. S. officers. This section cannot apply to posts (outside) of 17 being filled by I. M. S. officers with the consent of the present Government. I shall read out section 246 of the Government of India Act so that the Honourable Minister may be in a position to enlighten the House on the interpretation of this section 246 which he quoted in support of his point. Section 246 says—

- (1) The Secretary of State shall make rules specifying the number and character of the civil posts under the Crown (other than posts in connection with any functions of the Governor-General which the Governor-General is by or under this Act required to exercise in his discretion), which subject to the provisions of this subsection, are to be filled by persons, appointed by the Secretary of State to a civil service of, or a civil post under the Crown in India, and except under such conditions as may be prescribed in the rules no such post shall, without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State—
 - (a) be kept vacant for more than three months; or
 - (b) be filled otherwise than by the appointment of such a person as aforesaid; or
 - (c) be held jointly with any other such post.
- (2) Appointments and postings to the said posts (hereinafter in this part of this Act referred to as "reserved posts") shall—
 - (a) in the case of posts in connection with the affairs of the Federation, be made by the Governor-General, exercising his individual judgment;
 - (b) in the case of posts in connection with the affairs of a Province, be made by the Governor of the Province, exercising his individual judgment.

My reading of this section makes me think that section 246 undoubtedly protects the rights and privileges of reserved appointments to be filled by the Secretary of State. When the Secretary of State has once made it clear that these reserved posts shall be 17, so many for Civil Surgeons and so on, therefore section 246 cannot possibly apply to the appointments beyond 17 which are held by the officers of the I. M. S. I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this section, particularly because he relied on it in another speech of his where he has said that the position in regard to I. M. S. in the province is exactly the same as was stated by his lady Parliamentary Secretary in the course of her speech in that debate. The Lady Parliamentary Secretary also relied on that section. There is therefore nothing in section 246 to suggest that the Government is bound to employ more than 17 I. M. S. officers.

Now I shall draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to another aspect of the matter and it is this. It will be conceded that the I. M. S. is essentially a military service and out of these 17 officers, eight, I believe, constitute the war reserve so that if ever they are required for military

duties they must go. I have been seeing recently in the columns of the Press in the Punjab, advertisements on behalf of the military department asking for members of the independent medical profession who are specialists to offer their services for the needs of the army in the field. The question that I propose to put now is this: Here is this war that has been going on for more than a year; and here is the Indian medical service which is essentially a military service. Why is it that while the military department is going abegging for specialists to offer themselves for the needs of the army, these I. M. S. officers who are working in this province over and above the quota fixed are not being replaced at the disposal of the military department? The Honourable Minister will say, 'Yes, we have sent out a number of I. M. S. officers'. But I find that the Medical College is manned by 8 or 9 officers of the I. M. S. These I. M. S. officers could easily have been sent to the army in the field and their place could have been taken over by men of outstanding position and ability in the medical profession. I do not mean to say that all the I. M. S. officers who serve the needs of the civil population or the needs of the European population should be removed. What I wish to point out is this, that so far as these various professors in the Medical College are concerned, surely they could be easily sent out for service of the army in the field. Therefore the argument that you are really helpless in the matter cannot hold good. You have this opportunity of the war to send out the members of the I. M. S. overseas and to expand your medical service here.

Here I will give the House an idea of the expense involved in the retention of those I. M. S. officers who are above the quota of 17, a quota which undoubtedly this Government cannot touch. I should like to say that I had an opportunity of studying the figures given in the budget and had a statement prepared for me by one of my friends. I place those figures for check by the Government benches. These 26 I. M. S. officers, namely, the Inspector-General of Hospitals, 14 civil surgeons, 9 officers in the Medical College, Lahore, and the Medical School, Amritsar, and the Superintendent of the Mental Hospital—these 26 officers cost the province something like Rs. 5,48,270. Their pay, their travelling allowance, their cost of passage and their overseas allowance come to this figure. Coming to assistant surgeons, 149 assistant surgeons cost the exchequer Rs. 5,13,525. You will thus observe that one I. M. S. officer costs as much as seven assistant surgeons so far as the burden on the exchequer is concerned. If you had retained only 17 I. M. S. officers, you would have been free to utilise the burden to the exchequer of these 18 I. M. S. officers for expanding your medical service for the betterment of the people of this province. I, therefore, maintain that in the matter of the I. M. S., the present Government has really done nothing to meet the popular demand.

I will now proceed to another point. That relates to private wards and the fees charged for operations in the hospitals of Government. This matter also was once discussed on the floor of the House. Honourable members are aware that medical surgeons in charge of Lahore hospitals have been charging on contract basis very heavy fees from their patients. It will be recognised that these surgeons alone can admit patients to the private wards of the hospitals and they are in a position to utilise the advantage that they thus possess in demanding very heavy, I should say, extortionate fees. The Minister of Education, when his attention was drawn

(M. Barkat Ali.)

to this, replied that there is a schedule in which maximum fees for the various operations are set down and that no surgeon could really charge more than the fee mentioned in the schedule. It is something that there is a schedule in existence. But may I remind him that this schedule is more honoured in the breach than in the observance? As a matter of fact although there is a provision that the surgeon shall pass a receipt to the patient for the fee that he charges, receipts are seldom passed for the obvious reason that the sum demanded is more than is laid down in the schedule. It may be said on behalf of the Government: 'What more can we do? We have fixed the schedule and we have also laid down a rule that the amount of money that is passed to the surgeon should be accompanied by a receipt'. It is quite all right so far as it goes. But if the evil is still there and if the receipt and the schedule are not able to remedy it, the Honourable Minister will agree with me that something further is needed in order to stamp out this practice. The position is this. The patients before getting admittance into the private wards have first to see the surgeon at his house and they have to pay him his fee and unless this is done they are not sure whether they will be admitted or not. Once the fee is paid, the admission of the patient either in the general or private ward becomes certain. Then the question of fee to be paid to the surgeon arises and the surgeon puts his own terms and the poor patient is helpless and has got to pay whatever the surgeon demands. After he has paid the surgeon's demand he is admitted in the hospital either in the general or private ward, provided of course that there is a bed available. If the patient secures the private ward he has to pay fees for the surgeon's visit. The first point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government benches is this. Let the Government throw open to admission these private wards to all people who can afford to pay for the accommodation. Let the Government also provide that persons who get admitted to these private wards can get themselves operated by any surgeon they like.

It may be said, how can the Government allow all those men—I will not use the words which gave rise to a good deal of bad blood in this province, those words "Tom, Dick and Harry" to perform operations in Government Hospitals. Government must be satisfied first that the person who is going to do the operation is a fit person. I accept the position, but do the Government mean that those surgeons are to be found only in the ranks of the salaried officers? Do not those surgeons exist in the Indian medical profession? And how can you encourage the medical profession unless and until you make it open to any person who has been admitted into a private ward to be operated on by anybody he likes? It is the right of every litigant to engage any counsel he likes, but suppose a rule were to be made that in criminal cases only public prosecutors could appear for the prosecution. My lawyer friends in this House will realise the enormity of a rule of this kind. There are any number of persons with whom these public prosecutors cannot compare and who are head and shoulders above those public prosecutors, and if that is in the profession of law, it is improper, I submit,—it is really not right to lay down that operations shall be performed by those surgeons alone who are employed in the hospitals. Let these operations be thrown open to the Indian medical profession also.

It is the right and the option of the patient to get himself operated on by any surgeon he likes whether he be in charge or not. It is a question of his judgment, it is a question also of the reputation and competence of the surgeons in charge. They are undoubtedly very competent men, but admitting all this, I do not for a moment accept or admit that practitioners of their competency are not to be found outside the ranks of the service. There are very competent men outside, and it should be the right and privilege of the patient to get himself operated on by anybody he likes, by the surgeon in charge or by any surgeon outside in the medical profession.

In this connection I desire also to discuss another question, namely, the fees that are charged by these surgeons in charge as also the fees that are charged by the members of the Medical service in the province. So far as these surgeons are concerned, it appears to me that persons who are in the whole time employ of the Government have no reason really to charge for their services performed during the period of their professional duty and for work which is done in the hospital with the assistance of Government apparatus and with all the facilities which hospital arrangements provide. As regards the members of the Medical Service, of course, it is open to them under the existing rules to have unrestricted practice. This matter has been considered by the profession itself, and it appears to me that the time has come when the provincial Government should seriously ponder over this question, namely, whether the time has not yet come that private practice is stopped in the case of persons who accept Government service. When I say this, I am aware of the fact that the pay and allowances fixed for persons in the Medical Service were fixed on the basis that they were free to practice, and it was really on that basis that the pay of the assistant surgeons was fixed. The House is probably aware that the assistant surgeons go to a maximum of Rs. 450, except those 9 assistant surgeons who are fortunate enough to secure those 9 civil surgeonships that are open to the members of the Provincial Medical Service. Only 9 members out of 170—I do not exactly know the figures—but only 9 assistant surgeons can rise to civil surgeonships and they get very substantial pay, but as regards the remaining 150 or 160 assistant surgeons who are in service, they can never in their life rise beyond Rs. 450. Would it not be right that the Provincial Medical Service is placed on a par with the other provincial services, for instance the Executive Provincial Civil Service or the Provincial Educational Service or the Provincial Engineering Service? There is no reason why the Provincial Medical Service should not be put on a par with the other provincial services. Once this is done, a rule like this can easily be framed that persons entering the Medical Service shall not be free to practice privately. Private practice in these circumstances can certainly be stopped. I fully realize that with the standard of pay which is now open to the assistant surgeons, it would be a great hardship if private practice is stopped. I contend that the time has come when the question of the pay of the Provincial Medical Service should be re-examined and after the pay of the Provincial Medical Service has been placed on a par with the pay of the other provincial services, to stop private practice. I say this because I know that many of these gentlemen in the Provincial Medical Service get their private practice, not because of themselves but they get their private practice because of the vantage position that they occupy as being in charge of the various hospitals.

[M. Barkat Ali.]

and as such are in a position to get the help of Government apparatus and medicine. That is the reason why the independent medical profession in this province has not made the progress it should have.

I now come to another question, and that is regarding the provision for medical education as it exists in the province. At the present moment there is the King Edward Medical College and there is also the School of Medicine at Amritsar. I think there is a proposal to raise this School of Medicine to the status of a college. Whether that is so, I do not know, but if the School is going to be raised to the standard of a college, I would certainly welcome the change. At the same time, I would ask the Honourable Minister to remember that with the elevation of the Medical School at Amritsar to the status of a college, matters will not end. I understand that the Government is contemplating to extend its rural dispensaries. There are 84,000 villages, I believe, in the Punjab, and according to the figures that I have been able to get there are at the present moment only 3,500 medical practitioners of all classes to serve and cater to the needs of a population of 25 or 30 millions. In England with a population of 60 millions, the number of doctors who cater to the needs of the population is something in the vicinity of 60,000. On this basis if 60,000 people are needed to serve and cater for the needs of a population of 60 millions, then surely 3,500 medical practitioners is too small a number to cater to and serve the needs of the population in this province. In order that you may properly serve this 30 million population, you will have to open more schools because, after all, you must recognize that if your scheme for subsidizing rural dispensaries is to be a success, then the men who will man these dispensaries will largely belong to the sub-assistant surgeon class. You cannot expect a medical graduate, an M. B., B. S., who really spends

4 P. M.

more than Rs. 50 during the course of the medical education that he receives in the college, to go and settle down in a rural dispensary on Rs. 50 a month. This is your plan—Rs. 50 from Government funds as subsidy to the doctor who will run the medical dispensary and Rs. 50 are to be found by the local boards and by the people of the villages for medicine, etc. It is only in such cases where Rs. 50 is provided by the district board or by the people of the villages that you agree to open a rural dispensary at a particular rural centre and agree to give Rs. 50 to the sub-assistant surgeon or the medical doctor who is to be appointed. I submit that an M. B., B. S. graduate will not go out to these rural dispensaries on Rs. 50 subsidy unless he belongs to that particular village. If he belongs to that particular village, I can understand him agreeing to work on a subsidy of Rs. 50 a month. But if he does not belong to that village, it will be impossible for you to bring in medical graduates to run these dispensaries and if the medical school is to be elevated and there is no immediate provision made for the passing out of sub-assistant surgeons, naturally your experiment of subsidized rural dispensaries will not be a success. In this connection I should like to refer to a statement made on the floor of this House that the expenditure per head in this province is more than the expenditure per head in the other provinces of India. Now it appears to me that this statement is based more on fiction than on a correct arithmetical appreciation of the figures. In working the *per capita* expenditure in this province I find

that the Government not only takes into account the expenditure incurred from provincial funds but also the provision made by the local bodies and contributions from other sources. In the case of the other provinces, for instance, take the three presidency towns, I am in a position to state that the *per capita* expenditure as worked out is confined only to the expenditure from the provincial funds. The various contributions made by the local bodies or the corporations are not taken into account for the purpose of working out the *per capita* figures. If you take into account the contributions made by the various corporations or by the local bodies or by the various municipalities, you will find that the *per capita* expenditure in those provinces is much more than the *per capita* expenditure in this province. The statement, therefore, that the *per capita* expenditure in this province is higher than the *per capita* expenditure in the other provinces requires a good deal of modification. Take, for instance, Bombay. In Bombay, the Corporation itself runs a great dispensary. Similarly in Calcutta there are colleges run by the Corporation which cost the local body any amount of money. These figures and this expenditure is not taken into account when the *per capita* expenditure of the Bombay Presidency or of the Bengal Presidency is worked out. If I am wrong I shall certainly welcome a statement to that effect by the Honourable Minister, provided he gives the actual figures and states on his authority as responsible member of this House that the *per capita* expenditure in other provinces has been worked on the very same figures that are taken into account in working the *per capita* expenditure in this province.

Now I will give the House some interesting figures as collected by me with a view to give the House an idea of the progress or no progress—I should not say no progress—but the very very slight progress—that has been made in the expenditure on medicine. I will take the years 1923 and 1938 for the purposes of this comparison that I am placing before the House. Now this House may please note that the expenditure on medicine in the year 1923 was Rs. 4,61,000—for medicine to be supplied to the various dispensaries in the Punjab. In 1938 the expenditure on medicine was Rs. 5,75,000. Again the number of dispensaries in the Punjab in the year 1923 was 626. The number of dispensaries in the Punjab in the year 1938 was 974. I will now come to the number of cases treated, because it is really in the light of these figures that I am now going to give to the House, that a correct idea can be formed of the service which is being rendered to the community at large by the Government in this field of medicine. In 1923 the number of patients or cases treated was 5,335,000. In the year 1938—I have in my possession the annual report of this year on the working of hospitals and dispensaries in the Punjab and the annual statement of dispensaries and charitable institutions of the Punjab for the year 1923 and I am merely taking my figures from these two authorized Government publications—in the year 1938, the number of cases treated was 14,900,000. The House may kindly consider that while 53 lakhs were treated in the year 1923, the expenditure on medicine was Rs. 4,61,000 and in the year 1938 while 14,900,000 were treated in the various hospitals and dispensaries of the Government, the expenditure on medicine for the service of these 14,900,000 was barely Rs. 5,75,000. If a ratio has to be kept and the proper proportion has to be maintained then it would follow that when you have to cater to and treat double the number, your expenditure of

[M. Barkat Ali.]

medicine should also be doubled. Now, when the number of persons treated has risen from 53 lakhs to 14,900,000—nearly double, I should have expected that your expenditure on medicine would also have risen from Rs. 4,61,000 to something like Rs. 9,00,000 and not Rs. 5,75,000 in the year 1938. Therefore, my contention is that so far as expenditure on medicine for the service of the patient community is concerned, the expenditure of this Government is not in keeping with the number that are being treated, certainly much less than it should be and I trust that the Honourable Minister of Education who is in charge of this portfolio will, in his reply, deal with these figures. If they are wrong he will give the correct figures so that this House may be in a position to have an exact perspective of the expenditure on medicine and the number of cases treated in the year 1923 and in the year 1938.

I will now deal with one subsidiary matter. It is not of very very great importance but it has its value nonetheless and that is this. It appears that there is some bad planning, if I may use the expression, in the matter of filling vacancies of retiring officers. I take it that it is the settled policy of the Government that as soon as an officer completes his service and approaches retirement, he should be retired and at once a man should be appointed in his place. It appears that during the last two or three years there has not been much wise planning and thought in regard to this matter. I will only give the House three illustrations. Dr. Sawhney was due to retire in March or April, 1939, yet he kept on functioning for about four months and it was then only that his substitute or successor was appointed. Now the House will at once agree with me that if an officer is not retired on the date on which he is to retire it means an additional burden on the exchequer and unless the Government wants to retain him in service for special reasons, ordinarily he should make way and let the other man come in. Similarly another doctor who was due to retire on the 3rd of July, 1940,—I have his name, I am not making any insinuation against the gentleman, I am not challenging his competency, I am saying nothing against him, I am only complaining of the method and the policy which this Government pursues from time to time—Dr. Jiwan Lal was due to retire on the 3rd of July, 1940, but he is still functioning. He is getting something like Rs. 2,100 and if he had been retired on the due date, his successor would have got something between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,600 and that would have made a considerable saving to the exchequer. Similarly there is the Principal of the Medical College. He is due to retire in July, 1941. We do not know what the intention of the Government is, whether the Government intends that he should retire or whether the Government intends to keep him in service. This would mean an unnecessary burden on the exchequer. Therefore my contention is that in this matter there should be some planning in the offices of the Government and people who are due to retire and whom Government really wants to retire because they have completed their time, should be retired on the due date so that some saving may be made to the public exchequer. These are some of the points that I intended to press on the attention of the Honourable Minister and I assure him that there is absolutely no spirit of improper criticism behind my statements. I have drawn his attention to matters which are the subject matter of general complaint and I trust that in the course of his reply he would be in a position

to satisfy the House and throw such light as it is possible for him to throw thereon with a view to satisfy the honest critic not only on this side of the House but also in the province outside. (*Hear, hear.*)

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur, North, Muhammadan, Rural (*Urdu*): Sir, I move the cut motion—

Mr. Speaker : Just now the whole demand is under discussion.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (*Urdu*): Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government to such of the villages where notwithstanding urgent need for hospitals, no hospitals have been opened by the Government. Our *Ilaqa Bait* stretches along both the banks of river Sutlej through the districts of Ambala, Ludhiana, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur. Malaria, enlarged spleen, cough and *Jalodhar* and other diseases like tuberculosis afflict the people of this *ilaqa* generally. The Government gives little attention to the need of these people for medical relief. When the season for the sowing of Rabi comes malaria also appears in these areas. What can be more unfortunate for these people than this that even though the Minister in charge of Medical Department belongs to the said area, has intimate relations with the people of *Bait* *ilaqa*, often visits that *ilaqa* for purposes of sport and had been returning to the Central Assembly by their votes for a sufficiently long period and has been elected as a member of this House by them, they have failed to get any relief in the matter of opening up hospitals for their benefit? In this *ilaqa* along the river banks you do not come across any hospital for miles. Even such important places as Nawanshahr which is the tahsil headquarters have not got hospitals. As a principle there are hospitals in every tahsil headquarters. Nawanshahr has a large number of residents, a cattle fair is held there annually and also a grain market is there. There are the courts of the tahsildar and the sub-judge there. Notwithstanding all this there is no hospital. I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister towards the need of opening hospitals in these areas. Various diseases afflict the people of this *ilaqa* and they do deserve the help of the Government in the matter of medical relief.

Now I will make a few submissions regarding our *desi* system of treatment. It is very much regretted that our *desi* system of treatment has not made any progress. Dispensaries in which people could be treated according to our *desi* system of medicine do not exist in the country. This lack of *shafakhana*s results in a double loss. In the first instance a lot of our money goes out to other countries for the import of foreign medicines. And secondly the European medicines do not suit our constitution. We are a people of a hot country. Naturally the medicines imported from European countries do not suit our constitution. How can medicines made in cold countries suit us? The Government have never done anything to encourage indigenous system of treatment. The treatment should be such as may suit our constitution. Medicines of cold countries cannot suit the people of hot countries. After this I would request the Government to do something to encourage our *desi jarrahs*. *Desi* surgeons are often more skilful than the European surgeons. The Government have never encouraged them. They have never tried to make the indigenous system of medicine and surgery

(Ch. Mohd. Abdul Rahman Khan.)

popular among the people. Sir, you are aware of the fact that as compared to the doctors *desi jarrahs* can treat wounds very efficiently. This is not only an empty claim but I have in my possession many definite instances also where *desi jarrahs* cured even those wounds which were declared to be incurable by the doctors. Let me tell you that a lambardar who lived near my village, somehow or the other got his foot hurt. He went to the Banga hospital in order to get it medically treated. The doctor in charge told him that his wound was incurable. Then he went to the Jullundur hospital. There the doctors told him that his remedy was that he should get his foot amputated. He secretly left that hospital lest the doctors may amputate his leg. Then he got his wound treated by a *jarrah* and recovered in a short time. Similarly, there is a carpenter who lives in a neighbouring village of mine, who can adjust dislocated legs and arms very efficiently. When doctors declare their inability to cure any patients he can do the needful. Similarly, there is a carpenter of Kot Ranjha who can cure dangerous pustules and eruptions which doctors are unable to heal. But it is a matter of great regret that Government neither encourage such people nor make any grants for them. In the circumstances I would appeal to Government to do their best to encourage indigenous system of medical treatment because it suits our constitution best. We have seen that our *jarrahs* can treat with success pustules and eruptions which doctors of to-day are unable to do so. As a matter of fact the surgeons perform many kinds of operations, but *jarrahs* only cure such wounds by applying ointments. Moreover the patients do not feel any kind of pain at all which they have to experience while undergoing an operation. I would therefore request the Honourable Minister to encourage such people who are very useful for the public, although I do not think that there is any time left for him to do so because the life of this Assembly is about to end. Anyway even if now he pays some attention to these things something can be done. What was required was that he should have toured those ilaqas where there were no hospitals and where epidemics break out so often and should have done something to provide medical facilities to the people of those ilaqas. But Sir, I do not know why whenever anybody becomes a Minister he becomes unfit to do any work whatsoever. (Laughter.) What is needed is that a travelling dispensary should be set up which should give medical aid to the poor people in their ilaqas especially in the malaria season when the zamindars have plenty of work to do. It is at that time that they generally fall ill and have not the capacity to purchase medicines. Consequently they are the people who need medicines most. In this connection I may point out that the people of ilaqa bait especially deserve the attention of Government. Sir, since the advent of the British raj in this country neither any school nor any hospital nor any road has been constructed in that ilaqa. The Government have been and are realizing lakhs and crores of rupees from them by way of land revenue but so far they have done nothing to give any such facilities to them. I hope the Honourable Minister would give his serious consideration to this matter as well. I have already pointed out that the residents of Nawanshahar also need some attention from the Honourable Minister. If he gives some assurance on behalf of Government.

to the people of Nawanshahar that can enable the people to set up a hospital there. I may tell him that the people of Nawanshahar are prepared to contribute their own share as well. If the Government undertakes to open a hospital there they will not have to spend a large sum of money. A part of it could be realized by contributions from the local inhabitants and a part of it can be borne by Government and in this way the people of Nawanshahar can have a hospital at their disposal. I hope the Honourable Minister would give his serious consideration to this matter also.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural (Urdu): Sir, the cut motion which stands in my name says that the total demand be omitted. The reason why I have tabled it is that according to an old adage اگر دوا نہ ملے تو مرنے کو if medical aid is not supplied to us why should other people get dispensaries and hospitals? We like the famous hunchback woman want all the people to become hunchbacks like ourselves. If medical facilities are not provided to us why should others get them? The Honourable Ministers always declare that they are doing everything for the poor people. But it appears that their sympathy is only lip deep. In fact nothing is being done for the poor people at all. Now if we carefully study the budget we would find that the major part of the revenues is paid by the poor people living in the rural areas. But it is very astonishing that medical facilities are provided to urban people only. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister if he can cite an instance of any country where the major part of the revenues is contributed by those who have nothing to eat and nothing to hide their nakedness while amenities are provided only to the rich people. Sir, this is the first and foremost injustice that is being done to us. As a matter of fact it has been the policy of the Government to establish hospitals and medical colleges for the rich people only. I ask, is it not correct that they have followed this policy? If the answer is in the negative I want to know whether any scholarship has ever been granted to a student of the Rawalpindi district for pursuing his studies in the medical college. I am sure that nobody can quote any such instance. If that is so, then, is it not quite clear a proof that nothing is being done for the poor people?

Besides, there is a big hospital in Lahore known as the Mayo Hospital. I think one half or more than one half of the medical grant is incurred on the maintenance of this hospital. But it is a matter of great regret that even in that hospital step-motherly treatment is meted out to the poor people and medicines are not given to them. Only the rich people benefit from this hospital. I have been to that hospital twice and have witnessed that the poor people are not accorded good treatment. In the first place if any poor man goes to that hospital he is told that his disease is incurable. If perchance any doctor examines him carefully he tells him that he is only suffering from dyspepsia and he can take common salt and he would be all right. But against this the rich people are treated very politely and every care is taken to win their favour. What is still more astonishing is that doctors do not feel shy of earning money by selling Government medicines privately. The compounders who get only Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month prepare mixtures of soda and common salt and dole out these ordinary mixtures to the patients in place of medicines. The medicines are either

(Raja Farman Ali Khan.)

used by the doctors themselves or they sell them and make money. I remember very well that a doctor was caught red handed in Rawalpindi while selling Government medicines. Similarly, there are others who do the same thing. The poor people do not get any medicines at all. As the doctors are afraid of the rich people therefore they treat them with every care. Even if they take the trouble of feeling your pulse, they usually declare that you have got fever and then dismiss you with a little sodium chloride or soda bicarb.

Thirdly, there are in the Rawalpindi district certain hospitals like the Holy Family Hospital where if a villager goes for treatment he is asked to pay a fee of Rs. 18. How can the poor fellow pay such an exorbitant fee? A rich man can very well afford to spend Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 but we poor people have to face a great difficulty inasmuch as we cannot get medicine anywhere. The most tragic part of it is that this hospital is getting a grant of many thousands out of the money contributed by us towards the provincial revenues. All our money is spent for the benefit of big cities and when we ask for medicine, we are told that we cannot get it unless we pay for it. These hospitals are established with our money and still this is the reply that we get. Howsoever poor we may be we have not taken leave of our self-respect. This is the height of injustice and inequity that even if cholera is playing havoc with our lives or we are suffering from pneumonia or tuberculosis no facilities are to be found for the diagnosis or treatment of our ailments. The Honourable Minister has just returned after a tour of my ilaqa. He stayed with some big man for a couple of days. I think he went to Choha Saidan Shah also and saw the hills there. There is not a single hospital in the vast area on the other side of those hills. But what does he care for that?

My submission is that the Honourable Minister is following quite a different policy from that of the Government as a whole. Does he know to which part of the province those people belong who are laying down their lives in the battlefield? They hail from this very ilaqa where there are no hospitals or even if there is any the people cannot get any medicine. The Honourable Minister is an urbanite and, therefore, he has not done anything for us. On the other hand the Honourable the Premier is a ruralite. He went to the Sahara in Africa, sympathized with those who are fighting there and made some promises about the betterment of their condition. We know that one can enter paradise only after death. Similarly these people will get their reward after the war is over. Still the Premier sympathized with and encouraged those people. But I must say with due respect to the Honourable Minister of Education that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, was brought up in luxury and affluence and became a lawyer after his student life. He has never experienced the hardships borne by others in foreign lands. He is a born aristocrat; why should he bother about our difficulties? We want that the Minister in charge of this department should be selected out of the representatives of the poor people. Only such a Minister can appreciate our grievances. The Honourable Minister is not following the same policy

as the Honourable Premier does. He does not care if our old parents or little children are dying.

Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan : The ilaqa has no such complaint.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : You may not have any complaint but I have. If we do not ventilate our grievances here and thus draw the attention of the Ministers to them whom are the grievances to be addressed to? ("Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.) When we cannot get any medicine in the hospitals and the people are dying, why should we not bring it to the notice of the Government? At least the Honourable Premier has sympathy with us. He is a soldier and a zamindar and knows the conditions obtaining in our ilaqa. In fact all the Ministers should follow his policy. But the Honourable Minister of Education is not prepared to give us a share out of our own money. My submission is that this ilaqa is very poor and the Government should extend all possible help to it. It is not fair to demand payments from us.

Minister for Education : Let us have actual facts. Please tell the House what you said and what reply was given by me.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : I submit that the ilaqa is very poor, the people cannot pay for the medicines and, therefore, some facilities must be provided to them. The Minister was pleased to reply that if the people could not pay he could not do anything.

In the end I request the Honourable Minister to reserve for the benefit of these poor people who cannot get any medicine a small share out of the money paid by them to the provincial exchequer. Let him beware of the curses of the poor and helpless people!

تو مشر مقرر ہو صام خدا

دیر کردن - سخت کبود کردن

(Applause.)

Pir Akbar Ali (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, my regard for the honourable member who has just sat down prevents me from saying that the speech made by him was unfounded and baseless but I must say that it was so much exaggerated that it was difficult to differentiate between truth and exaggeration. So far as medical relief to the rural population of the province is concerned it goes without saying that besides rural dispensaries which are already in existence subsidiary dispensaries are also being established and wherever there is need of such dispensaries and other medical requirements the Government is providing them in due proportion. This indicates that Government is doing all in its power to give relief to the rural areas and therefore the argument advanced by the previous speaker that in rural areas people are dying on account of lack of medical aid does not hold water and the accusation hurled at the door of the Government by him to the effect that the doctors sell medicine privately for their own benefit does not seem to be fair and just. As he is of elderly age and I have great regard for him I cannot say that his speech was farthest from truth. But this much I would certainly say that most of his speech was not relevant to the subject under discussion. For instance, in the course of his speech he went so far as to mention the bravery and stamina of the people of Jhelum district which though true, I think, has

(Pir Akbar Ali.)

nothing to do with the demand before the House. Let me point out, Sir, that the most admirable and remarkable characteristic of this zamindara Government is that they treat everybody alike and we therefore cannot say that they are indifferent to some districts and favourably inclined to others. They know not showing favours to certain people or districts.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Absolutely not.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : Sir, the honourable member should proceed with his own speech and should not refer to my speech again and again. Finding faults with others has become his habit—a very disagreeable habit I would say.

Pir Akbar Ali : Well, Sir, to say that the countryside of the province does not stand in need of more hospitals is wrong. In view of the present state of affairs I submit that still more hospitals are required in the province. Take for instance the district of Ferozepore where there were 28 dispensaries in all. But in view of large demand the Government has now established more subsidiary dispensaries there, as the people who previously used to go to hakims for medical aid have now changed their opinion and begun to like the medical relief provided by the Government hospitals and dispensaries. Fortunately, the allopathic treatment is now being liked by those people even who were deadly against it and who never liked to taste an allopathic doze. Therefore under the present condition it would be unfair to say that more dispensaries are not required in the province. So far as opening of schools and dispensaries in villages is concerned everybody would claim that his village is the most suitable place for opening a school or a dispensary. It is not only in villages that people are of this type but in cities too people would like the Government to open a school near their houses so that their children may be able to enjoy the facilities of the school being near their residences. But in order to meet these requirements of rural and urban people funds are needed and unfortunately as the resources of the Government are limited they cannot expect that money would come from heaven in the form of a shower. Sir, I quite understand the position of the Government in this respect and therefore I would like to place only hard facts before you so far as the needs of my district are concerned and I believe that after hearing those facts you will bear me out that my district really deserves more attention to be paid. Now let me draw your attention to page 132 of the New Expenditure where you will find these lines which are as follows :—

The District Board, Ferozepore, has been receiving a grant-in-aid of Rs. 4,330 per annum from the provincial revenues since 1925-26 towards the upkeep of the Mathra Das Hospital, Moga. The continuance of the grant is necessary, as without Government help it is not possible for the District Board to maintain the hospital, which attracts patients from all part of the province, and is doing very useful work.

In place of the words, “ which attracts patients from all parts of the province ”, if the Government had substituted “ which attracts patients not only from all parts of the province but from all parts of India, Afghanistan and other neighbouring countries ”, it would have been more true. Now, Sir, the grant given to this hospital where the number of patients is very large, is only Rs. 4,380. My submission is that the grant given to the

District Board, Ferozepore, for this hospital is too small. If the Government do not want to increase this grant they should do at least one thing and that is this. The patients belonging to Ferozepore would be treated at our cost but the expenses of the patients coming from other places should be borne by the Government themselves. It is up to the Government to select one way or the other and I have already referred to this point in one of my speeches and now again I point out to the Minister in charge that the annual expenditure of this hospital amounts to Rs. 17 thousand and even subtracting Rs. 4 thousand it remains Rs. 13 thousand which is certainly unbearable for the District Board. Besides, the hospital is situated within the municipal area of the Moga Municipality and it is very strange that the municipality in spite of the fact that local urban population is second to none in deriving benefit out of it, does not share the expenses of the hospital whose building even belongs to the District Board. Under these conditions it will not be possible for the District Board to maintain that hospital with a meagre grant of 4 thousand rupees.

Now I would like to make a few observations with regard to Jalalabad Hospital in which during the term of the present doctor from 21st July, 1940, to 5th March, 1941, that is 7 months and a half the number of outdoor and indoor patients have gone up to 63,091 and 14,152 respectively. Besides 77,243 patients treated as above stated, operation cases came to the hospital out of which 1,471 were operated and the number of selected operation cases was 486. Now, the grant that Government give to this hospital where the number of patients is so large and work is so enormous, is zero. What does the District Board pay to this hospital? Nothing. The building of the hospital belongs to the Mamdot Estate and the expenditure of the hospital is borne by the Mamdot Estate. I do not think it would be out of place to mention here that I chanced to visit that hospital a few months ago and I was astonished to see that the number of patients was so large that there was no place where a tent was not fixed and on enquiry I found that even the tents were of the Mamdot Estate and at 10 p. m. I met one doctor and two compounders who were on duty and they told me that they were the only staff in that hospital.

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

Then, Sir, I would like to make a few more observations in regard to Jalalabad. It is an important town which has been declared as a notified area. It is fortunately immune from almost all the taxes; that is no house-tax or octroi duty or any other tax has been imposed upon it. In other words all the expenses incurred in connection with its municipal administration are borne by the Mamdot Estate. Besides, other beneficent activities are also carried on by this Estate. For instance, the buildings of Girls School, Veterinary Hospital, Boys Middle School, the Mamdot Dispensary, etc., all these institutions are being financed by the Mamdot Estate; the Veterinary Hospital is entirely maintained by the Estate. Now in spite of the fact that such a heavy expenditure is being met by the said Estate single-handed, the Government have not cared to move their little finger to make any satisfactory arrangements for the supply of increased medical relief to this town. I may tell the honourable members that Jalalabad is situated at a central place and also in the proximity of a river. But a

(Pir Akbar Ali.)

the dispensaries in the adjoining areas are few and far between, the Jalalabad dispensary has to bear the brunt in catering to the needs of the patients. But what is the attitude adopted by the Government when we ask for more medical relief. They say that Ferozepore is a district steeped in crimes and in order to combat lawlessness they have to incur a heavy expenditure. Hence they cannot afford to make increased grants for the supply of medical aid to the dispensaries in that district and it is up to the private individuals to raise contributions for the establishment of more hospitals or enhanced supply of medical comforts and medicines with a view to meeting the requirements of ever-increasing number of patients. I submit that this non-challant attitude on the part of the Government is extremely undesirable. I would request them to be a little more broad-minded in giving medical aid to this district and particularly the Jalalabad dispensary. As I have already stated, no less than 77,248 patients attended the Jalalabad Dispensary during a short period of 7½ months. The figure speaks volumes and justice demands that the Government should make ample provision for the purpose of giving grants to the Jalalabad Dispensary on a liberal scale. I hope the Government would see their way to accede to my request.

Now I have to bring an other important matter to the notice of the Government and that is that whenever in future they launch the scheme of opening dispensaries in rural areas, they should particularly keep *Bait* (riverain) ilaqas in their mind. As a matter of fact no arrangements for the provision of proper medical aid exist in these unfortunate ilaqas situated near the rivers. They abound in epidemic diseases and fevers like malaria. As no dispensaries have been opened there, it is they which mostly deserve special attention of the Government in this direction. I fervently hope and trust that Government would not ignore the claims of the *Bait* ilaqas, when they take in hand any scheme of opening new rural dispensaries.

I fully endorse the views expressed by my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali, in regard to the excessive fees charged in the hospitals by the doctors. There is no denying the fact that whenever an ordinary government servant or any other patient with low means of income, stands in need of a medical certificate, he is put to great hardships because high rates of fees are demanded of him by the doctor concerned. Now it is really very regrettable that those very persons who already roll in wealth should charge almost prohibitive fees to the great detriment of the poor. My honourable friend Sardar Pritam Singh, who is not in his seat at present, would bear me out in this matter. Hence I urge upon the Government to take effective steps to prohibit the charging of exorbitant rate of fees by the doctors.

Next important matter to which I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Government, is the conducting of medico-legal cases by the doctors-in-charge of the dispensaries. These cases entail corruption on the part of the doctors and consequently the effect of this on the administration of the Government is very unwholesome. It was thought that dealing of these cases by the doctors would bring about a reduction in the perpetration of crime, but to the contrary it is on the increase. The Government should pay their undivided attention in setting things right

with regard to medico-legal cases. Just as a Sub-Inspector of Police gets huge illegal gratification, although in papers he is considered to be the most honest man, similarly a doctor also dishonestly gets his palms greased while conducting medico-legal cases. They issue fictitious certificates and charge handsome fees. In this connection I am reminded of an incident. Some people told me that a certain Headmaster of a village school absented himself from the school on medical grounds, although he was not actually ill. What he did was that he, with the help of the doctor of the dispensary, managed to show himself sick. On investigation I found the allegation to be correct. It is an open secret that the doctors indulge in corrupt practices. Anybody who is in a position to pay more, can get a medico-legal case tampered with by the doctor. The doctor can by manipulation show serious injuries as slight ones and *vice versa*. Again it becomes very difficult for a person to get a false certificate, issued by one doctor, verified and corrected by another. The rectification of a false medical certificate requires a lot of money because the other doctor would not like to go against his professional brother and put him into trouble, as the rectified certificate must be countersigned by the Civil Surgeon. Hence only an offer of a big sum made by the interested party can induce him to rectify the fictitious certificate. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to mend this deplorable state of affairs. They should appoint special officers who should conduct the medico-legal cases. Another method of combating this evil is to transfer the corrupt doctors to penal stations or to those places where crimes are not committed frequently and hence there is no medico-legal case to be conducted. High officers like civil surgeons should be asked to pay surprise visits to the dispensaries in regard to this matter. The complaints by the people do not prove effective in bringing the corrupt doctors to book as the senior officers investigating the case shield their subordinates. Hence the Government would be well advised to take effective measures to put a stop to this evil practice.

Then the indigent patients experience great difficulty in obtaining proper medical aid in the rural dispensaries or hospitals. The rich patients influence the doctors by offering gratification in the form of supply of fodder for the cattle, grains, buffaloes, etc., and thus get the best medicine at the cost of the poor.

One word more and I have done. Most of the hospitals are situated
 5 p. m. in the towns and a lion's share of the grant for the medical department is spent in the cities and especially in Lahore. No doubt Lahore is the capital city of the Punjab and quite befitting arrangements should be made here so that it may favourably compare with the capital cities of other provinces. Let there be decent and well-equipped hospitals, dispensaries, colleges and other beneficial institutions. But let us not lose sight of fairness and justice. We must observe some sense of proportion in distributing the funds of the public in the various parts of the Punjab. I would strike a note of warning to the Government that in its anxiety to make Lahore a worthy capital of the Punjab, the Government may not neglect the rest of the Punjab. Let us see that not only Lahore compares favourably with other capital cities but that the Punjab as a whole also retains its position as the premier and leading province of India. After all the rural areas too have a claim upon

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

the Government. Every thing should not be centred in Lahore to the detriment of the rest of the Punjab.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the Medical Department is generally included in the category of beneficent departments, but, in reality our medical department is not beneficent in that sense. It only benefits the big salaried doctors and high officials of this branch. It certainly does not benefit the public and therefore cannot be called beneficent in the true sense of the word. It is beneficent only for the doctors. Sir, I have tabled a cut motion in this behalf which runs as follows—

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The honourable member need not move the motion.

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana : Very well, Sir. I was saying that the Medical Department was not beneficent in so far that it benefited the doctors only and not the public. My reasons for saying so are sound and cogent. No one can get an operation performed in any hospital without paying a high fee to the surgeon in charge. For instance, if we go to the Mayo Hospital and get admitted in the family ward, the doctors who are paid big salaries by the Government will charge additional fees from us for attending us and for performing any operation that may be necessary. They have full freedom for charging any fee they like. There is no uniform rate of fees fixed by the Government. The Government has left them free to demand any high fee that they like from the patients who are in distress. The Government has left the public at the mercy of these doctors. I had brought this defect to the notice of the Government even in the previous sessions. But the Government seems to have turned a deaf ear to my voice. What I said was that if the doctors were to charge any fee at all, let the Government fix a uniform rate. At present the doctors loot the public as they like. If they see that a rich man has come and is in great trouble, they demand extremely high fee. Supposing a man brings his only son to the Mayo Hospital for treatment and the doctors exploit the situation knowing that the man in trouble would pay any fee they demand in order to get his only son treated properly, would it be fair to allow the doctor to loot him and charge unfairly high fee? It is time that the Government should look to this and stop this unrestricted loot. The public is at the mercy of the doctors who charge fees at any high rate they like. Sometimes the surgeons charge Rs. 200 or 500 or even 1,000 or more. Last year the Honourable Minister had promised to fix these fees. But nothing has been done so far. The surgeons and other doctors of medicines are making costly palaces with the help of their lucrative private practice. I say that if the Government thinks that the salaries of the surgeons are low, it may raise their salaries and save the public from the unrestricted rates of fees that they charge from the public by way of private practice. If on the other hand their salaries are adequate, private practice should be disallowed. But if the Government must allow them private practice, the rate of fee to be charged by them in the family wards or otherwise should be restricted. Let the Government fix a uniform rate of fee and put a stop to this exploitation by the doctors. The poor public and suffering humanity should not be left at the mercy of those cruel doctors who take

undue advantage of the serious maladies and helplessness of the people. The present position is scandalous and is unworthy of this premier province of India. I hope the Honourable Minister will certainly look up into this matter and fix a uniform rate of fees to be charged by the doctors who are in the employment of the Government.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am sure that no honourable member with any sense of fairness can deny that the condition of rural dispensaries as compared with those situated in towns is extremely deplorable. In fact the state of rural dispensaries is hopeless. Dispensaries are particularly needed in my own district of Rawalpindi. This district is a poor district and its inhabitants hold, in spite of their poverty, a distinguished position in the Punjab for their loyalty and help in the war. From the point of view of justice, these people should have been provided with a sufficient number of dispensaries for the treatment of their ailments. But it is a pity that the Government have not made suitable arrangements for their medical relief in the rural areas. There is, however, a sufficient number of dispensaries in the towns and the Government mostly attends to the needs of the cities. Over against this state of affairs we find that when Congress was in office in seven provinces, it was proved by our honourable friends by giving facts and figures that the Punjab was leading the rest of India even with respect to this important problem, and this leading position was given to the Punjab not only in view of the number of dispensaries compared with its population but also with regard to the *per capita* expenditure incurred for this purpose. I do not say that this much progress is sufficient. But it does not mean that we should try to find fault with what has been achieved. So far as the policy of the Honourable Minister is concerned whenever he goes out on tour he prefers to come in contact with the public to seeing the officers alone. It is, therefore, wrong to say that he is deaf to the cries of the poor people. It is also wrong to say about him that he was appointed minister through the favour of any Nawab or some other big person. If he was appointed minister it was on account of his ability and merit. As regards the criticism that has been levelled against this grant I agree that all the complaints that have been made by the honourable members and especially by Mian Sultan Mahmood are there, and they should be removed. With these words I end my speech.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, various members have made speeches on the present motion. The speech made by Malik Barkat Ali was very impressive and I request the Government to give their best attention to the criticism made and the views expressed by Malik Sahib. On the one hand you tell us that the present Government has been formed under the principle of provincial autonomy as embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935, and on the other hand you show yourself in favour of an organization which is not provincial. I draw your special attention to the figures quoted by Malik Sahib in this connection. When once it was settled that the number of I. M. S. in this province should not exceed seventeen then I fail to understand why a larger number was retained in the Punjab. At present we have

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

many abler men in the P. C. M. S. than several of the members of the I. M. S. If I am not mistaken it was practically decided in 1925 that we would not have more than 17 men of I. M. S. It was the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain who approached the Government of India about it and with their consent wanted to reduce the number of I. M. S. men to 17 for this province. But notwithstanding all this the present Government is in favour of having more I. M. S. men than seventeen. The Government in support of their contention quote section 246 of the Government of India Act and tell us that under that section they are not entitled to touch the I. M. S. men. In my humble opinion that section does not empower the Punjab Government to increase the fixed number. In the Punjab there are so many P. C. M. S. men who are very able and deserve higher posts which are at present unduly monopolized by the I. M. S. men. I do not mean any insult to I. M. S. What I mean is that our P. C. M. S. men are in no way inferior to the I. M. S. men. They have experience as well as qualifications. They can prove themselves better fitted for the higher jobs than I. M. S. men. Instead of promoting your own P. C. M. S. men to higher posts you are giving extensions to such of I. M. S. men who have completed thirty years' service. This is not proper. You are thus denying to the P. C. M. S. men their legitimate chances of promotion. On the one hand you tell us that you are going to retire all those who are due to retire and will grant extension to none, but on the other when some I. M. S. man is due to retire you in anticipation make arrangements for granting extension to him, and retain him in your service on the same salary as he may be drawing at the time of completion of his thirty years' service. You in this way deprive those who are immediate juniors to him of their right of promotion. The Honourable Minister in charge is not in the House at present. But the honourable lady Parliamentary Secretary is here. I impress upon her the necessity of making no distinction between a whiteman and an Indian so far as services are concerned. The Government should give preference to P. C. M. S. over I. M. S. Only professional skill and ability should be considered in the matter of promotion or appointment.

The next thing I want to bring to the notice of the honourable lady Parliamentary Secretary relates to the facts which were published in the columns of the *Tribune* of 16th instant. I do not mean to criticise; what I mean is to bring those facts to their notice for favour of some suitable action. I hope they will not turn a deaf ear to what I have said. On the telephone I will inform the honourable lady Parliamentary Secretary if she so desires of the page and column of the *Tribune* of 16th March in which those facts were published.

As regards the question whether allopathic treatment is better than the Vedic and Unani treatments I very much desire to make a few submissions on the subject to the Honourable Education Minister himself but unfortunately he is not present at this moment in the House.

Minister for Education : I have come. You are welcome to say what you want to tell me.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I am glad you have come. I was referring to the allopathic treatment as compared with the Unani and Ayurvedic treatments. Various honourable members have drawn the attention of the

Government to the necessity of encouraging Unani and Ayurvedic systems of treatment. I agree with all that the honourable members have said on this question. We should not be so fond of the medicines prepared in European countries.

I think the stage has been reached when Government should take steps to see that the medicines prepared in this country are made use of in our hospitals and dispensaries. It is absolutely essential as has been urged by some of the honourable members that indigenous medicines should be preferred. We find that not only in various diseases indigenous medicines are more efficacious than the western drugs but in cases of surgery also methods employed by *jarraks* for the treatment of wounds are far more effective than the modern methods which are employed in our hospitals and dispensaries. But it is very unfortunate that nobody pays any attention to these things. Let me tell you, Sir, that whenever any patient suffering from any wound goes to any of our hospitals the doctors generally advise him to get his diseased limb amputated. But against this a *jarrak* without performing any kind of operation treats the wound and cures it. I hope Government would give their serious consideration to this matter and would do all that lies in their power to encourage the use of indigenous medicines, and methods.

The third point which I would like to deal at length concerns the family wards and the exorbitant fees charged from the patients who reside there. My honourable friend Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana has also dealt with this subject in his speech and has pointed out that fees are charged from the indoor patients as well. I think this is a matter to which careful consideration should be given by the Honourable Minister. After all, what is the use of setting up such hospital where fees are charged from the poor people as well? In this connection I may point out that some of the honourable members have observed that Government have provided many big hospitals in Lahore for the benefit of the urban people while they have not paid any attention to the establishment of similar hospitals elsewhere in the Punjab. No doubt there are big and up-to-date hospitals in Lahore but let me tell my honourable friends that such hospitals can be established in central places only. The Government have not conferred any boon on us by establishing them here. It is a matter of principle that big hospitals like the Mayo Hospital are opened in central places only. From this the honourable members should not conclude that Lahore is the only blessed place where up-to-date medical facilities and hospitals have been provided. There are other places also where modern medical arrangements for instance X-Ray arrangements exist. Anyway there is no occasion for the honourable members to feel jealous of Lahore because in central places it is absolutely essential to provide such big hospitals and up-to-date medical aid so that if at any time any serious case comes it could be provided timely and efficient medical aid. Sir, it is extremely regrettable that whenever any matter comes before the House the question of rural and urban people is raised. I do not know where it will lead us to. If the matters remained as they are a day will surely come when the rural people will say that as more deaths take place in rural areas so the urban people should also die in the same proportion. (*Laughter.*) After all I ask, why is this distinction being made? The rural people have friends and relatives in the cities and *vice versa*. As a matter of fact they have very close relations with each other

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

I do not know why such poisonous statements are made on the floor of the House that some sort of differentiation should be made between urban and rural people. Is it not a fact that more rural people get benefits from these hospitals. Let me tell you, Sir, that when my honourable friend Raja Farman Ali Khan urged for the opening of dispensaries in the rural areas he never meant to draw any distinction between rural and urban people as such. He only drew the attention of Government to the need of opening dispensaries in those rural areas where at present none exist. So far as that is concerned I am at one with him. For the rural people also deserve the same kind of medical facilities as are enjoyed by other sections of the public. Let me point out that time and again we have stressed this point on the floor of the House, but always we have received the same stereotyped reply from Government that they have not sufficient funds at their disposal. That is only an excuse to put us off. Otherwise if they have the will to do so they can easily meet this demand. Besides, when we urge for reducing the expenses of administration so as to effect economies for providing facilities to the poor people living in the rural areas Government do not move in the matter at all. I would therefore advise my friends that instead of widening the gulf between the rural and urban people they should urge upon the Government to reduce their expense of administration and the money that would be saved in this way could be very easily spent for the opening of dispensaries in the rural areas. However coming to the point again, I admit that many facilities are provided in the family wards and the management is also very efficient. But along with this I am constrained to remark, and this is based on my own personal experience for I have been to these wards two or three times, that a person of my means may be able to bear their expenses but persons of ordinary means cannot afford to pay these exorbitant expenses. I will not mind if substantial fees are charged from the rich persons but so far as the poor people are concerned they may be given some concession in fees. I would suggest that those persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 200 per mensem be given special fee concessions if they want to stay in those wards. Let me make it clear that I am not urging these things for getting such concessions for myself or for those who can afford, but I am making this suggestion for the sake of the poor patients who come from rural as well as urban areas to these wards.

Then, Sir, there is another evil that has sprung up in our hospitals. That is that whenever patients go to the hospitals the doctors who are highly paid by Government and who are allowed to practice privately also, advise them to consult them at their bungalows with a view to realize fees from them. This is highly deprecatory and I condemn this practice with all the emphasis at my command. One wonders that when such doctors are paid so very fat salaries by Government why they want to take unfair advantage of their position simply to squeeze out some money from the patients. If any patient goes to their bungalows of his own accord they are welcome to charge fees from him. But surely they have no right to suggest to patients to come to them so that they may get fees from them. This is highly unfair and I hope the Honourable Minister who must be aware of many such instances would take severe measures to check this growing evil.

Then there is yet another matter which I want to bring to the notice of Government. That is that the evil of corruption has sprung up among doctors as well. Reference to it has been made by my honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali also. I do not agree with the first part of his speech wherein he tried to refute the arguments of my honourable friend Raja Farman Ali Khan. I would very respectfully point out to him that so far as I have been able to understand the speech of Raja Sahib he has only urged upon the Government to open dispensaries in the rural areas where none exists. Even on principle this demand is quite legitimate. But so far as the latter part of his speech is concerned I am at one with him and I would particularly draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to this evil of corruption among the doctors. It has come to my knowledge and I am sure that the Honourable Minister would also be aware of the fact that there is growing corruption among the doctors. I do not say that other departments are free from this evil but so far as this department is concerned this evil has assumed very serious proportions. The affairs have gone to such a length that if anybody goes to get himself medically examined in any dispensary many kinds of fees are charged from him. All this is done in spite of the fact that they are there for the benefit of the public.

Again there seems to be an unholy alliance between the police and the medical departments. When a person goes to the police station for getting his complaint and report recorded he is asked to submit a medical certificate. The doctors demand their fee before giving such a certificate and this helps in the increase of crime. At present most of the sub-assistant surgeons and a few assistant surgeons, possibly also one or two civil surgeons in the various districts are carrying on this corrupt practice to their advantage. It is very easy for them to declare a simple injury made by any blunt weapon to be a grievous injury inflicted by a sharp-edged weapon and *vice versa*. This is a common occurrence and the Government should immediately take steps to stop this nefarious practice. There is another submission which I want to make in this connection. Sometimes these sub-assistant surgeons accept bribes and declaring the condition of the injured person as precarious record his dying statement. In a number of cases such statements have been found to be fabricated or false. Again it also happens that the person actually dies before any statement could be recorded. But dying declarations purporting to have been made by the deceased under the signatures of sub-assistant surgeons are nevertheless presented to the courts. I would strongly urge upon the Honourable Minister to give his earnest attention to this matter whereby justice is being miscarried. This is not the first time that the attention of the Government is being drawn to it. Even the courts have criticised the conduct of doctors especially of sub-assistant surgeons in their judicial findings. It was only the other day that the High Court in passing orders in a certain case referred to such a misconduct on the part of a sub-assistant surgeon and issued him a notice to show cause why he should not be prosecuted. What happens is that false certificate is issued and when the doctor's evidence is recorded in the court he deposes on cross-examination that it was dark or such like excuse when he examined the case or that there was no X-ray apparatus at his disposal and, therefore, he had to do without the necessary mechanical

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

aid. It is generally believed that corruption is rampant in the Police Department more than in any other but the medical department is as bad if not worse than the Police. I would, therefore, suggest that if and when the Honourable Minister goes on tour, he should ascertain the true facts with the help of the civil surgeons and take necessary action in the matter referred to above. Moreover whenever such a case comes to his notice he should at once institute an enquiry and dismiss the man if found guilty.

Now leaving aside these medico-legal cases I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to another ridiculous or rather scandalous state of affairs. I do not want to make any specific suggestions with regard to that matter and shall be content to bring it to his notice so that he may do the needful in the light of his own experience during the four years that he has been in charge of this portfolio. I am referring of course to a sort of co-operative system or you may say a conspiracy in the medical profession in the garb of specialist advice. A patient goes to a doctor for treatment of a certain disease and gets enveloped in a net of expert consultations. The first doctor charges his fee and directs the patient to a specialist to get his urine tested. Then he is asked to consult another gentleman for getting his blood tested. Then there are many other experts who have to be visited before the first doctor can diagnose his disease and write a prescription. But in the meanwhile the poor fellow is done for. In certain cases even this huge expenditure fails to bring about the desired result and the diagnosis remains incomplete. I am free to admit that in some cases you have to take recourse to specialist advice but I would like to ask whether our doctors are so incompetent that one man cannot perform all these duties? Is their education so defective or is it because they do not want to equip their dispensaries with the necessary apparatus. So many friends have told me that even after consulting four or five doctors, every one of whom a specialist in his own line, their condition was no better. Moreover it is very unfortunate that these doctors do not mete out the same treatment to ordinary patients as they do in the case of their friends and rich people. The cardinal principle of the medical profession should be human sympathy, but here the case is quite the reverse. Sometimes the doctor declares the condition of a patient as grave for no better reason than the desire to extort money from him. This usually hastens the end of the poor patient. My submission is that this is a very wrong policy. As I have said the doctor should take a sympathetic attitude and should not try to dishearten the patient. Of course I do not mean to say that he should make a wrong diagnosis. He should certainly know what is wrong with the patient but at the same time he should be more careful in pronouncing the result of the examination. It is better that while knowing the true state of health of the patient, the doctor encourages him by such words as 'you will get well. Let us do our best and trust in God, etc., etc.' The Honourable Minister also must have heard some complaints in this respect and I hope that he will draw the attention of his subordinates to the necessity of adopting a more humane and sympathetic attitude.

These are the points to which I wanted to invite the attention of the Minister in charge. And Sir, as I do not wish to prolong my speech I would once again submit that it would be well-advised for the Minister to exclude

the additional number of I. M. S. officers from the province. I am at one with my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali in saying that as in Military Department I. M. S. officers are greatly needed on account of war it is now the proper time for their exclusion from the province. Now we should not let this opportunity slip and I am perfectly confident that Indians are efficient enough to work in places of I. M. S. officers who have been an extra burden on the Exchequer.

With these few words, Sir, I support the cut motion moved by this side of the House.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural): Criticisms and suggestions have been offered from various quarters of the House and I would request the Government to consider them in the spirit in which they are advanced. Some of the suggestions are constructive suggestions. I think the picture is not so dark as has been depicted on the floor of the House. The expenditure provided under this Head was first under 32 lakhs in the year 1921-22, which rose to 55 lakhs in 1939-40. Now, this means that the total percentage of expenditure on medical department was 3·6 of the total provincial expenditure in 1932 as compared with 1939-40, when it rose to 4·6. This as compared with other provinces, was the second highest percentage, which was being spent under this particular Head in India. Now, I will take the figures of the percentage of expenditure of the various bigger provinces under this Head. I think you will be convinced that the picture as depicted by some honourable members was not so dark. Practically this province has again given lead so far as the expenditure under medical relief is concerned. I have got with me the figures showing the average population served by each medical institution in the various provinces of India. In the Punjab each medical unit is available for urban areas for a population of 12,327, while in rural areas one unit is serving 32,284 people; in the United Provinces each unit serves in urban areas 17,999 people and in rural areas 124,330; in Bengal urban areas 11,255, rural areas 43,695; in Bombay urban areas 13,169, rural areas 103,880; and in Madras urban areas, 15,479, rural areas 38,166. Now, the figures can be multiplied, but I am only suggesting that one medical unit established in our province, both in urban and rural areas, is serving a larger portion of population than in any other province of India. Now, I will briefly refer to one or two other set of figures which will show that local bodies, district boards and municipal committees, who have been receiving grants from the Punjab Government for providing medical relief in their respective jurisdictions, have not lagged behind any other province so far as this particular item is concerned. District Board of Hissar is expending 16·45 of its total income on medical relief. Gurgaon is expending 17·50; Karnal 14·67; Ferozepore 16·89, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura and Gujrat are expending about 11 per cent of their total income on medical relief. If we take the case of municipalities, the Municipality of Palwal is spending 24·49 per cent of its income on medical relief. The Municipality of Jagadhri is spending 18·13; Rahon 28·17, Abohar 17·11; Dera Baba Nanak 25·54, Pasrur 19·10; Murree 19·48; Pindigheb 19·47; Bhakhar 23·31 and Alipur 19·19. These figures show that the state of affairs in this province is not so bad as has been described on the floor of the House. Some of the items of course are such which should receive our immediate consideration. No. 1 is the

[K. B. Ch. Riasat Ali.]

amalgamation of the two important departments of Public Health and Medical. The expenditure of supervision alone of these Departments is about 8½ lakhs. This again is the highest figure in India, barring Madras. I think the Health Department has developed to such an extent that now it can be very safely amalgamated with the Medical Department, at least so far as the direction or supervision of both the departments is concerned. I would suggest that one officer, give him any designation you like, you may call him the Chief Medical Officer, Punjab, should be in charge of both these departments and he should have one deputy on each side, one on the curative side and one on the preventative side, that is, one on the Health side and one on the Medical side. One Deputy should supervise the work of the Civil Surgeons on the medical side and the other of the District Medical Officers of Health on the health side. This means that we will eliminate or abolish the posts of at least 4 Assistant Directors of Public Health, and one of the two posts, whether it is the Director of Public Health or the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. Again, in their establishment there will also be sufficient reduction in expenditure. And I do not think that we will in any way risk or impair the efficiency on either side.

Now, Sir, I myself have very strong views over the question of the retention of I. M. S. officers, as such, to the exclusion of other officers, as was very ably pointed out by my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali. He gave the whole history of that case and I have only to supply one link and that is that in October 1932 it was decided that the number of these posts should be 21 but in 1921 it was decided that it should be 17. In 1937 it had been decided that it should be 17 but as early as 1932 it was decided,—*vide* a notification of the Government of India relating to the department of Health, Education and Lands, that the total number of posts to be held by these officers should in no case exceed 21. After five years' working the number, instead of being reduced, has gone up to a very very high figure, as was pointed out, of 36. He has also suggested that only 13 posts in the Medical Department are now, under the rules, to be reserved for these officers but my grievance is that there are still I. M. S. officers who are holding posts in non-medical departments, so far as I can see, without any justification. To be definite on the matter, I invite your attention to the Inspector-General, Prisons, Deputy Inspector-General, Prisons, one Superintendent of Jail and the Director of Public Health. They are there in spite of the interim recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee that steps should be taken to reduce the number of I. M. S. officers with regard to those posts at least which are not reserved for them. Why has this not been done? I would request the honourable member in charge to throw light on this subject. The Committee was very keen and felt very strongly on this question and recommended that as vacancies occurred in the list, all posts then held by I. M. S. officers in the Punjab Medical Department, which were not borne on the cadre of that service nor were reserved for members of that service in this province, should be so filled as to reduce their number to zero, that is, no I. M. S. officer should be appointed to the post not reserved for them when it fell vacant by retirement, transfer or death of the previous incumbent. In spite of these recommendations I do not think that anything appreciable has been done in this

direction. I wish that something had been done, but so far as my knowledge goes I do not think if anything has been done. Another important thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister is, without repeating the arguments which have been used by my honourable friends on the floor of the House, the question of medico-legal cases. I do not propose to go into minor details but I would request that some sort of arrangement should be made even at the risk of personal inconvenience to our officers that these cases should be so conducted as to eliminate all sorts of corruption which always steals into these matters. Medical officers of the standard of sub-assistant surgeons, who have their headquarters at a police thana, who live next door to the all-powerful police sub-inspector, cannot afford to displease or incur the wrath of that 'high' officer. Therefore, in many cases, he has to go even against the dictates of his own conscience, if not for monetary considerations, due only to the feeling that he is too weak to offend in any way the sub-inspector of police. Therefore, my suggestion is that all these cases should either go to the doctors who belong to the Provincial Service and who reside at the tehsil headquarters, or, if possible, cases of a more serious nature should directly be examined by the civil surgeon. He should be relieved of his duties to go round the medical dispensaries in rural areas, he should confine himself more to the laboratory and also to the work of performing operations as well as the post-mortem examination which is an important thing. Another important thing to which I want to draw attention of the House is the question of the fixation of arbitrary rates of fees by medical practitioners. It was again very rightly pointed out on the floor of the House that those people might be experts—I have great regard for some of them on account of their academic qualifications—but the fact still remains that it is on account of their advantageous position that they are commanding lucrative practice and their demands do not know any limit whatsoever. I have fair recollection of a case in the Mayo Hospital where one thousand rupees were demanded for the amputation of the two fore-arms of a zaildar and in dismay I asked the doctor as to what was his fee if he had to cut off his head! I asked him whether it would not be more than one lakh for he charged one thousand for the amputation of the fore-arm! The man who was asked to pay one thousand rupees was nothing more than a poor zaildar. (*Interruption.*) Yes, zaildars are generally poor. They are not nawabs. He was a zaildar of third grade and was a very ordinary zamindar. Unfortunately the fee was not paid and the man died after two days. According to the rules, I think, he was not required to pay that fee. That is one of the very many instances which can be multiplied to any number.

Another thing which I want to say is in reply to the argument advanced by my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh. He said that the disease is on the increase and, therefore, sufficient amount is not being spent on medical relief. The statement itself is wrong. If he will go through the Report for the year 1939-40, which has been published very recently, he will find that not a single epidemic disease appeared in the province. If he thinks that the number of people, who have now chosen to go to hospitals as out-door patients, has increased, then this does not necessarily mean that the disease is on the increase. On the other hand the people somehow or other have developed the tendency of going to hospitals now as compared

[K. B. Ch. Riasat Ali.]

to the circumstances which were prevailing a few years ago when they had a certain amount of hatred of going to the hospitals. One of the institutions, that is the system of paying a fixed allowance of rupees ten to the medical officers of rural dispensaries, has proved very useful. As the Report states, no less than 243,000 people have been visited either in their own homes or in their own villages by these doctors who are required to attend to the needs of the people who are living within a radius of 5 miles from the medical dispensaries.

Then the number of these medical institutions remains the same. It is again 974. It means that the number of hospitals that have been provincialised has been increasing by 2 or 3 every year. We remember that the hospitals at Dharamsala and Isakhel both were provincialised in the year 1940. Another wholesome feature towards the effort in aid of medical line that has been made is that special attention has been paid to attending to the needs of women. As we see in the report of this year, there is a provision for opening a women hospital at Rajanpur, district Dera Ghazi Khan, and as the report of 1940 shows two women hospitals have been provincialised, one is at Hazro and the other is at Dharamsala. There is also the figure given in the administration report which is rather encouraging in this direction and which shows that the number of posts of lady assistant surgeons has been increased from 3 to 7 and that the cadre of lady sub-assistant surgeons has also been increased inasmuch as 8 more posts have been provided in that cadre.

Now, Sir, another important thing which was mentioned on the floor of the House was by Malik Barkat Ali. He suggested that the grades of pay of assistant surgeons or the members of the provincial service under the Medical Department should be revised with a view to increase their pay so that they may not stand in need of private practice. The grades of pay pertaining to all services have been very recently revised and we had occasion of studying and scrutinising these grades in the Retrenchment Committee. I for one fail to agree with this proposal. Again, I do not think that the mere fact that a man is paid at a particular rate of pay should debar him from private practice. This cuts both ways; this is against the interest of the man who has attained the highest qualification and this will deprive the general public of the efficient service of an expert. On account of these two reasons I do not think that a man who is holding a job under the Government should be deprived of private practice. But whatever has been suggested by him or whatever has been submitted by Mian Abdul Aziz or even submitted by my poor humble self, is in a nutshell that these people should not be allowed to fix their fees at an arbitrary rate as is being done now.

Another thing to which I would like to make a passing reference is with regard to the Medical School at Amritsar. This was pointed out by the Retrenchment Committee that so far as that school was concerned it was providing us with a product for which there was no demand whatsoever in the market. The number of provincial service men who have graduated from the King Edward Medical College has increased to such an abnormal strength that M. B., B. S. people are now available to be employed

as sub-assistant surgeons. Therefore, the suggestion is that if these people are employed as sub-assistant surgeons, and the direct recruitment to the cadre of assistant surgeons as such is stopped the result will be that in a couple of years we will get M. B., B. S. people as sub-assistant surgeons. In view of this fact, I do not think there is any need of spending any money on the Medical School at Amritsar. Therefore, I would request the Government that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee on that point should be accepted forthwith. I think, Sir, that I have advanced some suggestions for the consideration of the Honourable Minister and the Government and they will be treated in the spirit in which they have been advanced.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I have no intention to make a long speech, but there are one or two matters which I consider it my duty to bring to the special notice of the Honourable Minister. The first thing is the question of posts reserved for the members of I. M. S. Several honourable members of this House have expressed a strong opinion that so far as possible the Government should take steps to reduce the number of posts reserved for I. M. S. people, particularly, Englishmen. I personally consider that it will be fair that, when we emphasise the desirability of reducing the number of posts reserved for I. M. S. people, we should also recognise that so far as the Honourable Minister for Education is concerned, he deserved certain amount of credit for having done his utmost in bringing about Indianisation in some higher services in the departments under his charge. (*Hear, hear.*) The Honourable Minister knows fully well what the feelings of the honourable members of this House are. There is one question upon which we all agree—whether we belong to the Unionist Party or whether we belong to the Congress Party—and it is this that the rights of Indians in the services should be protected and I would go a step further and say that as far as possible, subject to efficiency, the Government should go out of their way to help Indians in the services. Sir, as far as the medical profession is concerned, I am aware of a very large number of doctors in our province who, I can claim, are very efficient and are fully qualified to fill even the highest posts in the Medical College as well as in the Mayo Hospital. I need not emphasise this point any further because I know from personal knowledge that the Honourable Minister is as anxious to bring about this welcome and desired change as we are.

The second point I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister is that in the rural dispensaries my own experience is that although the number of hospitals has increased, there are no medicines to be found in those dispensaries. In several cases I have unfortunately seen that where the doctor is competent there are no medicines available and where the doctor is hopelessly inefficient there is a large quantity of medicines. The reason is that in that case the hospital becomes unpopular and naturally when patients do not turn up to that hospital, the medicines will be saved. I would appeal to the Honourable Minister kindly to see that the grant under dispensaries for supplying medicines in rural dispensaries is substantially increased. There is no use having a dispensary where 50 per cent of the patients return hopelessly because medicine is not available.

There is no exaggeration in what I am saying. I am speaking from personal knowledge. This trouble was acutely felt all over the province and it is time that Government should take serious notice and do something

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

substantial to remove this grievance. Another point which requires the special attention of the Honourable Minister is about the dispensaries which are not yet provincialised. There are certain municipal committees which are required to make contributions to the provincial exchequer and the maintenance expenses are borne by the Government. Unfortunately I am associated with a municipality which has suffered very much on this account. I am talking of the Pind Dadan Khan municipality of which I happen to be the president. The total income of the municipality is Rs. 27,000 (*Shaikh Faiz Muhammad*: I think it should be abolished.) You do not require any doctors in Dera Ghazi Khan. The total income of that municipality is hardly Rs. 27,000 per annum and out of that 29 per cent is contributed for the maintenance of the dispensary. You can imagine that 29 per cent of the municipality's income goes towards the maintenance of the dispensary and another 6 thousand—I do not know what percentage it will be—is paid for water charges. You can see what is left to the municipality to discharge other responsibilities. There are municipalities which contribute about 18 or 19 per cent. I have got a list with me of these municipalities but I would not take the time of this House by reading out that list. One is surprised to find that even big municipalities like Gujrat, Jhelum, Gurdaspur, Multan and other districts are contributing between 5 and 6 per cent of their total income while we are contributing more than 26 per cent. So far as I understand when this agreement was arrived at between the municipality and the Government it was only 19 or 20 per cent of the total income of the municipality. Now our income has gone down substantially but the Government is still charging 26 per cent. They have given us an assistant surgeon. We do not require an assistant surgeon. We would be happy if they give us a sub-assistant surgeon. The assistant surgeon has been given to us not because the public wants it but because the Government wants it. They can have two sub-assistant surgeons instead of one assistant surgeon, but why should the poor municipality be burdened with all the expenses? (*An honourable member*: Why not curtail the number of murders?) Murders are committed by rural people and not by urban people. I would request the Minister to order an enquiry and if he finds the request made is reasonable I am sure red tapism will not stand in the way and immediate orders will be passed to reduce that contribution.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have risen to make a few submissions with regard to the medical education in the province. In the year 1939-40 Rs. 5,17,196 were spent on Medical Education. In the present year the demand has been made for Rs. 6,46,700. In other words it has been increased considerably as compared with the amount that was spent in 1939-40. I am glad to say that medical education has progressed appreciably under the Honourable Minister for Education. It has been decided to convert the Medical School, Amritsar, into a medical college. A grant of Rs. 80,000 has been provided for the Punjab Medical School for Women. In addition to this arrangements are also under consideration of the Government for the extension of medical education in the province. We very much appreciate these efforts of the Honourable Minister. But what I want to bring to his

notice is the fact that compared to what is being spent on medical education very little is allotted for the education of our Hakims and Valds. A grant of Rs. 8,000 is being given to the Tibya College of Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam, Lahore, the Ayurvedic College, attached to the D. A.-V. College, Lahore and Tibbia College, Delhi. This is a very small amount for Vedic and Unani systems of treatment. A grant of Rs. 8,000 is not sufficient for these colleges. Compared to the amount of Rs. 6,46,700 which represents the grant for medical education you only give a paltry sum of Rs. 8,000 as a grant to the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam, Tibya College, Lahore, and the Ayurvedic College attached to the D. A.-V. College, Lahore. Ayurvedic and Unani systems of treatment have been in existence from time immemorial and they are in every respect scientific. Those who follow allopathic system of treatment do not admit them to be scientific but it is a fact which we all know that they are scientific and the prejudice of the European doctors is not founded on any reasonable grounds. The Unani system existed long before the present allopathic treatment was discovered. The English were very backward and uncivilized at the time when Unani system of treatment was used by the Greeks. Similarly the Ayurvedic system of treatment has been in existence from time immemorial and is perfect in itself. Even in the time of Caliph Haroon Rashid Indian Vaidas were reputed for their skill in medicine. Two Indian Vaidas, Manik and Saleh were in his court. The Unani system of treatment although it originated in Greece, was perfected under the patronage of the Omayyads and Abbasides. Bu Ali Seeena is known all over the world as a very great Hakim and is called Avicenna by Europeans, never a greater physician was born in this world. Even to-day in medicine very few doctors can compare favourably with the Hakims of Delhi. Hakim Ajmal Khan and Hakim Mahmood Khan are too well-known figures. These Hakims have done a lot of public service. They imparted knowledge to the public of such prescriptions which existed only as their family secrets. The Tibbia College, Delhi, was started by the efforts of Hakim Ajmal Khan.

Now, Sir, I ask as to what are the reasons that in spite of such talented hakims no encouragement has been given to Tib-unani? What are the reasons which have led to the discarding of Ayurvedic and Tib-unani methods of treating the diseases to a very large extent? Let me tell you that with the advent of the British power in this country the use of these medical sciences has been systematically discouraged. But why? There were three main reasons in view of which our British masters discouraged their use. In the first place they discouraged them because of their scanty knowledge about the Indian sciences. Lord Macaulay used to observe that all the Indian arts and sciences were not equal to one volume of an English book. He held that opinion because he had no knowledge about the eastern methods of treatment of diseases and of books. Secondly, they discouraged their use because these methods of treatment of diseases did not suit the British people. Thirdly, they discouraged them so that large quantities of British medicines should be imported in this country. In this connection I may point out that two or three days ago I happened to be present at an investiture held at the Government House. There in whatever direction I saw I found white turbans on the heads of everybody. Let me tell you that before the advent of the British power in this country our forefathers did not use white turbans and white shalwars. They always

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

dressed in coloured clothes. But when the Britishers came here they brought about a change in the mentality of the people and encouraged them to use white turbans, white shalwars and white dhotis instead of coloured ones. The British people made this suggestion in view of two reasons. In the first place they thought that if their Indian subjects began using white clothes that would benefit the textile workers of Great Britain. Secondly, as compared to the coloured clothes white clothes wear out quickly because they require constant washing. Naturally more and more of white cloth would be imported from Lancashire. The result we are seeing is that now-a-days white cloth worth crores of rupees is imported every year in this country. This benefits the textile workers of Great Britain. Similarly western methods of treatment of diseases was introduced here. As a result of that medicines worth crores of rupees are imported every year in this country. In short these are the three main reasons which have led to the discouragement of Ayurvedic and Tib-unani. I can confidently assert that so long as any art or science does not get state patronage it cannot flourish at all.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I draw your attention to the fact that the attendance in the House is very poor. The speech that is now being delivered is an important one and it is desirable that you send for the members at least of the treasury benches.

At this stage the division bell was rung and as there was no quorum at the end of division bell, the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 24th March, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 24th March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CIVIC GUARDS.

***7665. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in some districts of the province while the quota fixed for the enlistment of civic guards is less, the amount spent is much more than that spent for the same purpose in other district or districts where the quota to be enlisted or already enlisted is much larger, as is evident from items 1, 5, 7, 14, 19, 21 and 29, in the statement supplied in answer to starred question No. 7513, asked on 13th February, 1941 (Vol. XV) ; if so, the reasons why less money has been spent in some districts with larger quota fixed and particularly in the Rawalpindi district where as many as 1,200 civic guards are to be enlisted and where only Rs. 9,238 have been spent up to 31st January, 1941 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): Expenditure in any given district on the civic guards is regulated by the number of civic guards actually working and not by the quota fixed for the district. Hence the expenditure in a district like Rohtak where civic guards were enrolled in large numbers from an early date and where many of them have been called up and have therefore qualified for subsistence allowance is naturally greater than in a district where enrolment has been slow and the number of civic guards qualified for subsistence allowance has been less. In Rawalpindi up to the end of January only 725 civic guards had been enrolled out of the quota of 1,200. Also it seems probable that certain outstanding bills for subsistence allowance were not counted in the actual expenditure shown in the statement. In many cases the expenditure shown in the statement is not an accurate criterion of the work done, in view of outstanding bills having been returned for correction ; while in some districts bills have been prepared and paid more expeditiously than in others.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether work has been given to the civic guards by the Commanders who have been appointed in the district ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, evidently.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please say whether this work is entrusted to them according to the needs of the times or according to certain set principles laid down by Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : You know that as much as I do.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether the expenditure is according to work done by the civic guards, that is according to the period of time that they work ? May I know the period of time allotted to the civic guards according to the set principles or policy of Government ; or is it the discretion of the officer according to the requirements of the district concerned ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I think, according to certain set principles.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : May I know what they are ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is difficult for me to say that, but certain rules have been framed and if my honourable friend will refer to those rules he will see that everything is according to those rules.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please say which is the period for which the civic guards draw their allowances ? Is it limited to certain period which is fixed for training purposes or does that period include some other time also ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There are two periods. One is the training period and the other when the civic guards are called up. During both those periods they get allowances.

FILM ENTITLED " SEHTI MURAD ".

***7676. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to certain objectionable and indecent dialogue used in some of the scenes of " Sehti Murad " picture which is being shown to the Lahore public during these days ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the keen resentment prevailing among certain sections of the public against this picture ;
- (c) the number and the names of the members of the Punjab Film Censor Board which approved of this picture before it was released and whether any one of them objected to any of the passages or scenes of this picture ; and, if so, the reasons why the passages and scenes objected to have been allowed to remain in the picture mentioned above ;
- (d) the action proposed to be taken in this connection ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : The film was examined by the Punjab Board of Film Censors in a meeting which was attended by three members, who were unanimously of the

opinion that the film was suitable for public exhibition, subject to the deletion of a certain passage in the dialogue. The usual certificate was granted after the passage objected to had been deleted, and if the honourable member has any other passages in the dialogue to which he objects I would be glad if he would bring them to the notice of the Secretary of the Board of Film Censors.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know the names of those persons who were on the Punjab Board of Film Censors ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : One member was Professor Gulshan Rai, another was a military officer whose name I have not got, and the third member was the Secretary of the Punjab Board of Film Censors who happens to be the Director of Information Bureau.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state whether the passages in the film objected to were found to be indecent or not ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have not seen this film, and I do not know to which passages my honourable friend is taking objection. If he would write to the Secretary of the Board about the passages which he thinks are not proper and indecent, the Secretary will certainly take due notice of the objection.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Have not the members of the Board been directed to go through the whole film before they allow it to be shown ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I am not quite clear in my mind what my honourable friend wants me to answer. I do not think he is clear himself in his own mind as to what he wants to know. I will tell him how a film is censored. A film before it is exhibited is shown to the Censors and after their approval it is allowed to be shown in the public cinemas. If there is any objection taken by the Board of Censors to any passage, that particular passage or that particular part of acting is removed or amended, and then the film is shown in the public places.

FILM ENTITLED "SEHTI MURAD."

***7677. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to certain objectionable and indecent dialogue used in some of the scenes of "Sehti Murad" picture which is being shown to the Lahore public during these days ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the keen resentment prevailing among certain sections of the public against this picture ;
- (c) the number and names of the members of the Punjab Film Censor Board which approved of this picture before it was released and whether any one of them objected to any of the passages or scenes of this picture ; and, if so, the reasons why the passages and scenes objected to have been allowed to remain in the picture mentioned above ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this connection?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The honourable member is referred to the reply given to Assembly Question No. *7676 (above).

ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR N. W. R. IN VILLAGE DANDOT, DISTRICT JHELUM.

***7669. Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akram Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the area of land yet in possession of the Government out of the land acquired for the North Western Railway in village Dandot, tansil Pind Dadan Khan, district Jhelum, from about 1880 to 1911 and subsequently relinquished by the North Western Railway and the manner in which that land is to be disposed of?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): 204 kanals 1 marla have been relinquished by the North Western Railway in this village. Of this, 83 kanals have been restored to the original owners or their heirs, while 121 kanals 1 marla have remained in the possession of the Punjab Government and have been incorporated in Rakh Dandot, because the original owners refused to take the land back.

IMPOSITION OF FINES BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GREY CANALS, ON HIS SUBORDINATES.

***7670. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government have prohibited the imposition of fines even on the inferior establishment in all Government departments;

(b) whether he is aware that contrary to that order the present Superintendent, Grey Canals, has fined a number of his subordinates since he has taken charge of the post; if so, the names of the employees so fined with the amount of fine in each case and the reasons for which each of them has been fined?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that the Superintendent, Grey Canals, on account of ignorance of the rules, fined five employees on the inferior establishment. The orders of Government on the subject were brought to the notice of the Superintendent, Grey Canals by the Deputy Commissioner and the former has since stopped this practice of levying fines. The fines already inflicted have been remitted by the Deputy Commissioner and the punishment converted into a warning. As stated fines were imposed on five employees, but it is not the practice to give names in answer to questions of this kind. The fines ranged from Re. 1 to Rs. 3 and were inflicted for various derelictions of duty.

**CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR OF THE SADDAR BUNGALOW OF THE
GREY CANALS' OFFICE.**

***7671. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of each estimate sanctioned for the repairs and additions and alterations of the Saddar bungalow of the Grey Canals office at Ferozepore during the last nine months with the date of sanction and authority sanctioning the estimates ;
- (b) whether the works mentioned in (a) were duly advertised among the approved contractors and tenders called therefor ; if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Rules require tenders to be called for works costing more than Rs. 200. This was done except for item (8) of the statement, for which by an error none was called. The Deputy Commissioner has directed the Superintendent, Grey Canals, to exercise more care in future in strict observance of the rules.

Statement showing the name and amount of each estimate sanctioned for the repairs and additions and alterations of the Saddar bungalow of the Grey Canals office at Ferozepore during the last nine months.

Serial No.	Description of works.	Estimated amount.	Date of sanction.	Name of authority sanctioning the estimate.
		Rs.		
1	Special repairs to the residential quarters of the Superintendent, Grey Canals.	1,047	5-6-40	Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.
2	Additions and alterations to the residential quarters of the Superintendent, Grey Canals.	455	5-6-40	Ditto.
3	Repairs to Grey Canals Head Office, Ferozepore.	78	16-7-40	Superintendent, Grey Canals, Ferozepore.
4	Construction of a compound wall on eastern side of the Grey Canals office.	500	16-8-40	Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.
5	Making a drain in the Head Office, Grey Canals.	105	24-8-40	Superintendent, Grey Canals.
6	Providing glazed window in the Draftsman's room.	130	5-9-40	Ditto.
7	Repairs to bath room attached to Head Office.	53	11-12-40	Ditto.
8	Repairs to residential quarters of Superintendent, Grey Canals, Ferozepore.	393	16-1-41	Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.
9	Removing old plaster and white-washing drawing room, dining room, pantry outside verandah, residential quarters of Superintendent, Grey Canals.	103	19-1-41	Superintendent, Grey Canals.

SELECTION FOR THE POST OF ZILLADAR FROM MUSLIMS IN LUDHIANA DIVISION.

***7673. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at the time of selection of candidates for the post of zilladar this year from among Muslims in the Ludhiana division certain candidates with 10 or 12 years' service to their credit have been ignored and certain other candidates with only 3 or 4 years' service have been accepted ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The answer is in the negative.

ABOLITION OF THE POST OF OVERSEER, GREY CANALS.

***7674. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Special Officer on Duty, Grey Canals, appointed by Government at Ferozepore some time ago, recommended that the post of Overseer be abolished ; if so, why action has not been taken so far in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The report of the Special Officer has not yet reached Government. When it does, any such recommendation will be examined.

HANDCUFFING OF SARDAR PARTAP SINGH.

***7667. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) when was Sardar Partap Singh, M.L.A., removed from Lahore Jail to Gujrat Jail ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he was handcuffed on both hands during the time he was being taken from Lahore to Gujrat Jail ; if so, whether he remained handcuffed throughout the journey ; and, if not, at what place during the journey he was handcuffed and at which the handcuffs were removed ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

HANDCUFFING OF MIAN IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN.

***7668. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) when Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M. L. A., was removed from Lahore Jail to Gujrat Jail ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that he was handcuffed on both hands during the journey from Lahore to Gujrat ; if so, why he was so handcuffed ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

HANDCUFFING OF THE SATYAGRAHI PRISONERS ON TRANSFER
FROM ONE JAIL TO ANOTHER.

***7875. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether he has noticed reports of Satyagrahi prisoners during transfer from one jail to another being taken handcuffed ; if so, whether he intends to prevent this practice ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : I have seen reports to this effect. The position generally is being considered.

COLOURIZATION OF ARTIFICIAL GHEE.

***7666. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether, before prescribing in Rule 23-B under the Pure Food Act that no artificial ghee shall be sold or offered or exposed for sale or kept in possession for the purpose of sale unless it is coloured with oil Orange-E (Benzene-Azo-B-Napthol), he was aware—

- (a) that no adequate quantities of the oil in question existed in the country to enable compliance with the said rule ;
- (b) that the industry had quoted to him reliable authorities laying down that the prescribed colour in question was injurious to health ;
- (c) that even the Public Health authorities, Punjab, had expressed their doubts in regard to the harmlessness of the prescribed colour and had actually recommended an alternative ;
- (d) that the colour prescribed was over ten times in excess of the maximum allowed by the only authority that permits the use of this colour ; and that this authority only allowed its use provided it was limited in arsenic content ;
- (e) that the prescribed colour belongs to the Nitron group which is generally considered injurious ;
- (f) if the answer to any of the above be in the affirmative, will he kindly state the reasons which induced him to ignore or dismiss the doubts expressed by the Public Health authorities, Punjab, and other reliable authorities ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) With more extensive inquiry regarding the quantity of oil Orange-E available, it appears that there is much more of this commodity procurable in India than was at first believed. If sufficient quantities cannot be had in India, they can be procured from other countries within a reasonable period of time.

(b) No reliable authority was quoted by the Industry showing that the prescribed colour was injurious to health.

(c) The Public Health authorities have expressed no doubt whatsoever regarding the harmlessness of the prescribed colour. They have, in fact, produced reliable evidence to show that the colour is not harmful and, in addition, they have quoted reliable authorities in support of this opinion.

[Minister for Education.]

(d) The question of the quantity of colour allowed has been the subject of misapprehension. The percentage prescribed is not in excess. In considering the percentage of colour allowed, the character of the commodity into which it is introduced and the uses to which it is to be put have to be considered. The Industry has failed to take these factors into account.

It should be obvious, even to a layman, that no responsible individual would ever permit any substance contaminated with arsenic to be used in connection with the preparation or identification of any food-stuff whatsoever.

(e) The prescribed colour does not belong to the Nitron group.

(f) Does not apply.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATES GRANTED TO UNTRAINED TEACHERS.

***7672. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state---

(a) the number of untrained teachers granted special certificates of training during the last two years, giving separately the number of those among them who were granted such certificates even though their work was not approved with the reasons for granting them such certificates and also the community to which the teachers in the two categories belonged ;

(b) the number of untrained teachers who have not been able to obtain such certificates so far with the reasons for refusing to grant such certificates in each case ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret I am unable to reply to the question as any benefit likely to be derived from the supply of the desired information will not be commensurate with the labour and expense involved in the collection thereof.

AWARD OF HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

***7678. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the announcement with regard to the award of High School scholarships for the year 1940-41 from the funds of the District Board, Gurgaon, has not been made so far ; if so, the reasons for this inordinate delay in making that announcement and the steps, if any, that he intends taking to avoid such delay in future in the interests of the scholarship-holders ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : The final award roll with regard to these scholarships was issued on the 27th February, 1941. Under the rules of the Punjab Education Code the Inspector, who is the final awarding authority in the case of these scholarships, has to follow a certain procedure which involves delay. It has already been decided to examine the matter with a view to finding out some means of speeding up the award.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

MEDICAL.

Superintendence of Medical Department.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Medical.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I was submitting yesterday that the British were responsible for discouraging the indigenous system of medicine in use prior to their arrival in India. This was done not unconsciously but deliberately. So far as the ayurvedic and unani systems of medicine are concerned the English were totally ignorant about them and, therefore, they could not be expected to patronize them, in preference to the allopathic system which was more in accord with their temperament. But the most important factor in popularising the allopathic system was the business aspect of the matter. It was thought that if allopathic system was introduced medicines worth crores of rupees would have to be imported from Europe. This was the reason why no schools or colleges for imparting instruction in the indigenous systems were opened by the British nor was any reasonable remuneration given to the hakims and v aids. Twenty years ago I was instrumental, after considerable persuasion, in getting two dispensaries, one ayurvedic and another unani, opened in the Amritsar Municipality. I thought we would employ the best v aids and hakims to be in charge of these dispensaries but you will be surprised to know that the Municipal Code did not provide for a pay of more than Rs. 25 per mensem to a vaid or hakim. In these circumstances how could the services of efficient unani or ayurvedic physicians be obtained ? This is one of the reasons why parents do not feel inclined to get their children trained in these systems, and the best Indian brains have as a result taken to learning allopathy. Lakhs are being spent on medical schools and colleges and the cost of maintaining their laboratories is also very great. Moreover doctors get fat salaries which at the time of retirement amount to the tune of 2 to 3 thousand rupees. Naturally enough the rich and brilliant students devote their attention to this system and the indigenous systems are neglected. Only boys who could not pass their matriculation examination turn their attention to unani or ayurvedic system for earning their livelihood. Now the whole question boils down to this whether it is at all necessary to resuscitate and popularise these old systems of medicine ? Indeed apart from sentimental reasons the cheapness of these systems is the more reason why Government should take steps to popularise it. It is the duty of every Government to make arrangements for the free treatment of the poor. In the face of the criticism made by the honourable members in regard to the inadequacy of medical aid provided by the Government to rural areas and in view of the fact that the Honourable Minister of Education does not possess Aladin's lamp with which he can turn his share in the budget into crores of rupees required by the Medical Department for this purpose, I would submit that the only way in which each and every village can be provided with medical aid is to appoint hakims and v aids. The Honourable Minister has recently been pleased to decide upon the raising of the status of the Amritsar Medical

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

School to a degree college. This would further worsen the situation because these graduates will not be willing to go to villages on a small remuneration which would be given to them. Not only will large salaries have to be given to the doctors but even the high cost of medicines prescribed by allopaths will also prove a handicap. If an allopathic prescription costs a rupee to make, indigenous medicines can be had at 1/8 of that price. Moreover there is no risk of the supply of these medicines being stopped during war time as is the case with foreign products.

The third reason why the indigenous systems of medicines should be introduced is that at present a number of lives are lost on account of the poor people resorting to quacks. If proper schools and colleges are established by the Government, better qualified vaidas and hakims can come out from them and the lives of the people can be saved. By advocating the cause of the unani and ayurvedic systems, I do not mean to say that the allopathic system should be dispensed with altogether. It would be the height of ingratitude to say that India has not derived any benefit whatsoever from the surgical side of this system. What I want to lay stress upon is the fact that in the presence of the King Edward Medical College, College of Dentistry, the Amritsar Medical School which is shortly going to be raised to the degree standard and the Ludhiana Girls' Medical School....

Parliamentary Secretary (Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz): That is not a Government institution.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan: Yes, but the Government is giving Rs. 80,000 annually as grant to that school. Anyway what I wanted to submit was that these institutions were enough for teaching allopathic systems. All of these are very useful institutions and it is incumbent upon the Government to maintain them. In this connection I would suggest that instead of opening arts colleges the Government should establish ayurvedic and tibbia colleges. I am myself an Arts graduate and know that all this education is becoming utterly useless. It is one of the chief sources of swelling the ranks of the unemployed. Education in itself is not a bad thing but the exigencies of the situation demand that our education should be a vocational one. Instead of taking a degree in Arts, it is much better to graduate from a tibbia college and to provide medical aid to the remotest parts of the province. If, however, a model institution cannot be brought into being owing to financial stringency the grants given to the Anjuman-i-Himayat-I-Islamia, D. A. V. College, and the Tibbia College, Delhi, may be increased substantially. Moreover, I would request the Honourable Minister to increase the duration of the unani course of study to four years and the least qualification for the purposes of admission to such institutions must be a pass in the matriculation examination. The sanads and certificates issued by all privately-managed mushroom schools and colleges should not be recognised while appointing vaidas and hakims.

A Tibbi Consultation Board is going to be set up and the Government would do well to avail itself of the services of that board. Anyway, the Government must look to the necessity of opening aided schools for imparting instruction in the indigenous systems of medicines so that a large

number of people may get suitable training and serve their countrymen. The bountiful nature has created very useful and effective drugs in every part of the world and the Punjab is no exception to the rule. As an example of the efficacy of indigenous medicines I may be allowed to relate my own experience. I had once some stomach and intestinal trouble for which I had to consult an X-Ray Specialist at Mussoorie whom I paid Rs. 92 as his fee, but there was no relief. One day while I was out for a walk, I chanced to meet my compatriot, Rai Bahadur Lala Gujjar Mal, who has donated a lakh of rupees towards the construction of a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis and has promised another lakh of rupees. I mentioned my trouble to him and he suggested that I should take a decoction of aniseed. You will be surprised to hear that this medicine which was hardly worth a pice gave me more relief than could be expected from the costliest of allopathic prescriptions. Similarly, our indigenous system of surgery has been condemned for no better reason than that some people consider it unscientific. I may tell you that some Indian *jarraks* (surgeons) can even to-day work wonders with their inexpensive balms which they have been using for generations. Here again I may be allowed to quote the instance of my son. His body was scorching with boiling water, and the allopathic doctors told me that medicines and balms would have to be applied for months together before he got well. But when I called a *jarrak*, he promised to cure him within a fortnight, and he was as good as his word.

Then, sir, some other members have drawn attention to the prohibitive expenses of private wards in the Mayo Hospital. I quite agree with them. A very dear friend of mine who was suffering from appendix trouble entered the private ward but found that the expenses were so high that only rich people like my honourable friend Mian Abdul Aziz or Begum Shah Nawaz could afford them. They are certainly beyond the pockets of middle class people.

He had to pay ten rupees for the allotted room and ten rupees as doctor's fee and ten for a nurse if kept for day time and Rs. 15 if kept on night duty. The total comes to Rs. 45. And in addition to this as the patient was unable to take medicines, the alternative was injection which cost him Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 daily. My submission is that if it were a unani ward the expenditure would have been one fourth.

It is a matter of gratification that so far as allopathic medical education is concerned, the staff of the Medical College has been indianised and it has been done only during the present Ministry of Education. For instance, the most efficient professors working in the Medical College, Lahore, are Indians and similar is the case with the Medical School, Amritsar, and besides that it is for the first time that an Indian Principal has been appointed in the Dental College. We can, therefore, say without fear of contradiction that in the line of professors almost all of them are Indians. (*Hear, hear.*) As facts are facts we cannot conceal them, and I would like the Opposition to appreciate this achievement of the Honourable Minister for Education.

Before I close my speech, let me again appeal to the Minister in charge for standardisation and official recognition of the indigenous systems. It is now time for him to take up this matter and if he says that the life of the

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

Legislature is now about to expire, I would like to remind him of that well-known story of an old gardener who was planting a tree in his advanced age and on being asked by the then king as to why he was doing so while he had no hope to eat the fruit of that tree, he replied that his forefathers planted trees whose fruits he had eaten and the fruit of the tree which he was planting, his grandsons would eat. Similarly the Honourable Minister for Education should plant this tree in the hope that the coming generations would enjoy its fruits. The new elections are fast approaching and I am perfectly confident that again the Unionist Party will come in power. (*An honourable member*: God forbid.) My friend says God forbid, I assert God willing and I am sure that the Education portfolio will again go into the hands of the present Minister who will be then in a position to make further improvements in this direction. In the end I once again submit that if unani and ayurvedic systems of medicines are standardised and efficiently organised this remarkable achievement of the Honourable Minister and Sikander Ministry would be written on the pages of history in bold letters of gold.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Lahore City, Muslim Women, Urban), (*Urdu*): Sir, as some of the honourable members who have spoken before me have thrown some light on the Medical Department while discussing the medical grant I would also like to submit a few words for the consideration of the Honourable Minister of Education in this connection.

First of all, I will take the biggest women's hospital in the province to which patients come from every corner of the province. It is regrettable that owing to lack of accommodation most of the female patients are not being admitted in the hospital and so they can never get proper and scientific treatment and eventually lose their lives. I quite remember that more than once I myself tried to get admitted into the hospital those poor women who could not get treatment at their residences. But owing to lack of accommodation my efforts failed to achieve their object. The accommodation is so much limited that female patients are discharged from the hospital even before they are completely recovered. Sometimes it so happens that women after undergoing an operation or after giving birth to a child are discharged from the hospital before they regain their health actually. They being unable to get proper treatment at their homes and being very weak fall victims to various other diseases. Now so far as outdoor patients who come daily to the hospital for taking medicine are concerned, I may point out that no arrangement has been made for their sitting down and waiting for treatment. The benches are not sufficient for the outdoor patients and there is no shelter even and they have to stand on dry ground which has not even a blade of grass on it and they have to wait there for hours and hours in scorching heat under the sun. An ailing person cannot stand for a few minutes, but in this hospital female patients have to keep standing for hours and hours together. Besides, the number of lady doctors and nurses in outdoor ward is not sufficient to attend to all the patients properly. This is also one of the reasons why the patients have to wait for hours. Moreover the diet provided to the patients in the Lady Aitchison Hospital is hopeless. The quantity of food for each patient has been fixed by the Government as follows:—Eight chhatacks flour, half a chhatack ghee,

half a chhatack pulses and one chhatack onion and here I may point out that in the Mayo Hospital food is given to patients in that quantity. Besides this certain patients are nourished with eggs, curd, milk, cream, butter and fruit. But it is a thousand pities that in Lady Aitchison Hospital, not to speak of these things, the patients are not given even half of the food fixed for them by the Government, while it is most necessary to give rich food to a woman during maternity course. They should be given eggs, cream and milk. But do you know what they are provided with? They can hardly get sufficient food to fill their stomach. On behalf of the Muslim women I have been appointed as a non-official visitor of the Government hospitals at Lahore. And I along with other members of the committee of the non-official visitors inspect these hospitals off and on. Last time on the 18th of December, 1940, when the committee paid a visit to these hospitals, we, the women members, took special interest in the kitchen of the Lady Aitchison Hospital. On inspection we were astonished to find that only one cook had been employed by the authorities concerned to prepare meals for the whole lot of indoor patients. Honourable members can easily realise how difficult it is for one single maid servant to cook food satisfactorily for a large number of patients. It is inconceivable that good food could be made available to the patients. Then we examined the ghee used in the preparation of diet. It was of a doubtful quality and was not free from adulteration. Now the contractor who supplies ghee both to the Mayo and the Lady Aitchison Hospitals is the same person. It surpasses one's comprehension how the quality of ghee could differ in these hospitals. It is strange that the Mayo Hospital receives supplies of pure ghee while this hospital gets bad and impure ghee. The reason is that in the former the authorities test the ghee before using it, while in the latter they pay no attention to this matter and hence the adulterated ghee. Honourable members are already aware that the use of impure ghee adversely affects the health of robust people even and to use it in the case of patients means putting extra difficulties in the way of their recovery. When we scrutinised the amount of money budgeted for the provision of diet to the patients, it was revealed that for the year 1939-40, the Government had provided Rs. 8,650 for this purpose. But only a sum of Rs. 6,287-6-9 had been utilized while a saving of Rs. 362-9-8 had been shown. In other words, this saving had been effected from the amount of money earmarked for the diet of Indian patients. We failed to understand the propriety and justification for this unnecessary saving which had been brought about by depriving the patients of their due share of food. If it is argued that the amount of diet fixed for the patients was more than they could digest, then my submission is, could not the authorities provide them with other alternative nutritious diets in the form of butter and increased amount of milk?

Now I come to the general administration of this hospital. Only recently a newly born child, after 7th day of its birth, was found missing from the hospital. The father of this child is a resident of Bazar Nauhrian situated in Akbari gate *ilaga*. He is a man of very low means and earns his livelihood with difficulty by selling *prandas* and hair ribbons in Anarkali. Now you are aware, sir, that love of children is a common feature both among the rich and the poor. But the people at the helm of affairs of the

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

Lady Aitchison Hospital ignored this fact and instead of admitting their fault threatened the parents of the child with certain measures. The grief-stricken parents were all the more aggrieved because instead of any expression of regret or sympathy on the part of the authorities, harsh treatment had been meted out to them. They sought my help in this matter. I went to the hospital for the purpose of making a sifting enquiry about the circumstances leading to the loss of the child. But the lady in charge of the hospital did not allow me to make any enquiry. She even prevented me from visiting the place of occurrence. Now being a non-official visitor, I had every right to enquire into the matter, but the authorities would not permit me to do this. It was rumoured in the city that a certain nurse had sold that child to a woman of Multan. Even the report of the police was almost on all fours with these rumours. This showed that the hospital authorities were in the know of the real state of affairs but they deliberately concealed the facts. The result is that the child remains untraced even up to now.

Now I would like to make a few constructive suggestions with a view to avoid the recurrence of such complaints. Firstly, a new building of the hospital should be constructed as the present one does not fully serve the purpose. The previous Government had purchased a piece of land for the purpose of building new premises for the location of this hospital. That site still remains vacant. I understand from a number of responsible persons that this piece of land is no longer considered by the present Government to be suitable for a *zenana* (female) hospital. If that is the case, then this land can be disposed of easily in the form of sites for residential houses. I am sure in this way that land can fetch much bigger return, specially when the prices of building sites are soaring high. I would, therefore, suggest that Government would be well-advised to sell it. It would be a profitable business and at the same time purchase of land at some other suitable place would be facilitated. Secondly, my submission is that so long as the new building is not constructed, a well-ventilated room may be built for the convenience of outdoor patients of this hospital. It should be furnished with benches for seating purposes and fitted with an electric fan. Drinking water should also be made available there by means of a water tap. Thirdly, the number of lady doctors and nurses should be increased, so that the former may be able to devote more time for diagnosing the disease of the patients than before and the latter should be able to attend to them in a satisfactory manner. Now as the number of doctors and nurses is small, they cannot pay sufficient attention to individual patients. Fourthly, diet should be examined before it is served to the patients as is being done in the Mayo Hospital. Full amount of diet, that has been fixed by Government should be given to the patients. Besides, more money should be provided in the budget for this purpose. Special arrangements for the provision of eggs, milk, fats, etc., to *zachas* should be made. Fifthly, it should be specifically laid down by the Government that when any complaint about the hospitals is made by the public to a non-official visitor, the latter can enquire into the matter without any let or hindrance. Sixthly, the prescriptions which are generally given by the doctors to the patients,

contain costly medicines. I am of the opinion that before issuing a prescription, the doctor should make sure whether the patients can afford to purchase the same. But I am constrained to remark that no heed is paid to this fact by the medical people. How can the poor people who hardly make their both ends meet, buy such costly medicines? Consequently the patients give up this system of treatment. I strongly feel that every kind of medicine, whether costly or otherwise, should be made available to the poor and the needy.

Now I would like to make a few observations with regard to the Mayo Hospital. Quite a large number of women patients go there for treatment, as no arrangement for the treatment of certain diseases, for instance diseases of eye, nose, ears, etc., exist in the *zenana* hospital. Generally, patients suffering from such diseases are required to attend the hospital daily. But there the women patients, specially those who observe *purdah*, are confronted with another difficulty, and that is that no maid-servant has been employed to guide them. For hours together they are relegated to a corner and nobody cares to attend to them and enquire about their condition. I usually visit such public places in disguise with a view to see things in their true perspective. One day I changed my veil and took my seat with the *purdah* observing patients. The honourable members would be surprised to know that nobody took the trouble of asking me as to what had brought me thither. (*Hear, hear.*) I, therefore, suggest that a maid-servant should be employed to take the women patients to the doctors.

You are already aware that no woman would willingly go to the Lady Willingdon Hospital for treatment. When she thinks that all is over with her and she is not likely to recover of her malady from anywhere, she decides to get herself admitted into this hospital. Again, two kinds of patients attend that hospital. Either they are affluent or they are indigent. Patients of average means are not deriving any benefit from this hospital because they do not like to place themselves in the category of indigent patients. And yet they cannot afford to pay exorbitant fees of the doctors there. I fail to understand why prohibitive fees are being charged by the doctors in that hospital. If these fees had been credited to the hospital funds, we would not have felt the pinch. But we find that only a small portion of the fees goes to the coffers of the hospital while a lion's share is retained by the doctors themselves. I wonder when these doctors are already drawing fat salaries why private practice has been allowed to them. I see no reason why this money should go into their pockets. I suggest that fees at a very low rate should be charged for operations as well as labour cases because even well-to-do women do not like to spend much on their own person; nor are their husbands magnanimous enough to spend a lot of money on the illness of their wives. I got a number of cases admitted into this hospital, but the bills were realised with great difficulty from their husbands.

Then a separate room has been set apart for the use of Anglo-Indian women patients. They are required to pay Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0 per diem. I fail to understand why no facility of this kind has been provided to the Indian women patients. I am strongly of the view that no differential treatment should be observed in the case of Indian, European or Anglo-Indian women patients. They should be treated alike. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

Now I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another important matter and that is that no Medical College for Women has been established in the province.

An Honourable Member : There is one at Ludhiana.

Begum Rashida Latif Baji : That is a private and not a Government institution. I think it is the bounden duty of the Government to establish such a college as soon as possible, so that our girls may conveniently receive education in medicine and surgery. Besides, stipends and scholarships should be granted to Indian nurses, just as it is being done in the case of European nurses, so that our girls should take to this profession also. They should be treated on equal terms with the European nurses in the matter of salaries. Then we have *vedic* and *unani* systems of medicine. I suggest that a tropical school of medicines for women should be opened by the Government so that our women should learn indigenous system of medicine also. Honourable members are aware that our women-folk generally treat their children with indigenous medicines. But as they are not fully conversant with this system, treatment administered by them often does more harm than good to the children. I hold the opinion that education in *ayurvedic* and *unani* systems of medicine should be imparted to them so that they may be able to treat their children efficiently. Let us consider why people prefer buying British medicines to *unani* medicines in spite of the fact that the former are more costly than the latter. Notwithstanding the dearness of the *allopathic* medicines, the poor as well as the rich people purchase them alike. The real reason for this preference is that just as in schools and colleges the English language has replaced Hindustani, the *allopathic* medicines have replaced *unani* medicines in the field of medicine. When gradually the use of these medicines became popular, the *unani* system of treatment passed on into the hands of less competent *hakims*, and the *unani* medicines began to be sold in unimportant shops. You might have seen how dirty the *unani* medical halls usually are. Thousands of flies keep sitting on the mouths of their syrup bottles and *arks* are prepared in unenamelled utensils. The dry medicines are kept in bags stored in the *katcha* shops which abound in the germs of various diseases. Several compound medicines (*ma'juns*) are kept in oxidised utensils. I have experienced several times that the purchase of medicines from these shops results in harm instead of healing. Once we obtained *Ark Gaozaban* from a shop and the child to whom it was given began to vomit. The condition of the child became worse than before and we sent for the doctor who told us that the child had taken some poisonous thing. On going to the shop of the *attar* (a seller of the *unani* medicines) we came to know that the utensil in which the *ark* was stored had not been enamelled. I do not want to deliver a sermon to the honourable members here. But I wish, by mentioning these things, to bring to the notice of the Government the true state of affairs. My further object is to make proposals for the benefit of the Government so that it may give some attention to the welfare of this system of medicine according to the need of the public, and get these medicines prepared under its own control and supervision. The Government should arrange for the research of the different medicinal herbs. The

money spent in this way will pay the Government. Moreover, free unani and ayurvedic dispensaries should be opened in the villages. Such dispensaries may also be opened for the poor in towns. Stipends may be given to poor women and men for receiving education in both unani and ayurvedic system of treatments.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair which was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Sir, an honourable member has remarked that the Government should not spend money on hospitals in the towns. I am opposed to this view. Perhaps this honourable member does not know that the well-to-do people of Lahore engage private doctors and do not like to be admitted into hospitals as they have their own homes in the cities. Even if they get admitted in a hospital, they live in private wards where they have to pay for everything—rent for the rooms, electric fans, cost of the medicine and the fees of doctors. My honourable friends from the rural areas seem to have developed the obsession that no poor people are to be found in the towns. As the ruralites see the wealthy persons only in the towns, they remain ignorant of the condition of the poor people who live in the cities. Furthermore, they do not know that a certain number of beds are fixed for the rural and urban patients in the hospitals and the former have been allotted more beds than the latter. Moreover, they do not know that it is the fashion all the world over that medical arrangements are made in the big towns only. Other institutions are also opened in the towns. As the urban people lay special stress on education, they can arrange for various things. The Government finds it easy to establish schools, colleges and medical institutions in towns. Let the Punjabis rest assured that this is no speciality of the Punjab.

I would not follow in the footprints of the urbanites who suggest that the Government should not open any beneficial institutions in the villages. On the other hand, I urge upon the Government in the strongest terms to provide suitable medical aid to my brothers and sisters living in the rural areas, and the best arrangements should be made there. I would rather recommend stipends for their children to enable them to receive training in the allopathic, unani and ayurvedic systems of treatment. I would also appeal to the wealthy people among the ruralites to prove themselves as generous as the wealthy people of the towns prove themselves to be. If Government open one school in a town, several other schools are run by the public themselves. Similarly, if there is one Government college, the public have opened several more colleges at their own expense. In the same way for a single Government Medical College, you will find several medical institutions run by the public in the towns. Similarly, the public co-operate with the Government in opening various other beneficial institutions. The ruralites too should follow this good example of the urbanites and they should not leave everything to be done by the Government alone. They should also try to help themselves. Failing this, they will never be able to make much progress for centuries even. I may now conclude my speech with these few submissions and I hope that the Government will carefully consider the proposals that I have put forward during the course of this speech of mine. *(Cheers)*.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadr, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, it has been made clear by the honourable members speaking from either side that corruption is rampant among the personnel of the medical profession. When the members of the suffering humanity go to the doctors for sympathetic treatment, the latter charge exorbitant fees although they are already being paid big salaries from the provincial exchequer. The root-cause of the whole trouble is that the Government have allowed private practice to the surgeons and doctors who are already in the pay of the Government. I associate myself with those honourable members of the House who have raised their voice of protest against this tyranny of the members of the medical profession. There ought to be some sort of check on the unrestricted private practice of those surgeons and doctors who are employed in the Government dispensaries and hospitals.

In addition to this, a new evil practice has sprung up in our Mayo Hospital, Lahore. The responsible medical officers charge higher fees than those fixed by the Government, but give receipts for fees as may be fixed in the rules. For example, if a fee for any operation is fixed by rules at Rs. 120 they would charge Rs. 300 instead, but would give receipt for Rs. 120 only. This method adopted by them is such that the Government cannot take action against them legally or departmentally. I draw the special attention of the Honourable Minister to this very deplorable practice on the part of medical men holding very high and responsible Government posts. The best thing would be to hand over this matter to the Anti-Corruption Department to take action.

The next thing I want to stress on the attention of the Government is that to-day the world has progressed to a stage where abolition of all racial distinctions is bound to take place. People want to do away with all racial discriminations. About the Britishers we can say that if preferential treatment is offered to them it is because of the fact that they conquered India and they must have a lion's share of it, but what right has the Anglo-Indian community got to any such preferential treatment? In the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, whereas on an Anglo-Indian patient Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3 are spent daily, on an Indian only 3 or 4 annas are spent daily. Why should this sort of preferential treatment be offered to the Anglo-Indians as against the Indians? They never conquered India. They cannot claim conqueror's privileges. They do not contribute much towards the revenues of the province. They are not entitled to any such preferential treatment. Do they feel more pain under surgeon's knife and we feel less?

In the matter of medical treatment the middle class specially has to face many difficulties. They cannot go to the public wards as patients, for they are treated there not according to their status in life. Supposing a sweeper starts dusting and any such patient admitted in the public ward objects to it. The sweeper will at once retort by telling that he should better shift to the family wards if he expects to be treated with consideration. But in the family ward the patients have not only to pay the rent but also fees to the doctor for his daily visits. The middle class cannot afford so much expenditure. Something must be done to help them. In the family

wards if you cannot absolutely abolish the fees of the doctor then at least you should reduce them to Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per visit.

Next I come to the civil hospitals that are opened in the province at various places. The civil surgeons charge fees from patients admitted to the family wards. The patients have also to pay rent for the family wards. No fees should be charged from indoor patients. And if the Government are of the opinion that the fees are charged because the doctors in charge happen to be experts, then the best course to adopt in the matter would be to raise the grades of their pay instead of allowing them private practice. Another reason why doctors in Government service should not be allowed private practice even if they happen to be experts in any line is that all those who become experts in any line acquire their expert knowledge or training by practising on people who come to Government hospitals. It is not just that they should start charging experts' fees after acquiring expert knowledge and training in hospitals. If previously private practice was allowed it was because the number of doctors was limited and they were overworked in hospitals. Now their number has considerably increased and they have not to put in the same amount of work which they did previously when their number was comparatively far less than what it is now. The doctors in Government service should not be allowed private practice for the reason that they get their salaries and there are many other private practitioners who have only to depend upon private practice which suffers a lot on account of the fact that a number of private patients are attended by doctors in Government service. If you were to stop the doctors in Government service from private practice it would very much help the private practitioners. Doctors in Government service who acquire expert knowledge by their being in Government hospitals and by attending numerous cases there have no right to charge such big fees from the public by private practice.

Another suggestion I want to make to the Government is that they should recruit more lady assistant doctors for purposes of *post mortem* examination of murdered women. At present *post mortem* of women is carried on by male doctors which is not liked by the public. I do not say that it should be done at once. What I mean is that whenever funds may be available for this purpose more lady doctors may be recruited so that the *post mortem* of murdered women may be carried on by them. You are aware of the fact that *post mortem* examination is not so very intricate a process that it cannot be performed by a lady doctor. As a matter of fact in such cases no diagnosis is to be performed or no complicated operation is involved at all. What is at the most required is to establish the fact whether death has occurred on account of poisoning or by any sharp instrument or by any other device. This is not anything which the lady doctors cannot do skilfully. Besides, if this suggestion is adopted it will not require the Government to spend any extra money for giving our lady doctors any further training. In the circumstances I would urge upon the Honourable Minister that as far as possible lady doctors should be appointed to perform *post mortem* examination of women who are brought to Government dispensaries and hospitals.

Minister for Public Works : That means that Government would have to appoint two doctors, one male and another female, in every dispensary.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, sir. It is very unfortunate that when the work of the Medical Department is being considered, neither the Honourable Minister nor his Parliamentary Secretary is in his seat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : There is no point of order involved.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : The Honourable Minister for Public Works has observed that if my suggestion is adopted that would require the appointment of two doctors, one male and another female in every dispensary. Let me tell him that even at present in most of the Government hospitals and dispensaries there are male as well as female doctors working. What I want is that if the body of a murdered woman is brought to any hospital or dispensary for *post mortem*, it should be examined by female doctors. This is not anything which cannot be done by Government very easily.

Then there is yet another very important matter to which I want to specially draw your attention. That is that at present Provincial Hospitals Medical Committees are functioning in the districts whose meetings are called by the civil surgeons annually. I know what sort of work is done by them. If Government want to make these committees do any useful work let them give some powers to them so that their members should co-operate with the civil surgeons and try to bring to their notice the complaints of the patients. Besides those committees should be empowered to visit the hospitals of their own accord so that they should be in a position to bring the complaints of the patients in regard to the cleanliness of the hospitals or about the behaviour of the staff to the notice of the civil surgeons. In this way it is hoped many of the complaints of the patients would be removed and the work of hospitals will be carried on very efficiently.

Sir, last year I proved by quoting facts and figures that although the population of my district was far more than the population of Jhelum and Campbellpur districts, still so far as the question of establishing of hospitals and dispensaries was concerned it was far behind them. I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat those facts and figures so as to impress upon the House the reasonableness of my demand. If the Honourable Minister studies these facts and figures for himself he would be convinced of the veracity of my statement. Although the population of the neighbouring districts is small, yet the average number of hospitals and dispensaries there is more than in my district. May I know why this step-motherly treatment is being meted out to my district? Do Government think that the inhabitants of this district are so very healthy that they do not stand in need of any hospitals? Do they think that the people of this district are rich enough to purchase medicines of their own account? Do they think that they do not fall ill? Let me tell them that the people of my district are poor. Their average holdings are very small. Practically there is not one capitalist to be found amongst them. In short I can say without any fear of contradiction that they are so very poor that they are making their both ends meet with great difficulty. If unfortunately any of them falls ill he has to walk

miles and miles before he can come to the nearest dispensary. In the circumstances I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to give his serious consideration to this matter and do something to provide more dispensaries in my district. I do not say that he should perform this miracle over night but at least he should see that all the people in the rural areas are able to get medical aid. No doubt he is trying his level best to afford medical relief to each and every one and I have no complaint against him, still I would request him to give his serious consideration to the need of the people of my district in the matter of providing more dispensaries to them. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : On a point of order. Mrs. Shah Nawaz is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education Will it not be advisable in your opinion that she may be allowed to speak after all the other honourable members have had their say ?

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

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : It is at least a suggestion; if not a point of order.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Parliamentary Secretary): Before I touch on the various points which have been taken up by several of my honourable colleagues in this House I would request you to allow me to say one word about the Budget. During the general discussion on the Budget I did not get a chance of speaking and I would therefore like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Honourable Finance Minister for the most excellent budget which was presented to this House this year. At the same time I should also like to make a request to him, and that is, that he may be kind enough to hand over his Aladin's lamp to us so that we may multiply these 22 lakhs which have been provided under the head Medical in order to provide for everything which my honourable colleagues have been asking in their speeches for nearly two days.

Before I gave a brief survey of the various activities of our department I will take up the main points which have been placed before the Honourable Minister by almost all the honourable members who spoke the other day and also to-day. Sardar Lal Singh who was the first to speak on this cut motion spoke at length on the question of providing medical relief for people in rural areas. He said that as far as the extension of medical relief in rural areas was concerned, very little had been done by the Medical Department. He pointed out that in some of the hospitals such as Mission hospitals, district and tahsil hospitals the amount spent on medicine was one and a half or half an anna per head whereas in the Mayo Hospital it was three annas per head. I am afraid he quite forgot the fact that the Mayo Hospital is in the capital of the province and that it is the central hospital where almost all major operations are performed and where almost all intricate cases are brought for treatment and where sometimes the patients have to be given very expensive medicines. And when you take up the figures per head, then naturally the expense would be far more than in any other hospital in any district and tahsil.

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

Then he went on to say that practically no medical relief was provided to the people and taking up the figures he said that only 73 per cent were getting medical relief. Apart from that, he said, that even the Medical Department had stated in their report that there were several people who never come to the hospitals or dispensaries. That is quite true, but that is not the fault of the Medical Department that people do not come to dispensaries and hospitals, it is the fault of the people concerned. So far as the question of superintendence is concerned,—and that is the main point in his cut motion—we have to see whether the Medical Department discharged all the duties that they were expected to perform, and whether they have managed to spend the money allotted to them in the manner in which we wanted them to spend it. Let us consider how the money which we gave them has been spent. I would like to give this House the latest figures, that is the figure for 1939, to show how that money has been spent and how our State, local and private dispensaries and hospitals have managed as far as the question of medical relief is concerned. As the House is aware, the present Government has gone on adding to the amount of money given to the Medical Department. Every year a couple of lakhs has been added to the previous year's budget, so that our present budget stands at nearly Rs. 52 lakhs, to be exact our budget for the year 1941-42 is Rs. 51,01,500. The highest amount of money so far given to this department in the peak year, that is 1931-32, has been 68 lakhs, and it was reduced in the subsequent years, but from 1937 we have gone on gradually increasing the amount, so that the figure is nearly 52 lakhs to-day.

Then, there has been a large increase in dispensaries. As the Honourable Malik Barkat Ali told us the other day, in 1928 there were just a little over 600 dispensaries. We have now got 974—695 in rural areas and 279 in urban areas—and there has been a considerable increase since 1939. Even this year a large number of new dispensaries are going to be added. The total number of in and out-patients in the hospitals, local and private, in the year 1939 was 516,211,945; in rural and subsidised dispensaries, the total number was 5,716,743 and in private dispensaries 56,978. The number of in-patients treated on the different cities in 1935 was 239,677, and out of this number 185,735 were returned cured, 33,613 were relieved and only 4,819 died, the death percentage being 27 per cent. There was a very large increase in the operations performed. Altogether 628,327 operations were performed and in spite of this large increase in the number of persons who were operated upon, the death rate continued to be only 17 per cent. After this I am sure the honourable member, Sardar Lal Singh, will not say that superintendence in the department has not been as it should have been.

Now I come to some of the other points which were raised the other day. One of them was that the administration of this department is very top-heavy. To tell you the truth, I have been very much disappointed with the speeches that have been delivered by the honourable members opposite, especially with the speech of Malik Barkat Ali. I was looking forward to hearing from the honourable members something about the Mayo Hospital, that it was a main hospital in the Province, that it should

be the best hospital, that we should spend at least fifteen or twenty lakhs more on it in order to make it an up-to-date hospital. Instead of this the honourable members have been criticising the I. M. S. officers and taking up minor points, why so many are here and why so many are there, why extensions are given to some of the good doctors, why the number of subsidised dispensaries opened is not sufficient, whether subsidised medical practitioners being sent to rural areas is not a feasible scheme, etc. All these minor things they have discussed, but they have not touched the most important points. The honourable member said that the administration is top-heavy. I would like to say one thing to him. Supposing to-morrow we wanted Malik Barkat Ali or Dr. Narang to take up an important post, could we offer them say Rs. 500 and would they be prepared to accept any very important post on such a salary? We could not possibly secure such able and eminent people well versed in their profession unless we offer them thousands of rupees as salaries. Not only that, Sardar Lal Singh and Malik Barkat Ali suggested that not only should we reduce expenditure on administration, we should also stop some of our best doctors from undertaking private practice. I would ask him—I am sorry that Malik Barkat Ali is not here—would it be possible for him to secure men of Colonel Bharucha and Colonel Mirajkar's unique ability, specially in surgery by offering them small salaries and saying to them that they are not to undertake private practice? If we are to get the best men, we have to pay and that is why the administration seems so top-heavy.

Then Sardar Lal Singh went on to say that the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals should be one who should not only devote himself to administration. He said that there ought to be an inspectorate of the Medical Department people who should go round the different areas, specially urban areas, inspecting the work of the hospitals and dispensaries and that the Inspector-General should not only be a figurehead or administrative head. I wish the honourable member had been better informed. Let me tell him something about the activities of the present Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. We are fortunate that our Medical Department is in such able Indian hands. In fact, since the time that he has taken charge he has started activities which have filled the hearts of some of us with pleasure. A number of conferences have been held. I myself have been invited to some of them, and I was delighted to find that the Inspector-General is devoting his attention to outside work and not to administrative work only. I will mention here only just a few. A couple of months ago, I was asked to attend a Civil Surgeons' Conference where special attention was given to medical aid for women. Many civil surgeons were present and each one of them told us what was happening in the district in their charge. They formulated proposals and they told us of their difficulties. We gave them assurances that everything that lay in our power would be done in order to remove the obstacles in their way, so that better medical aid should be provided for women or those districts.

Very recently he organised another conference. You are aware, Sir, of the growing menace of a very large population in our province and there are several people who think that something ought to be done in order to restrict it. Another conference was held which I had the pleasure of attending and I was delighted to find that people were devoting careful attention to

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

such big questions. You are aware that according to the figures given by the Unemployment Committee's Report, we have hardly any economic holding in the province. Our average holding is about 8.11 acres, whereas for a family of six an economic holding should be 18.6 acres. It is true that the Punjab Government has undertaken large irrigation projects, but it will take a long time for them to materialise and the alarming increase in our population is making people apprehensive. Several meetings have been held and several things have been chalked out with regard to emergency measures and he has been doing his best to try and make not only the men but the women of the Punjab realise that they should be ready for any emergency during the war. I am proud of the fact that our present Inspector-General is looking after all these things outside his own administration sphere. After hearing all this, I hope Sardar Lal Singh will be fully satisfied with the present Inspector-General's activities.

Coming to the main bone of contention, my honourable friends made a mountain of a mole hill with regard to the question of I. M. S. cadre. That point is going to be dealt with exhaustively by the Honourable Minister, therefore I will not say anything about it. All that I am going to point out is that I am surprised that eminent lawyers of the calibre of Malik Barkat Ali and Mian Abdul Aziz take up the Government of India Act, read the different sections, know that certain rules are framed under them, but they do not take the trouble of going through those rules. So all that I have to say, sir, is this that they should study those rules and if they do that I am sure they will realise that the time spent on this question and the money that it has cost the exchequer, have been merely wasted by the discussion on this question. In 1937 when we took over, there were 34 I. M. S. officers and to-day there are only 30. The rest of the matter will be dealt with by the Honourable Minister.

Honourable member, Sardar Lal Singh, further said that wonderful work was being done by P.C.M.S. officers. I agree. We have very eminent physicians and surgeons in our P.C.M.S. and the eye branch especially is one about which we have every reason to be proud. I remember that during one of the voyages I had to take in connection with the Round Table Conference I had an American eye specialist travelling with me. He told me that he and his sister had stayed in Moga for two months. They had heard about the work of our P.C.M.S. officer at Moga. He came specially to study the work, had lived at Moga for about two months and he said that he was going back after having learnt something. At Banga also the sub-assistant surgeon has done marvellous work. So let me assure my honourable friends that as far as the work of these P.C.M.S. officers is concerned, the Medical Department appreciates it as much, if not more than some of my honourable friends who are present in this House or outside do. We are trying our best to retain these doctors wherever they have been doing such excellent work and it is only at the request of the public concerned that they are sometimes transferred. Otherwise the department never touches them.

When we come to the question of the transfer or the delay in transfer of some of these P.C.M.S. officers, this question is a very thorny one. My honourable friends who criticise the department do not realise that medica l

profession is a very technical subject, that some of these doctors are in charge of special things and it is very difficult for them to leave the post suddenly unless there is an equally trained person to take over charge of that special branch. As soon as one is found there usually is no delay in that man being transferred or made to retire. That is why in some cases such delays occur.

I agree with my honourable friends whether on this side or on that side that retirements should take places when the persons reach a certain age and there should be no extensions. There is too much unemployment in this world and as soon as a person reaches the retiring age he should be made to retire and a younger man should be given the opportunity of service. But sometimes, it is the public as well as the authorities who feel that it is difficult to replace an efficient person and in such cases and for sometimes for departmental reasons, extensions have to be given.

Malik Barkat Ali said that in England there were 60,000 doctors for 60 millions of population. I am sure my honourable friend forgot that the death rate there is very low. He forgot that the average age in those countries is almost double of what it is in our own country. He also forgot that we are living in a country which is full of tropical diseases such as plague, cholera, and small-pox which are not known in some of those countries. They have a most marvellous climate which keeps people healthy. So there is no use our saying that there are only 60,000 doctors in England for 60 millions of the population. As public health is not under discussion, all that I say is this that I hope my friends will take the trouble of studying the charts exhibited in the lobbies and will mark the percentage of reduction in all the diseases in the province. They will see that whereas the percentages went up some years before, they are now coming down considerably.

Malik Barkat Ali also said that whereas when there were 628 dispensaries working, Rs. 4,75,000 was spent on medicine, to-day when there are 974 dispensaries, only just over 5 lakhs is spent on medicine. May I draw his attention to the fact that some of these medicines are now being manufactured in India and several new proposals have been formulated and put into action by which we have managed to get several of those medicines at much cheaper rates, often on wholesale lines, than was the case in 1928. I agree with him that more money ought to be spent. I wish we had more money. Unfortunately we do not possess it, therefore it is not possible to go further. As far as it lies in the power of the present Government, it is doing its very best to alleviate the suffering all round and provide medical relief to the suffering people.

Several members have criticised the doctors for charging fees in different hospitals. I am afraid most of my honourable friends, especially those sitting on this side of the House, do not know the working of these hospitals. The position is this. Any person earning above Rs. 150 a month has to be charged for medical relief. But how? On the basis of his income. For instance, if my income happens to be Rs. 500 a month, a certain percentage is charged on that income and that only is the money that a doctor realises from the patient. Now you will ask when the doctors are so highly paid, why should they charge these fees? Let me tell my honourable friends

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

that the fees realised do not all go into the pockets of the doctors in charge of these hospitals. A certain percentage of these fees charged goes to the exchequer of the Government, just because we feel that a person who is earning more than Rs. 150 a month can afford to pay a certain sum of money for medical relief which is being provided by the Government of the province. That money is utilised for providing medical relief to the poor in the same department. That means that more poor people can get medical relief than would have been the case if no fee was charged even from the people who can afford to pay. This is the principle on which your Medical Department is working.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi : What is the percentage which the doctors deposit in the Government exchequer ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : I am afraid I cannot give you that off hand. The percentage differs with different income. I myself when I took my son to the hospital had to pay according to my income. I had to fill in a form giving my income and the fees charged from me were according to the income I had shown, charges for operation, for the room and for everything else were based on it. This is how the fees are usually charged. An average poor person when he goes to the Right Hospital has to buy, as you are all aware, a two anna *parchi* and then he is examined and if he is an ordinary patient, he is usually given the medicine and he goes back to his home, but if there is anything seriously wrong with him and if there is room in the hospital, he is admitted as a patient. Now several honourable members said that what the doctors usually do is this. They charge more money than is really given out in the receipts. How can any Government in charge of any department possibly remedy this ? Of course corruption committees, etc., have been appointed. There are, as you know, several officers trying to find out who are the people who are corrupt, but no Government can possibly change the character of the people. That depends on the people themselves and I would request that public opinion should be created in such a manner that all this corruption should be eradicated by the raising of the moral standards of the people (*hear, hear*).

Khan Muhammad Yusaf Khan : Those who get these bribes they are educated.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : This only shows that the education which they received has taught them nothing. Better education should be provided.

Minister for Education : There again the blame is on me. (*Laughter*).

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : I will not go into that question now. If I had time during the general discussion of the Budget, I would have said something on this subject. I believe that only a reorientation of the system of education and complete change in our curriculum in order to form the character of the nation can make us good citizens and worthy members of human society. Now I would like to take up some of the other points raised by some of the other honourable members. If my honourable friends

want any further information about the working of these hospitals we are always there to supply it to them, because we also wish to eradicate corruption as much as possible and as soon as possible and I do hope that if my honourable friends hear of any cases they will let us know so that we may try to deal with them. I am sure that after my explaining the whole position to the honourable members here, they will realise that it is not possible for us to stop private practice of the doctors in charge of different hospitals and dispensaries, because it will not be possible for us to get efficient men unless you are prepared to pay very high salaries to them. Now we all know that Colonel Mirajkar and Colonel Bharucha are the best surgeons in the country about whom several doctors in Calcutta congratulated me saying that the Punjab is lucky to have such eminent surgeons there. We could have not possibly got them by paying two or three thousand rupees a month. Are we prepared to pay them Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000 a month? This is their usual monthly income. If not we have to allow them private practice. At the same time there are various other aspects of the question. Let us suppose that we pay them Rs. 10,000 a month and stop their private practice. Would we not be depriving the members of the public outside who do not wish to come to the hospitals, or persons for whom we have no room in these hospitals of an opportunity to come and consult these eminent doctors and get the best advice available when they have the means to pay for it? Then with the limited number of patients that we can admit and cater for in these hospitals, would it not be better that these eminent physicians should be given a chance of treating some very intricate cases which do not come to the hospitals? There are two sides to this question, one that the general public should not be deprived of their services and the other that the doctors themselves should not be deprived of the benefit of treating some of the intricate cases that could not be brought to the hospitals. These are very important sides to this question and I hope my honourable friends will take them into consideration. When I think of some of the marvellous hospitals that I visited in Europe I say to myself that we are learning only the A B C of surgery and medicine. I can never forget the hospitals which I saw in Germany and in some other countries. Often I used to say to myself 'O God, when will the day come when our hospitals will come up to this standard?' A couple of years ago an eminent doctor visited Lahore and while talking about the Mayo Hospital he said, "it seems it will take a hundred years to bring this hospital to the standard of an up-to-date hospital". I am one of those persons who would like to say on the floor of this House that at least 22 lakhs should be spent on the Mayo Hospital alone to bring it to a more up-to-date standard, rather than spending 22 lakhs on the whole Medical Department. Mian Abdul Aziz also discussed certain matters and drew our attention to a certain letter printed in the *Tribune*. Let me assure him that the points in that letter will be fully considered. Let me now take up the question of providing medical relief to rural areas. I would very much like to explain to the House what the present Government has done with regard to that. As soon as the present Government took up the reins of Government in their own hands, they decided on planning expansion of medical relief in rural areas on a five years programme. It was decided to open 375 dispensaries in rural areas. Up till to-day 360 of these dispensaries have been opened. Some are in charge of the Public Health Department and others are in charge of the Medical Department.

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

There are 350 dispensaries in good working order. That means that only 25 more dispensaries have either to be opened or placed in working order. Ten are to be reorganised and 15 are to be opened.

Sardar Lal Singh : May I know whether it is not a fact that these 360 dispensaries had been completed before the present Government came into power and that none has been opened since their coming into office ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : Yes. I will come to that later. Because of financial stringency provincialising the tahsil headquarters and district headquarters hospitals had been kept in abeyance. The scheme was revived and to-day there are 33 tahsil headquarters hospitals and 22 district headquarters hospitals that have been provincialised. There are 52 tahsil headquarters hospitals and 7 district headquarters hospitals that are still to be provincialised. Subsidised dispensaries have been opened to provide medical relief in rural areas and some of them are being placed in the hands of lady doctors. This scheme has been a great success. Eighty-three dispensaries were opened last year and 80 are provided for in the current budget. This scheme is a landmark in the history of medical relief in this province. Certain private practitioners are placed as private practitioners in rural areas : the Government gives them Rs. 50 per mensem and the district boards and registered societies formed for the purpose provide them with another Rs. 50 a month—a subsidy of Rs. 100 per month. Large number of young doctors have come forward and so far there has been no lack of such persons who are ready to take up work under this scheme. Malik Barkat Ali pointed out that it would be difficult to find a person who would be willing to settle down in villages. Last year 83 doctors came forward. This year we have provided for 80 such dispensaries and we hope to add to their number. Young men are prepared to go to the villages and practise there, providing medical relief to the poor people and also to some of the Government officers in their respective areas with such help from the Government.

Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh Man : What about medicines ? Are they provided with medicines ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : They are given Rs. 600 for medicine.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : May I know if the rural dispensaries are meant for providing medical aid to the members of a certain society or to every body ?

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : The Honourable Minister for Education will reply to that. Under the Special Development Fund, money has been provided for the doctors in charge of hospitals in rural areas to tour around and go to the nearby villages on certain days. The people know when they are to visit a certain village and they wait for them. In 1939, 2,42,995 patients were treated by them. Besides medical relief, they carry on rural reconstruction work. The money given to them for this purpose is being utilised in an excellent manner.

Besides these subsidised dispensaries, we are also giving scholarships to women, especially the women in rural areas, for training as nurse dais and trained dais. A hundred scholarships are given to women who are

trained as nurse dais and 200 scholarships to women who are trained as trained dais. There are such women working. A large number are under training in different welfare centres.

Now, I come to the question of private practitioners working as honorary physicians in hospitals, especially in Lahore. As you are aware, sir, several persons have shown great anxiety of undertaking such work and the public has been asking for permission for such doctors to work in the hospitals as honorary physicians. In this connection, I may point out to the House that this year a provision has been made for two doctors in each of the five out-door departments of Mayo Hospital to work there as honorary physicians. Let us hope that it will be a great success.

An X-ray plant has been installed and it will give great relief to the people of this province. A radium institute for cancer has also been established. I remember when not very long ago a friend had to go to Ranchi for treatment, and he had to suffer great inconvenience and was put to a great loss. Now, the people suffering from cancer will not have to travel such long distances. This disease now can be treated in their own province.

Besides, several new hospitals have been opened in different parts of the province. I am sure that our young men realise their duty, and will continue to come forward to settle down in the villages. We all know that they can be of great help to the poor people living in rural areas.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to one of the most important questions. I am sorry he is not in his seat at the moment. I have got the report for the year 1939 with me here. You will find that in this report, the Inspector-General himself drew the attention of the Medical Department to provide more medical relief for women. To-day we have only 48 beds to 1,000 women in the hospitals of the province. You will agree with me that this is most unsatisfactory. We require more medical relief for women. When they go to the Mayo Hospital, they are refused admission because there are no beds available, there is no room for them in the hospitals. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Minister to provide as much medical relief for women as he possibly can. The need is urgent. A large sum is required for providing medical relief for the women of the Punjab. They are suffering great hardships. Not only do we need more hospitals, we have no medical college for our girls as well. I will draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Minister to the fact that we are paying nearly 93 thousand rupees every year to Dame Edith Brown's Medical College at Ludhiana. Apart from that we are giving a further large grant to the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi. What about turning the Amritsar Medical School into a Women's Medical College, allowing all the men professors to remain there but the students to be girls only? It will be difficult to find women professors. The purdah girls can learn from men professors if necessary behind a curtain. It is not true to say that girls are not forthcoming for medical training. There are several who are anxious to join the medical profession and they are ready to come forward in large numbers. The difficulty is this that neither the parents wish to send their girls nor in some cases are the girls themselves willing to go in for co-education, especially in regard to the study of medicine and surgery. Therefore

2 p.m.

I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Education to the fact that the women of the province would be grate-

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

ful if he could arrange to run the Stratford College into a science college and along with it make the Medical School at Amritsar into a women's medical college and thus all the money that we are giving as grants could be utilised in achieving that object.

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

My honourable friend Shaikh Sadiq Hassan said that one of his relatives had to go to the Mayo Hospital and there he had to pay a large amount as private nurses had to be engaged for the case. Let me tell the honourable members present here that they would be well advised if they studied the rules of each hospital. There are several types of wards. There are private wards and there are the family wards where you have to pay different sums of money. Perhaps if the Honourable Minister of Finance could hand us over the "Aladin's lamp" we could provide medical aid free of charge to everyone. It is not possible to provide more than a certain number of nurses for each one of your hospitals or for each ward of the hospital. One nurse sometimes has to be placed in charge of a large number of patients. How can you possibly expect one nurse, who is in charge of a certain number of patients, to sit by their beds all the times? When they are in the throes of great agony, all that they can possibly do is to give them injections and doses of medicines, take their temperature, put it on the chart and go to the next patient. If a patient requires special attention or he is in such agony that he needs constant nursing, then he will have to pay for a special nurse. Surely, no government can cater for such a special treatment. Nurses do come to see the patients often, and sit beside him if a person is in the throes of death. In that case the sister, who is usually in charge, deputes a nurse to sit there but otherwise it is not possible for any Government to cater for those who wish to get the best treatment without paying a nominal sum even if they can afford to do so. Some of the points I have taken up already, but before I sit down I would like to point out once again to the members of our Cabinet that I feel very strongly on this point that Medical and Public Health should be two wings of one department. They should be in charge of one figurehead, the departments may work in a separate manner but in co-operation with each other. As I have said they should be in charge of one head because I find that there is too much overlapping. We find that there is no co-ordination and that jealousies between different departments exist. Therefore, in order to have most efficient work performed and in order to carry on the preventive work as well as the curative work in the manner that it ought to be accomplished, there should be a Medical Department with two wings, medical aid and public health. I would request my honourable friends to think over some of the suggestions I have placed before them. We are quite ready to do all that we possibly can in order to remove some of the defects they have pointed out. Nothing in this world is perfect and good constructive criticism is always welcome, but some of the things which have been said on the floor of the House have not been justified and I do hope that in future they will be more careful, especially when talking of corruption by several doctors because always remember that a doctor's work is the most difficult work in the world. For twenty-four hours he has to be at the disposal of the public and not only that he has to do things which many of us would hesitate to do. Therefore we should regard it as a very

noble profession and unless we know about the defects from reliable sources, we should not base our criticism on unauthorised reports as is usually done. (*Loud applause.*)

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : A fine speech. An excellent speech.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I had no intention of taking part in this debate in the hope that we might take up the question of abiana and land revenue but we seem to have been outwitted in this matter and now I must say a word or two on the Medical Department. I would refer the honourable members to the chart given in the *Tribune* by Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni in an article on problems of population and social welfare in India. The answer to the question whether it is improving or deteriorating is a very disheartening one and it is one of the greatest condemnation of the huge waste on Public Health and Medical Departments. I just draw your attention to one fact which will prove this and it is this.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : Public Health and Medical are two different departments. I want to draw your attention to this fact.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The Honourable Speaker knows it all right. They are separate departments. They aim at the same thing and I am going to explain to you what your aims are and what your results are. If you see that chart you will find that in the year 1921 the average life of a male person was 24·8 and what was it in the next census in 1931 ? It was 23·2—a big fall in the average life of a male person and there is still bigger fall in the average life of females. In 1921 it was 24·7 and in 1931 it was 22·8.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : Is it not due to political excitement ?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : It may be due to any reason but my objection is that the huge money spent on Public Health and Medical Departments is merely waste of money in the face of these facts and figures which you can never refute and which you can never deny. I would request the Honourable Minister in charge to go seriously into the matter to make the departments more efficient so that things may be improved and they may not deteriorate as has been pointed out by me. The taste of the pudding lies in the eating. What is the use of all that expenditure and raising the number of hospitals from 300 to 400, 500 or even 600. I think that that is all tall talk and nothing else. This is a serious matter and requires investigation. Results as described by facts and figures simply condemn the policy so far adopted by Government.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, the honourable Begum Sahiba has pointed out just now that the Unionist Government had opened about 88 new subsidised dispensaries last year while it has provided for opening 39 new dispensaries this year. But the condition on which dispensaries are opened in the rural areas is that out of 1,200 rupees that are required for one dispensary, 600 rupees are to be contributed by the local inhabitants. That is to say the local board has to pay Rs. 300 and another sum of Rs. 300 is to be paid by the zamindars by forming local co-operative societies. Thus a sum of Rs. 600 is paid

[Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

by the rural areas and the remaining 600 rupees are paid by the Government. So the zamindars directly pay 25 per cent of the expenditure on opening a new dispensary from their own pockets. That is how the Government opens new dispensaries in the rural areas. Now as against this when we go to the cities we find that the Government is more liberal-minded than it is in our case. Here the Government exempts all those persons from the payment of fees whose income is below Rs. 150. All such persons get free medical aid, but any zamindar who needs medical aid from the Government hospitals or dispensaries has to pay to the Government in the form that I have stated above. No zamindar can get free treatment in the public dispensaries inasmuch as he pays towards the opening and maintaining of a dispensary in the local area even though his income may be only one rupee per month or Rs. 50 per year. There are about 32 lakhs of zamindars in the Punjab and there are very few among them whose income is more than Rs. 1,800 per annum. Only 120,000 zamindars have an income of or over Rs. 150 per month. The rest 3,080,000 zamindars have an income of less than Rs. 150 per month. So even if the income of a zamindar is one pie per day, he has to pay towards medical facilities while in the cities people with any income up to Rs. 150 per month are treated free in the public hospitals. They escape from the payment of any fee while the poor zamindars have to pay for these medical facilities. In the towns there are many facilities regarding medical aid but in the rural areas the people do not get all such facilities. In the towns there are the hospitals and in addition to them are many v aids and hakims. In the rural areas there are many such tracts in which not a single hospital exists to administer medical aid to hundreds of villages. By the addition that has been made in the medical grant this year the number of hospitals will increase at the most by 2 or 2½ per cent. From this you can imagine how inadequate are the arrangements for medical aid to the rural people. The Government must open more hospitals in the rural areas and give medicines to the zamindars free of cost. Generally a rural dispensary is granted Rs. 600 annually for the purchase of medicines, bandages, etc., while the pay of a sub-assistant surgeon in charge of a dispensary is about Rs. 50 a month. Often the number of patients coming to a hospital is many thousands and the quantity of medicines kept in the hospitals is not sufficient for such a big number of patients. Something must be done to provide more medicines to these hospitals. What is worse is that instruments necessary for surgery are also purchased out of the amount of Rs. 600. At least a separate grant should be given to the hospitals for the purchase of instruments. Moreover, such medicines should be kept in rural dispensaries as are usually needed by the rural people. They do not require costly medicines. Medicines for cough, bad throat, cold, etc., are usually needed more than any other medicines. In addition to providing the hospitals with more funds for the purchase of medicines, etc., Government should appoint v aids and hakims also to attend to the patients in rural areas. Generally people think that the medicines which are imported from European countries do not suit them and that the indigenous medicines are more efficacious. By the appointment of v aids and hakims Government would be removing this complaint of the people. At present the Government is ours and we must encourage v aids and hakims on such a

large scale that they may be found almost in all villages. With these words, sir, I resume my seat.

Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu) : I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the subject now under the consideration of the House. I must first congratulate the honourable lady Parliamentary Secretary. (*Interruption.*) The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye says that she is not present in the House and that he would convey to her what I have said. By the speech which she has made many misunderstandings have been removed. And if there is any misunderstanding left I hope it will be removed by the Honourable Minister for Education.

After these preliminary remarks, I would like to make a few submissions to the Honourable Wazir Sahib. Much criticism has been levelled against the Medical Department but may I say that our Medical Department is in no way inferior to any other in India. Rather we are leading other provinces so far as Medical Department is concerned. In the year 1922, Rs. 32,00,000 were spent on the Medical Department. This was 3·6 per cent of the whole provincial expenditure. In 1939-40 it was raised to about rupees fifty-five lakhs, a figure which represented 4·6 per cent of the total provincial expenditure. No province in the whole of the India except one spends more than what we spend on the Medical Department. I congratulate the Honourable Minister in charge of Medical Department for his successful efforts in this direction. I also congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister for having granted this sum for being spent on the Medical Department.

However there are a few points which I want to bring to the notice of this House. The first thing which I propose to urge is, as has been observed by Begum Shah Nawaz, that the Public Health and Medical Departments should be amalgamated. Let me tell you that this opinion is not only held by laymen like myself but it was also one of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee set up by Government in 1921. At that time Government did not consider it proper to give effect to that recommendation on the plea that the Public Health Department was not sufficiently developed to take over charge of the Medical Department. The result was that both the departments were allowed to function separately. But now the conditions have undergone a great change. At present sufficient expansion has taken place in the Public Health Department to enable it to take over entire charge of both the departments. I may add that the Retrenchment Committee, which was appointed by this Government, has also made the same recommendation on the evidence of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. The said committee has pointed out that as sufficient expansion has taken place in the Public Health Department it can now very easily take under its control the rural medical dispensaries. Sir, I can assert on the basis of my personal experience that this suggestion if adopted will prove very useful. As a matter of fact this experiment has actually been tried in the Montgomery district and it has been very successful there. Let me tell you that in that district all the rural dispensaries have been placed under the control of the Public Health Department and I have seen that now the work is being carried on much more efficiently than before. Besides the work of the doctor in charge has not increased to any great extent. For previously also, when there was an epidemic,

[Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi.]

he had to tour the affected areas and now he has to do supervision work only. This arrangement has not resulted in any increase in expenses also. In the circumstances I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to hand over the management of the rural dispensaries to the Public Health Department. This can to some extent achieve amalgamation of the two departments in the rural areas. Similarly, amalgamation can be carried on the top as well. For this my suggestion is that both these departments should be placed under one Chief Medical Officer with two Assistants under him. One of them should be given control over Medical Department and the other should be made in charge of the Public Health work. In this way the posts of the four Assistant Directors of Public Health Department can be eliminated. This will result in considerable saving. I hope the Honourable Minister would give his careful consideration to this suggestion and would try to give effect to it.

Then, sir, Pegum Shah Nawaz was pleased to observe that if eminent physicians and surgeons, who are working in our hospitals, were deprived of their private practice that would cause much inconvenience to public. I admit that the taking of such a step would cause some inconvenience to the public but we should also take into consideration the amount of loss that is being caused to our province if these doctors are allowed private practice. Let me tell you that there are many physicians and surgeons in Lahore who have opened their own nursing homes. They work in the public hospitals and also look after their private patients and do other multifarious duties. Just think for a minute how much work a doctor can possibly put in. If these expert doctors are debarred from private practice they can do very useful work for the department or can do research work which can carry their names to posterity. It is very unfortunate that there is not a single doctor in the Medical College, Lahore, who has done any research work nor any one of them has ever written any paper on medicine. The reason for this is that they are always busy with their private practice. They cannot find time to attend to anything else. What they want is to do their daily work and to pocket their fees and that is all. I may add that we would not have objected to their being allowed private practice provided they gave some share of their fees to Government as well. For, then we would have thought that at least Government was also getting some benefit. But as matters stand they are paying nothing to Government. I enquired from the Parliamentary Secretary whether such doctors contribute any share of their fees which they receive from their private patients to Government or not? She promised to give a reply but I had been hoping against hope. I know it perfectly well that these doctors do not pay anything to Government. The Retrenchment Committee, which was appointed by this Government has also recommended that these doctors should pay 60 per cent of their fees to the provincial exchequer. But so far this recommendation has not been given effect to by Government. If these doctors do not want to pay 60 per cent of their fees which they receive from their patients let them pay something less to Government but pay they must. After all the instruments which they use and medicines which they give to their patients are all the property of Government. But the fees which they charge from their private patients

go to their pockets alone. I think this is a great injustice and some steps should be taken in regard to this matter.

Then, sir, there is a mental hospital for Europeans at Ranchi in the province of Bihar. For this hospital our Government are making a grant of Rs. 40,000 annually. My submission is that when there is an up-to-date mental hospital at Lahore why should the Punjab Government continue paying Rs. 40,000 for the mental hospital at Ranchi only for the maintenance of 5, 6 or at the most 10 European patients who go from the Punjab. I think excellent arrangements can be made for them in the Lahore Mental Hospital and at a much lower cost. I would, therefore, submit that something should be done to stop this grant being made year after year.

Now, I would like to say a few words in regard to nursing sisters. At present nursing sisters are engaged from abroad. I fail to understand why the posts of nursing sisters should not be given to the Indian nurses. That can be done very easily. We can select good nurses from among the staff nurses and after giving them further training can appoint them as nursing sisters. I think it is high time that we should provide opportunities to the Indian nurses to become nursing sisters. If at present suitable Indian nurses are not forthcoming who can be appointed as nursing sisters, we can in that case select some from amongst our present Indian nurses and then can send them to England for further training. After they are fully trained they can be appointed to the posts of nursing sisters. This suggestion if adopted will not only provide opportunities to our Indian nurses to get promotion but in the long run it will result in considerable saving as well. For Government will not have to pay the same scale of pay to Indian nursing sisters as they are paying to European nursing sisters.

Now, I come to the Punjab Medical Council. It was established in 1916. At that time majority of its members were elected ones. But it is very amazing that at present as compared to nominated members the number of elected members of this Council is very small. This is not anything for which I can congratulate the Government. It is a matter of great regret that at present majority of the members of this Council are nominated ones while in 1921 it had a majority of elected members. Instead of making progress we are retrogressing. It has also come to my knowledge that a few days ago the Punjab Medical Council passed a resolution and has forwarded it to Government in which it has impressed on Government the desirability of increasing the number of its elected members. If that is so it is all the more necessary that some steps should be taken in this behalf and I hope the Honourable Minister would give his very careful consideration to this matter.

There is yet another matter which I want to bring to the notice of Government. That is that at present the number of quacks has considerably increased in the province. Let me tell you that such quacks who pose as hakims and vaidas have neither read any book on *hikmat* nor have they ever practised before. What they do is, they purchase a certificate by paying a fee of Rs. 18 or Rs. 20 and then they set up a shop. In fact, they are a great danger to society. Consequently I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to take some steps to save the public from this nuisance.

[Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi.]

Now, sir, we see that the standard of education of our compounders is generally very low. My suggestion is that before any person is appointed as a compounder he should be required to undergo some sort of test so that on account of his poor knowledge he may not inadvertently harm any patient. This suggestion if adopted will go a long way in improving the standard of education of our compounders and the public would be saved from harm. I hope the Honourable Minister would also take this matter into consideration.

I welcome the statement made by the Parliamentary Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz, that the Government has contemplated a new system whereby private practitioners, both physicians and surgeons, will be allowed to work in the Mayo Hospital for keeping themselves in touch with the latest methods of treatment and surgical developments. In doing so the Government have satisfied a long-felt need of the public and I hope they will extend the system to other big hospitals also. But in this connection I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the stipulation that only those doctors will be eligible for this work who are on the right side of 40 years. May I ask how many doctors of this age can be experts in their respective lines? Such doctors cannot be of more than 10 or 12 years standing and a practice of such a short period is not sufficient to make them experts. I am of the opinion that this stipulation should be done away with so that experienced doctors may be able to take advantage of this opportunity and the people may benefit from their knowledge and skill. Another objectionable feature of this scheme is that these private practitioners—some of them of established reputation—will enjoy a status inferior to that of even the clinical assistants. No self-respecting and able doctor would like to accept such a position. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to remove this anomaly because otherwise the whole scheme will have no value other than that of empty propaganda. With these words I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I want to make a few brief remarks about certain branches of this department. First of all I will draw your attention to the grievances of district boards in respect of their contributions towards the mental hospital. Originally a district board was required to pay Rs. 25 for every patient admitted to this hospital from the area under its jurisdiction. Then the Government decided that local bodies should pay eight annas per hundred people residing within the limits of each body. My submission is that district boards are hit very hard by this decision. Usually very few patients go to this hospital from rural areas and, therefore, it is neither just, nor desirable to throw this burden on district boards. Till very recently, that is, till 1935, this expenditure was realised from municipal committees on the basis of Rs. 25 per patient as the patients belonged to the committees and not to the district board area. To shift the burden of urban area this principle has now been adopted and the district boards have now been asked to share the expenditure on this hospital on the basis of the population of their respective areas. This state of affairs requires careful consideration or rather reconsideration at the hands of the Government. I would submit that either the whole expenditure should be borne by the provincial exchequer or the

same old system should be adopted under which a district board was required to pay Rs. 25 towards the expenditure on the treatment of every patient coming from the area under its jurisdiction.

Then coming to the question of the opening of new hospitals and dispensaries, I would request that they should be opened in areas which are educationally backward. The educated people know all about first aid and other preliminary treatments but that is not the case with the uneducated masses. Hence this request. I know that two schemes have been adopted for providing medical aid to the uneducated and poor people of the far-flung villages and I appreciate the intentions of the Government. But I would like to say a few words about the working of those schemes. As regards the Rural Medical Aid Scheme I wish to point out that the way in which this useful scheme is worked out is anything but effective and satisfactory. The district boards allow Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 per mensem as cycle allowance to the doctors in charge of the dispensaries and they make a show of visiting the adjoining villages. But when they reach those villages the villagers are not to be found there because they are working in their fields. The result is that, firstly, the visit proves of no use and, secondly, the dispensary itself is shorn of much of its utility because during the absence of the doctor it is left in the charge of the compounder. I am not complaining against anybody. All that I wish to do is to draw the attention of the Government to this state of affairs which has made some doctors declare that the scheme is a bogus and useless one.

With regard to the second scheme, namely, the system of subsidised doctors, I must say that it has not proved an unmixed blessing to the poor villagers. Wherever a subsidised doctor is to be stationed the people of the villages are required to contribute a part of the subsidy paid to him. May I ask whether the same is done in the case of big cities while opening such grand and well-equipped hospitals there? If the Government is really desirous of extending the boon of medical aid to the poor villagers this practice must be discontinued. I may also point out in this connection that the scheme is not likely to prove a success if you confine your efforts to sending some urban doctors to the rural areas. They cannot get in the villages the facilities and amenities of life to which they are accustomed and hence they are dissatisfied with their circumstances and duties. The best course would be to divide the province into small groups of say 20 villages each and get one young man from each group to acquire free medical education so that he may be able to render medical aid to his own ilaqa. Again since poor villagers cannot afford the expenses of higher medical education these young men should be given free education on the condition that they will work in their respective areas. So long as this is not done the scheme cannot be expected to prove a success and no useful hand will come forward to make the scheme a success.

As regards touring of rural areas by higher authorities to ascertain the grievances and requirements of the people the present practice is that whenever the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals has to go to Delhi to attend some conference he pays a flying visit to Gurgaon for an hour or so and comes back well satisfied with himself that he has learnt everything about the requirements of the ilaqa. May I ask whether that is really enough?

[Ch. Sumner Singh.]

What can he know about the conditions in rural areas by paying such a brief visit to the headquarters of a district and having a formal chat with the officers there? The Government should see that responsible officers go to rural areas especially for this purpose. They should place them in touch with the rural population by holding conferences and adopting other similar methods. Mere flying visits will not do.

Then I come to the scandalous state of affairs created by the objectionable practice of giving free medical aid to district officers. These officers draw huge salaries and can very well afford to pay for medical aid. Moreover, this practice is the cause of a good many other grievances of the poor people. To mention just a few by way of example the whole attention of the Civil Surgeons is usually reserved for these officers and the smaller fry are neglected. Then all the costly and effective medicines are usurped by higher officers and the poor people for whose benefit these hospitals are claimed to have been opened get nothing but *acqua pura*. The Government should fix a limit of pay in regard to providing free medical aid to such officers. For instance it may be laid down that no officer drawing more than Rs. 250 a month should get free medical aid. Another suggestion which I want to make is that gazetted medical officers should not be allowed to carry on private practice. My reason for making this suggestion is that when a rich man has paid consultation fee to such an officer he takes undue advantage of that and gets all the facilities free of charge in the hospital with which that officer is connected. The result is the same, namely, the best care, the best attention and the best medicines are appropriated by the rich through the good offices of these officers and the poor are thrown to dogs. That is nothing short of corruption.

Another important suggestion relates to the grants allowed to district boards for providing medical aid in rural areas. These grants are too meagre to enable the district boards to open good dispensaries in their ilaqas and if the Government is really anxious to provide suitable and proper facilities to the rural population in the matter of medical aid these grants must be increased. It is the bounden duty of the Government to provide such essential facilities to the poor population of rural areas before spending huge sums on providing X-Ray equipment and other such luxuries for the benefit of millionaires and multimillionaires.

In the end I congratulate the Government on accepting the principle of honorary services in the hospitals by private practitioners. But here again I would submit that this system should not be confined to only one or two big hospitals in the province. To derive best results it must be extended at least to the headquarters of all districts.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural) : Who cannot sympathise with the cry of more money to the Medical Department or support the slogan of more money to the Public Health Department? Whatever we earmark here for the Medical Department is not enough. We want more and much more than we can afford to give, but we have to keep an eye on the funds when we make that request. The other day my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali speaking on this cut referred to the allotment in other provinces and said that the statement that this province

spends more than any other province is not correct. This statement of Malik Barkat Ali is correct and I support that statement of his, but it is only correct in respect of one particular province in the whole of India, the Punjab comes second in that list. I would here quote the figures which will bring out the point I am trying to make. The revenue of Madras is Rs. 16,76,11,900. Money spent on the Medical Department is Rs. 1.03 lakhs. The population of Madras is 47,193,000. The revenue of Bengal is Rs. 18,97,28,000. The population is 5.10 lakhs and they spend on the Medical Department only a sum of Rs. 58 lakhs. The population of the United Provinces is 4.96 lakhs. Their revenue is Rs. 18,58 lakhs and they spend no more than Rs. 37 lakhs. In the Punjab, these are the figures for 1940-41. The revenue was 12,23 lakhs and we spent Rs. 51,19,000 on the Medical Department. Our population was 2,84 lakhs. This works out to a figure of 4½ annas per head including the money spent on Public Health. I will give you an idea of what other prosperous countries of the world spend on their Public Health Department, and I will only quote the example of one country—New South Wales in Australia. There the population is only 27,92,000. The revenue is Rs. 25,00,47,000 and they spend on the Public Health no less than a sum of Rs. 1,93,50,780 and per head this works out at Rs. 7-4-0. Against that we are spending only a sum of 4½ annas. Therefore the more we spend on the Medical Department, the less would it be than what we ought to spend. Therefore I have every sympathy with that demand. My friend Mian Nurullah tried to make a point and he said that the taste of the pudding is in the eating thereof. I think we spend a lot of money on the Medical Department and the Public Health Department; yet the results obtained from them are not satisfactory. Sir, I do not agree with the proposition of my honourable friend. I will not go far but will only take the example of this House. Here we have nearly 175 members in this House and I can challenge my honourable friend to produce a House in India where we have so many members of such advanced ages as we have here or where there is a Speaker, like ours with such good health in such an advanced age. Sir, I wish and pray that you may live for ever. Therefore, when my honourable friend puts forward that contention I think he is out of court because here in the Punjab our death rate is lower than that of any other province in India and our birth rate is the highest.

Mian Abdul Aziz had a long charge sheet against the medical practitioners of this province. He said that doctors had behaved like butchers. I am not quoting the exact words but I am conveying his ideas. He said they fleeced people and that when a patient goes to a doctor he would direct him to the X-Ray expert, to the urine expert and so on and these were all ways and means of getting money. Mian Abdul Aziz is, I am told, an expert criminal lawyer. If a man wanted to institute a civil suit, surely he would not go to Mian Abdul Aziz although Mian Abdul Aziz has studied civil law also as my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali. Every lawyer or every professional man specialises in a particular subject and therefore my friend was not correct when he said that a physician must also be a surgeon, he must also be an X-Ray expert, a bacteriologist and so on. I agree there may be doctors who are mercenary, but which profession can boast of people who

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.]

are not mercenaries? This is not the only country where the doctors are mercenaries. In England, France and all over Europe there are such mercenaries. If Mian Abdul Aziz had read Cronin's book "The Citadel" he would have found that this particular disease is much prevalent in England than here. I have had occasion to consult doctors of many provinces in India and I have no hesitation in paying a tribute to the medical practitioners of this province that they are human, they are less exacting and they are more painstaking than other doctors in India. Having said that I would mention one incident which is a true one to show how doctors might behave if they have the lust of money. A particular doctor practising in a town had suddenly to leave that town and he had a patient under him who was a rich man. So he left the patient in charge of another doctor and left the town. He returned after a fortnight and enquired the other doctor about the patient's condition. That doctor said that he gave him a particular medicine and cured him in a week's time. He said, "Cured, he ought to have stayed here for another two months". So there are these black sheep among doctors also. But I am glad that this doctor did not belong to this province.

Now I would like the Honourable Minister to listen to one or two points which I would make. The first is with regard to the King Edward Medical College. My honourable friend wherever there is a question of hospital or a college, at once raises the question why it should be in Lahore, why should it not be in rural areas. As far as I am concerned I am living in Lahore and I come from the district of Ferozepore. I have no objection to my honourable friends taking the hospital to Hissar or Gurgaon. They can take the Punjab University to Jhajjar if they want. They can take the law College to Ferozepore. Take all these institutions to those particular villages from which my honourable friends come. But they should realise one thing that these main institutions are for the province as a whole and not merely for Lahore. You can locate them wherever you like, at Sirsa or Jhajjar, but they will be institutions for the whole of the province. But surely any far-sighted person will naturally locate them at a place which is central, which is the capital of the province and unless you change the capital of the province you cannot get away from that fact. (Interruption.) Change the capital if you want. If you want to take the capital to Eastern Punjab, you are welcome to do that. Then you can have all these institutions there. Now coming to the King Edward Medical College, I would like the Honourable Minister to note that since the College was built Lahore has expanded and the population has increased from 1½ lakhs to 9 lakhs. This particular area in which the College is situated is much more congested now and this is the time when this college should be removed to outside Lahore, to some suburb of Lahore, which will give the Government ample site for expansion, whereas in the present site they have already expanded to the farthest limit and there is no room for further expansion. The present site at Lahore being centrally situated can be sold and sold at a profit and I may assure the Minister that in changing the site, the Government would in no case lose but will benefit so far as the money aspect is concerned. The Forman Christian College is an instance in point and they have removed it from Nila Gumbaz to the Canal Bank which is

an ideal place for such institutions and many amenities can be provided there rather than in this congested quarter of Lahore.

My honourable friends have talked about Indian nurses. I did not know that we had any institution in Lahore for training nurses. My honourable friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmad, tells me that there are institutions in the Punjab where nurses are trained. That was a thing which I wanted to mention, that nurses who are available to-day charge very high rates. They charge, I understand, Rs. 10 for day duty and Rs. 15 for night duty. That is rather high. Only rich men can afford to pay them. There is no

3 p. m. getting away from the fact that an expert and trained nurse is a great advantage and can look after the patient much more than a relation be she a mother or a sister. If Indian ladies are persuaded to take up this profession, then surely because they will be more available in the market, their rates will be decreased. My honourable friend, Begum Shah Nawaz, wants a women's college. I must oppose this request. Why I oppose the request is this. A medical college is not a cheap institution which can be set up on a small sum of money. Our own Medical College in Lahore needs very many things which we can ill-afford on account of the small purse which we have at our disposal in this connection. And therefore I would like to see the ladies coming to the Medical College and getting the best education because it is not an institution like the ordinary arts college where ladies can go and be taught to be lady teachers and after they have graduated can either go and get married or become teachers in other institutions. If we create lady doctors we must equip them with the best of knowledge and knowledge here in this particular line does not mean merely books. It means various other things, experiments with the most expensive apparatus. For instance, if a lady has to be taught the elements of X-Ray apparatus, where is the X-Ray apparatus going to come. An ordinary medical college which the honourable lady member has in view would not afford to have such an expensive apparatus as X-Ray.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : If the honourable member thinks that they should not have a girls medical college, are the Government prepared to give 50 per cent places to the girls in the Lahore Medical College?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I welcome this request.

Minister for Education : Not on my behalf. (*Laughter.*)

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : It is for the Minister in charge to give what he likes, but as far as the demand in question is concerned, I have every sympathy for it and that would be the right thing to do to have certain places earmarked for lady students.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : What is he going to do with regard to Muslim girls? Is he prepared to do away with purdah?

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : I would have mentioned that even before the lady member had put this question. Then it would have been unnecessary for her to ask that. If a lady enters the medical profession, surely it is not like being educated in schools or arts colleges, if she wants to be a doctor and if she wants to put that knowledge of hers into practice, she will have to discard purdah. She cannot sit at home. She will have to move about to see patients.

Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan : Lady patients and not you.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : Why not me ?

Minister for Education : You are incurable. (*Laughter.*)

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : You cannot have your cake and eat it as well. If a lady wants to become a doctor she will have to discard purdah, Muslim girls who want to become doctors will have to discard their purdah. I cannot sympathise with those ladies who like to remain in purdah and at the same time want to become doctors, because if they do, I do not think they will add to the profession at all. There is one more point that I want to state before I sit down and that is this: This town of Lahore with all this population and these experts and doctors and great and eminent physicians and surgeons, has very few nursing homes. We have one nursing home which is actually a hospital, the Albert Victor Hospital and I believe one nursing home has been opened by Major Dr. Khara. In addition to these I do not think there is any other and I invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to this matter, because nursing homes are very badly wanted. Sometime the Albert Victor Hospital is full and people who can afford to pay do not get a decent place to send their patients to. Lastly, I invite the attention of honourable friends to the city of Bombay. If you go round the city of Bombay, you will see that most of the hospitals which are standing in Bombay are the gifts of rich people and in other places of the world like London, big hospitals are built by the donations of the rich millionaires and run by their donations. If the rich people of Lahore also take a leaf out of the charities of people in other cities, we would have many more hospitals than we have to-day. (*Hear, hear.*)

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Mr. Speaker, it is all very nice to hear these praises and especially when they are sung by the honourable lady member Begum Shah Nawaz and my honourable friend Mr. Amjad Ali, she being the nightingale of the Punjab and he being the young harper of the Punjab. We are certainly behind no one in appreciating the interest that our Honourable Minister is taking in the advancement of the medical skill and profession and we are behind no one in appreciating the services of our efficient medical officers, but at the same time it is our painful duty and our rightful duty as well that we should point out the defects and mal-practices that are not only prevalent in this department but are rampant, and towards which the attention, and I should say the active attention of the Honourable Minister, is required. Mr. Speaker many defects have been pointed out and many mal-practices have been pointed out by my honourable friends in this House. Especially if you go out in the villages you will hear defamatory talks of the annoyances caused to the ordinary villagers by what is called the medico-legal opinion. To-day if you go to the villages, you will come to know that the litigants find that the doctors have more to sit on judgment than the police or even the magistrate. They can make any case topsy turvy. When an ordinary fight takes place in a village, the people go to the doctor, because he is within reach and he can change an offence under section 324 to an offence under sections 226 or 204 of the Indian Penal Code and God knows under what other sections. With regard to this, it is not sufficient, as has been pointed out that the mentality of the people should be changed. The Government knows and we also know that unless people become more

honest, they will certainly try to tempt the doctors to do anything of the sort, but at the same time it is the bounden duty of the present Government to see that all such mal-practices are curbed, when they even know very well that all such practices are detrimental to the moral as well as social advancement and political condition of the country. This is why we appeal to the Honourable Minister. We know that they are against it, and we know that they abhor it even more than we do. We want Government to arrange to issue some kind of instructions and supervision with regard to these mal-practices. I may for the information of the House say that all the civil surgeons and other supervising officers know of this mal-practice with regard to medico-legal cases, but no higher authority seems to interfere as to what the assistant surgeons and the sub-assistant surgeons in different places are doing with regard to these medico-legal cases. I would like to know how often the civil surgeon when he went out on tour enquired about the conduct of the assistant surgeons or sub-assistant surgeons in charge of different hospitals in regard to medico-legal cases. How many times has he interfered and made enquiries and what are the results of his enquiries? Has he ever made a confidential remark with regard to their conduct, with regard to the medico-legal cases in their own respective jurisdiction? I would like to know how many times and to what extent it has been brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister that these officers are really taking that interest which they ought to take in order to prevent this mal-practice. It is, Sir, with a view to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister that some supervision and some instructions of the kind which would go to prevent this mal-practice are required. That is why we appeal that he should have issued such instructions to the subordinates so that they may take effective steps to prevent this practice.

Then, Sir, a good deal has been done for the progress of travelling dispensaries. I do not know how the dispensaries can travel. The dispensaries cannot travel, but doctors have to travel and approach the people in far off places. This should be encouraged and I congratulate the Government that they are doing a good deal in that direction, but still more is required to be done in this connection.

A good deal has been said with regard to the promotion and use of indigenous medicines. I fail to see why our assistant surgeons and other doctors should not be able to find the greater efficacy of *Gulqand* than of Mag-sulph. It is good for Indians, they like it. It is more palatable and more acceptable to our senses than the salts and mixtures, which are so abhorrent to the five senses of an ordinary human being. I do not know why its efficacy and remedy should remain hidden from our officers of the Medical Department. I think they can very well use this and other indigenous medicines. Some indigenous medicines are more useful and are more liked by the people than the western medicines.

With regard to nurses, that question was raised by my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali. Certainly if Indian nurses are not forthcoming, it is not the fault of the department. In this connection I would suggest that if female nurses are not forthcoming then our young men should be trained for this work. I think something is being done already with regard to the training of male nurses. We have already some male nurses as female nurses are not forthcoming.

Minister for Education : Nurse boys.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : I do not think all the female nurses are always girls. They can be grown up ladies as well. I would request the Honourable Minister that if there are no arrangements for training male nurses in our hospitals, immediate steps should be taken to start it at once ; but if there are some arrangements, then they should be extended.

Then, Sir, with regard to the point about which the lady member has just now remarked, it was said that our women would like to have a medical college of their own and that Government should do something in the way of providing such educational institution for them. But I submit there is a medical institution for them at Ludhiana and the women-folk can take advantage of that institution which is open to them as it is open to any female member of any community. I think the Government is also subsidising it in the form of a grant and, therefore, all the Punjabi women have got the right to take advantage of that institution in Ludhiana. I wholeheartedly agree with the proposition of Sayed Amjad Ali Shah that females who wish to adopt the medical profession have to discard purdah to a certain extent, but those who are very keen can join the Ludhiana College and take advantage of that institution and thus become qualified doctors. There is no bar for them to adopt this profession.

In the end I would like to appeal to the Honourable Minister of Education that weightage should be given to the Christian community for certain services rendered by them. Hitherto, without any grudge to any community I want to point out, weightage has been given, due to services of a certain community, to the members of that community and I would, therefore, appeal that since our Christian community, especially the females of this community, have rendered meritorious services with regard to medical aid in this country, due weightage should be given to them.

Minister for Education : Better half has served one better.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : There is no reason why they should not have the same patronage and same encouragement which they have hitherto had from the Government and I would, therefore, appeal to the Honourable Minister that whenever any claim is made from the side of the Christian community with regard to their strength in the medical service as also in the Education Department, he would favourably consider that claim. It is perhaps forgotten that it is this community which rendered service of a singular kind in the medical profession. Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz remarked that ladies cannot join medical colleges because of purdah. It is thus the better-halves of the Christian community who have rendered service of a most important kind in teaching female members of other communities to come forward. They took action and joined that service which is the most humane service for the social uplift of the people. So, it is only in justice that the Honourable Minister of Education is requested to have that regard for the good services of our community—the female members of our community whom he calls as the better-halves. I appeal most wholeheartedly for his serious consideration that he should give weightage to my community for the services rendered by the females of the Christian community. My honourable friend on this side has pointed out that there is a

complaint that in the Lahore Maternity Hospital there is no lady surgeon but that question, I am told, has been thrashed out already and the Government would be too pleased to have a lady surgeon if one is available. If one is not available, then attempt should be made to import one from any other part of the world so that, if possible, there should be a lady surgeon in the Lahore Maternity Hospital. With these remarks I end my speech with an appeal to the Honourable Minister to give favourable consideration to the points raised by me.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab Landholders): I wish to make a few remarks with regard to the working of the X-Ray department of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore. I was surprised to know the procedure adopted in that hospital which is rather amazing and novel. The procedure is that in the matter of X-Ray Skiagrams of patients 60 per cent of the proceeds go to the pockets of the officer in charge and the remaining 40 per cent goes to the exchequer of the Government. The department is also taking other small fees and is working at a loss. From the principle point of view it is rather undesirable that there should be such practice existing between the Government and the officer in charge. The officer in charge is a man who is already getting a fat salary and over and above that he gets special allowance and then he derives this income which is rather very strange. I do not think that this procedure is being adopted in any other province in India. If this is permitted to go on the question naturally arises why should the other departments not follow suit. For example, why professors of the Law College should not be permitted to go and attend the courts when off their duty and why should not the engineers get fees for their consultations?

Minister for Education : And Ministers ought to practise!

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man : There should be some principle then? There is another question about the private practitioners. There are many private practitioners who have invested thousands of rupees on their X-Ray apparatus. Obviously they cannot compete with the Government because they have not got means to do so. As I have tried to point out the Government itself is running the whole show at a great loss and since this is the condition of the Government the result with regard to private practitioners will be that they will have to close their shops and will add to the number of unemployed which will be a burden to the province as a whole. So, I would request the Government to devise means so that this flow of 60 per cent of income into the pocket of the man in charge of the department should be stopped. And then the charges should be raised a bit so that those who can well afford to pay should be charged full fee and those who cannot afford to pay should be exempted. In this manner I hope that there will be healthy competition between the private practitioner and the Government. The other day Mian Abdul Aziz, an elderly lawyer, drew the picture of how the medical profession is exploiting the public. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah has answered that point and I need not go into details about that at present. To some extent the picture drawn by Mian Abdul Aziz is correct, but I am sorry I cannot agree to the remedy which he has suggested. It was said that one medical officer should do the whole thing himself. Is it not difficult for one lawyer to go on working in all the spheres

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Man.]

of law himself for example in the civil, criminal, revenue and other cases? Human nature being what it is, one cannot be an expert in all the lines and one cannot be master of all the subjects. If one man is master of all the subjects then he is master of none! This is my view. I wholeheartedly support all that Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan said about the inadequate stock of medicines in the dispensaries. It is quite correct that the dispensaries have got inadequate stocks of medicines and then they are ill-equipped. I do not understand the policy of the Government of going on creating new dispensaries when they are not fully equipped. It is better to have few dispensaries which are fully equipped and which have all the instruments and medicines needed for the patients in those dispensaries. This is my view and I hope the Honourable Minister will consider it. Then there should be provision for trained nurses in all the dispensaries. I was informed that it is being worked in Multan and I do not see any reason why other districts should not follow suit. With these few words I finish my speech.

Minister for Education (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): Sir, I think it is time that I should intervene in the debate because there are barely 60 minutes left. I am sorry to deprive Khawaja Sahib of the opportunity to have a say in this matter. I have listened with great interest to the speeches made during this discussion since Friday last, when the debate on behalf of the Opposition was initiated by my honourable friend from Ludhiana, Sardar Lal Singh, the remnant of the Congress Party in this House. I congratulate the honourable members who have spoken from both sides of the House on the level of their speeches which was sufficiently high, barring a few exceptions. One exception was my honourable and gallant friend, Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan, who, I regret, is not in his seat. On Friday afternoon, when he spoke, he spoke candidly like a soldier. He believes in direct method, but he transgressed proper limits. He said "here is this Government that is not doing anything for the people living in rural areas, the peasantry of the Punjab and the soldiers." He went to the extent of saying that the Education Minister's policy is different from the policy of the Honourable Premier. I repudiate that insinuation. I have no separate policy. We have got joint responsibility. Of course, I am in a very lucky position, I am likely to make mistakes on occasions and these occasions are very few, but on account of joint responsibility my five colleagues on my left share my mistakes and I look to them, specially to the Honourable Premier, to rectify my mistakes, and then I share their wisdom, their tact and their farsightedness. We have no separate policies of our own, as I have already said. I hate to refer on the floor of the House to private talks which happened outside. It was with respect to a dispensary, a subsidised dispensary, opened in the village of Major Farman Ali Khan that he approached me. It has been pointed out by several speakers that in the case of a subsidised dispensary the total cost is Rs. 1,200 a year. Half of it is met from the provincial revenue and the villagers are required to contribute the other half. If they are not in a position to do so, the district boards are invited to come to their rescue. In the case of this particular village, we had agreed to give Rs. 600 for the opening of a subsidised dispensary and the villagers agreed to meet the other half of the cost.

After a year my honourable friend came to me and wanted me to remit this contribution. I discussed it with him and explained to him my difficulties. He came a second time. This time the Inspector-General was also present and he pointed out that in the case of my own district three such requests had been turned down by the Government. I have very great respect for my honourable friend, but under the circumstances I regret very much that I was unable to accommodate him.

Turning now to the points raised by my Honourable friend, Sardar Lal Singh. He quoted certain figures from a report and put forward a very astounding proposition. If I understood him aright he suggested that there should be one and not more than one doctor in each hospital. He said that wherever there are more than one doctor, they quarrel, the work suffers and the hospital becomes unpopular. Personally, I think that there is no substance in this criticism. Take, for instance, the case of the Mayo Hospital where we have over 500 beds in the general ward and 32 in the private wards. It would be preposterous to urge that one doctor could manage this hospital. Then again, Sir, he said, "here is this Government which has so far done nothing, no new schemes have been evolved and put into practice and the Government is going according to its own old fashion." What he meant was that we were walking in the footsteps of our predecessors and making no progress. Then he said that cost per patient per day or per doze—I forgot what he said—in rural dispensaries was a few pies, whereas in the case of Mayo Hospital it was 3 annas and in the case of the Walker Hospital it was 3 rupees per patient per day. I submit that it is an ill-informed criticism. My honourable friend opposite was not aware that the Walker Hospital was not a Government institution. He was criticising the Government for spending a huge amount on the maintenance of the Walker Hospital and he was comparing that amount with what was being spent by the Government in rural areas.

Malik Barkat Ali : He never suggested anything of the sort.

Minister for Education : He may as well criticise the Government for maintaining the Fak tti's hotel or for maintaining the Nedous Hotel for the benefit of the Europeans. The Walker hospital is a high class nursing home, which was brought into existence in 1903 through the efforts of Sir James Louis Walker, who donated Rs. 1,25,000. Why did my honourable friend criticise that this particular hospital was reserved for Europeans. The donation was not made by Sardar Lal Singh or Malik Barkat Ali.

Malik Barkat Ali : He never suggested anything of the kind.

Minister for Education : He said that it was reserved for Europeans. There has been a lot of ill-informed criticism. My honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali is perhaps conscious of the fact that there has been a lot of ill-informed criticism against the Government as regards the demand which we are now discussing. A lakh and 20 thousand was donated by Sir James Walker : the trustees formed themselves into a society, registered it and are administering this hospital. The only thing I have got to do with the Walker Hospital is that the Punjab Government gives a paltry sum of Rs. 2,600 by way of grant-in-aid every year ; because some of our officers both European and Indian, occasionally go to the Hospital for treatment as indoor

[Minister for Education.]

patients. It is not at present reserved for Europeans. It is open to Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians who follow a certain mode of living. Then he said what about those rural dispensaries where the cost is so low and what about the Mayo Hospital where the cost is so high. He forgot absolutely that in a rural dispensary we have barely a room or two, very rudimentary arrangements so far as treatment is concerned, simple instruments, and a stock of cheap medicines. Patients come there for treatment of simple ailments. More serious and more complicated cases are sent to the headquarters of the district, and even from the headquarters of the districts very serious cases are brought to the Mayo Hospital, where we have very excellent arrangements. As has been pointed out just now by one of the honourable members, Sayed Amjad Ali, the Mayo Hospital is not meant for the Lahore town only. It is a premier institution and is meant for the whole of the province, and I may tell honourable members that out of those who come there as indoor patients in general wards more than 60 per cent come from the rural areas. Now what have we done during this short period of four years? Sardar Lal Singh said 'nothing.' So far as facilities for medical relief in the rural areas are concerned, when we took over the Government in 1937, we had a scheme in vogue which as you will be able to recollect, was conceived by the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain in 1925—the scheme for one rural dispensary for every 100 square miles and for every 30,000 population. Three hundred and sixty such dispensaries were opened. What was the cost?—Rs. 7,000 in the first instance from the provincial exchequer for building and equipment, and a recurring grant of Rs. 2,500 per annum for every dispensary. Three hundred and sixty such dispensaries were opened in different parts of the province. When in 1937 we tried to grapple with this question we came to the conclusion that there was no scope for further expansion of the scheme of 1925. We, therefore, decided to open new dispensaries in the rural areas on the contributory basis. The villagers were required to arrange for a building; the doctor in charge of the dispensary was to be given Rs. 100 per month, i.e. Rs. 1,200 only per annum, 600 per annum from the provincial exchequer, 600 per annum to be contributed by the villagers or the district board concerned. Villagers form themselves into a society, raise funds, appoint a doctor and administer the dispensary. The doctor is required to treat all the members of the society and their families free and out of the subsidy granted by the Government he is required to treat free all the poor and indigent inhabitants of the locality. If a man is neither poor nor indigent, nor a member of the society he has got to pay. Now Sir, in 1939-40 a sum of Rs. 49,500 was provided for the purpose and the same amount was provided last year, and so far we have opened 83 such dispensaries. Next year we do not propose to open 83 but only 39. Out of these 39 dispensaries we propose to appoint lady doctors in five dispensaries. (Hear, hear.) Now if we were to open, according to the old scheme of 1925, 83 dispensaries in the Punjab and we have to remember that one dispensary costs Rs. 9,500 in the first year, the cost for these 83 dispensaries would have been in the neighbourhood of 90 lakhs. According to this new scheme we have opened 83 dispensaries at a total cost of only Rs. 65,000.

Now I will give you a few figures as regards these subsidised dispensaries. The number of patients who were treated this year up to the 10th February,

1941, was 728,255 (*Hear, hear*). Another scheme which we introduced early in 1938 was that we required the doctors in charge of the rural dispensaries not to confine their activities to the particular village where the dispensary was situated. We paid them Rs. 10 extra per month and required them to go about in a radius of 5 miles and see people in their own villages and as far as possible to afford medical relief to them in their own homes. According to this scheme the total number of patients treated in the rural dispensaries during 1940 was 3,938,503 (*Hear, hear*).

Altogether 21,939 villages were visited by the doctors in one year. The number of patients who were treated in their own homes comes to 408,583. Besides that, as many as 14,865 patients were admitted in these rural dispensaries as indoor patients and out of them 13,561 were discharged as cured.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Have these figures been verified ?

Minister for Education : The honourable member must know that when a Minister speaking from the treasury benches supplies figures he must have first verified them. I have had the honour of belonging to the Opposition once and I knew that I could afford to talk without responsibility.

Mian Abdul Aziz : I am very glad to hear that ; I am reluctant to speak without responsibility, but I also know how the figures are verified. Why should my enquiry have been taken in an irritating light ?

Minister : Have you got your own figures ?

Mian Abdul Aziz : I put the question only to elicit information. I did not mean to cast any reflection.

Minister : The third point that was taken up by Sardar Lal Singh was this : " Here is the war going on and yet the I.M.S. officers are still here. Why do you not send them back to military duty " ? He forgot that it was not within my power to do so. When defence is transferred to the Ministry and when I or one of my colleagues is appointed Defence Minister, then we can certainly look into the question. The fourth point was the recommendation of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. One of the recommendations of that Committee was the appointment of non-I.M.S. officers to posts released from the I.M.S. That is our policy and we are acting up to it. One such post was released from the I.M.S. during the current year, the post of Professor of Anatomy in the King Edward Medical College and we decided not to appoint an I.M.S. officer. We decided to recruit from the open market. The post was advertised through the Public Services Commission, a suitable scale of pay was fixed. The scale was fixed at Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,500. The question arose whether we should debar I.M.S. officers altogether. Government said, " No, we would not debar anybody. I. M. S. officers would be eligible but they shall be given only this scale of pay and not a higher scale." A number of I.M.S. officers did apply, but a non-I.M.S. officer was selected.

Coming to the point raised by Malik Barkat Ali, in the first instance he said that this Government was following the old policy of favouring the I.M.S. " This policy," he said, " under provincial autonomy should have vanished. But here is this Government out-Heroding Herod." It was said that the Punjab Government was more royal than the King as the

[Minister for Education.]

Tribune put it this morning. He said: The Secretary of State by virtue of the powers vested in him under the Government of India Act requires the Punjab Government to employ and retain in their service only 17 I.M.S. officers and this Satanic Government—

Malik Barkat Ali : I never used that expression.

Minister for Education : Very well, this Government which prefers to walk in the footsteps of the Satanic Government is employing and retaining more than double that number, 36. In the *Tribune* it was reported 40. I do not know who was responsible for it.

Malik Barkat Ali : Printer's devil.

Minister : I on behalf of the Government declare that we are not employing one single I.M.S. officer over and above the strength required by the Secretary of State under the rules framed by him. I have known Malik Sahib for the last 35 years. I saw him first while I was a student and he was the lecturer of our college. (*Hear, hear.*) Later on I met him when he was an officer of the Punjab Civil Service and subsequently I met him in the Lahore High Court. My own experience of the Lahore High Court and other courts is that unfortunately there are a number of advocates who sometimes quote over-ruled rulings and rely upon repealed enactments, but I am sure Malik Barkat Ali does not belong to that category. But it is unfortunate that on Friday afternoon when he was speaking he was briefed by a person who was ill-informed. His premises were incorrect, not his conclusions. According to the rules framed by the Secretary of State under sections 244, 246 and 250 we are required to employ 36 I.M.S. officers and not 17. My honourable friend based his argument on a certain resolution of the Secretary of State No. 205 of 1937. That has got no legal value. What the Secretary of State is empowered under the Act is to make a rule and not to issue a resolution. But it appears that shortly before provincial autonomy was introduced he consulted his colleagues on the Council and issued a resolution indicating what he proposed to do.

Malik Barkat Ali : The Viceroy was also a party to the resolution.

Minister : He might have been. And then the Secretary of State in that resolution of 1937 made it clear that he would frame rules and issue them. Those rules have since then been framed and issued and I hold them now in my hand. There has been a good deal of confusion on this point. Last year and the year before last I tried to clear the position, but some interested persons still go on criticising the Government for their alleged sins. These rules were framed by the Secretary of State in 1939 and they were framed under section 246 (1) and I made reference to these rules in one of my previous speeches from which my honourable friend, Malik Barkat Ali, quoted the other day. The difficulty is created by section 246 of the Government of India Act. When I referred to that section, I did not refer to the resolution referred to by the honourable member.

4 p. m.

Malik Barkat Ali : Nor to the rules.

Minister for Education : The rules are here. These rules were framed by the Secretary of State in 1939 and 86 posts are reserved—

1. These rules may be cited as "the Indian Medical Service (Civil) (Reserved Posts Rules, 1939).
2. The posts specified in the First Schedule to these Rules (hereinafter referred to as "reserved posts") shall, subject to the provisions of these Rules, be filled only by officers of the Indian Medical Service (Civil).

All the posts given in the First Schedule are to be filled only by officers of the Indian Medical Service. The First Schedule mentions 17 posts—certain civil surgeoncies, and specialised posts—7 civil surgeoncies, 3 specialised posts and 8 leave reserve and 4 other posts. There are 17 posts mentioned in Schedule I, but there are two other schedules.

Malik Barkhat Ali : You would not show the rules to me.

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

Minister : Rule 3 says :

- (1) The posts specified in the Second and Third Schedules to these Rules (hereinafter referred to as "temporarily reserved posts") shall, subject to the provisions of these Rules, be filled only by officers of the Indian Medical Service who were in civil employ—
 - (a) in the case of posts in the Second Schedule, on 10th May, 1928, and
 - (b) in the case of posts in the Third Schedule, on 1st April, 1937.

From these rules it would be clear to you that two kinds of reservations have been made, the first reservation is the permanent reservation and that reservation is made in the First Schedule, and the second category is the temporary reservation and is shown in Second and Third Schedules.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

(List of posts reserved for officers who were in civil employ on the 10th May, 1928.)

- 1 Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab.
- 1 Principal, Medical College, Lahore.
- 1 Chemical Examiner.
- 4 Professorships, Medical College, Lahore.

All these seven posts are reserved for those I.M.S. officers who were in civil employ on the 10th of May, 1928. These posts will be gradually released and it shall be open to us to appoint non-I.M.S. officers.

The Third Schedule refers to—

- Civil Surgeon, Rawalpindi.
- Civil Surgeon, Ferozepore.
- Civil Surgeon, Ambala.
- Civil Surgeon, Jullundur.

- 1 Inspector-General of Prisons.
- 8 Superintendents of Central Jails.
- 1 Superintendent, Borstal Institute.
- 1 Director or Assistant Director of Public Health.

[Minister for Education.]

1 Superintendent, Mental Hospital, Lahore.

1 Professor of Surgery, Medical College, Lahore.

All these 12 posts are included in the Third Schedule and are reserved for those officers of the I.M.S. who were in civil employ on the 1st April, 1937. The total of all these posts which are mentioned in the First, Second and Third Schedules comes to 36, and at no time during the last four years had the Punjab Government more than 36 I.M.S. officers employed in the Punjab. And what is the present number? The permanent number of I.M.S. officers till recently was 29, which means that out of those posts which are temporarily reserved, 7 posts were released and we did not appoint any I. M. S. officer. Out of these 29, seven have been called up for military duty and the present number is 21.

Malik Barkat Ali : What has happened to one ?

Minister for Education : He is under suspension.

Malik Barkat Ali : Suspension for what ?

Minister : Suspension for corruption, Malik Sahib.

Malik Barkat Ali : I am glad it is not for anything worse, namely, that for which you have been so successfully evading the courts.

Minister : But I have had no occasion to defend you.

Malik Barkat Ali : But I did not require your defence.

Minister : I was only a defence witness for you.

Malik Barkat Ali : I hope a truthful witness.

Minister : No. (*Laughter.*) I refused to give any evidence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Order, order. Please do not be personal.

Malik Barkat Ali : The Honourable Minister desires to be personal. He should not forget himself and what people say about him. Let those who sit in glass houses not throw stones at others.

Minister : From this it would be abundantly clear that all the criticism that was made by my honourable friend Malik Barkat Ali was ill-informed and baseless.

The second point that he raised was about the private wards and the heavy fees charged by the officers. He said that the doctors charge very heavy fees and they would not issue receipts. In this connection, I may mention that the scale of fees is laid down and the rules and the schedule of fees are exhibited in all the wards. From those rules it is clear that those people whose monthly income is less than Rs. 150 are entitled to free medical treatment. This is a very high limit. Those who have got a monthly income of Rs. 150 to Rs. 500 are required to pay half the fees given in the schedule, and those whose income is from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 are required to pay full fees, and for those whose income is above Rs. 1,000 no scale is fixed and the matter is left to private contract. This being the state of affairs so far as the allegation made is concerned, namely that the doctors are in the habit of charging exorbitant fees, Government is perfectly willing to take action provided reliable evidence is forthcoming

and information is conveyed to Government. So far as corruption is concerned, we have appointed a special enquiry agency and we have appointed a very experienced Superintendent of Police in charge of that enquiry and we have further made it known that if in a particular area five respectable people make any allegation about corruption against a particular officer, Government will not hesitate to institute an enquiry. In all such cases enquiries are held. So far as the Medical Department is concerned I am very glad to say that there is a very great improvement. During the last two years, we have taken action against as many as five officers belonging to this department. Out of those five officers, one was a permanent civil surgeon. His case was enquired into and on the advice of the Public Service Commission we have dismissed him. The second officer was at the time when we decided to institute an enquiry, officiating as a civil surgeon and he too was dismissed on the advice of the Public Service Commission. The third gentleman was an assistant surgeon. He has also been dismissed. The case of the fourth officer is still pending and final orders have not yet been passed as they are to be passed by some authority other than the Punjab Government. The fifth officer who was dismissed was a head clerk to one of the civil surgeons in the districts.

Then my honourable friend, Malik Barkat Ali, suggested that private practice by the doctors should be stopped. He has also rightly suggested that such practice should not be stopped unless the scale of pay of the P.C.M.S. officers is revised and increased, because the contention is that in view of the lower grade of pay of the P.C.M.S. officers they should be allowed private practice and it would not be desirable to debar them from private practice unless their salary was raised and brought to the same level as is allowed to the provincial service officers in other departments, such as P.C.S., P.E.S., etc. The time for such an increase is not very opportune. If after the war matters improve, we shall certainly take up this question.

The other thing that Malik Barkat Ali suggested was that the medical officers should not have private practice during the hours of work that are allotted to them. This is the present rule and we now insist on the strict observance of this rule. During working hours no private practice is allowed to any of our officers. Then my honourable friend, Malik Barkat Ali, said that there was bad planning so far as the filling up of vacancies was concerned. He quoted a few instances. One of them related to the appointment of a successor to Rai Bahadur Dr. Jiwan Lal. There was some delay no doubt, but it was due to the fact that in the first instance we had to decide about the new scale of pay which, as I have already indicated, was laid down and then at a later stage we decided to recruit through the Public Service Commission and there was further delay. A couple of months ago the successor to Rai Bahadur Dr. Jiwan Lal was appointed, but unfortunately for certain reasons he has not been able to take over. He is at present serving under the Government of India and he is in correspondence with the Government of India as regards the question of his lien being kept on his present post so long as he was under probation with the Punjab Government. As soon as that question is decided he will be able to take over the new duties of his post.

[Minister for Education.]

Then coming to Chaudhri Abdul Rahman Khan, he raised the question of unani and ayurvedic dispensaries and this was also raised by Shaikh Sadiq Hassan. They have put in a very strong plea for ayurvedic and unani system of medicine. Their contention is that unani is more in accordance with the temperament of the people. As honourable members are aware, we appointed a committee two years ago to look into this question in all its aspects. That committee sat and evidence was led before it and their report was submitted to the Government. It has now been printed and will be published. It is now in the active consideration of the Punjab Government and before long we hope we shall take suitable decision. So far as education of these gentlemen, hakims and vaidas, is concerned and the question of subsidising the institutions, as also the question of legislation and the creation of board, all these will be decided later on.

Then I come to my honourable friend, Pir Akbar Ali. He put in a very strong plea for increased grant to the Mathradas Hospital at Moga. This hospital is in receipt of Rs. 5,000 as grant-in-aid since 1926. In 1926 the Punjab Government for the first time made this grant and the decision then made was that this grant shall be given to this hospital until the hospital was provincialised. It appears that it was the intention of the Punjab Government then to provincialise it at a very early stage. But in 1928 the district board declined the offer of the Government to provincialise it. But we have since 1926 continued to pay a sum of Rs. 5,000 which was later on reduced by 12½ per cent on account of financial stringency. This amount will be continued to be paid for another three years. We have now paid it for 15 years and recently we have decided to continue it for another three years. If, however, the district board of Ferozepore is willing to have the hospital provincialised, it can make that request through proper channel to the Punjab Government and we shall decide it on merits.

Then my honourable friend put in another plea for fresh grant to a certain dispensary which is supposed to be located at Jalalabad. I thought that my honourable friend, Pir Akbar Ali, was then speaking as the advocate of my honourable friend sitting on my right. I understand that no request for grant to this dispensary has ever been made. If such a request is made, we shall examine it in all its aspects.

My honourable friend, Chaudhri Riasat Ali, while speaking on Friday last mentioned one particular case of corruption. He said that a particular individual who was seriously injured was brought to the hospital and the doctor who was required to perform the operation demanded a fee of Rs. 1,000. Now it was a definite case. I have looked into the relevant papers since Friday and I find that one Fazl Ilahi, a zaildar of Gujranwala district, was brought in the small hours of the morning. He was in a bad way, both his arms had to be amputated. He was seriously injured in a fracas and he was accompanied by well-dressed people. Important and influential people came to pay a visit for him including certain M.L.A.s. At the time he was admitted into the hospital his friends said that money was no consideration and that his life should be saved at all cost. He was admitted in the family ward. A few days after two of his arms were amputated. The zaildar succumbed to his injuries. The fee demanded was Rs. 100 per amputation which was in accordance with the rules framed by Government. The bill

still remains unpaid. The allegation now made on behalf of the heirs of the deceased is that the monthly income of the zaildar was not more than Rs. 80. Now, if it were true that his income was below Rs. 150, he was entitled to free treatment and was entitled to be admitted into the general wards. He would not have come to the family wards. The authorities of the hospital have required the people concerned to state the amount of land revenue paid by the deceased and they are unwilling to state that amount. Enquiry shall have to be made through the district officers and if it transpires that the income of the late zaildar was more than Rs. 150 per mensem he shall be charged according to the rules laid down in the schedule and if his income is below Rs. 150 no amount will be realized. Another very interesting case was mentioned in the Press. It was mentioned in *The Civil and Military Gazette* of the 15th February, 1941. I would like to read the exact letter that appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette* of that date.

Mayo Hospital, a Society for the promotion of cruelty to human beings. Yesterday afternoon, while passing the Government House with a companion, a Pathan lying by the roadside hailed us. On going to him, he informed us that he had been shot in the leg. I am unable to testify to this as a fact, but certainly his leg was in a bad state. He asked us to send him to the nearest bus stand.

A man having a gun shot wound, requiring assistance of two other gentlemen and asking them to remove him to a bus stand and not to a hospital—

We thought it better to send him to the Hospital for treatment and this we did. Later I received the following acknowledgment from the Hospital.

And then follows the acknowledgement. This was mentioned in *The Civil and Military Gazette* of the 15th February, 1941. As soon as I read it I made prompt enquiries on the telephone. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals was asked to make enquiries. He made immediate enquiries and the information that was made available to me was that the gentleman concerned was brought to the hospital by a tonga driver. He had no gun shot wound. He had a mere contusion, and a sprain of the ankle. He was given first aid, his feet was bandaged and after the treatment he was able to walk unaided from the Mayo Hospital. Such wild allegations are made and made by people who hide their names. As it was published in a very responsible paper I did not hesitate to institute enquiries forthwith and the result was that the information given in this letter was not substantiated. If there are genuine cases of corruption, of neglect of duty, we are prepared to take action. In all these three cases that I have mentioned of officers that have been dismissed, they had merely ignored the rules. They had charged fees, not exorbitant fees, but ordinary fees in those cases in which they were not entitled to a fee. And although we hear a lot about this corruption and this point is raised on the floor of this House almost every year, it is a hardy annual, but when in the case of any particular officer an enquiry is instituted, there is a swing of the pendulum to the other side and people try to shelter the man. They approach the Government. I am very glad that so far as the honourable members of this House are concerned they approached me not with a view to save the corrupt officer, but to find out what the facts were. They went away satisfied when I placed the facts before them. But such is not the case with others. One of the office bearers of the Sikh Rights Protection Society came to me and asked for an

(Minister for Education.)

interview and tried to threaten me. He said that there were very few officers belonging to his community in this department and that I had now suspended one or two of them. This would lead to agitation. I had to speak to him firmly with the result that he realised his mistake and expressed regret.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 93,200 on account of 38-A—Medical Establishment be reduced by Re. 1.

Sardar Lal Singh rose to speak in reply when there were only two minutes left for the adjournment of the House.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan : Time is up.

Sardar Lal Singh : I deprecate these methods of stifling debate. Time has been so chosen that we may not be able to give any reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 93,200 on account of 38-A—Medical Establishment be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,66,400 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 Medical.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 25th March, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 25th March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CONFISCATION OF REVOLVER LICENCE AND SHOT-GUN OF MIAN IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN, M.L.A.

***7685. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the revolver licence and the shot-gun of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., have been confiscated by the Government;
- (b) if so, when and reasons for the same;
- (c) when the Government propose to return it, if not, why not?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : (a) Yes.

(b) The revolver and gun licences were cancelled by the District Magistrate, Lahore, on the 18th December, 1940, and the 28th January, 1941, respectively, as the licensee had been convicted under the Defence of India Rules.

(c) As long as Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din is in Jail, this question cannot arise.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Did the authorities ask the permission of Begum Sahiba before entering the house to get the shot-gun and the revolver?

Mr. Speaker : How does this question arise from the answer given?

Sardar Ajit Singh : Mr. Speaker, they did not enter the house by first asking permission for it.

DISMISSALS AND APPOINTMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH OF THE CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

***7655. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of persons dismissed from the Industrial Branch of the Co-operative Department during the period from April, 1937, to March, 1940 ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

(b) the reasons for their dismissal ;

(c) names of persons appointed in place of dismissed hands ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) No person was dismissed from the Industrial Branch of the Co-operative Department during the period from April, 1937, to March, 1940.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

VETERINARY DISPENSARY AT SULTAN KHANWALA, FEROZEPORE.

***7680. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) when an outline Veterinary Dispensary was opened at Sultan Khanwala (Ferozepore) ;

(b) how many times in a month Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (Ferozepore) was required to visit that Veterinary Dispensary according to the rules ;

(c) how many times this Veterinary Dispensary has so far been visited by him ;

(d) whether he is aware that I complained recently to the Deputy Superintendent, Veterinary Department, that the Veterinary Assistant concerned was not regularly paying the required number of visits ;

(e) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, the action which was taken on it and in case no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) From 17th November, 1939.

(b) Since the dispensary is under the charge of a trained permanent veterinary compounder, the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Ferozepore, is not required to visit it periodically. He, however, does so if and when his advice is required by the compounder in a serious or complicated case brought for treatment there.

(c) 25 times.

(d) and (e) The Deputy Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Ferozepore, did receive a complaint but in view of what has been stated in (b) above, no action was taken against the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDY.

***7682. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of industrial subsidy sanctioned in the current year ;

(b) number of persons to whom subsidy was given ;

(c) amount of subsidy grants spent out of the total grant sanctioned in the current year ;

- (d) the balance in hand on this account ;
- (e) the manner in which the balance is to be availed of in the current year ;
- (f) the number of applicants whose applications for grant of subsidy are still pending ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) and (c) Rs. 11,660.

(b) 7.

(d) The unallotted balance in hand is Rs. 10,040.

(e) and (f) Only one application for the grant of Rs. 3,000 is still under consideration.

LOANS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

***7683. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of loans budgeted in the current year for industrial purposes ;
- (b) the amount of loans so far advanced and the balance in hand on this account ;
- (c) the number of applicants whose applications for loans are still pending and the total amount of loans for which applications are pending ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) The original budget provision was Rs. 2,00,000, out of which a sum of Rs. 55,000 was surrendered, leaving a net provision of Rs. 1,45,000.

(b) Loans totalling Rs. 1,44,500 have been sanctioned. It is understood that one application for Rs. 10,000, in respect of which the loan was sanctioned, has been withdrawn subsequently.

(c) 29. The total amount involved is Rs. 1,02,100. The Board of Industries has recommended rejection of all these applications.

U. T. C. IN THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LUDHIANA.

***7679. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether, sometime ago, there used to be a U. T. C. at the Government College, Ludhiana, for giving military training to some of the students of that college and that some grant also used to be made for the maintenance of that corps ; if so, whether that corps still exists and is maintained, if not, the reasons why it has been abolished ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : There has never been a branch of the U. T. C. in the Government College, Ludhiana.

KHAN SADAR DIN KHAN, DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

***7684. Raja Muhammad Sarfraz Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) when Khan Sadar Din Khan, now Deputy Inspector of Schools, joined service in the Punjab Education Department;
- (b) for how many years of his service in the said department he remained posted to the Jullundur division with his headquarters at Jullundur;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said Deputy Inspector of Schools first worked as an Assistant District Inspector, then as Headmaster, and then as District Inspector of Schools, with his headquarters at Jullundur, and is still working as a Deputy Inspector of Schools at Jullundur;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that he belongs to the Jullundur district;
- (e) if the answers to (c) and (d) above be in the affirmative, the reasons why he has remained posted to his own district for such a long period?

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

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister as to whether the information asked for in this question could easily have been collected from the Director of Public Instruction's office and the matter need not have been referred down below to the district headquarters?

Mr. Speaker : A supplementary question should seek elucidation of the answer to a question. In this case no answer has been given.

Mian Abdul Rab : Sir, the answer given is, that the reply to this question is not yet ready. Notice of this question was given long ago.

Minister : I will explain the matter. It was suggested that questions relating to individuals should not be answered on the floor of the House and, therefore, the information was not collected, but I have ordered it to be collected now.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MUSLIMS AMONG PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS OF THE HAILEY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE.

1402. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of professors, Hailey College of Commerce, community-wise, at the present time;
- (b) the number at present of the students, community-wise, in each class of the said college;

- (c) the number of Muslim students who applied for admission to the said Hailey College in 1940 and the number of those among them who were admitted?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a)—

Principal	.. J. W. Thomas	.. European.
Vice-Principal	.. Krishan Datta	.. Hindu.
Professors	.. I. M. Kapoor	.. Do.
	.. G. C. Bhatia	.. Do.
(On leave)	.. Mohammad Hassan	.. Muslim.
	Faiz Ahmad	.. Do.
Part-time	.. K. P. Soni	.. Hindu.
Professors	C. L. Aggarwal	.. Do.
	Dr. Zia-ud-Din	.. Muslim.
Physical Instructor	.. Inder Singh	.. Sikh.

(b)

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Total.
I	43	7	3	..	53
II	44	3	..	1	48
III	37	4	1	..	42
Total ..	124	14	4	1	143

- (c) Four Muslims applied for admission to the College in the year 1940 and all the four were admitted.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER, FEROZEPORE.

1403. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of persons employed temporarily and permanently in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, in 1939 and in 1940 ;
- (b) the number of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs among them respectively for either of the years ;
- (c) whether the division-wise communal representation is being observed in the lists of the abovementioned candidates and leave reservists in the office in question ; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) and (b)—

Year.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Total.
1939.				
1. Permanent	1	1	..	2
2. Temporary	8	15	4	27
1940.				
1. Permanent	1	3	2	6
2. Temporary	13	18	4	35

(c) *First part* : Yes.

Second part : Does not arise.

UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN HIGHER POSTS IN GREY CANALS DEPARTMENT.

1404. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all the three higher posts, i.e., of the Superintendent, Overseer and Head Clerk of the Grey Canal Department are at present held by non-Muslims; and if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : The Superintendent of the Grey Canals is a non-Muslim officer of the P. S. E. deputed to foreign service for three years in the first instance and selected for this post on account of his experience of inundation canals. The overseer is a non-Muslim appointed by the Financial Commissioner in the exercise of his appellate powers. There is no post of head clerk in the Grey Canals Office. Of the three senior officials the accountant is a non-Muslim while the clerks in charge of the English and Urdu offices are both Muslims. All three have long held these posts through seniority.

STOCK ASSISTANTS.

1405. Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Stock Assistants belonging to all the districts in the Ambala division, trained each year during the last four years;
- (b) the number of those among them absorbed in service giving the name of the district to which each one of them belonged and also the year in which each one of them received training;
- (c) the number of those not so far provided, giving the name of the district to which each one of them belonged and also the year in which he received training with the reasons for not providing them so far?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) The Stock Assistants Course started in 1938 only. The number trained since then is 7 (in 1939), 7 (in 1939) and 10 (in 1940).

Number of those since absorbed in service.	Name of District to which each belonged.	Year in which each received training.
9	1 of Ambala	1 in 1939.
	5 of Rohtak	{ 3 in 1939.
		{ 2 in 1940.
	3 of Hissar	In 1939.

(c)

Number of those not so far provided.	Name of District to which each of them belongs.	Year in which each received his training.	Reason for not providing them so far.
15	1 of Ambala	1 in 1940	For want of vacancies of Stock Assistants.
	7 of Rohtak	{ 2 in 1939	
		{ 5 in 1940	
	5 of Hissar	{ 2 in 1939	
		{ 3 in 1940	
	2 of Gurgaon	{ 1 in 1939	
		{ 1 in 1940	

N.B.—(1) One Stock Assistant of the Hissar District, who qualified in 1939, died.

(2) One belonging to Rohtak District who qualified in 1939 and who was offered an appointment did not, however, join his appointment owing to his family circumstances.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE OFFICE OF LEGAL REMEMBRANCER, PUNJAB.

1406. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that contrary to the instructions of the Government, circulated with their U. O. No. 175-P. G.-39, dated the second of February, 1939, the first post which should have gone to a Muslim has been given to a non-Muslim in March, 1939, when the vacancies in the office of the Legal Remembrancer, Punjab, were filled ;

[Mian Abdul Rab.]

- (b) whether it is also a fact that in above office the post of a senior clerk was filled up by a non-Law Graduate in direct contravention of rule 6 (b) of the Law and Legislative Department Subordinate Service Rules and the practising lawyers with better educational record and superior legal qualifications were taken as junior clerks ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the total salary drawn by Muslims was and is still far less than that drawn by non-Muslims and that although eight superior posts of Superintendent, Steno., Head Assistant and Assistants were all given to non-Muslims, only one Muslim was appointed as junior Assistant and no steps were taken to make up the deficiency of Muslims in the office ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that one non-Muslim appointed as a senior clerk last year was a non-Law Graduate and the other was a Law Graduate whereas the two Muslims who were appointed as junior clerks had superior qualifications and were also practising lawyers ;
- (e) the reasons for recruiting only three agriculturists out of ten in the above vacancies and the reasons for not taking any agriculturist in senior grade and the step that the Government contemplates to redress this wrong ;
- (f) whether the post of the Superintendent in the Legal Remembrancer's office has ever been substantively held by a Muslim ; if not, the steps which are proposed to ensure the appointment of a Muslim Superintendent in the next vacancy ;
- (g) the reasons for giving preferential treatment to non-Muslims in the above new appointments when there was already preponderance of non-Muslims and the steps that the Government contemplates to remove the irregularity by reshuffling the appointments made last year before the new appointees are confirmed ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) The Government instructions referred to were not contravened inasmuch as they do not require that the first appointment in every grade should go to a member of a certain community.

In the present case the question of first or second vacancy does not arise as all the ten posts were sanctioned by one order and were considered together. Five were given to Muslims, three to Hindus and two to Sikhs. Appointments were made after the appointing authority had assessed the relative value of the qualifications of each candidate.

(b) Yes. The post was that of a Librarian in the senior grade and was filled up by a double graduate (M.A., B.T.) who had special training in the Library work.

(c) Yes. The eight senior posts were not newly filled ; only four senior posts were filled by new recruits, viz. :

1 Head Assistant	..	..	..	(Hindu)
1 Assistant	..	..	..	(Muslim)
2 Senior clerks	--	--	..	(Hindu 1) (Sikh 1)

(d) Yes. One of the non-Muslims appointed as senior clerk had special qualifications as stated in (b) above ; the other non-Muslim had distinguished himself by standing first in the F. E. L. examination and obtained a medal in the Law College.

(e) Out of the ten vacancies five were filled by zamindars. Two of them were appointed to senior posts.

(f) No. The post of a superintendent is a selection post, appointment to which is made on the grounds of seniority and efficiency.

(g) Does not arise.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN CLASS I AND CLASS II POSTS IN THE PUNJAB IRRIGATION RESEARCH.

1407. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- the number of newly-created Class I and Class II posts in the Punjab Irrigation Research Institute and the number of such posts already existing with the number of posts in each class at present held by Muslims ;
- whether it is a fact that no class I post is at present being held by a Muslim ; if so, why and to how many of the newly-created posts in both the classes Muslims are to be appointed to remove communal inequality in this branch of service ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Number of newly created posts :—

1. Class I	..	..	..	1
2. Class II	..	..	..	4

There are no such posts already existing in the Punjab Irrigation Research Institute. The latter portion of this part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

(b) There is no Class I post in the Punjab Irrigation Research Institute and therefore no such post is held by a Muslim. The newly created posts will be advertised openly through the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Joint Public Service Commission. No particular post will be reserved for a particular community but only the persons who are considered suitable will be appointed to the posts.

PROMOTION OF MUSLIM FOREST RANGERS TO HIGHER RANKS.

1408. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons recruited so far, community-wise, in all branches of services in the Forest Department since 1st April, 1937;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of Muslim Forest Rangers promoted to higher ranks in the Department during the aforesaid period is much less than that of the non-Muslim Forest Rangers so promoted; if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) A statement giving the required information is attached. Information about Forest Guards is not complete yet and will be supplied later.

(b) *First part:* Yes.

Second part: Promotions to higher ranks are made by selection on merits and not on a communal basis.

Statement showing appointments made in the Forest Department from 1st April, 1937, to date.

Class of service.	Muslims.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Scheduled castes.	Total.
P. F. S. Class I ..	2	1	..	..	..	3
P. F. S. Class II ..	3	3	4	..	..	10
(Temporary).						
Forest Rangers ..	5	2	3	..	..	10
Deputy Rangers ..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Foresters ..	4	1	2	..	1	8
Clerks ..	11	2	6	..	1	20
Total ..	26	9	16	..	2	53

RECRUITMENT OF ZAMINDARS TO SERVICES UNDER GOVERNMENT.

1409. Chaudhri Ali Akbar : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Government services in this province a certain proportion has been fixed for each community and for agriculturists and non-agriculturists; if so, when this proportion was fixed;

- (b) the total number of Government posts in all departments and in all grades of service to which the zamindars have been appointed ever since the proportion referred to in (a) was fixed giving separately the total number and nature of Government posts given to agriculturists and non-agriculturists of the Gurdaspur district together with the name, parentage, class and residence of the selected candidates of that district ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : (a) Yes, the proportion of zamindars in services was first prescribed for different departments in 1919. There have been some subsequent changes to ensure that the zamindars get their due share and the definition of zamindar for appointments has also been amplified. The existing proportion of representation for each community in fresh recruitment has been fixed in the last two or three years.

(b) The proportion of the agriculturists and non-agriculturists as well as of various communities in services is not given district-wise, nor are lists of recruitment maintained separately for each district. It is therefore regretted that the time and labour involved in the collection of the information asked for will not be commensurate with the results likely to be obtained.

FIXING OF COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

1410. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that no communal representation has been fixed in the new recruitment to the services under District Boards ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a representation was made to the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, either to allow the members of the District Boards to fix this representation or to do it himself ;
- (c) if the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, the action which was taken by him ; if no action was taken, why ?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is still under the consideration of the Chairman of the Board, who is awaiting the result of the recent census.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES UNDER GREY CANALS DEPARTMENT.

1411. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Grey Canals Department in district Ferozepore is under the administrative control of the Revenue Department ;
- (b) the proportion which has been fixed for each community for the new recruitments to this department ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL LOANS.

1412. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state, community-wise—

(a) the number of applicants who applied for industrial loans during the current year ;

(b) names of such applicants with amounts of loans so applied for ;

(c) the name of industry in each case for which the loan was said to be required ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a), (b) and (c) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

List of persons who applied for the grant of loans under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, during the year 1940-41.

Serial No.	Name of Applicant.	Amount applied for.	Industry to be carried on.
		Rs.	
1	Haji Ghulam Mohammad, etc., of Batala ..	15,000	Foundry.
2	The Batala Engineering Co., Ltd. ..	20,000	Foundry.
3	Messrs. Mohammad Ramzan-Rahim Bakhsh, Batala.	3,000	Planning Machines and Graphite Crucibles.
4	Lala Bhola Nath of Jullundur City ..	15,000	Brass cocks, Iron bars and squares, etc.
5	Messrs. Ravi Verma, Steel Works, Ambala Cantonment.	5,000	Pumps, Agricultural Implements Sewing Machines, etc.
6	Messrs. Jassu Malik-Jamna Malik, Multan City.	15,000	Textile Mshadi Lungis.
7	K. B. M. A. Rahman, Chughtai of Lahore	20,000	Art Printing Press.
8	The Universal Rubber Factory, Sialkot ..	15,000	Rubber Goods.
9	Mr. Harish Chandra of Rohtak ..	6,000	Hand-loom Weaving.
10	Mian Hakim-ud-Din, Kakezai, of Hoshiarpur.	10,000	Wool Weaving.
11	M. Abdul Hamid Sabir of village Nurpur, district Lahore.	5,000	Manufacture of water pumps.
12	M. Abdul Hakim of Wazirabad, district Gujranwala.	1,000	Manufacture of parts of cinema machines and umbrella stands for cycles.

Serial No.	Name of Applicant.	Amount applied for.	Industry to be carried on.
		Rs.	
13	R. S. Swami Das, Model Town, Lahore ..	5,000	Hosiery.
14	Malik Chaman Lal, Lahore	2,000	Chemical Clay Works.
15	The Oriental Engineering Works, Ltd., Lahore.	30,000	Cold Start Oil Engines.
16	The Indian Manufacturing Co., Lahore ..	40,000	Baby Prams, Cycle Accessories, etc.
17	The Tower Sports Co., Sialkot City ..	8,000	Sports Goods.
18	Lala Madan Lal Kapur, Dharampura, Lahore.	50,000	White Wash and Cement Plaster, etc.
19	Sheikh Ghulam Nabi, Jullundur City ..	25,000	Tanning.
20	M. Mohammad Din, Lahore	8,000	Machine Parts.
21	Harbans Singh Bawa, Chak No. 137-L.G.S., district Lyallpur.	25,000	Oil Manufacture.
22	Bhagwan Das Sud & Sons, Hoshiarpur ..	15,000	Turpentine, etc.
23	The Teplitz Aerated Water Co., Lahore ..	20,000	Crown Corks for bottles.
24	Haji Mohammad Amin, Multan City ..	3,000	Weaving.
25	Nazir Ahmad of Lahore	3,500	Perfumery products.
26	Mohammad Akbar Shamin, Jullundur City	1,200	Tanning.
27	Chaudhri Dhyan Singh, village Indira, district Kangra.	500	Weaving.
28	Lala Shiv Charan Das Hissar ..	3,000	Weaving.
29	Brahm Dutt Bhagi Jamsheer, district Jullundur.	500	Weaving.
30	Gopi Ram, Pakpattan, district Montgomery.	1,000	Weaving.
31	Bal Ram Pathania, Amritsar ..	5,000	Weaving.
32	The United Finance Ltd., Rawalpindi ..	5,000	Canning of vegetable.
33	Sardar Harnam Singh, Lahore ..	20,000	Rubber Goods.
34	The National India Rubber Works, Sialkot	5,000	Rubber Goods.
35	The Tilak Hosiery Factory, Lahore ..	30,000	Hosiery.
36	Khawaja Mohammad Aslam of Ludhiana..	30,000	Weaving and Hosiery.
37	Mr. B. N. Kashyap of Lahore.. ..	10,000	Engineering.
38	M. Hassan Mohammad of Palampur ..	6,000	Weaving.
39	Lala Jeoti Sarup, Kulu, district Kangra ..	500	Handloom Weaving.

Serial No.	Name of Applicant.	Amount applied for.	Industry to be carried on.
		Rs.	
40	Chaudhri Khair-ud-Din of village Morinda, district Ambala, Proprietor, Bombay Thread Ball Manufacturing Co., Lahore.	1,500	Manufacture of thread balls.
41	Kh n Jamsheel Khan of Jhajjar, district Rohtak.	500	Distillation of essential oil.
2	Mr. R. K shyap of Prem Gali, Lahore ..	1,000	Manufacture of spare parts of machinery.
43	M. Mohammad Yusuf of Shahdara, district Sheikhupura.	500	Handloom Weaving.
44	Lala Bishen Das of Shah Kot, district Sheikhupura.	400	Dyeing and Calico Printing.
45	Chaudhri Mahboob Ahmad, village Kotli Bhutta, district Sialkot.	500	Handloom Weaving.
46	M. Mohammad Saeed, Proprietor, The Modern Tanning Works, Ferozepore City.	1,200	Tanning.
47	Malik Mohammad Yusuf of Talagang ..	3,500	Weaving.
48	M. Rehman Ali of Jalalpur Jattan, district Gujrat.	1,500	Tanning.
49	Mr. Seh Dev Sahoni of village Kartarpur, district Jullundur.	700	Dyeing and Calico Printing.
50	M. Rehman Khan, village Tibbi, district Gujrat.	400	Tanning.
51	M. Mohammad Anwar Ali Khan, Pathan, Jhajjar, district Rohtak.	500	Distillation of essential oil.
52	M. Manzur Ahmad Khan, Pathan, Jaunpur, district Dera Ghazi Khan.	2,000	For installing machinery for turning wood work and sawing.
53	Nur Mohammad, son of Hussein Din, Shah Dher Dhok, district Attock.	400	Weaving.
54	Washesher Nath Mehta, Julianpur, district Jhelum.	2,000	Weaving and Dyeing.
55	The Sant Trading Co., Sargodha ..	1,000	Hosiery and Thread Ball Manufacture.
56	Malik Anait Ullah, Sialkot City ..	2,000	Weaving.
57	Sialkoti Mal, etc., of Sialkot ..	2,000	Aluminium sheets and utensils.
58	B. Luxmn Saroop Bhatnager, Rohtak ..	3,000	Glue Manufacture.
59	Pandit Daulat Ram Sharma, Proprietor, D. S. Sharma & Co., Lahore.	4,000	Printing.

Serial No.	Name of Applicant.	Amount applied for.	Industry to be carried on.
		Rs.	
60	Pandit Keshab Narain, Suliana, Palampur, district Kangra.	4,000	Handloom Weaving.
61	Mr. B. R. Singh, Principal, S. C. College, Commercial Buildings, the Mall, Lahore.	3,500	Manufacture of fountain pens.
62	Messrs. Sultan Ahmed and Bros., Trunk Manufacturers, Sialkot.	5,000	Trunk Manufacture.
63	Chaudhri Lajpat Rai, Hissar	4,000	Wool Weaving.
64	Pandit Bishen Lal, Proprietor, Rozdon Pharmacy (Registered), Lahore.	4,500	Manufacture of Dental Powder.
65	Mirza Aman Ullah Beg, Patti, district Lahore.	3,000	Mia Pumps.
66	Pandit Duni Chand Sharma, Rehlu, district Kangra.	500	Handloom Weaving.
67	Qutab Din Mochi, Dhok Shah Dhir, district Attock.	500	Pothohari Shoes.
68	Messrs. Mohammad Abdulla Khan, etc. The Chisty Motor Transport and Trading Co., Talagang, district Attock.	1,500	Tanning.
69	M. Khushi Mohammad of village Jeowanjal, district Gujrat.	1,000	Tanning.
70	Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Daarya, district Hoshiarpur.	1,500	Manufacture of iron articles, grinding machinery, engines of small sizes and water pumps, etc.
71	Abdul Rashid, Lahore	1,000	Manufacture of ball frames and Drawing instruments.
72	M. Fazal Karim of village Dhudra Sharqi, district Gujrat.	500	Tanning.
73	Dewan Tribeni Sahai of Hansi, district Hissar.	3,000	Manufacture of Glue.
74	Sardar Nahar Singh of Lahore ..	5,000	Dairy Farming.

INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDIES.

1413. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of industrial subsidies granted community-wise in the current year with the names of grantees and amounts granted to each ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

(b) the name of industry for which each grantee has applied for the subsidy ;

(c) the names of applicants whose applications are still pending along with the amount for which each one has applied ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

(c) Chaudhri Lajpat Rai of Hissar, Rs. 3,000.

A list of persons to whom subsidies have so far been granted during the financial year 1940-41.

Serial No.	Name of applicant.	Community of applicant.	Amount sanctioned.	Industry to be subsidised.
			Rs.	
1	The Punjab Paint and Varnish Works, Lahore.	Hindu ..	5,000	Paint and varnish.
2	M. Abdul Latif of village Morinda, district Ambala.	Muslim ..	1,000	Thread balls.
3	Sardar Girdhara Singh, village Maon, district Gujranwala.	Sikh ..	1,000	Dyeing and printing.
4	Mr. Kanhiya Lal Seini, Mechanical Engineer, Jhajjar.	Hindu ..	160 (plus journey expenses from Jhajjar to Lahore and back.)	Automatic water lift.
5	Mr. Sharif Ahmad of Gaggoo, district Montgomery.	Muslim ..	1,000	Calico and printing.
6	Messrs. Amin Brothers, Rawalpindi.	Do. ..	3,000	Optical Glasses.
7	Mr. Munshi Ram, Hissar ..	Hindu ..	500	Manufacture of Glue.

SUPERSESSIONS IN SECRETARIAT OFFICES AND IN FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

1414. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing, community-wise, the number of the ministerial staff including the Superintendents of Secretariat offices as well as of Financial Commissioners' office who have been superseded during the last 5 years together with reasons for such supersession ?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : The time and trouble involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE OFFICE OF LEGAL REMEMBRANCER, PUNJAB.

1415. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that contrary to the instructions of the Government, circulated with their U. O. No. 175-P. G.-89, dated the second of February, 1939, the first post which should have gone to a Muslim has been given to a non-Muslim in March, 1939, when the vacancies in the office of the Legal Remembrancer, Punjab, were filled :
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in above office the post of a senior clerk was filled up by a non-Law Graduate in direct contravention of Rule 6 (b) of the Law and Legislative Department Subordinate Service Rules and the practising lawyers with better educational record and superior legal qualifications were taken as junior clerks :
- (c) whether it is a fact that the total salary drawn by Muslims was and is still far less than that drawn by non-Muslims and that although eight superior posts of Superintendent, Steno., Head Assistant and Assistants were all given to non-Muslims only one Muslim was appointed as Junior Assistant and no steps were taken to make up the deficiency of Muslims in the office ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that one non-Muslim appointed as a senior clerk last year was a non-Law Graduate and the other was a Law Graduate whereas the two Muslims who were appointed as junior clerks had superior qualifications and were also practising lawyers ;
- (e) the reasons for recruiting only three agriculturists out of ten in the above vacancies and the reasons for not taking any agriculturist in senior grade and the step that the Government contemplates to redress this wrong ;
- (f) whether the post of the Superintendent in the Legal Remembrancer's office has ever been substantively held by a Muslim ; if not, the steps which are proposed to ensure the appointment of a Muslim Superintendent in the next vacancy ;
- (g) the reasons for giving preferential treatment to non-Muslims in the above new appointments when there was already preponderance of non-Muslims and the steps that the Government contemplates to remove the irregularity by reshuffling the appointments made last year before the new appointees are confirmed ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : Attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to Assembly Question No. 1406 (unstarred)¹.

ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE OF CERTAIN

M. L. A.s

Mr. Speaker : As required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 34 of the Legislative Assembly Rules, I have to bring this fact to the notice of the Assembly that the following members have been absent, without permission, from the sittings of the Assembly for a period of 60 consecutive days computed in the manner provided in subsection (4) of section 68 of the Government of India Act :—

1. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.
2. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES.

Finance Minister : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,36,000 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 Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

Mr. Speaker : The demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,36,000 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 Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

Working of Hydro-Electric Department.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour) :
Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I got very little time during the general discussion on the Budget of the Punjab Government for the year 1941-42 and, for this reason, I could neither deal with this matter at length nor submit some proposals for the consideration of the Government. I move this cut motion in order to enable myself to put forward some suggestions for the consideration of the House. Moreover, as the present demand has been put in separately in the agenda, I feel that it is appropriate to make my submissions at this time when this demand is before the House for consideration. Another point that I would like to mention is that I would have dealt with certain proposals, which I am going to make to-day, in the form of a non-official resolution but unfortunately no day had been allotted for this purpose during the last so many months since the withdrawal of the Opposition (Congress) from this House. One day used to be allotted every week for the non-official business and this is not now being done. Perhaps it is due to the rush of Government business. My submission is that if it is not possible to allot one day in a week, at least one day in a month ought to be allotted for non-official work. I understand that another short session will be held in the month of April and I hope that the Government would then allot a day or two for non-official business.

The third point to which I want to draw the attention of the House is that strictly speaking Hydro-Electric Department forms a part of the Industries Department which we have already discussed for full two days. But as ill-luck would have it, it has been separated from it and has been handed over to another Minister. I do not want to cast any aspersion on any of the Honourable Ministers. That is far from my mind. What I want to draw your attention to is that it would have been really better if the Hydro-Electric Department and the Department of Industries had been merged together and placed under one and the same Minister. The Hydro-Electric Department is a purely commercial department and its right place is with the industries. To the contrary, what the Government have done is to allot the inspection of factories, etc., with a budget of twenty to twenty-two lakhs to one Minister, while the main commercial project of the Government in which the annual loss alone is rupees twenty-two lakhs, has gone to another Minister. What I mean to say is that if both these departments had been entrusted to one and the same Minister, whether Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram or Major Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, we could have discussed this department under the Industries Demand. That would have saved much time of the House as well. Anyway the demand now before the House relates to the Hydro-Electric Department. It is very unfortunate that although the results of this scheme have been far from satisfactory and a good deal of public money has been wasted, still Government have not moved their little finger to put a stop to this state of affairs. Before I say something in regard to its working I would like to read out the opinion of the Honourable Minister for Finance, Sir Manohar Lal, which he was pleased to express in the course of his Budget speech delivered on 27th February, 1941. In his speech he says :—

In previous years I had referred to the financial working of the Hydro-Electric Scheme with much concern and I had expressed, though not without hesitation, the hope that the gap between the interest on capital outlay and net revenue after making allowance for depreciation may rapidly diminish and may be expected even to disappear within a measurable period. I speak to-day with my anxiety not much relieved about the financial results of the scheme.

Further on he says :—

I see at present no prospect of the gap being substantially bridged over, much less the interest charges being completely met from that income, not to speak of there being a net return on the whole working of the scheme.

This is the opinion, in regard to the Hydro-Electric Scheme, of the Honourable Minister for Finance who is not only held in great esteem in this House but outside the province as well. The other day the Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that any country could be proud of such an able and talented Finance Minister. My honourable friends need no further arguments after hearing a man of the calibre of Sir Manohar Lal and they can very well guess for themselves as to what actually is the real state of affairs prevailing in this department. The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, who has the finances of the province on his finger tips, has painted so dark a picture of its financial position. He has, as a matter of fact, pointed out that not to speak of getting any return from this scheme it will be very difficult even to meet its interest charges from its income. When such is the financial position of any department it is up to us to

[R. B. Lala Soban Lal.]

refuse to grant the sum demanded for it. It is our duty to consider the matter thoroughly before granting this demand. I may tell you, Sir, that if the Government do not take any action in time in the matter and stop the wastage of public funds the whole responsibility will lie on the shoulders of the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal. Now, it has become absolutely necessary to conduct thorough inquiries into the financial position of this scheme and try to make it a profitable one. It is in view of this reason that I have moved my cut motion with the object of discussing the present financial position of the scheme and its working and of offering suggestions for improvements in the Hydro-Electric Department.

Before proceeding further I would like to make it clear that I have not moved this cut motion to criticise or to condemn the Honourable Minister in charge, his Secretaries or the Chief Engineer of the Hydro-Electric Department. On the contrary I have tabled it with a view to make some constructive suggestions so as to improve the working of this scheme and I hope the Honourable Minister would take all my criticism in the spirit in which I propose to offer it. After all, it is a commercial proposition and not a beneficent activity. The test that is applicable to such concerns is whether they are showing any profit or not. I may mention that in the case of commercial concerns (private companies) when their work is placed before the annual general meeting of the share-holders the members who are the masters of those companies, have the chance of reviewing the past year's working, criticize the work of the management and offer their own suggestions. The board of directors or management of such companies do not take such criticism ill. Rather they welcome it and try to improve the working of the companies in the light of their criticism. I do not say that they do not defend themselves. Surely they do try to meet the points raised by the share-holders. At the same time they welcome constructive criticism from them. Exactly in the same manner I propose to discuss the working of this scheme and if any one of my suggestions appeals to the Honourable Minister in charge or the Chief Engineer of the Hydro-Electric Department I hope they would try to accept it.

Coming to the subject proper I would like to give a brief history of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. It was something like 17 or 18 years ago that this scheme was mooted for the first time. At that time almost all the non-official members of the Punjab Legislative Council, irrespective of the fact whether they were agriculturists or non-agriculturists, opposed it vehemently. They urged the Government not to proceed with its construction because it would not benefit this province in any way. If you will very kindly refer to the debates of the Punjab Legislative Council of those days you will find that the scheme was opposed at every stage by my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Zafrullah Khan, who was then a member of the Punjab Legislative Council and is now a member of His Excellency the Viceroy's Executive Council, also opposed that scheme tooth and nail and said that on no account should it be further proceeded with if it was not going to be profitable. At that time it was also urged by the zamindar members that

Government were playing ducks and drakes with the finances of the province which were mostly contributed by the poor peasants. But an assurance was held out to them that when this scheme would be completed electric energy would be supplied at cheap rates to the zamindars for irrigation purposes. The second object was that the Government would get some profit out of the scheme. The third object was that the Government would be able to supply load at a cheaper rate to the big industries. I beg to submit that the honourable members can judge for themselves how far those promises have been fulfilled and how far those expectations have been realized. In short my submission is that this scheme was opposed by all sections of the public but the Government did not listen to anybody.

My honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, in his lengthy speech covering about four hours delivered the other day on the general discussion of the budget while referring to the hydro-electric scheme said that when the scheme was for the first time brought before the House he strongly opposed it. And at that time when this scheme was being discussed by the Punjab Legislative Council the discussion was diverted to whether this scheme should be started in Mandi or at one or two other places which he mentioned. This means that instead of discussing the real issue, the discussion was all the time whether it should be started at Mandi, where it is at present located, or Madhopur, etc., and the argument which was then put forward by the Government was that, having spent a sum of fifty thousand on survey operations it would be unwise not to proceed with it. The zamindars were told that as their money had been spent on the survey of the scheme it would not be fair to them to undo all that had been done. Again, when about two crores had been spent on the scheme a further sum was asked for in order to complete it. The non-official members were against any further waste of money on this will-of-the-wisp but the Government again told them that having spent two crores there was no going back. An assurance was given to the honourable members that the scheme would be completed at a cost of two and a half crores. Thus by and by, the expenditure reached the grand total of 4 crores but still the scheme was far from complete. At that time the Government were asked as to what would be the total investment and cost of production per unit of electric energy but no satisfactory reply was given. A very prominent member of the Council, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan had to move a resolution that as four crores of rupees had already been spent and the scheme was still incomplete it would be better not to sanction any more money unless the whole matter had been gone through by a committee of experts and members of the House. I am confident that instead of trying to bring about an improvement in the situation, the Honourable Minister for Public Works will not take a leaf out of the books of his predecessors in office and say that because so many crores had been spent on the scheme there was no alternative but to go on with it. He should kindly keep in view the facts that I am enumerating while making a reply and should welcome my criticism and meet it.

Minister for Public Works : Indeed it is quite welcome, but please go on giving us more details.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : So far I have been narrating the history of this scheme as could be gleaned from the pages of the old debates. Now I come to the department itself. The Government had by taking up this scheme intended to achieve three objects. Firstly, that electric energy would be supplied to the zamindars at cheap rates, secondly, the Government would receive returns on their investment and, thirdly, the industrial output of the province would be increased when power was supplied at a low cost. Now we have to see how far the Government have succeeded in achieving these objects. Has electric energy been supplied to the rural areas? Are the Government getting the return they had expected? How far have they succeeded in supplying cheap power to industries in the province? What reply has the Honourable Minister to give to these questions? It was a commercial undertaking from which huge profits were expected to swell the coffers of the State. But in actual fact Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has had to bring several taxation measures in order to get money required for running the administration.

Minister for Development : Only two such measures have so far been brought forward. (*Laughter.*)

Minister for Public Works : And others will follow. (*Laughter.*)

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : The Honourable Ministers say that only two measures have so far been brought forward and others will follow. Those already passed have given rise to much discontentment and agitation against the Government in certain sections of the population and those that will follow will only intensify them. Why has all this been done? It is because the Government have no money and needs it badly for spending it without any qualm on this scheme. May I ask if this huge unnecessary expenditure is at all justifiable? The times have changed. Even the Honourable Premier and his colleagues have changed their policies. Now when they go out on tour they declare in public meetings that they are servants of the people instead of posing as *bara sahibs* like before. But if amidst this changing universe anything has not submitted itself to change, it is this department. After wasting crores of rupees and without getting any profit out of it the scheme is still being cherished. It would be much better for our Ministers to inform the tax-payers as well as their constituents why a loss of Rs. 20 to 22 lacs annually is being sustained on this department which is not a beneficent department and why no improvement is sought to be made in it. It is no use haranguing before the people that their Ministers are their servants when their money is being squandered in such a ruthless manner. If the Government had given any attention to this department and the waste of public funds caused on account of it, they would not have required these taxation measures which have contributed greatly to their unpopularity. On the other hand if they still wanted to bring forward these taxation measures they could have utilized the money spent on this white elephant for providing relief to the zamindars. Unfortunately the Honourable Minister for Finance who is the custodian of the finances of the Punjab and is responsible for their proper disbursement, is not in his seat at present, otherwise I would

have asked him why this waste was not checked. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang when he was the Minister in charge of this department while replying to those who had objected to this waste of money stated on 6th March, 1933—

The estimates prepared by the subordinate officers are first of all submitted to the Executive Engineers who after examining them forward them to the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer also examines them and after finding that they are satisfactory submits them to the Finance Department. The Finance Department accords its approval only if it finds them satisfactory.

Is the position of the Finance Department in 1941 the same as was in 1933? May I know from the Honourable Minister for Finance if he has satisfied himself that this expenditure of crores is not a mere waste? Probably I do not need a reply. From his Budget speech it is clear that he is not satisfied. I would, therefore, request him not to sanction a single pie henceforth. In the matter of finances, he is responsible to the people of the province and the greater the savings he effects the less will the people be taxed. Taxation should be the last resort of any civilized Government, but here instead of setting their own house in order, by stopping the loss sustained by this department, the Government pass fiscal measures to fleece the public. The Government should always get every scheme that is proposed by any of their departments scrutinized by their technical and financial experts before launching upon it.

The Honourable Minister in charge the other day at the time of the general discussion of the Budget in reply to Dr. Sir Gokul Chand's criticism upon the lack of scrutiny on the part of the Government on this scheme said :—

Firstly—it is a bad legacy and we are trying to make the best of a bad bargain; and

Secondly—he hoped that it will be possible for the scheme to give a return of 2 per cent per annum after some years.

Now, Sir, it will be noticed that it was not mentioned from what year this return of 2 per cent will begin to accrue and I hope when he makes a reply now he will throw some light on this point. Let us now see what was given out at the time of introducing this scheme. An inkling of it is found in the Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister.

The construction of the scheme came to an end early in 1936 and according to original estimates it was anticipated that in the tenth year the scheme would yield a substantial net return then calculated at 5.75 per cent.

This shows that in the beginning the representatives of the people and the zamindars were made to believe that on the completion of the scheme it will be possible to get a return of 5.75 per cent. But now we see that loss after loss is being sustained and after spending nine crores on a scheme which was originally estimated to cost two and a half crores only a return of 2 per cent is being hoped for. Even if this hope materializes I submit that for an enterprise costing such a stupendous sum this yield cannot be called a yield at all. The Resources and Retrenchment Committee also deliberated on this matter. Mr. Thomas, the then Chief Engineer, who is also responsible for some of the loss which the province has suffered, giving

[R. B. Lal Sohan Lal.]

evidence before the Committee said that the scheme would be made a paying one by 1940. Unfortunately the year 1941 is now upon us and still that elusive percentage of 5.75 is far from being attained. All that we hear about any yield is the 2 per cent hoped for by the Honourable Minister in charge and even that is to accrue after some years. Such a promise is held out after every four or five years and we know by experience that it never comes true. The Government are thus trying to please the people of this Province by holding out such hopes just as parents are wont to console a crying baby by promising him a new toy.

Now with regard to legacy it is interesting to find that while the present Government take all the credit for the good which the previous Governments have done, they blame those Governments for having given this bad schemes as a legacy although the fact is that four out of the present six members of the cabinet were members of the previous Governments at different times and had to do very much with the scheme. I admit that technically this argument is correct. Therefore let us see as to how the present Government have made "the best out of a bad bargain", as stated by the Honourable Minister-in-charge, since he has taken over the reins of this office. In this connection, now, let me first draw the attention of the House to the plant and its capacity. I will quote the words of the Honourable Finance Minister. He says in his Budget speech :—

The most outstanding factor which leads to this unhappy position is that while the original scheme contemplated a generating capacity of 36,000 K. Ws., it is now realized that the output of power will not exceed 16,500 K. Ws. at a daily load factor of 73 per cent. This falsifies all previous financial forecasts.

It is now crystal clear that a huge amount was spent for the generation of 36,000 K. Ws. with an additional stand by of 12,000 K. Ws. The plant was put up for that capacity and as you might remember the grant given by the last Legislative Council on the passage of this scheme was on the basis of the capacity of 48,000 K. Ws. in all. But it is very disgusting to find that the plant as it stands to-day after working for such a long period cannot generate more than 16,500 K. Ws. which in the words of the Finance Minister falsifies all previous financial forecasts. The Government now say that the output has been reduced to less than half which means that the working capacity of the plant now remains about 16,000 K. Ws. This being the state of affairs, is there any ray of hope visible in future for the betterment of the scheme? When the working capacity has been reduced so disappointingly, can the speeches delivered by the Minister in charge even in the best form give us any hope? What can we expect under the circumstances? I, therefore, make bold to say that every sensible man in this House would bear me out in saying that a grave blunder has been committed by undertaking it and that no business man on the face of the earth can commit such a blunder. The very first and most essential part of every scheme is the capacity of the plant. This has hopelessly failed. Now with regard to the structure of the project I understand it is based on a huge tunnel and if for one reason or other it cracks, the whole structure of the scheme would be razed to the ground. I would have said much more on this point but

do not wish to take the time of the House on this issue. I have dealt with it in a passing manner. It is proved that the working capacity of the plant has been reduced to half. Are these the business bargains which my honourable friends feel proud of? And now when things have come to such a pass let us know what conclusion has been arrived at in this respect. The Finance Minister has sounded a grave warning in respect of the scheme, according to whom there is no hope for deriving further benefit out of the Mandi Project. As against that the Government are contemplating to set up a thermal station in this province. Let me first ask them whether they have obtained the opinion of any expert who can speak with authority on this subject. If they have not done so I would request them not to buy another white elephant at the expense of the province, as it is no use committing blunder after blunder. May I submit that it would not be wise on the part of the Government to spend crores of rupees on this new thermal plant, without considering its profit side. I do not think that the profits would be enough even to cover the interest on this large amount of money. Then, I am given to understand that the thermal plant will be purchased soon after the war. My friends perhaps do not know that immediately after the termination of war the prices do not fall down all of a sudden. In fact the curve of prices goes up to a certain extent. On the one hand it is being stressed upon by the Finance Minister that the Government should refrain from buying thermal plant because of the conditions and high prices created by the war, but on the other hand it is being contemplated to extend the activities of this department during the war. Is he not blowing hot and cold in the same breath? May I ask, is the Government not committing a blunder again when the prices of articles are prohibitive? If they are bent upon extending this project why do they not wait for the time when the articles would become cheap. I would, therefore, request them not to pay an unnecessarily high price during the war time. As regards the thermal plant they should not make this bargain at all. However, if they are bent upon having it, then they should not have it until and unless the prices have gone down which you cannot expect immediately after the conclusion of the war. That may be some years after and even then the matter should be thoroughly considered and gone into. (*An honourable member from the Ministerial benches* : How long will the war continue?) Sir, a question is being put to me which even Hitler or Churchill cannot reply. What I was submitting was that when war comes to an end and after some period the articles become cheaper that will be the time to undertake extensions and new projects. I think it would be the height of absurdity to invest money that has been realized from poor tax-payers after imposing heavy taxation measures in this extravagant manner. What I demand and in that demand I am voicing the feelings of the poor tax-payers that our experts and engineers should very carefully consider over the whole matter before giving their final advice to the Government with regard to the contemplated expansions in the activities of the department. My definite question is whether after having spent so much money during the war or immediately thereafter it would be even possible for the Government to realize interest, and depreciation charges. In answering that question the experts of the Government should not be oblivious of the fact that they will have to spend at least four rupees

[B. B. Lala Sohan Lal.]

for one rupee if such expansions are taken in hand during these times. Accordingly the department to achieve their object of introducing expansions will be incurring stupendous investment running into crores and in view thereof it is the duty of the Chief Engineer and financial experts to examine the whole question microscopically to arrive at a correct conclusion. Here I sound a definite note of warning. It must be seen by the present Chief Engineer that the unfortunate experiment of the Hydro-Electric project made on the advice of the then Chief Engineers and other experts is not repeated and the province and posterity are not again burdened with heavy losses. Well, Sir, I have placed certain constructive suggestions before the Government and now it is up to them to accept or reject the same. (*Interruption.*) The Honourable Minister is unnecessarily interrupting me. By doing so he is simply betraying his ignorance of the subject. It is a pity that he has not cared to grasp the line of argument which I have so meticulously elaborated. He should bear in mind that I have been systematically developing my arguments. It seems that he is not prepared to hear any useful suggestion put before him.

Now, I would like to refer the honourable members to the investment made up to date in the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. In this connection the Honourable Minister remarked the other day that it was a legacy passed on to them by the previous Government and that they were making the best of a bad bargain. I would only quote facts and figures to show the colossal amounts invested by the present Government since they took office on the 1st of April, 1937. In support of my contention I would refer the Honourable Minister to the blue book issued by his own Government, that is the Administration Report of the Punjab Public Works Department, Electricity Branch, for the year 1938-39. If you peruse page 10, item 5 of Appendix D of the report, you will find this fact specifically mentioned there that when this department came under the control of the present Government on 1st April, 1937, the investment in the scheme stood at Rs. 7,89,47,525. But after one year's working of the scheme under their regime, the investment rose to the huge sum of Rs. 8,17,98,148. Then during subsequent years the Government steadily invested large amounts of money in this losing proposition and in the year 1940-41 the whole investment amounted to the staggering figure of Rs. 9,17,28,842. And at the top of it the Government have provided in the Budget of 1941-42 a sum of Rs. 40,55,700 to be spent on the Electricity Department. Now it is obvious that a huge amount of more than 9½ crores of rupees has so far been invested on this scheme. That is, when the Honourable Minister took charge of the Department, the investment already incurred in connection with this scheme stood at about Rs. 7½ crores and now it has risen to a figure of more than Rs. 9½ crores. In other words the Honourable Minister is responsible for spending about Rs. 1,70 lakhs on this concern. Now let us examine the profit side of this investment. Naturally honourable members would be anxious to know the yield obtained after the investment of Rs. 1,70 lakhs made by this Government. The figures which I am going to adduce have been culled out by me from the reports issued by the Electricity Department from time to time. If you refer to pages vii-viii of Appendix C

of the Administration Report of this Department for the year 1938-39, you will come across the accounts for the year 1937-38. It is stated there that the Government in the first year sustained a net loss of Rs. 8,41,151 which increased in the next year, i.e., in 1938-39 to Rs. 11,01,932. These figures you will find in Appendix B pages v and vi of the Administration Report for the year 1939-40. Honourable members may kindly bear in mind the gradual deterioration in the net losses resulting from the steadily increasing investment. The matter does not end here. Next year, i.e., 1939-40 this negative income went up to Rs. 16,62,967 and in the current year (1940-41) the loss has shot up to Rs. 21,01,750.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : A steady progress.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Yes, indeed a very creditable and a steady progress, which unfortunately betrays lack of business acumen. This loss gradually increased every year and after 4 years' working of the scheme under their control the total loss has come to Rs. 57,07,800, but it is a thousand pities that the Government have all along remained inertia-stricken and have not taken effective measures to counteract this loss. If they had cared to stem this loss the amount now required to meet it could be utilized on other beneficent activities.

Then the Honourable Minister in charge, while I was making a speech on the general discussion of the Budget, remarked that these amounts related to certain accounts. I think probably he was referring to certain calculations made by the Electricity Department in its report in which amounts of one year were transferred to the next one. Even if that is taken for granted, he cannot deny that the total loss would remain the same.

Minister for Public Works : But where is the loss ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : According to correct mathematical calculations there is obviously a loss. But if ^{1 p. m.} the Government are prepared to shut their eyes to facts and figures, they may safely declare that there is no loss. As a matter of fact this will not help the Government. There is no use disputing hard facts. Let the Government face facts and accept them. The department is running at a great loss. Sir, you will see from the figures I have quoted above that the losses have been on the increase since the present Government came into office. A poet has aptly said—

خس ہوتا کیا خون میں درانی

Then take the position of the Government with regard to the cost per unit generated. According to the administration reports and the memorandum to the budget, it is clear that the Government are incurring steady losses in this respect. I will presently show and quote from the administration reports and the memorandum to the budget as to the difference in the cost per unit generated and per unit sold.

Mr. Speaker : Order please. I have to go out for a few minutes and the only member of the panel of Chairmen who is present in the House prefers to discuss his motion to his occupying the chair for a short while. Under the circumstances, I suggest that Mir Maqbool Mahmood be elected to occupy the chair in my absence.

Honourable Members : We agree.

(Mr. Speaker then left the chair which was occupied by Mir Maqbool Mahmood amidst applause.)

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Mr. Chairman, I was submitting that the Government had suffered a loss of Rs. 8,41,151 in the first year but now its loss was Rs. 21,01,750 a year.

In Appendix D of the Administration Report for the year 1939-40 pages xi and xii item No. 30 it has been stated that the cost per unit sold is 14.698 pies and in item No. 32 of the same report it has been stated that the average return per unit is 10.51 pies and it is again stated in item No. 38 of the same report and page that deficit per unit sold is 4.183 pies. It means that the Government are incurring 4.183 pies loss per unit of energy sold. *(Interruption.)*

Mr. Chairman (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : May I request the honourable member to proceed with his speech ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I stopped as there was noise on the benches at my back. Adverting to the point which I was pressing upon the attention of the House I may say that I fail to understand the way in which the department concerned is transacting bargains so far as the sale of energy is concerned. On page 51 of the Memorandum for the year 1940-41 it is stated that the cost of power is calculated at the rate of 8.25 pies per unit. Sir, you can judge that when the cost per unit generated is 10.968 pies and cost per unit sold is 14.698 pies and the charges made to the main scheme as per memorandum is 8.25 pies on what grounds and what justification energy is being supplied to North-Western Railway at as low a rate as 6.25 pies. And not only this. You will be astonished to hear that rates charged from the North-Western Railway become still reduced in case their consumption exceeds six lacs units ; then Government charge as low as 1.7 pies per unit. I understand that North-Western Railway consumes about ten lacs units every month and the average comes to something between 4 and 5 pies. Now may I ask the Honourable Minister for Public Works Department to state what is the justification of charging such a low rate from one department of the Government of India. Certainly this is not being done to popularize the use of electricity because North-Western Railway would use electricity in any case.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The House is not in quorum. *(As there was no quorum the bell was rung.)*

Mr. Chairman : The House is in quorum now.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Well, Sir, I was saying that reduced rates are charged from the North-Western Railway in case of their consuming more energy than a particular amount. For example if they were to consume more than six lacs units they would be charged lesser rates

with the result that the Government will have to suffer a greater loss if consumption is more than six lacs units. No man can afford to sell his commodities below cost price. Can you name any person, individual, company or Government in this country or in any other country of the world who would be selling their goods below their cost price? If anybody wants to give an instance he can certainly name the Hydro-Electric Department of the Punjab Government. Instead of selling it at such a loss they would do better if they were to utilize it for some other purpose.

As the department was running at a loss, the Government decided to take local distribution into their own hands. Now what is local distribution? Local distribution means the supply of electric energy to various towns, etc., by the department direct to the consumers. The Government instead of allowing private companies to purchase a bulk load from the Government and supply it to the various localities, have taken the work of local distribution into their own hands. But the purpose for which they took it under their own control has not been achieved, i.e., instead of making any profit they are incurring heavy loss. This fact can be proved from the figures which I am going to quote. In local distribution in 1937-38 the Government earned a profit of Rs. 62,102. In 1938-39 instead of earning any profit they lost Rs. 39,450, as is disclosed by the administration report of the year 1939-40, Appendix B, page vi. The next year, i.e., 1939-40 the loss rose to Rs. 1,64,251. In 1940-41 the figures of loss stand at Rs. 4,67,738. These figures show that the more the work of the local distribution was expanded the more the losses accrued. I may say that the real figures of loss are much higher than these which I have quoted from the Administration Reports prepared by the Government. In these figures of losses the supervision charges, etc., are not included proportionately. If we were to include those charges also then the figures of losses will become still higher.

At this stage I may also discuss the depreciation point. The Government have been allowing a very low rate of depreciation charges, as was argued the other day by my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. If adequate rate of depreciation were to be allowed the loss to the Government will rise higher still. I would like to inform the House what the proper rate of depreciation charges should be. In this connexion I want to draw the attention of the House to the opinion of experts from pages 885 and 886 of Hydro-Electric Handbook by W. P. Creager, Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the Power Corporation of New York and J. D. Justin, Hydraulic Engineer of the United Gas Improvement Co., and Consulting Engineer, New York, and page 147 of Power Supply Economics by J. D. Justin and W. G. Mervine where life of the plant, the material and the question as to what depreciation should be charged is discussed. From the pages of these books it will be discovered what experts say as to what is the life of the plant or what is reasonable depreciation which should be charged. The Government are running this department at a loss of Rs. 22,00,000, in spite of the fact that a very low rate of depreciation charges is being allowed by the Government. If, however, depreciation charges were to be allowed at a higher rate as is suggested by these eminent authorities the loss of the Government will be much more than Rs. 22,00,000 per annum. I hope none will dispute this proposition as it is really based on facts.

[R. B. Lala Sohan Lal.]

Adverting to the sale of power, I will quote from the Memorandum explanatory of the Budget 1941-42 of the Punjab Government which gives the following explanation at page 51 :—

Sale of Power.—This minor head represents the amount realized from the consumers on account of the cost of the electrical energy delivered to them at their premises. In the case of bulk consumers, the supply is given at special rates according to the arrangements concluded by the Branch with each of them. Retail sale to the consumers supplied through the various local distribution system is subject to the rates of the Branch's Schedules of Tariffs for General, Industrial, Bulk, Public Lighting and Temporary Supply, respectively. Cost of power supplied by the Main Scheme to the various local distribution schemes is calculated at the rate of 8·25 pies per unit.

As against this view, the Administration Report for 1938-39 of the Public Works Department (Electricity Branch) gives the cost at 10·968 pies per unit. Even a layman will mark the difference between 8·25 pies and 10·968 pies. It shows that the cost per unit generated is more than the rate of sale. It is produced at the rate of 10·968 pies per unit but is charged at the rate of 8·25 pies per unit. Now these figures speak for themselves. Take any of these statements into consideration, the loss is quite obvious.

I may tell my honourable friends that almost all the electric supply companies irrespective of the fact whether they are supplying electric energy to large cities or to small villages are running on profit. There is not one of them which is running at a loss. But it is very regrettable that our Hydro-Electric Department is suffering losses even in local distribution and there is no hope of converting this loss into profit in the near future. The whole truth of the matter is that the working of the scheme is far from satisfactory so much so that in every direction it is running at a loss. In spite of the fact that the local distribution system includes big towns like Ludhiana, still the Government are incurring losses. But on the other hand I can point out companies supplying energy to even much smaller places which are making profits. Under the circumstances I would suggest to the Government to keep only the generation of electricity in their own hands, but so far as the local distribution is concerned they should entrust this matter to private companies. If such a state of affairs were to prevail in any private concern, as is prevailing in the Hydro-Electric Department, what would be the condition of that company? In the first place such a company would at once be liquidated and it would not be possible for it to function for even one day. Besides this the shareholders would make the lives of the management of such a concern a veritable hell for them. They will have to stand their trial in a court of law for all their acts of omission and commission. It is very unfortunate that here in this department public money is being wasted recklessly and nobody has done anything to put a stop to this state of affairs. The public whose money is being wasted cannot do anything in this matter except that its representatives in this House should lodge their protest. It is high time that Government should give their serious consideration to this matter and try to improve matters.

In conclusion I want to suggest some remedies which if adopted, will make the Hydro-Electric Scheme a profitable one. In this connexion I

may point out that in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on which besides the Honourable Minister for Finance, many eminent members of this House also served, stress has been laid for improving the working of this department so as to make it a profitable one. It is stated therein in the report of the year 1938-39, page 9 :

Therefore, in spite of heavy expenditure on famine relief, the general financial position of the province remained very sound and we consider that it has been handled in a very capable manner. If only the Hydro-Electric Scheme could be made to return a yield, the Punjab could well boast of the soundest possible finances.

But that cannot be done unless and until the remedies which I propose to suggest are given effect to by the Government. I have already pointed out that the department is running at a loss for the following reasons : In the first place the plant which was originally expected to generate 36,000 K. Ws. is yielding 16,500 K. Ws. at present, i.e., a little less than one-half of the total expected output. Secondly, I have proved that since the present Government have come into power the matters have become worse. In 1937 the total investment on the scheme was Rs. 7,89,47,525 and in 1940-41 it has risen to Rs. 9,17,28,842. If the allotment for the next financial year is also included the total investment on this scheme would come to more than 9½ crores of rupees showing an increase of 170 lacs of rupees. Thirdly, I have pointed out that the Government are incurring heavy losses by running this scheme. When the present Government took over charge, the loss was Rs. 8,41,151. However now the loss is about Rs. 22,00,000 a year. Fourthly, Government have incurred a net loss of Rs. 57,07,800 during the course of the past four years. Fifthly, the Government are incurring loss even in the local distribution. Keeping all this in view I want to put forward some suggestion for making good this loss and also to make the whole scheme a paying one. I really cannot understand why the Government did not give their proper attention when the losses were so consistent and persistent. After all, what is the good of carrying on with a losing concern at the expense of the tax-payers ? I may mention here that although the Government took the bulk supply in their own hands it suffered losses, and the results are highly disappointing. In the presence of such hard facts I do not know how far it is justified for the Government to persist in carrying on this losing concern. When this scheme is a dead loss to the province I ask what is the good of maintaining this white elephant ? If it is impossible for my honourable friends to go back upon this scheme, and surely no sane person would suggest them to do so, they should have given their serious consideration to it and devised methods as to make it a success. But it is a matter of great regret that they have taken no such steps. Now, Sir, so far as the question of generation of electric power is concerned the Government should keep it in their hands. But as far as the question of local distribution is concerned the Government have no experience of this matter and whatever they have gained is very much against them. Consequently in the interests of the department itself it would be well for them to hand over local distribution of electric energy to private concerns who have sufficient experience in this line. If this suggestion is adopted the Government will get handsome revenue, and the companies will carry on the work more economically than the Government. It is possible that my honourable friends may question as to how they would be able to do so.

[B. B. Lala Sohan Lal.]

Let me tell them that the working expenses of such companies are so very small in comparison to the Government expenses that they can afford to do all this. I am sure that if this suggestion is given effect to, it will certainly go a long way in making this department a profitable one. So far the Government have invested something like 9½ crores of rupees on this scheme. If they make over local distribution work to private companies they would get back a sum of about Rs. 1 crore which they have invested on local distribution work. Incidentally I may mention that if this suggestion is adopted then money so realized can be utilized for the opening of state-owned and state-aided industries in the province in regard to which a resolution has been passed by this House. Let me point out that if my honourable friends do not like to hand over local distribution of electric energy to any company of the Punjab let them invite some commercial concern from Calcutta or ask the Tata Company to take over this charge. The sooner a private company takes this matter in its hands, the better it would be for the province. The Government would surely stand to gain by it. So far as the details of this suggestion are concerned the Government can work them out with the help of their engineers with respect to the generated cost of the electric energy and the price at which they would be prepared to sell electric power to private companies. As I have already pointed out, this suggestion, if adopted, would at least release about one crore of rupees which Government have invested on local distribution work. In this way the cost of the electric energy would also go down. At present the cost of electric energy as calculated on this investment is taken at 8½ pies per unit. But after the work of local distribution of electric power is handed over to any private concern it would go down considerably as investment will be less.

Minister for Development : But which company should be entrusted with the work of local distribution of electric energy ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Any company of this province or of any other province. Any way after getting these details worked out with their engineers Government should sell electric power in bulk to that company at a slight margin of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pie profit per unit. That would bring some profit to Government. Then they would not have to bother whether that company runs at a profit or not. Government would surely stand to gain by it. So far as the Government is concerned, such an arrangement will be an ideal one. It will not sustain losses every year, rather it should expect profits by working on the basis I have just stated. I fail to understand why the Government should not adopt this method. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is now in his seat. In support of my suggestion I would like to refer him to the views expressed by him in a speech which he delivered on the 8th March, 1933, as a non-official member. Some honourable members who are supporters of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram have said that there is a world of difference between the views expressed by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang as a Minister and as a private member. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, however, is always given credit for consistency. May

I ask whether he still holds the same opinion as he expressed in 1933 ?
 This is what he said at that time :

When this scheme was under contemplation and actual work had not started there was a proposal that when the scheme was completed, for the purpose of working it should be made over to a private company. Nobody who has had any experience of the working of Government, who has observed the way in which funds are spent by Government departments or has any acquaintance with the manner in which private concerns are run, will doubt that private management is by far the cheapest. Any commercial concern that may be undertaken by Government is bound to result in a good deal of unnecessary overhead charges, and, therefore, the Government should at least consider whether it would not be less expensive to the province to make over the working of this scheme to a private company. Some enterprising company may undertake the working of the scheme on reasonable terms; some enterprising business men may come forward to float a company for the purpose. When the scheme gave a definite promise of being profitable, Government itself had proposed that on completion it should be made over for the purposes of working to a private concern.

Perhaps somebody may even now make it profitable. I feel absolutely sure that if the scheme is worked and administered by a Government department, it is likely to prove very expensive and is bound to result in a good deal of loss to the province. So, the only prospect that I can see of making the scheme pay a reasonable return on the capital spent is to make over the scheme to people possessing experience of administering big commercial concerns and sufficient financial resources who may be willing to undertake the working of it. With the help of their business experience and financial resources they may be able to make the scheme yield a profit however small. With these remarks I support the motion for reduction.

What I am saying now is exactly what the Honourable Chaudhri Sabib said regarding this scheme in 1933. But probably my echoing of his feelings to-day does not at all please him. If he is as consistent and as much a man of determination as he is given out to be, I should like to know whether he still sticks to the opinion expressed by him in 1933. Sir Chhotu Ram has the courage of conviction and, therefore, if his opinion remains unchanged I would ask him to urge upon the Honourable Premier the advisability of trying the experiment of handing over the distribution system to some private concern. In this connexion I would like to draw the attention of the House to the effect that the Government will gain in two respects. Firstly, by acting upon this suggestion the Government will get back about 1 crore of rupees out of nine and a half crores of rupees which they have invested on this account and they can utilize it for some better purpose. Secondly, by fixing a small margin of a quarter or say half a pie on the cost of production, they will earn considerable profits, for example, if 8 pies a unit is the cost the energy could be sold to a company at 8½ pies. In this way the expenditure will also be considerably decreased so far as expenses in local distribution system is concerned and a profit, however small, will be ensured.

Premier : This is like that unsolved problem of whether the egg was created before the hen or the hen before the egg.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I do not quite follow what the Honourable Premier has said.

Premier : I say that it is like asking whether the egg was created before the hen or the hen preceded the egg. That is a problem to which no reply has as yet been given. Similarly the question whether this department should remain under the Government or be transferred to some

[Premier.]

private company has not been satisfactorily answered. The experts cannot say one way or the other. I would, therefore, request the honourable member to suggest some method as my mind is open on this matter.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I am giving you the opinion of a person on whom you place the highest reliance, but if you are not convinced by the opinion of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram I have no option but to quote from the opinions expressed by eminent authorities in the United States and Canada whom we can certainly call experts. On September 21, 1932, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said :—(This quotation I am giving from "Edison Electric Institute Bulletin," Volume II, April, 1934, page 131) :

I state to you categorically that as a broad general rule the development of utilities should remain, with certain exceptions, a function for private initiative and private capital.

Premier : What are those 'exceptions'?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Your 'exception' has miserably failed and you have sustained enormous losses. Now you are left with no alternative but to hand it over to a private concern. If the opinions of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and President Roosevelt have not been able to convince you I would give an excerpt from an article of Mr. Wendell L. Wilkie who stood against Mr. Roosevelt in the last presidential election in U. S. A. and is a very eminent authority on questions relating to Electricity. He writes in 'Edison Electric Institute Bulletin' Volume II, page 131 :—

Taking into consideration wage levels and taxes, electric energy is sold at lower rates per kilowatt hour in the United States than in any other country in the world. In the United States the average rate charged by public utility companies is 15 per cent lower than the average rate charged by municipally-owned plants.

Although the companies produce cheap power yet they sell it at cheap rates after paying lacs of rupees in taxes. You did not have to pay a single pie by way of taxes and still you could not give cheaper energy in competition with a private concern.

Again under the caption "The Government's Programme of Water Power Development" Oscar G. Thurlow writes in "Edison Electric Institute Bulletin," Convention Number, June 1935, page 203 :

As Government expenditures for these projects begin to taper off state authorities will wake up to the fact that the local utilities are among their greatest assets and I look to the states as political bodies to come to the help of the utilities in the near future. Furthermore some of the strongest economists and engineers in Government service are not believers in Government operation of utilities, and their ideas are beginning to filter into federal plans. But for generations to come the utilities are going to have these Government-owned white elephants in their midst to seriously harass them in their financing and planning for the future.

Even the people in the United States consider that utility concerns should not be run by the Government. In addition to what I have already stated I refer the House to what Mr. E. H. Adams, President, Canadian

Electric Association has to say in this matter: I am quoting this from Edison Electric Institute Bulletin "August, 1937, page 313:—

We have the admission by the Honourable Arthur Roebuck, until recently the Attorney-General of Ontario, to the effect that if the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission were subject to municipal taxation cheap power in Ontario would be a thing of the past. That public utility companies have been able to avoid increasing rates as taxes mounted is a tribute to their efficiency, and a reason why they have a place in our economic structure. After all, despite the diversions of the theorists, the only items which matter with the public are cost and quality. Left to judge for themselves, there is no question that the public would express their satisfaction with the service they are receiving from our companies.

These opinions ranging from that of Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, Minister in the Punjab Government to the President of the United States of America are identical in every respect. Thus if the Honourable Minister for Public Works cannot make this scheme a paying one he should not hesitate to make this experiment. I have discharged my duty as a citizen by offering him the only suggestion on which authorities all over the world are agreed and now it is up to him to accept or to reject it. The Government have changed their policy with the changed surroundings but they have done precious little to change their policy in respect of this department. Even in England a necessity was felt for a change after the last Great War. The British Government went into this whole question thoroughly and enacted new laws and work of the electrical scheme was entrusted to a commission. The same was done in Canada. But our Government have so far refused to budge an inch from their original policy in spite of such huge losses.

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

My next suggestion is that in view of the circumstances that you are facing, it is high time that you appoint a committee consisting of some members of the House, the Honourable Minister in charge, the Honourable Minister for Finance, the Chief Engineer and some independent experts so that they may go through the whole question thoroughly and suggest the best course to be adopted. You should not take any further step before the matter has been thoroughly examined by the Committee. You are thinking of establishing thermal station. Let me warn you that it will prove another white elephant.

Premier: Will the Honourable member explain what he means by a thermal station?

Minister for Development: Yes, the majority of ignorant ruralites in the House will feel obliged if it is explained to them.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal: I have quoted the opinion of the Government and it is they who want to put this up and it is up to them to explain.

Premier: No, no. Please do explain it. The matter is really very important.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal: That is why I say that the Government should appoint a committee including some independent experts. You know, Sir, that Chaudhri Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan demanded the appointment of a Committee when a sum of four crores was involved

[R. B. Lala Sohan Lal.]

and the Government while welcoming the proposal of Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan did appoint a Committee. Now it is a question of no less than 9½ crores and, therefore, the Government should have no hesitation in doing the same. The small expenditure in this respect will be money well spent. Now let me tell you what Sir Muhammad-Zafrullah Khan said in this connexion :—

It might perhaps be objected that if a committee is appointed, then some experts will have to be put on it, for unless you have some experts, the reports of the committee would be of no use whatever ; and since the services of experts cannot be obtained for nothing, you are asking Government to spend a few thousands more upon the scheme which would add to the original estimates. Of course, the answer to that is obvious. It is worth while to spend a few thousands more in order to ascertain in the first instance whether the scheme is likely really to pay itself in the sense that it would cover its expenses and pay interest charges. If the report would assure this House and the public on that point, then the Government can go forward with confidence and confidence having been created in the public mind also the current generated by the Hydro-Electric Scheme would be taken up much more readily in the confident hope that the supply would be continued at rates which have been first quoted to the consumers and the scheme is likely to be a success. On the other hand, if we are finally assured, after both sides have been heard that the scheme is not likely to prove remunerative, that it will not even cover the recurring expenses, then it would be certainly not only a question to consider, but the only course open to Government would be to abandon the scheme and not to spend any more money on it.

and further on :

There must also be non-official members of this House upon the committee ; not because they are likely to help the experts in discussing the technical and scientific aspects of the scheme, but they will be there on behalf of the public to watch as to what was happening to suggest things to the expert members on which the public requires information and requires assurances. I, therefore, submit this resolution to the House in the hope that Government itself will have no objection to rise to the demand made in the resolution.

This is what Sir Zafrullah Khan said about this scheme at that time. It is now crystal clear that this scheme was started in the face of very acute opposition of the non-official element of the then Legislative Council and Sir Zafrullah Khan, as I have submitted, while warning the Government of the danger lying ahead, remarked that the Government was welcome to spend four crores of rupees and even more provided they could make the scheme self-supporting and paying, and if they felt themselves unable to do so they should not spend a single pie on it. Then a Committee consisting of members from the Punjab and outside was appointed by the Government. With a view to making enquiry into the progress of this scheme Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, Kt., K.C.S.I., M.A., LL.B., was appointed as Chairman and among others one independent technical expert, Major H. G. Howard, M.C., was taken from Madras and one independent expert, Mr. W. L. Stampe, I.S.E., was taken from the United Provinces and this Committee was set up to look into this scheme most thoroughly and carefully. What I want to point out is that the then Government were quite considerate and they acceded to the appointment of the Committee. The Government, as a matter of fact, have been spending stupendous amounts of money on it and running into repeated losses since the very day it was started. This being the state of affairs I do not think that there is any justification for the Government to persist in the folly of feeding a concern which yielded no profits.

I would, therefore, in the end stress the appointment of a committee of independent experts with members of the House to go into this question thoroughly and examine the financial aspects of the whole project. As things cannot possibly be permitted to go on in their present deplorable state, the House, I feel confident, would not hesitate in supporting the demand for an expert inquiry.

With these remarks, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Please explain what is a thermal station. An honourable member asked this question.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Sir, I explained this point when you were not in the Chair that it was for the Government to amplify. This is their suggestion, I am against it.

Minister for Public Works : How would you like the distribution system ?

Mr. Speaker : The question is whether the honourable member is able to explain what thermal station means. If the honourable member is able to do that, he may explain or he may resume his seat.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Sir, I have explained both thermal station as well as distribution system and I do not want to add a word to what I have already submitted in this connexion.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I consider this day very auspicious because you have very kindly called me to speak (*Laughter*) while in fact I have been trying to speak in this House since the presentation of the budget. But unfortunately I could not catch your eye with the exception of one occasion when my cut motion happened to come on the top by chance. Anyhow I am greatly thankful to you for permitting me to speak on this subject. Before I give expression to my views in regard to this cut motion I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks and congratulation to the eminent and well-known economist—the Finance Minister for the ability with which he has prepared the present budget. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now as regards the Hydro-Electric Scheme, I would like to make a few observations. To start with let me remind you of the budget speech made by the Finance Minister in 1939-40 in which he assured us that the scheme would become paying and that in the tenth year as it would yield a substantial net return the Government would be able to derive much benefit out of it. He also said that the income had been ever increasing since 1933 and he further stated that a figure of 15·09 lakhs of rupees was received as income in the year 1936 and the income rose to 18·33 lakhs in 1937-38 and it still rose in 1939-40 and came to 25·90 lakhs and the amount of the interest given by the Government on the loan taken in connexion with the scheme was 27·77 lakhs. By quoting these figures he told us in the course of his speech that the disparity between the income and expenditure was as much as 8·7 lakhs and that during the previous year it was

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

5.1 lakhs. As these figures were hopeful the Government thought that this scheme in individual districts would become paying and then later on it would collectively result in a large profit to the Government which would be in a position to industrialize the province and spend the surplus amount of money on the beneficent departments. But unluckily things have come to such a pass, as the Finance Minister has referred to in his speech that all his previous financial forecasts regarding this project have been falsified. He stated in the very beginning of his present speech that all his previous hopes had vanished now and he was expecting a great loss of nearly 17½ lakhs of rupees for the reason that the river Uhl was not providing enough water to generate the required quantity of electric energy. The second main reason he has brought forward is that the economical position of the province is so bad that it cannot allow us to purchase a thermal plant for the further improvement of the project. But it has been said by the mover of the cut motion that the main reason of this loss is the increase in the population of Lahore and as the number of consumers all round has increased the quantity of electricity has run short. And it has also been stressed upon that if the management of the scheme had been entrusted to some private company the Government would have gained much.

I am of the opinion that the best and the surest way to get over the difficulty of meeting this recurring loss from the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme, is that the Government should acquire the Lahore Electric Supply Company without the least possible delay. I understand the term of contract of this company is about to expire and I, therefore, urge upon the Government to strictly refrain from giving it any further extension of lease of life. Its acquisition would certainly prove, immensely beneficial to the Government as well as the people of Lahore. Previously this company used to sell energy at the exorbitant rate of 6 to 7 annas per unit and now it is charging 5 annas 4 pies a unit. But where energy generated by the Hydro-Electric Scheme is being distributed by the Electricity Department, the rate charged per unit is in the vicinity of annas four. Naturally the public would like the Government to take over this company and provide cheap energy. I feel so strongly on this point that I would advise the Government to resort to borrowing if they do not have the requisite money to make payment to the company in lieu of the buildings, machinery, wirings, etc. That is even if they have to raise a loan for this purpose, they should do so. I am not aware of the terms of contract between the Government and the company but I would suggest that the payment to the company may be made by means of reasonable instalments. This step would not only be in their own interest but it would also be in the best interests of the public. I have received information from a reliable source that this company earns a huge net profit amounting to Rs. 24 lakhs per annum. On the other hand the Government, while running the Hydro-Electric Scheme, have not been able to meet the interest charges even. They have suffered a loss to the tune of Rs. 17½ lakhs. If they bring this company under their own control, the loss which they have sustained now, would be eliminated altogether and there would be a net profit of about 7 lakhs at their disposal. They can utilize this amount in other beneficent activities.

Besides, I have received a number of complaints against this company. So far as my information goes, I understand that this concern is purely a Hindu monopoly. What to speak of Muslims, even the Sikhs are denied any employment in this company. Even the number of agriculturist Hindus employed there is very small. In other words from top to bottom the non-agriculturist Hindus are reigning supreme in this company. (*Laughter.*) My honourable friend Dr. Narang leaves no opportunity to dub this Government as communal minded, but if he considers the matter dispassionately, he would find that it is he who is steeped in communalism. The Lahore Electric Supply Company is a living example in this respect of which the Doctor is perhaps a shareholder. Not a labourer of any other community is allowed to work there. Again, the present population of Lahore consists of 60 per cent Muslims and 40 per cent Hindus and others. Naturally the consumers of electric energy would also be in the same proportion; or in other words the hard earned money of a large number of Muslims goes into the coffers of this company. But what is its attitude towards the Muslims? It is most unsympathetic as not a single Muslim has been taken in its employ. Well, Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Government have earmarked a sum of one lakh of rupees for encouraging communal harmony in the province. But I think if the Government take over this company, they would certainly be doing a great service to the different communities and would thus bring about closer communal harmony and concord. (*Loud laughter.*)

Minister for Public Works : The honourable member may kindly throw a little more light on this point.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : I was laying stress on the fact that the Government should acquire this company. If that is done, the Hindu monopoly would be broken and the members of all communities without any distinction would get employment in that concern. Now this company makes purchases of materials from certain Hindu firms, but then the Government would not discriminate while placing orders for materials. Firms of all communities would be treated alike and they would receive their due share. This would certainly foster communal amity and concord among the various communities. (*Hear, hear.*) I hope I have made myself clear on this point. Then, Sir, another advantage of acquiring this concern would be that out of the savings or the net profits the Government would be in a position to buy more thermal units or establish a thermal plant for generating more energy. Consequently they would be enabled to extend the supply of increased units of electric power to other areas also. In this connexion I remember that in November last I tabled a question to elicit information as to how many areas and towns would be or were being benefited by the Hydro-Electric Scheme. But in reply only a few places were mentioned. Ambala Division was altogether ignored. But I am sure when the income of the Government from this department increases, the backward districts as those of mine would also receive better treatment at the hands of the Government in this direction.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister in charge to a very important matter and that is this. I have serious apprehensions lest the Government should resort to block system after the

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

acquisition of the Lahore Electric Supply Company. According to this system Government enters into a certain agreement with an electric supply company to supply the latter with the energy in bulk at a certain rate per unit and also to share the profit accrued therefrom. In other words that Government delegates to the company the power of distributing energy to the public. I would request the Honourable Minister not to adopt this obnoxious system because it would nullify the effect of acquiring the Lahore Electric Supply Company. What I want to drive at is that it is extremely desirable that the Government themselves should take over the work of distributing electric energy to the public.

Besides, I would like to suggest that if and when the scheme begins to yield an ever increasing profit, then alone should the new thermal plant be purchased. But so long as the Government is not earning any profit, it will not be a wise proposition to incur further expenditure. The Government should take this seriously to heart that as soon as the scheme becomes lucrative by taking over the Lahore Supply Company they will be able to supply energy to the agriculturists in the rural areas at cheap rates as was originally intended by the Government resulting naturally in augmenting the income of agriculturists and giving to them a great relief. It is really regrettable that the Government has not fulfilled its promise so far. Let it now do so. Electricity should be supplied in the villages for working engines for the purpose of drawing water for irrigation purposes and other agricultural purposes. I would suggest that the Government should make further efforts to use waterfalls for producing electricity. There are several rivers in the Punjab and their water can be used for this purpose. The Government can easily produce cheap electricity for the benefit of the public. In the long run the Government will earn large profits from this scheme.

I will now come to the charge that my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has levelled against the Honourable Minister of Public Works. His allegation is that all the key posts have been given to Muslims and that the rights of other communities have been trampled under foot. Now this is an absolutely unwarranted and baseless charge against the present Government. As a matter of fact the truth is quite the other way about. My friend, the doctor sahib, had appointed unqualified persons to posts of responsibility in order to favour them. The present Minister was quite just in removing such undesirable persons and putting qualified ones in their places. It is the Muslim rights that have been sacrificed in the matter of appointments. The Hindus grudge even a 50 per cent share of appointments to Muslims. Facts and figures do not corroborate the statement of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. In the Department of Hydro-Electricity the poor Muslims have been under-represented from the very beginning of this department. They are under-represented even at present. As a matter of fact most of the important posts and by far a larger number of posts are held by members of the other communities, who grudge even a 50 per cent share being given to Muslims. Muslims feel this very strongly. Their due share is not given to them in this department. There is great heart-burning. I would request the Honourable Minister to do something to remove the legitimate grievances of the Muslims who have been denied their proper share so far.

Sir, in order to avoid repetition, I do not want to dwell any further on this point. Suffice it to say that Muslims have a legitimate grievance in respect of their due share in the services and especially in the Hydro-Electric Department. It is high time that something were done to redress their grievances.

Coming to the management of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, I will request the Honourable Minister of Public Works to take up this company under the control of the Government. That should be the first and foremost step to be taken in this regard. The Government must take it in its own hand. I am sure this arrangement will yield a good deal of profit to the Government. In the first instance the Government will be able to make up the loss that it is suffering in the Hydro-Electric Department. That will be a tremendous advantage. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to lose no time in acquiring the control of this private company.

With these few words, sir, I conclude my speech.

Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural (*Urdu*): Sir, it goes without saying that the Hydro-Electric Department has done nothing to benefit the rural population. Perhaps our urban friends think that the ruralites should not be benefited by the electricity that is produced artificially. On the other hand they want to reserve the natural lightning and thunder that destroys crops for the ruralites and leave the serviceable electricity for the use of the urbanites. That may be the reason why the Lahore Electric Supply Company has under its control the supply of electric energy to the residents of Lahore and has thrown the heavy burden of the expenditure of the Hydro-Electric Scheme on the shoulders of the zamindars. As a matter of fact the first and foremost duty of the Government was to make the electricity produced by the Hydro-Electric Scheme available for the welfare of the zamindars. But this has not been done. As my district is a *barani* district, it particularly deserves help at the hands of the Hydro-Electric Department. Instead of affording any help, the Government has acquired possession of a large part of our land for afforestation and for the irrigation of the remaining land, we have to depend on rain water only. The Government has made absolutely no arrangements for irrigation in this area. A large part of the electric current that is supplied to the towns is consumed for luxury purposes or it is utilized for ordinary necessities. But current is required by the villages in order that the poor zamindars may be able to earn their livelihood with its help. I would request the Government that they should themselves undertake to supply electric current to the villages. And in the matter of supplying electric power they should give preference to poor districts like Rawalpindi and Jhelum over other districts which are comparatively better off in order that they may be able to improve their condition. The Government will admit that the poor districts have a preferential right to electric energy than the districts which are rich. I would request the Government that they should abstain from supplying further facilities to such districts which are already enjoying many facilities and supply facilities to districts which are poverty-stricken and whose residents are urgently in need of those facilities. Once a poor man was passing through a bazaar. He had heard that money attracts money.

[K. S. Raja Fateh Khan.]

As he passed before a bank he saw a heap of rupees in a room. He took out a rupee from his pocket and threw it on that heap of rupees. He stood waiting for the return of his rupee along with many others but his rupee did not return. A man who was passing inquired of him the reason of his standing there. He told him that he had heard that money attracts money and that he had thrown his coin on the heap of coins lying inside the bank in the hope that it would bring more along with it but that sufficient time had passed and neither his own coin had returned nor had it brought other coins along with it. Thereupon the man who was passing from there told him that larger amounts of money attract smaller amounts of money. A few coins cannot attract many coins. Exactly the same is our position. All wealth is in the towns. And it attracts into the towns all that little we earn with hard labour. I am always afraid that instead of getting more we may lose that little which we are already getting. In short, Sir, I would say that the benefit of any electric scheme whether it is owned by the State or by a private concern must also go to the poor villages.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, a sum of nine crores of rupees has been invested by the Government in the Hydro-Electric Scheme. Most of the benefit derived from this scheme goes to the towns and cities of the central Punjab. The eastern and western districts do not get any benefit from it. At the time when the scheme was undertaken by the Government it was generally expected that its benefit would accrue to the rural areas also and that the areas where there were no irrigation arrangements would specially gain by it for energy would be forthcoming for working tube-wells, etc. We the people of the south-eastern parts of the province expected that energy would be available to pump out the water that remains standing along the banks of the river and that that water would be supplied to the zamindars for irrigation purposes, etc. But unfortunately this scheme did not fulfil all those expectations of the people of our parts of the province. Not a single drop of water has been supplied to the Ambala Division. Whenever we ask the Government to undertake the Bhakra Dam Scheme for the benefit of our division we are put off by such excuses as that the Raja of Bilaspur is not willing to give the site for the building of the dam or that the Sind Government objects to it, etc. We have been hearing these excuses for the last so many years. Now we do not pin our hopes to that scheme. If the Government were to run the Mandi Hydro Electric Scheme properly I am sure they can supply us water for irrigation purposes by pumping out the water that becomes stored alongside the banks of the river Jumna. In short some thing must be done to supply water to the Ambala Division for irrigation purposes. So long as you do not arrange to give the benefit of the Hydro-Electric Scheme to the zamindars the province as a whole will gain very little from it. I request the Government that they should take steps to supply electric energy to the Ambala Division for lifting water for irrigation and other purposes.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, this unfortunate scheme is proving a white elephant. It was launched in the year 1925 and was sponsored in the old Council by Chaudhri Sir

Chhotu Ram (then Rao Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram). With his usual vigour he proceeded with the scheme, explained to the House all the benefits that would accrue to the province from that scheme and insisted that it should be passed. The Opposition at the time was led by my honourable friend sitting on my right, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and by Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni, Pandit Nanak Chand and others. There were at the time two proposals. One was the Mandi scheme and the other was the Madhopur scheme. There was perhaps another scheme also, I think it was Nangal scheme. Proper consideration, it appears, was not paid at the time to the possibilities of the Madhopur scheme and the authorities went on their way and had the Mandi scheme passed. There have been series of blunders in the carrying out of this scheme, but a discussion of the same at this stage will only be of academic interest. I will not, therefore, waste the time of the House in reminding them of what then happened in the old Council when this scheme was considered. Suffice it to say that the original estimate including the cost of the Kangra Valley Railway was at the time considered to be Rs. 2,76,00,000. But as we find, unfortunately for the province, the total outlay on this scheme alone, excluding the railway, has gone up to such a stupendous figure as 7 crores of rupees. The province is losing by way of interest along on this huge sum, 28 lakhs of rupees per year. Added to that is the depreciation of 11 lakhs, although, according to an inquiry committee report, it is being calculated at a rather lower rate than what is usually done in the case of machinery.

Coming now to the establishment, one finds that the establishment that we have at the moment and that we had in the past is out of all proportion. We are spending on establishment alone a huge sum of Rs. 12 lakhs—it is actually Rs. 12,12,000. Some years back a discussion took place in the old Council that certain superior posts were not at all necessary. It was then asserted with great force, that the post of Deputy Chief Engineer the post of Secretary to the Chief Engineer and some others were absolutely unnecessary and that if those posts had been done away with, we would have brought to the province a considerable relief by savings that would have accrued from lesser establishment. But no heed was paid to the proposals then made in the old Council. There might have been some reasons then for retaining these employees in the service of the provincial Government, because construction was going on, but now that the construction has been completed, I really see no reason why the same old huge establishment should continue to be employed which costs this province in the shape of salaries alone a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs and 12 thousands. No other private enterprise would have dared to spend such a huge sum on the salaries of establishment. It was I believe in the year 1931 that an enquiry committee was formed by the old council just to go into all the details of the working of the scheme. My honourable friend on my right (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand) tells me that the committee was appointed in the year 1929. Probably the report was signed in 1931. Anyway it is immaterial. That committee reached the conclusion that the cost of generation per unit in the Punjab in the manner in which this scheme had been worked would come to no less than 8·14 pies per unit. As against that the Mysore Hydro-Electric Scheme is costing them less than one pie per unit. The Lahore Electric Supply Company at the time cost only 4 pies per unit and in the United Province

[S. S. Sardar Santokh Singh.]

where similar schemes had been taken up under Government auspices the cost per unit of generation, this House would be surprised to know is just a little over one pie per unit against 8·14 pies per unit that was estimated as a result of the enquiry in the year 1931. Even now, according to the last Administration Report that I have been able to lay my hands on, that is, for the year 1939-40, the cost per unit has been reduced from 5·281 to 3·691 pies excluding the cost of depreciation. In the first place I submit that it is absolutely wrong to calculate the cost per unit without including depreciation. Depreciation is a necessary charge and it has got to be included in all your calculations. I have not made the exact calculations, but including the cost of depreciation, I would not be surprised if the cost of generation per unit even now comes to more than 5 pies. This is just five times more than what they are generating energy in United Provinces under Government auspices at. Is it not a matter for, I might say, shame that we in this province should be generating our energy at 5 times higher cost than what the neighbouring province (the United Provinces) is doing? I ask this Government whether they do not feel it their duty to go into this matter of the generation cost and find out if they could not reduce it. This Government may not be directly responsible for undertaking this scheme. As a matter of fact this unwanted child is being disclaimed by everybody. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram who had been singing songs in praise of this scheme in 1925 when he sponsored it in the old Council was subsequently one of the greatest opponents of the scheme when he went out of office in 1933. Supporting a cut motion in 1933 Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram had the following to say :—

When this scheme was under contemplation, and the actual work had not started there was a proposal that when the scheme was completed for the purpose of working it should be made over to a private company. No body who has had any experience of the working of Government, who has observed the way in which funds are spent by Government departments—

This is very significant. It comes from the present Minister who at the time though not in office, was an important member of the Unionist group and the Government will be well-advised in paying their attention to what he had to say in the old Council in 1933. I am sorry he is not present in the House at the moment, otherwise I would ask him pointedly whether he sticks to the opinion that he had then expressed in the old Council in the year 1933. Sir Chhotu Ram said—

Nobody who has had any experience of the working of Government, who has observed the way in which funds are spent by Government departments or has any acquaintance with the manner in which private concerns are run, will doubt that private management is by far the cheapest. Any commercial concern that may be undertaken by Government is bound to result in a good deal of unnecessary overhead charges and therefore the Government should at least consider whether it would not be less expensive to the province to make over the working of this scheme to a private company. Some enterprising company may undertake the working of the scheme on reasonable terms; some enterprising businessmen may come forward to float a company for the purpose. When the scheme gave a definite promise of being profitable, Government itself had proposed that on completion it should be made over for the purpose of working to a private concern.

Perhaps somebody may even now make it profitable. I feel absolutely sure that if the scheme is worked and administered by a Government department, it is likely to prove very expensive and is bound to result in a good deal of loss.

to the province. So the only prospect that I can see of making the scheme pay a reasonable return on the capital spent is to make over the scheme to a private concern. It is a huge scheme and people possessing experience of administering big commercial concerns and sufficient financial resources may be willing to undertake the working of it. With the help of their business experience and financial resources they may be able to make the scheme yield a profit however small. With these remarks I support the motion for reduction.

These, Sir, were the remarks made by the present Minister for Industries when speaking from the Opposition benches in the old Council in 1933. There are two significant passages in the speech. One is that no Government scheme, according to Sir Chhotu Ram, can be made paying because it is saddled with a lot of overhead charges and secondly, the only solution according to him in 1933 was to make over the enterprise to a private concern. I do not share these views with Sir Chhotu Ram. The main object of reproducing that speech of his on the floor of this House is just to show how he changed with circumstances.

He was different when in the opposition, but when he again goes to the Government, he has to justify every measure of the Government, however good, bad or indifferent that might be. My honourable friend sitting on my right (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang) led a crusade against the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme when it was launched. When Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram went out of office the Department of Industry was taken over by my honourable friend on my right. This unwanted child was disclaimed by everybody. He would not claim it either, but as a Minister it became his duty, his unfortunate duty, to run the same and to justify its continuation. I do realize after having read his speeches that if he then supported the scheme he did it only grudgingly and against his wishes. As a Minister he had to support the scheme though he did it not ungrudgingly. The point at issue now is, whatever the circumstances in the past might have been, now we have to face facts, we have to face the situation as we find it to-day. We cannot abandon the scheme. It will be no consolation to say that any private company may take over this scheme, perhaps after the muddle that we have made, no private company will dare come forward to take it over. And if we stop working it, if we refuse to work it, what will be the result? The situation will be that the depreciation will continue, interest will continue to run, and some of the over-head charges will also continue to be incurred. By abandoning the scheme, we will be making the position much worse. What should we do under the circumstances? The only thing to my mind, Sir, that can be done is to profit by the experience of others. In the neighbouring province, the United Provinces, they have not got a special Chief Engineer, they have not got a special Deputy Chief Engineer, they have not got big establishments and other paraphernalia which cost lakhs of rupees. There the Chief Engineer of Irrigation is also the Chief Engineer of their electric schemes. It is he, who is in charge of the whole show. I believe it is due to this that they in the United Provinces are able to generate energy at much lower cost than we have been able to do here. Our establishment expenses have been top-heavy. There is no earthly reason why this scheme should not generate energy at about the same cost as that of the United Provinces. Our heavy cost as compared with other provinces is partly due to the top-heavy establishment that we are employing and partly to the blunders that we did make in the past when

[S. S. Sardar Santokh Singh.]

proceeding with this scheme. One finds, sir, to his great regret when going through the report of the proceedings of the old Council that even when an enquiry committee was formed to find out whether or not this scheme would work properly and how things could be set right, some adventurous officers in the department placed orders to the extent of 1½ crores of rupees without even waiting for the report of the enquiry committee, and when the report did come out, 3 crores of rupees had already been spent upon this scheme, so that nothing could be done and *ipso facto* the Government had to proceed with the scheme.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : Who was the Minister then ?

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Not my friend to my right I believe.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It was Sir Jogender Singh.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Now, Sir, the whole question is that in running such schemes one must be commercial-minded and no other person than Sir Chhotu Ram said in 1933 that so far as the Government was concerned, it could not be commercial-minded. According to him, Government cannot be expected to be as diligent and economic in the application of finances of the province as compared with the running of a concern by private individuals. So far as the question of commercial-mindedness is concerned, the situation is hopeless and cannot be improved upon. Now, under these circumstances, what should this Government do ? As I have already suggested, this Government should take a leaf out of the book of the neighbouring province. They should try to reduce their expenditure to a minimum. In this connection, I would like to quote the speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister, which he made this year when introducing the Budget in this House. Speaking of Hydro-Electric Scheme Sir Manohar Lal said—

The budget estimate for 1941-42 shows that the difference between interest charges and the net revenue would be Rs. 17½ lakhs. The position in the current year has been particularly unsatisfactory because while the gross receipts have fallen, the establishment charges have increased.

This is what our own Finance Minister says. Then, sir, closing his speech on the Hydro-Electric Scheme, he says—

The full development of the scheme now rests mainly on the provision of such thermal units as would make the supply of energy during winter months adequate. But for the time it would be difficult to establish the necessary thermal plants because of the conditions created by the war as regards import of machinery. In the meantime these essential facts are being borne in view and the necessity of keeping down expenditure has been enjoined on the department.

Sir, you will see how summarily this important matter had been disposed of by the Honourable the Finance Minister. The necessity of keeping down expenditure was only enjoined on the department without anything having been actually done towards retrenchment. The gross receipts had fallen while the establishment charges had increased. Any Government worth their salt should have taken more energetic action and not contented themselves only with a gentle hint to the Department.

What do we find in actual practice? In the same breath when the Honourable the Finance Minister was making his speech in the House, we saw the budget as presented by him. According to that budget we find that the budgeted expenditure on establishment for 1941-42 has risen from Rs. 11,51,000 in 1939-40, to Rs. 12,15,900 in the year 1941-42. This is the result of the Ministry having enjoined upon the department to keep down the expenditure. As the result of that, the expenditure did not go down as it should have done but on the contrary, it has risen from Rs. 11,51,000 to Rs. 12,15,900. Coming to details, one finds that whilst in 1940-41, the pay of the Executive Engineers was Rs. 58,575, for the year 1941-42 they have budgeted for Rs. 62,599. The pay of the Assistant Engineers in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 57,917 and for the year 1941-42, they have budgeted for a salary of Rs. 63,755. Coming to the pay of other establishments the salary of clerks in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 61,682 while the Budget Estimate for the year 1941-42 is Rs. 67,613. With regard to accountants the Budget Estimate in 1940-41 was Rs. 6,588 while the Budget Estimate for the year 1941-42 is Rs. 9,578. Draftsmen's salary in 1940-41 was Rs. 9,192 and it has now been raised to Rs. 9,839. The salary of line superintendents in 1940-41 was Rs. 31,647 while for the year 1941-42 it is Rs. 32,453. Overseers' salary in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 18,161 while for the year 1941-42 it is Rs. 21,620. Linesmen's salary in the year 1940-41 was Rs. 26,259 while the Budget Estimate for 1941-42 is Rs. 27,899. Salary of sub-station attendants for 1940-41 was Rs. 25,568 while within one year it has risen to Rs. 27,930. Salary of storekeepers in 1940-41 was Rs. 7,268 and now it is Rs. 7,858. Likewise the total travelling allowance has risen from Rs. 43,000 to Rs. 45,000. Other allowances and honoraria have risen from Rs. 14,100 to Rs. 18,000. Other contingencies have risen from Rs. 30,869 to Rs. 35,646. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs and needs serious looking into by the authorities concerned. The Honourable Finance Minister has also made a reference to this in his speech wherein he says that while the receipts have fallen the establishment expenses have increased. When the scheme was sponsored in the old Legislative Council, it was originally estimated, according to the reports of the experts of the Government, that the return will be 16 per cent. A little later that dwindled to 10 per cent. Soon afterwards in the year 1925 it was estimated at 6 per cent and then the Enquiry Committee which was formed and about which I have just made a mention in this House, estimated the return to be 5½ per cent. And we all know now where we stand. The Honourable Finance Minister has given us in very clear terms the figures of this department as he finds them. He says :—

The construction of the scheme came to an end early in 1936 and according to original estimates it was anticipated that in the tenth year the scheme would yield a substantial net return then calculated at 5.75 per cent. The accounts for 1938-39 show that the interest charges exceed the net returns by about Rs. 9.85 lakhs, the disparity in 1939-40 was 18.45 lakhs. In the Budget estimate for the current year it was expected that the deficiency would be still over 16 lakhs.

Then he says—

The budget estimate for 1941-42 shows that the difference between interest charges and the net revenue would be Rs. 17½ lakhs.

[S. S. Sardar Santokh Singh.]

Further on he says—

The most outstanding factor which leads to this unhappy position is that while the original scheme contemplated a generating capacity of 36,000 kilowatts, is now realized that the output of power will not exceed 16,500 kilowatts at a daily load factor of 73 per cent. This falsifies all previous financial forecasts. The large reduction in the available energy now estimated is due to low discharge in the river Uhl during winter months; this is a matter beyond our control, though original estimates should probably have foreseen this situation. Apart from this paramount factor, the most important circumstance that affects our net receipts is the expenditure on establishment.

My submission is that no step whatsoever has been taken by this Government to bring the expenditure down to a reasonable level. The selling of this enterprise or leasing it out is more or less an impossibility. In the way that we have worked it and the muddle that we have made, no private person would venture to come forward to either buy this plant or take it on lease. We, therefore, have got to carry on with this unwanted child.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal amidst loud cheers).

The only remedy is to reduce the expenditure. As much energy as possible should be generated under the circumstances and we should use it to the best commercial advantage. The question of agriculturist versus non-agriculturist should not come in commercial affairs. It is a commercial department and it has got to work commercially. The energy will be supplied and must be supplied only to those places which pay the most to the commercial department of the Government. By confining the supply to those areas—and there is any amount of demand for it—this commercial concern can make more money and there is absolutely no reason why they should run to distant places for the sake of raising a few thousand rupees of revenue by selling that energy. My friends who come from distant parts of the province do not really seem to understand that this energy cannot be transmitted to them at a moment's notice as if by magic. Considerable further expenditure must be incurred before it can go over there. All that money has got to be provided for and you have got absolutely nothing. My warning to this Government will be that they should not enter into further ventures without having all the points fully considered. They are now basing all their hopes on the thermal plants that they intend putting up after the termination of the War. I have had talks with some of the engineers and I find that in the original scheme which was sponsored by Colonel Battye, there was a subsidiary scheme as well. That scheme must also be given the consideration that it deserves. I am only a layman and I cannot speak with that authority about machinery which experts alone can do although the experts, in the case of this scheme, have unfortunately not led us anywhere. I was surprised to find that some of the experts who were specially called to be consulted in connection with this scheme when it was launched, gave their opinion and supported the Mandi Scheme without even caring to go to the spot. They saw the papers, went through them and lent their support to this scheme as the best. They did not care even to see the spot and see exactly for themselves what it was like and how best it could be worked. I do not lay any undue emphasis on this electrical subsidiary

scheme, but I should request the Government that when they consider the question of the thermal plant they should also ask their experts to go into the facts and figures of this scheme as well. I am told that a channel of only 3 miles will be necessary and that the water which is now going waste can be used to the fullest advantage. This is only a suggestion that I am making through the Government to the experts not to entirely overlook this subsidiary scheme but to give it the consideration which it deserves before they finally decide to put a thermal plant near Lahore. This thing has got to go on whether we like it or not. It cannot be stopped. By stopping it, as I have already explained, the province will continue to suffer the loss through interest and through depreciation of 40 lakhs a year. It is therefore necessary that while proceeding ahead, we must concentrate our energies, we must concentrate our minds to see how we can reduce the establishment charges and how we can reduce the other expenditure. If we do realize the importance of this, and do make all retrenchments as a private concern placed in similar circumstances will do, I think it may not be yet too late and that something may still come out of the scheme. We may not be able to make huge profits. It is just possible however that we may be able to earn our interest and depreciation and if we do come to that expectation, I for one will be quite satisfied. It is in this direction that I request the Government to give their best attention and their best consideration.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, anything coming from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is entitled to great consideration because of the position that he enjoys and more so when he talks about commercial transactions. I would with respect tell something to you where commercial undertakings and particularly the undertakings of the electrical department are concerned. I hope the House will forgive me if I venture to tread on the delicate ground of commercial facts and figures by trying to show that even a sound and successful business man can at times be misled by reading one portion of the blue book and by ignoring the other portion of the blue book. Before I tackle with the facts and figures involved in the dispassionate consideration of this case, I wish to make my own position clear so far as I have been able to judge. I am sure we are all agreed that every attempt should be made to curtail the expenditure and to curtail the cost of electricity for the utility of public in this province and whatever reasonable and legitimate suggestions are made in this direction, will have the fullest support of this side of the House. At the same time, you, Sir, having experience of business, know that in business transactions one has to keep a certain amount of vigilant eye to the future and in reducing the expenditure we have to see how far the expenditure is necessary and how far it can reasonably be curtailed without reducing the efficiency of the ultimate enterprise which we are undertaking. Judging from this point, I submit that the best way to look at this question is to compare how we stood in 1936-37 when the present Government took over this proposition in their hands and how we stand now. Comparing the present position with that of 1937, we find that the income has fallen, the cost has arisen and the establishment charges have proportionately grown up. Certainly, there will be ground for which not only the Honourable Minister but all of us will have reason to have the real heart-searching. But on the

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

other hand I would like to add that this Government got a very bad legacy. I do not want to make a *post-mortem* examination of the doings of the previous Ministers or those concerned. I say that if the figures prove to the contrary, then we have only to judge how far the present Government has succeeded in making a good job of a very bad bargain. It is from these points of view that I wish to lay before this House certain salient aspects of this question.

To begin with I submit that there has been a great deal of misunderstanding as to the increase of establishment charges involved in this department. The position is, as you having knowledge of business transactions will bear me out, that there is a certain formula that the establishment charges are put on the capital side and when that expenditure reaches a certain stage, then to that extent the share gets on to the revenue side and the expenditure always goes on increasing. I submit that the honourable leader of the Opposition, and if I might say so, with respect to yourself, you have been misled by the figures. I concede that the charge on the expenditure side has certainly arisen, but it has arisen owing to the increase of establishment. (*Interruptions*). Now, Sir, I would try to justify my statement by certain facts and figures to which I invite the attention of the House. But before doing that, I feel that an astute businessman like you and like the Leader of the Opposition in fairness should have complimented the Honourable Minister concerned and the department for having reduced the establishment charges by not less than Rs. 38,000 since last year, that is, 1938-39. I am sure that it is realised that the reduction of Rs. 38,000 in recurring establishment charges includes Rs. 19,000 on the gazetted side and the other Rs. 19,000 on the non-gazetted side. I think the whole House will congratulate those concerned. Now, let us take the figures. In 1936-37 when the present Government took over this white elephant, the gross receipt was Rs. 19½ lakhs—the actual was 19·2 lakhs but I am taking a round figure of 19·5 lakhs. To-day according to the figures given and published it is 29·82 lakhs. As you are aware the system of calculating receipts has been changed. Previously it used to be on the assessment basis, but from the last year, that is, 1940, it is being done on the realisation basis. The figures of 29·82 lakhs are according to the realisation basis. If you compare the figures you will find that this year the income is 32 lakhs as compared with 19 lakhs when the Honourable Minister took it over. Surely, those honourable members and others who would apply this formula to the proposition, would concede that this is an achievement on which the Honourable Minister and the department deserve congratulations of the House. Let us examine what has been the increase in expenditure as compared to what it was in 1936. In 1936-37—and I am taking all the establishment charges and other charges and depreciation—in 1936-37 the establishment charges came to 8·72 lakhs, that means 45·6 per cent of the gross receipts. If to-day in the current year the establishment had not increased, but had only gone on proportionately to that extent we would have been justified to spend 14 lakhs a year. What is the actual position? The actual position is that in the current year it is only 11·59 lakhs which shows that the establishment charges have been reduced by 83 per cent. I am sure this aspect of the question will appeal to those who would apply

themselves with a fair mind to this question. I was referring to the establishment charges. I think I have tried to show that as compared with 1936-37 we have reduced the proportionate expenses by 33 per cent. What is more, as compared with last year the gazetted establishment has been reduced by 19 per cent and the non-gazetted establishment by over 19 per cent. That is only with regard to the establishment charges. Take another aspect of the question: I hope with your business acumen probably you will be anxious to see to the other aspects of the question. What was the position in 1936-37 when the honourable member, who preceded on these benches, passed on a bad legacy to amateur people? The position was that the maintenance charges were 3 lakhs for a total receipt of 19 lakhs. What is the position to-day? Last year the actual maintenance charges which should have gone to 6 lakhs, were 4.48 lakhs. Here again my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition when examining the figures forgot an important aspect of the question, namely that on the advice of the Auditor General and the Finance Department there has been again a different system of working out the figures. Last year the losses in stores and certain other items, which ordinarily should have been charged under depreciation on the capital side, have been charged to the revenue side with the result that the expenditure this year would be practically the same as it was when the honourable member opposite passed a bad legacy. With this difference that he gave us 19 lakhs while the honourable member gave us 32 lakhs gross receipts for the province. There is another important aspect of the question which should not be ignored. When I gave the figure of profit of 19½ lakhs for the pre-reformed days in 1936-37 you will be surprised to know that there was not a penny of depreciation in the accounts. What is the position to-day? To-day the net profit which the Punjab enjoys is 10½ lakhs depreciation. It will be said that depreciation should have been provided from the very beginning, but I submit that if people who preceded us started bad accounting and bad business why are we censured for improving matters? I have shown what was done by the amateurs on these benches and experts on that side. I was trying to show that big sums on the maintenance charges were incurred in 1936-37 and that less expenditure was incurred on such large items as depreciation. I have already submitted what the position of the province was in 1936-37 and what it is to-day. Let us look at it from the accounting point of view. If you will take the figures not on the revised basis of realisation but on the assessment basis it will give you net receipts of 5.45. I submit that these figures compare favourably with the figures for the previous year and we can congratulate the Minister as there has been an increase of no less than 7.8. I was trying by giving these figures to show that though all of us on this side would like matters to improve as best as we can, I am sure we will all be one in welcoming any constructive suggestions to make further improvements in the department. It must be conceded in fairness to the department and the Minister concerned that they have shown results, which able businessmen could not do, and for which they are entitled to congratulation. Take another aspect of the question. It has been said that in other provinces they are generating electricity much cheaper. I have not at the time the figures but I am prepared to accept the statement made by my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition, but who is responsible for it? Does

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

he hold me responsible? If he wants to know the reasons let him search the people around him who gave a bad legacy to the province.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram gave us the legacy.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : My honourable friend thinks that with his broad shoulders Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram can take up the responsibility for everything, but no, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was not responsible for that.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He is responsible for the whole mischief. There would have been no scheme if he had shown strength, wisdom, foresight and business acumen.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : My honourable friend is one of the great men of the Punjab and a great business man too, but angels are jealous : no scheme is good if he is not allowed to have his fingers in it.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Nonsense.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : There is no nonsense on this side. (*Interruptions*).

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I am prepared to fight unless you behave. If you want to fight or anyone of you want it I am prepared for it.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : So far as behaviour is concerned I would have been prepared to stand the challenge but for the age of my honourable friend for which I show him respect. I can afford to ignore it and leave it to the judgment of history, if history condescends to ignore it. I was trying to show that as far as the scheme is concerned we had a bad legacy. What has the Honourable Minister in charge to do. Is he supposed to get up and say because he had a bad legacy he would not proceed? I would invite attention to the report of the committee presided over by no less a person than Sir Chuni Lal Mehta. What do they say—stern businessmen with no commitments in this sphere—they submitted a unanimous report. Their report was published in 1937. They said that the scheme had been initiated and it could not be abandoned and it should be proceeded with. They went so far as to say that they did not expect anything better from the scheme. That was in 1937. Such was the state of things for which we are not responsible. When we examined the question the honourable Leader of the Opposition, for whom I have every respect as a businessman, criticised a scheme of this nature, but as a business man what does he expect the Government to do? He should have, being a businessman, seen how far matters have improved, and if he wants further improvement certainly the way to improve things is not to condemn Government for a scheme for which it is not responsible.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : I said it cannot be now abandoned.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I am glad he did not mean it to be abandoned. So far as facts and figures are concerned every fairminded person would agree that it was a very costly one : only some magic could have

reduced the expenses, but such a magic is not possible to apply to figures. What could the Government do? Whatever was possible the Government have done. They have reduced proportionately the establishment charges.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : May I ask a question? How will the honourable member explain the following sentence in the Finance Minister's speech :—

The position in the current year has been particularly unsatisfactory because while the gross receipts have fallen, the establishment charges have increased.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I have the greatest respect for the Finance Minister and I think that what he has stated is correct.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Then, who is correct, you or he?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Both of us are correct. What he stated was that the gross receipts had fallen. Certainly if you compare the gross receipts for the current year worked up on the basis of the past years on the basis of realisation which basis has been accepted from the 1st of April 1940 on the recommendation of the Auditor General, then the gross receipts have fallen. But if you examine on the basis of assessment on which last year's figures were worked out, then the gross receipts have risen by 84 lakhs. Therefore I submit that while the Honourable Finance Minister is correct that the figures given by the department for this year show a fall as compared with those of last year, I am also correct in saying that if the figures for this year are worked on the same basis as last year, the result would be entirely different. The same remark applies to maintenance expenses to which my honourable friend referred. There again certain items such as repairs of towers costing Rs. 64,000 and another item costing Rs. 41,000 and some others which were used to be charged to capital have since 1st April 1940 begun to be charged to revenue which is considered to be the correct system of accounting. That being the position, while on paper things look bad, they are really better now than last year.

Malik Barkat Ali : You should explain these things to the Finance Minister. His statement has created misunderstandings.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : The honourable gentleman took so much time for his speech that the Finance Minister had not sufficient time to go into all these details in his reply. He had to limit his reply for want of sufficient time.

Malik Barkat Ali : I wish a full and fair statement had been made.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : His was a very fair statement. But you do not expect the speech of the Finance Minister to go into all those details and explain how all these figures have been worked out.

Reference was made to a speech by Sir Chhotu Ram when he was in the Opposition. He was reported to have stated that such undertakings should not be taken up by the Government and that they should be given to private companies. I am very old fashioned so far as business transactions are concerned and I concede that I am very bad at it too, but there are certain principles which I am sure all of us will be prepared to concede and it is this. To begin with the Government of those days was not the same

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

as the Government of today. The Government at that time had their commitments here and elsewhere. Further it had the control of the finances and in this matter it was not amenable to popular opinion. But the Government of today is the Government by the people. The Government is here because of the support of the people.

Therefore given proper time, control and capacity, the Government assisted by the best experts will be able to make profits out of this scheme and pass them on to the people. That is my personal opinion.

The second point is this. It is now one of the accepted principles for all progressive economic spheres of life that all public utility services should be gradually taken over by public control. It is recognised that public utility services such as electricity and water supply should primarily be under popular control so that the profits derived therefrom may be passed on to the consumers in the long run. I do not mean to exclude limited companies from any future economic life of the province. The industrialists of the province have done a great deal in building up the present era and I honestly believe they are entitled to the gratitude and legitimate support of the Government. At the same time I submit and I am sure it will be conceded on all hands that a stage has come when large-hearted men should see that the interests of the province and for the matter of that of the world can be advanced only if the profits are shared by the workers and consumers. If you can conceive of a scheme whereby the profits do not go only to a few limited capitalists but is shared by the consumers and the workers, I am sure it will receive the fullest support on all hands. But at the same time if the present Government or any conscientious government of modern times tries to take away the utility services from popular control and places them in the hands of a limited few who command the capital, I am sure in the long run it will be against the capitalists and against the province as a whole. That is all I have to submit so far as the merits of this question is concerned.

I have only one submission to make. In applying ourselves to a question of this nature which affects the future life of the province, let us not be partisans and let us not look at it with a narrow parochial outlook. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, whom I am sorry I offended unconsciously, was sitting on this side some time ago and it is possible that sometime hence he and his friends may be sitting here again and we may be occupying the other side. But whatever it may be, in matters of this nature we should look at them not from the point of view of the next elections, but from the point of view of the interests of the next generation and we should try to make the best out of them. Looked at from this point of view all those who dispassionately apply themselves to this question will agree that both the department and the Government deserve the congratulations of the province for making the best out of it.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : May I just give a personal explanation? The honourable member on the other side made some reflections against me which I want to clear up.

Mr. Chairman (Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal) : The honourable member may give his explanation while making his speech.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I do not want to speak. I shall only give a personal explanation.

Mr. Chairman (R. B. Lala Sohan Lal) : The honourable member can do so after Sir William Roberts has spoken.

Sir William Roberts (European) : I do not think we can view with complacency the position of the Hydro-Electric Department as revealed by the Honourable Finance Minister. It is to his credit that even at this late hour he has given us a very candid explanation or statement with regard to the position of the hydro-electric project. I remember well in the last Council when my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang was in charge of this project he definitely gave me an impression rightly or wrongly that in two or three years this project would be self-supporting. (*Hear, hear*) It is quite possible that he was then looking forward to a further extension of the scheme which would enable economies to be made so as to put the project on a paying basis. However, I leave that to him to explain. But when any big scheme of this kind is definitely stated to be a non-paying one and when there is very little prospect of its ever becoming a paying one, it becomes very important for Government or for the country in general to face the situation boldly and bravely. (*Hear, hear*). There is a possibility, for example that very keen and industrious officials who are running the show being blamed for the present situation. My own opinion is that no better body of men could be in charge of the project. However, in their interest, for in this country it is difficult to get anything done without officials, even in their interest I suggest an enquiry ; a constructive enquiry is called for, not into the past but into the future of this project with a view to trying to make it productive.

Not only that, but there are many other broad and large considerations which should in my opinion influence Government to take a constructive view of this question. We are in the middle of a great War, we cannot now import machinery on any large scale, but this is the time to prepare for the future and this is the time in which we should have an expert committee with experts from other provinces than the Punjab to give us their views as to whether it is possible by extension of the Hydro-Electric Scheme from Mandi itself or by dovetailing some other project into it or by some other means, to bring this great project on a paying basis.

Then again when you look at the way money is spent in this province, the tendency has been to spend it on the western part of the province. All the big irrigation schemes have been effected in the main tracts west of Lahore or west of the line from Delhi to Rawalpindi. I feel myself that if this province is going to ever develop industrially, the biggest chance is in the Eastern Punjab and for that reason alone I should like to see Government making out a definite programme to provide cheap electric energy at any rate in the whole of the Eastern Punjab, and at any rate to the south-west of Lyallpur. In this industrial development I cannot conceive any single measure which would assist the smaller man in helping development of the Punjab more than cheap electric power. If you want to do anything new requiring power, you have to practically put in a steam plant. That means a boiler and a large chimney. That boiler cannot be used without being tested by a Government Boiler Inspector and that costs a lot. Then you

[Sir William Roberts.]

must employ a first class engineer to run your steam engine and altogether to develop any concern which requires steam power is very expensive and cannot be done by a small capitalist, whereas with electric power cheap motors can be obtained and it would be quite a legitimate activity on the part of Government to hire such motors and to provide them to smaller people so as to encourage industrial development. Again, this province is so situated that it is 1,000 or 1,100 miles from the coal fields. There is nothing indigenous to be used as fuel except crude oil in Attock and hydro-electric power, and in connection with this enquiry I suggest that the possibility of this province to get cheap crude oil either for a direct development of electricity or to help in industrial development generally should be considered alongside the development of hydro-electric energy.

There is one other point which was touched on by my friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood, and that is the question of sharing the profits. I personally feel that a concern of this kind should be managed by Government. I am not in agreement with all those who think that private companies should run this department. It is necessary and vital that electricity should be developed for the best needs of the province as a whole and that no individual as such should derive any profit out of it. This should be a provincial asset and so must be developed in the best interest of the province as a whole.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): It is an irony of fate that I am dragged into the debate even when I am not willing to take any part in it, and I can assure you that but for the reference made by the honourable member from Amritsar regarding the "legacy" which had come to him or to his Government, I would not have said a word, because I said what I had to say in the general discussion on the budget. But it has now become necessary to say a few words, particularly as Sir William Roberts has also been pleased to make a reference to something that I said some years ago when I was in charge of this department. As regards the "legacy", let me make it quite clear to every member of this House that when this scheme was taken up in 1925, I was one of those who offered vehement opposition to it. I was supported in this opposition by some other gentlemen whose names have already been mentioned, but it is not to take any credit but only to state a fact that I say that my opposition was more vehement than the opposition offered by any other member. The Honourable Minister then in charge of the project Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, got up and said, we cannot go back so far as the scheme is concerned because we have already spent Rs. 50,000 on it. If the Honourable Minister could have foreseen that this scheme would never end like Penelopes' Knitting and would go on dragging from day to day and from night to night, he might have thought better and might have sacrificed Rs. 50,000 which this province had spent on preliminary surveys, etc., because till then not much capital expenditure so far as I can recollect had been incurred by the Government. Sir Chhotu Ram went on with this scheme for as long as he was Minister. Then Sir Jogendra Singh was put in charge of this scheme and he administered it for four years. Even during that time, even at the expense of giving some offence to Sir Jogendra Singh whom I always respected as my friend and in fact looked upon with affection, I utilised every opportunity that I could get of opposing this scheme. Even

when he showed a cinematograph of the progress this work had made at Mandi during one of the sessions at Simla and we saw all sorts of machinery, etc. lying there and even then I thought that the scheme was not going to be a profitable one and even then I advised him to give it up. At that time, I believe a crore of rupees or so had been spent on this scheme, and I still believe that the province would have been a gainer if the scheme had been given up even at that stage, because then the loss would have been only a crore of rupees. Then the agitation against the scheme grew. The result, if I am not mistaken, was that a resolution was moved and carried in the old Council that a committee should be appointed consisting of some members of this House, and some experts to go into the question, and make their recommendations whether the scheme should be proceeded with or abandoned even at that stage. Unfortunately Sir Jogendra Singh was over-reached—I am using this word with regret.

Malik Barkat Ali : Who over-reached him ?

Dr. Sir Gohul Chand Narang : I need not go into that question. While this committee was still sitting or was about to sit, a big order was placed with some European firms to the extent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees without waiting for the result of this enquiry committee. Four years passed away like this and the scheme went on progressing. In 1930 I was placed in charge, that is, five years after the scheme had been going on and when I took over charge of this department, something like four crores if not more had already been spent on this scheme. I remember some people smiled and they seemed to enjoy the fun of the position in which I had been placed as having been a notorious opponent of this scheme, I was placed in charge of its administration. I remember even the *Civil and Military Gazette* commenting upon my appointment and upon the portfolios entrusted to me, remarked, "we shall now watch with interest how so and so would carry on the scheme which he had so vehemently opposed in the Council." Yes Sir, I realised and I may tell you in confidence that when the Chief Engineer came to pay his first call to me in my office, he was not feeling quite normal. He said, "they have thrown me to the lions". I did not follow him quite. I said, "What do you mean? Who is the lion?" He said, "You are, and I feel that I have been thrown to the lion." He did not seem to like that the scheme should have been put in charge of a person who had been such a bitter opponent of it. I said, "Look here, things are now so far advanced that it is impossible to abandon the scheme. You will not be devoured by any lion! What we should do now is to make the best of the bad job. A mistake has been made and we should now try to minimise the evil effects of that mistake". I may tell you that for six years and a half we went on with that scheme.

Minister for Public Works : Continuing the mistake ?

Dr. Sir Gohul Chand Narang : We had to continue the scheme and with your permission I would like to quote just a few lines from one of the speeches I made on a similar occasion when some of the Unionist members through their illustrious leader, Chaudhri Chhetu Ram, criticised the scheme. My honourable friend here had brought the volume and it comes

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

handy for me. I had not come prepared for a speech and I did not remember what I said eight years ago. This is what I said in 1933 :

When this cut was moved by the honourable mover of the amendment I was reminded of a story which some time ago I read either in Punch or in some other such paper. A gentleman wanted to go for a short holiday to the sea side and he discussed the question with his wife. The husband suggested, "Let us go to Bournemouth" and praised Bournemouth very much, its beautiful sea front and beautiful chimes and the scenery and so on. The wife said "No, we should go to Margate. It has a very wide sea front and beautiful beach and we can sit in the sun and all that." Ultimately as usual the husband gave in and they went to Margate. But it so happened that not having any control over the god of the skies, throughout the whole week that they were there, there was no sun and it was cold, the rain came pouring down and winds blew and their stay was made thoroughly unpleasant while they were there. The wife said, "Why did you come here?" The husband said, "My dear, it was you who suggested Margate, I suggested Bournemouth". "But why did you agree?", said the wife. It is almost exactly the position that was taken up by my honourable friend the mover of this cut.

That was the position taken up by my then critics. They said "Look here, he used to oppose the scheme and now he has come to administer it" and so on. They forgot when they were arguing like this that it was they and their Minister, the mover of that cut whom they called as their 'illustrious leader' and so on, who had been instrumental in bringing this scheme into existence in spite of our opposition. The husband pleaded but the husband was overruled by the wife. I was not listened to and the scheme was there. (*An honourable member* : Who was the wife and who was the husband?) Well, it is clear. The one who was overruled was the husband. The husband is always or as a rule overruled by the wife. Then I gave another instance when I was again attacked to some extent in the same way as to-day. I said supposing I have a brother or a son who wanted to marry a particular girl whom I did not like. I say the girl is not good from any point of view. But he marries and then the natural result of the marriage arrives and something happens to the son or the brother. I have to hold the baby. This was the orphan child of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram so to say who politically and administratively had deceased and left this legacy of the scheme and I had to hold it and administer it, so that if there was any legacy, the legacy came down to me from two predecessors, the first one who launched the scheme, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and the second one, Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh and when it came to me, it was impossible for me to do away with a *fait accompli*. What had been done had been done and I am glad and the province should be glad that it ultimately came to me and that it was carried to as successful an issue as any administrator could possibly have done. I am not speaking with any pride or vanity or anything of the sort. But I can tell you that this scheme caused me hours and hours, weeks and weeks and months and months of great thinking and anxious, most anxious, thought, and it was carried out to a successful issue on account of the most close co-operation between the Chief Engineer and his staff, the Secretary and myself. After that period was over, no one ever thought of opposing it again because the time for opposition had gone. Then we put ourselves heart and soul into making it as good a success as it was possible under the circumstances. Now that it is found that the scheme is not paying, it is neither I who could be blamed nor even Sir Jogendra Singh because he also took over another person's orphan baby. (*Malik Barkat*

Ali : Was it paying in your time ?) It was under construction and it was started a short time before I relinquished charge. Eight years were spent in completing the scheme and that was one of the great objections that we had urged against it. There were so many objections. It was like touching the nose from behind instead of in the direct manner and the shortest possible way. We were against going to Jogendranagar. We were against the digging of the tunnel. When I went and looked at the Uhl river it reminded me of the gutter that flowed outside the Mori Gate. Many of you might not have seen it. Sir Jogendra Singh had probably seen it. I was astounded why this river was chosen for supplying power for the generation of electricity at a place which was 100 miles away from the nearest town which could possibly utilise it. These were some of the objections raised. We also said that it was within the earthquake region and one strong tremor might even now any day demolish the whole of your scheme. This point was also urged, but we were overruled at the time. We could not do anything and when it came to me, as I have said, we did our best and if there is anything wrong with the scheme, I or those who worked with me could not possibly be blamed for it. I do not want to take any undue credit for it. It was my duty to make the best of this bad job which had been placed in my hands. Probably it was handed over to me because I was not only a lawyer but was supposed to know something of business. His Excellency the then Governor put me in charge for this reason and, as I have told you, all bitterness disappeared. The Chief Engineer, the late Colonel Battye, we all regret so much that he did not live to see the completion of his scheme—he had a tragic end as you all know—and all of us worked like brothers, like faithful friends and co-operated with one another in making the scheme a success. I paid three visits to that place, two with His Excellency and one of my own accord. It was not an easy job to cross over to the river and climb back the range. I remember when I climbed up from the other side of the range to the top, Mr. Thomas said, “you have done something Herculean”. He thought I was only a babu and that I would not be able to climb three or four thousand feet of almost steep hill. This was all by the way. I did all that I could and I was really surprised that in a thoughtless manner Mir Maqbool Mahmood stated that this was a bad legacy which had come to them from me. I am sure he would regret having made such a remark. I was not at all responsible for this scheme. If anything, I tried to make a success of it.

Malik Barhat Ali : Could you give us an idea of the amount sunk in your time in this scheme ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I might have spent about two crores in my time. It is now 7 crores and 12 lakhs, four crores and more had been spent before I came in. Then we could not go back. Even if it was three crores and some lakhs, fifty per cent. had been spent and by spending fifty per cent. or a little more we thought we would make it a success. Certainly it was impossible to go back then.

Malik Barhat Ali : Still more must be spent.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : The Government should not understand that there is anyone on this side who is urging that the scheme should be abandoned. No one can be so foolish as to say that. If there is any

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

criticism it is only suggestive and not destructive. Now with respect to the remarks that Sir William Roberts was pleased to make, it so happens that the remarks were also made during the course of the speech from which I have already quoted. Originally, as Sir William Roberts would remember the calculation was that the scheme would be fully loaded within 12 years from the time it started to operate. But in 1933 I was assured by our experts that it would take much less time and during that speech this is what I said :

The original estimate was 12 years, but I am glad to tell the House that our experts are very hopeful that within four or five years the whole load will be taken up and that the income of 61 lakhs which was expected to accrue in 12 years would accrue within five or six years. This is something cheering.

This is all I said. I was not an expert and I could only go upon the views expressed by the experts and that was a cheering bit of news which I placed before the House, that the period of 12 years was expected to be very much reduced and it was expected by our experts that the whole scheme would be loaded up fully within 5 to 6 years and that it would lead to an income of 61 lakhs. The words used by me were 'our experts are hopeful'. Not one of them stated with certainty what the result of the scheme would be whether it would take 5 or 6 years or more and what would be the actual income, but that was an estimate which was supplied to me by our experts and it was put by me before the House. As the Honourable Minister for Finance has pointed out there has been no income and I still feel that unless this scheme is supplemented, it may not, as it is, be a paying one. One reason has been given by the Finance Minister. It was originally expected that the power generated by this scheme would be something like 36,000 kilowatts, but unhappily it has turned out to be less. I think the Honourable Finance Minister has put it down at 16,000 kilowatts which means even less than half of what was expected and the reason given is that the water in the Uhl River is not sufficient to supply more power. Unfortunately this was also one of the points which we had urged and the number of cusecs which this river had registered from time to time were placed before the House and it was pointed out that at least during one of the years in winter, the cusecs had fallen down to 95 which did not augur well for the success of the scheme or for the fulfilment of the expectations that had been raised. It was then expected that a big dam would be erected on the other side of the range, and the water of this small river would be hedged up and the deficiency of water in the river during the winter months would be made up from there. I do not know why or how that scheme was abandoned. I am not at all sure on this point. Then it was expected that the second and the third stages would also be constructed. When the water comes down from the pipes from the hill to the power house and then it is discharged into some khud at the foot of the power house, another power house would be built there and the same water would be utilised for running new turbines which would form the second line of generation. It was also expected at least the idea was there that the same water would again be utilised for the third stage and all that would be required would be to put up a series of pipes which would take the water from the power house to the second power house and from the second to the third power house. Now I understand from some remarks of the Honourable Minister made the

other day that this scheme has been given up, perhaps because the cost is prohibitive or may be due to some other reason. These are the facts so far as my connection with this scheme is concerned and as I have just pointed out, we are not for the abandonment of this scheme at all. We earnestly wish this scheme to be a success, to be as good a success as it is possible under the circumstances. A large part of the province is interested in this scheme and a string of industries depend upon the successful working of this scheme and no one can be so foolish as to say that this scheme should now be given up. All that we want is, as Sardar Sahib pointed out that if there is any possibility of reduction in the expenditure, that must be done. It appeared from the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister that it was understood that some thermal schemes were in contemplation. I believe that if a number of thermal schemes had been put up even in the beginning without going to the Uhl River, probably these schemes would have been much cheaper, they would not have cost half as much and a few of them would have given more than 16,000 kilowatts which we are now getting from Mandi. There is one difficulty only so far as the thermal

4 P. M.

schemes in this province are concerned, that is, the 'lack of coal, but probably even with the imported coal it would be possible to generate energy at much cheaper rate than it is costing us at present. If that is the scheme of the Government, we will welcome it, so long as the present amount of energy can be supplemented by this extraneous scheme. If it is contemplated to take over the Lahore Electric Supply Company, as it is reported, I think it might be possible to supplement this scheme from the Lahore Electric Supply Company, because this company has got much bigger capacity than is being utilised at present. Some of its generators are lying unused and even those which are in use can generate much more than is being consumed at present. If this company is taken over, it will certainly add to the amount of energy which is now available from Mandi Scheme. I am not saying one way or the other, either for or against its acquisition. (*Laughter*). It should not be understood when I am saying this that I am in favour of or against the taking over of this company by the Government. That rests between the Lahore Electric Supply Company and the Government. I am not in any way directly connected with the Lahore Electric Supply Company. I am only a very small shareholder and nothing beyond that. But in case the Government decides to take over this company, I have not the slightest doubt that it would take it over on fair and equitable terms so that the shareholders might not suffer any loss. Just now the company is working very well indeed and it goes to the credit of its founder, the late Lala Harkishan Lal, who established it in 1912. And I hope, that when the Government takes it over, if it takes it over, it will see that those interested in it do not suffer in any way and that there are no revolutionary changes in the working of the scheme. I also trust that the Government will also keep in view that instead of creating communal harmony any material or drastic changes made might lead to entirely opposite result, because the people who are thrown out of their employment, cannot be expected to go out as missionaries of communal harmony. They might go out to embitter the feelings and might instead of creating communal harmony, create dis-harmony. This matter, I am sure, the Government will take into consideration when the time comes, if the time comes at all. I need not say anything more.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man (Central Punjab, Landholders): Sir, when we first heard of this scheme in the Punjab, we were very much pleased. We were thinking that our industries would be greatly developed and our waste lands would be all cultivated, that there would be electric light in every village and that there would be a new earth and a new heaven. But I am sorry to say that all our hopes were falsified. Agriculture can greatly improve by this electric energy. The waste lands can be irrigated. The high lands which cannot be commanded by flow of water can be irrigated by this water and the lands which are given only 50 per cent. or 75 per cent water can get extra water from this scheme and then will be irrigated cent. per cent. So, it will be a great boon as far as the agriculturists are concerned. Then, Sir, there is also another problem. You are well aware that water-logging is going on in this province rapidly. Nearly all districts are suffering a lot from this disease. The experts have advised that the lands which are having *thur* should be flooded with water. And now this experiment is being carried out. But the question is from where to get so much water. It has struck me, I do not know how far it may be correct, that in case where there is *thur* land the canal water along with the water received with electricity, both mixed, can remedy the *thur* land. That is my view. I think it should be worked out by the experts.

Sir, sometime back we the zamindars of Mananwala represented to the Department that we should be given this energy and on account of our persistent demand and representation a survey was made and it took some time and a lot of money of Government was spent and the result was that we were refused and the ground of the refusal was that the water was not suitable, and the Government feared that as soon as the water was available and the land was spoiled with *thur*, we might stop taking energy. We represented to them that we were prepared to take water by this scheme for 10 years, whether we used that water or not. We will go on taking water and paying the Government for energy for 10 years. We will mix the canal water with this water and irrigate our lands. But nothing was heard by the department, and so we had to keep quiet. I think it is the best time that this electric energy is expended as much as possible, because we can irrigate our lands with canal water and supplement it with the water produced by electric energy.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Is it not a fact that the Government appointed a chemist to analyse the water from Mananwala wells from a very low depth and that chemist gave his opinion that the water was not suitable for cultivation, and after that the Sardars of Mananwala kept quiet?

Sardar Jagjit Singh Man: A gentleman came there to analyse the water and it was his report that the water was saltish. He tested only one well. If he had tested the water of other wells, it would have been all right.

Malik Barbat Ali (Eastern Towns Muhammadan, Urban): I am thankful to my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang for having given the House a very clear history of the Hydro-Electric Scheme which is under discussion. Dr., Sir. Gokul Chand Narang has made one matter absolutely clear, and that is this that there is or can be no question of going back on the scheme. This scheme has already cost the province something

in the vicinity of seven crores of rupees and I take it that the House is absolutely unanimous that this expenditure of seven crores cannot be thrown away. The only question before the House is, how is this department going to be made not only self-sufficient but how should it be made to yield something to the exchequer of the province? According to the statistics as given in the Budget there is a total gross income of 55 lakhs. As against this total income of 55 lakhs we have to pay 28 lakhs and odd in the shape of interest and 37 lakhs and odd in the shape of working expenses other than establishment. It comes to this that the department is spending or the department costs annually to the Exchequer something like 65 lakhs while it fetches 55 lakhs. There is, therefore, a difference of 10 lakhs to be made up. I understand that the position of which this is the result is something like this. The Uhl river which supplies the energy runs for a considerable part of the year very well but there are about two or three winter months in which this river fails to give the department the amount of energy which is needed. The original inventor of the scheme—I must pause here to pay a tribute to him, for the scheme is really a monument to the engineering skill—and howsoever much we may criticise it today, the fact remains that the present electric scheme is undoubtedly a monument to the engineering skill of the late Colonel Battye (*hear, hear*)—Colonel Battye, as was made clear by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang apparently anticipated that the Uhl river would not be sufficient for the needs of this department throughout the year, and, therefore, his original plan was that a dam should be constructed so that during those two or three dry months of the winter this dam may give the needed energy. Apparently no dam has been constructed. The Honourable Finance Minister in the course of his speech referred to a scheme put forward apparently by the department for the installation of a thermal plant. I have absolutely no idea of the amount of expenditure required for the installation of the thermal plant but one thing is perfectly clear and that is this that if the department or the Government acquires the Lahore Electric Supply Company, the revenue would become double. As I have said, the present revenues of the department are something like 55 lakhs or, as I have already submitted, we are running a deficit of ten lakhs. The greatest need of the department really is an addition to its revenue, and how is the department to get this addition to its revenues? I would put this question to the Honourable Minister in charge of the department, namely; to kindly let the House know what are the plans of the Government for meeting this deficit of ten lakhs. I understand that the acquisition of the Lahore Electric Supply Company would be a step in this direction. I stand entirely apart from all vested interests. I have no share in the Lahore Electric Supply Company, and, therefore, I do not feel those qualms which my learned friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang faintly felt. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang* : I am a very small shareholder.) Therefore, I would ask the Government to state to the House what is the policy of the Government with regard to the acquisition of the Lahore Electric Supply Company. Lahore is a very big place and Lahore will give any amount of revenue. What are the difficulties in the way of the Government acquiring the Lahore Electric Supply Company, whether that requisite notice which it is necessary to serve on this company has been served or not and if it has been served, I would request the Honourable Minister to kindly place before the House his plans so that if it is really intended to acquire this company he may let

[Malik Barkat Ali.]

this House know the amount of revenue which the acquisition of this company would add to the finances or to the income of this department. Unless and until this information is placed before the House we are absolutely in the dark. We have been often told that it is a white elephant which has come as a sort of legacy to the present Government. I think that,—white elephant or no white elephant,—these are matters which should not engage us for a minute today. We have passed that stage and the scheme has got to be carried on. There is no going back and, therefore, there is no occasion for any talk of this kind on this side or that side. For instance, my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, though he was opposed to the scheme, yet when he sat on the ministerial gaddi, he worked it and he worked it because he felt as a matter of duty to work it in the best interests of the province. I would, therefore, ask the honourable members to remember that this exchange of taunts would not do. As a matter of fact we are not calling upon the present Government to explain its working in regard to the scheme. So far nothing has been brought forward on the floor of the House to put the Government to any kind of explanation. We all understand that this is a scheme which has to run in deficit for a number of years and the present Government should not think that any criticism when coming from these benches is really veiled criticism intended to destroy or weaken the prestige of the Government. This is one of those commercial concerns which should add to the revenues of the province and we are all interested in this that the scheme may be so run that the revenues of the province may gain and this expenditure of 7 crores may earn its proper return. I want to know what are the difficulties of the department? What is the case of the department? How does the department explain this deficit and what is the plan which the department has placed before Government in order not only to cover up the deficit of ten lakhs but actually to bring some extra income into the exchequer of the province? I have referred to the fact that the present load of the company is perhaps not sufficient to supply the entire needs of the province and at any rate not sufficient to meet all needs arising after the acquisition of the Lahore Electrice Supply Company. The root question that arises therefore is—What are the plans of Government in this respect? Government should place those plans before the House. Without this information, we are not in a position to form any judgment. All that we know is that the department is running on a deficit. What is the case of the department? I say this because the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister undoubtedly was very pessimistic and in order to clear the misunderstandings which that speech has created in the minds of the general public it is necessary for us to know whether the department has been from year to year adding to its revenue or whether the department instead of getting more income is really getting less income. If the department is really getting more income, then what are the difficulties in the way of the Government in giving the department that thermal plant that they want? If the installation of the thermal plant can meet the requirements of the department, I certainly would join in the request that the sooner the needs of the department are met, the better it is because when all is said and done this expenditure of seven crores cannot be washed away. We have got to continue this scheme. It is a most beneficial scheme. It is a scheme of public utility and as much benefit out of it as can be secured

must be secured in order that the exchequer of the province may gain. Before I close I desire to fully support the very valuable suggestion which was thrown by the honourable Sir William Roberts, namely, the formation of a committee of the House plus experts with a view to examine the present position, and also to examine the proposals made by the department for meeting its present difficulties. When those proposals and the needs of the department and the entire position has been scrutinised by a strong and powerful committee consisting of members of this House as well as experts, the recommendations of that committee would certainly appeal to this House and also to the province and everybody concerned will be in a position to know from the reports of that committee how matters stand.

Mian Abdul Rab (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no intention to participate in the debate on the demand under consideration. But the long and vehement speech made by my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal has prompted me to give expression to my views on the subject. As a matter of fact it was very amusing to see my friend sipping water and then delivering a tirade against the Government. Well, Sir, there is no doubt that the Mandi Hydro-electric Scheme has proved to be a white elephant and my honourable friends opposite have accused the Government for bringing it into existence. The fact of the matter is that the present Government is not at all responsible for its creation. This dead weight is the product of the fertile brains of Dr. Narang and Sir Jogindra Singh. Hence strictly speaking this is a bad legacy passed on to this Government by their predecessors and that they are making the best of the bad bargain. Even my honourable friends the Leader of the Opposition and Dr. Narang cannot shut their eyes to this reality. In view of this if any honourable member hurls accusations at the door of the Government for the maintenance of this scheme, he simply betrays his ignorance of the hard facts. Well, Sir, so far as my knowledge goes, it was in 1925 when this scheme was launched and then my honourable friend the ex-Minister Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang also remained incharge of this department for 6 years. He was pleased to remark during the course of his speech that he strove to the best of his ability to make improvements in the scheme and run this department efficiently. Now this can exactly be said of the efforts made by the present Government to keep this department up to the level. In fact they are straining every nerve to make it a paying proposition. Then as regards the fact that the Mandi Scheme is running at a loss and yielding no returns, I think the reason is that large consuming areas like Lahore have been excluded from the purview of its operation. The honourable members would be surprised to know that the people residing in the Canal Bank area are being charged at the rate of 4½ annas per unit of hydro-electric energy, while the people who are being served by the Lahore Electric Supply Company are required to pay 6 to 7 annas a unit. I understand that the term of contract of this company is about to expire. Now under the Indian Electricity Act it would be open to the Municipality or the provincial Government to acquire this concern and refuse to renew the lease. In this case so far as the Lahore Municipality is concerned, it has already undertaken the Sewerage Scheme which is expected to consume a colossal amount of money. Hence it will not be in a position to take over this company. Then the next option lies with the Punjab Government.

[Mian Abdul Rab.]

I would request the Government to acquire the company and bring the big consuming area of the metropolis under their control without further delay. Its acquisition would prove immensely beneficial to the Government as out of the income of this concern they would be enabled to meet the recurring loss incurred in connection with the Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Then I have to make mention of another important point and that is this. In certain big cities the Hydro-Electric Department makes bulk-supply of electric energy. For instance, the Electric Supply Company operating at Jullundur receive bulk-supply of energy from the department at a low rate of 9 or 9½ pies per unit and they distribute it to the consumers at a high rate of 5 annas per unit. It is obvious that they charge 8 times more than what they themselves pay to the department. However, what I want to lay stress at is that the Government should put a stop to the system of making bulk-supplies of energy to private companies. They should rather establish direct connection with the consumers and eliminate middleman's profit which does no good either to the Government themselves or to the public in general. If the Government act up to my suggestion they would earn handsome profit while the public, to their great benefit, would get energy at cheap rates.

In this connection I may point out that as a result of exorbitant rate of 5 annas per unit charged by the Jullundur Electric Supply Company, the residents of that city raised a great hue and cry and made representations to the Government who appointed an enquiry committee to go into the matter. I and my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh had the privilege to serve as non-official members on that committee which was presided over by the Chief Engineer. This Committee after making a thorough enquiry submitted its report. But the information that has reached me shows that the public feel very indignant at the high rates charged by the private companies for the same energy which is supplied by the Hydro-Electric Department at a much lower rate. Well, Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that these companies make large profits and distribute big dividends among their shareholders. I, therefore, suggest, at the cost of repetition, that it is in the fitness of things that the Government should forthwith cease giving bulk-supplies to private companies operating in big consuming areas and establish direct connections with the consumers. This would mean increasing returns to the Hydro-Electric Department and cheap supply of energy to the public.

An honourable member : But the question is whether there is sufficient energy.

Mian Abdul Rab : That is exactly my grouse against the Government. I ask, when the Hydro-Electric Department is not in a position to generate sufficient energy, why should it make bulk-supplies to the private companies at extra ordinarily low rates and allow them to flourish at its own cost? It should endeavour to directly come in contact with the consumers. I feel confident that the Honourable Minister would see his way to give a sympathetic and a careful consideration to my suggestion.

(At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 27th March, 1941.)

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 27th March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMRADE FAZAL ELLAHI QURBAN.

***7703. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Comrade Fazal Ellahi Qurban, a well known political worker of the Punjab, is confined in the Mozang Police Station since his arrest on the 25th October, 1940 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said Comrade Qurban is allowed his bath and shave only twice a month ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said Comrade Qurban is not allowed diet according to the regulations ;
- (d) the general state of his health ?

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

(b) Bath and shave have been allowed more often than twice a month. No days are fixed.

(c) No.

(d) Good.

Sardar Moola Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly say if Begum Fazal Ellahi Qurban has submitted an application saying that her husband is allowed bath and shave twice a month only and that an allowance be granted for their daughter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The honourable member has asked two questions in one supplementary question. As to the first part I would like to have notice. As to the second part I submit that the question does not arise.

Sardar Moola Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly state if the wife of this detenu has alleged in an application that his weight has been reduced by 6 pounds due to these restrictions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that I want notice. I want to know the contents of the application. As regards the health of the detenu I have stated that his health is good.

Sardar Moola Singh : May I know if the Government is prepared to institute proceedings against Comrade Fazal Ellahi in an open court of law? If not, why not?

Parliamentary Secretary : The reasons for which he has been detained do not enjoin his being brought before a court of law.

CONCESSIONS IN *MALIKANA* IN NILI BAR COLONY AND RAKH PIR MAHAL.

***7686. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the Nili Bar Colony a proportionate reduction in *malikana* is allowed on part payments of money that a colonist in that colony is required to pay for the purchase of proprietary rights ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this concession is not available to colonists in Pir Mahal Rakh ; if so, the reasons therefor and the action, if any, intended to be taken to remove this disparity ;
- (c) the number of colonists in the Nili Bar Colony who have made part payment of the purchase money during the last six years and also the number of such colonists in Rakh Pir Mahal ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes, as an experimental measure.

(b) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—The concession has been granted to colonists in the Nili Bar colony as an experimental measure, and in the event of its proving successful there the question of its extension to the Pir Mahal Extension can be considered in due course.

(c) Nili Bar colony : Two.

Pir Mahal Extension : Eight.

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY HAILSTORM IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***7702. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a severe hailstorm considerably damaged the crops in several villages in the jurisdiction of thana Dehlon, district Ludhiana, on 8th March, 1941 ; if so, the number and names of these villages and the extent to which damage has been done to the crops ;

(b) whether district authorities have ordered immediate assessment of the damage to the crops ;

(c) whether the Government propose to give any immediate relief to the sufferers ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) *First part*:—A hailstorm visited this area on 8th March, 1941.

Second part:—A statement showing the number and names of the affected villages is laid on the table. The extent of damage is being ascertained.

(b) Yes.

(c) Remissions of land revenue and occupiers rate, where admissible, will be granted in due course according to rules.

List of villages in which crops have been damaged by hailstorms of Thana Dehlon of Ludhiana Tahsil.

Serial No.	Name.	Serial No.	Name.
1	Rattan.	15	Ghungrana.
2	Jodhan.	16	Dhur Koat.
3	Narangwal.	17	Rangowala.
4	Balowal.	18	Kalak.
5	Aasi Khurd.	19	Majri.
6	Raipur.	20	Jartauli.
7	Kaind.	21	Shankar.
8	Saya Khurd.	22	Bool.
9	Saya Kalan.	23	Goram.
10	Dehlon.	24	Mukandpur.
11	Rurka.	25	Dhapal.
12	Nangal.	26	Chaminda.
13	Gopalpur.	27	Mansooran.
14	Rangian.	28	Shehzad.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRAINING IN INDUSTRIES.

*7681. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of scholarships budgeted in the current year for training in industries with the names of industries ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

- (b) the amount of such scholarships awarded so far;
 (c) the balance in hand on this account;
 (d) the amount of scholarship granted for training in industries in foreign countries and other provinces separately?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a)

(i) Silver Jubilee Scholarships	Rs.	5,000
Industries—		
(1) Enamel work.		
(2) Iron filing and nail industry.		
(3) Resin Varnish and Paint industry.		
(4) Spinning and Weaving.		
(5) Research work in <i>Keora</i> leaves.		
(6) Research work in vegetable dyes.		
(7) Leather work.		
(8) Sports goods.		
(ii) State Technical Scholarship (Scholarships under the rules for the award of financial assistance by the Punjab Government for technical training abroad)	Rs.	3,560
Industries—		
(1) Electro-metallurgy.		
(2) Mining.		
(b) (i) Silver Jubilee Scholarships	The entire amount budgeted will be paid out by the end of the current financial year.	
(ii) State Technical Scholarships	Rs. 2,953	up to end of October, 1940.
(c) (i) Silver Jubilee Scholarships	Nil.	
(ii) State Technical Scholarships	Up to date balance cannot be specified as there was no time to obtain the information from the High Commissioner for India.	
	Rs. A. P.	
(d) (i) Silver Jubilee Scholarships	Rs.	1,834 8 0
(Other Provinces in India and foreign countries).		
(ii) State Technical Scholarships	Rs.	2,953 0 0
	(Up to the end of October, 1940).	

NOTE.—It is presumed from part (a) of the Question that honourable member's inquiry does not pertain to ordinary scholarships tenable at the departmental schools and institutes.

CATTLE CENSUS IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

*7687. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the figures of cattle census of Hissar district, tahsil-wise, in the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : No cattle census was held in 1937. A statement showing the figures of the special cattle census held in 1938 and 1939 is laid on the table.

Special Cattle Census held in the Hissar district in the years 1938 and 1939.

Name of the month in which census was held.	Cows.	Buffaloes.	Bullocks.	Camels.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6

HISSAR TAHSIL.					
September, 1938 ..	11,125	6,407	8,846	4,109	The figures relate to barani village only.
November, 1938 ..	6,459	5,926	7,741	3,845	Ditto Ditto.
February, 1939 ..	11,053	13,004	18,905	4,929	Represent the figures of rural areas only.
May, 1939 ..	9,796	12,994	18,383	4,531	Ditto ditto.
August, 1939 ..	9,214	11,585	20,005	5,350	Ditto ditto.

HANSI TAHSIL.					
September, 1938 ..	12,369	7,760	13,812	588	The figures relate to barani village only.
November, 1938 ..	9,317	4,040	8,366	566	Ditto ditto.
February, 1939 ..	20,121	14,590	23,814	1,024	Represent the figures of rural areas only.
May, 1939 ..	16,078	12,050	19,544	772	Ditto ditto.
August, 1939 ..	18,845	14,342	25,900	1,155	Ditto ditto.

BHIWANI TAHSIL.					
September, 1938 ..	15,595	6,530	7,637	6,663	The figures relate to barani village only.
November, 1938 ..	19,230	4,626	3,230	7,555	Ditto ditto.
February, 1939 ..	15,235	5,617	5,241	6,932	Represent the figures of rural areas only.
May, 1939 ..	13,174	5,226	4,997	6,646	Ditto ditto.
August, 1939 ..	17,133	6,488	7,922	7,589	Ditto ditto.

FATEHABAD TAHSIL.					
September, 1938 ..	12,113	12,240	13,922	6,182	The figures relate to barani village only.
November, 1938 ..	5,686	5,908	7,799	4,418	Ditto Ditto.
February, 1939 ..	10,535	14,119	17,872	7,161	Represent the figures of rural areas only.
May, 1939 ..	6,307	8,357	10,624	4,337	Ditto ditto.
August, 1939 ..	5,686	9,299	14,146	7,383	Ditto ditto.

SIRSA TAHSIL.					
September, 1938 ..	10,923	10,254	10,772	9,164	The figures relate to barani villages only.
November, 1938 ..	14,686	11,878	7,197	15,425	Ditto ditto.
February, 1939 ..	13,393	13,016	12,916	15,348	Represent the figures of rural areas only.
May, 1939 ..	11,124	11,066	9,423	13,076	Ditto ditto.
August, 1939 ..	9,932	9,963	9,849	11,046	Ditto ditto.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

GRIEVANCES OF SIKHS AND MORCHA AT SARGODHA.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Has the attention of the Honourable Premier been directed to the statement which has appeared in the local papers to the effect that certain Akalis intend to start a morcha at Sargodha with effect from April 4th if—

- (i) the case against certain Sikhs accused of taking part in an unlawful procession and committing other acts of violence be not unconditionally withdrawn; and
- (ii) if there is not an assurance given by Government that no amendment of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act be passed unless a majority of the Sikh members of the Assembly support it. If the answer be in the affirmative, what action does Government propose to take?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan : Government have seen reports in the papers but have received no information from the leaders to whom the papers have attributed the intention of starting the morcha. Government thus are not in a position to say whether the reports are accurate. I would, however, like to take this opportunity of again explaining the position to the House with regard to certain Sikh demands which were formulated at the Burka Kalan Conference, and subsequently repeated in a representation made to His Excellency the Governor by Master Tara Singh, who asked for an interview to discuss his representation. His Excellency granted an interview on Sunday the 16th of March, at which I also was present. It would be convenient to deal with the four main demands *serialim* and not only with the two raised by my honourable friend who has asked the question. Master Tara Singh submitted :—

- (1) that restriction of jhatka should be removed at least in Government institutions;
- (2) that the Compulsory Primary Education Act would affect the teaching of Punjabi;
- (3) that the private member's bill introduced by Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi should not be passed unless supported by a majority of the Sikh members in the Assembly, and that a similar convention should apply to all legislative measures affecting the religious rights of any one community;
- (4) that the persons arrested at Sargodha for defying the orders of the District Magistrate should be released.

2. The position of Government on all these points has been explained on more than one occasion and I might repeat it for the benefit of the House and I hope, for a wider public.

3. So far as the question of jhatka is concerned, Government have introduced no changes whatsoever in the position which they found when they took office, and are in fact bound by their declaration which they made on assuming office that in such religious and quasi-religious matters the *status quo* will be adhered to in the absence of any agreement between

the communities concerned. Thus it will be seen that no new restrictions have been imposed by the present Government and unless there is an agreement between the communities, they do not propose to modify the present position in favour of any party. I may, however, remind the House that soon after we took office a Unity Conference was convened to deal with and compose the differences on this and other similar matters. The Sub-Committee appointed to deal with religious matters passed unanimously a resolution which was published at the time and which I read to the House during the course of discussion on the grant for General Administration. If that resolution is ratified by this House there will be no room for further argument in regard to this particular matter. I may also point out that Master Tara Singh was a signatory of this resolution and it was endorsed by the leading representatives of all the communities. If the Sikh and the Hindu members of this House move for a ratification of that resolution in the Assembly, Government will be prepared to provide every facility and I will be myself prepared to allot a Government day for the purpose. I need hardly say that in the event of the Sikh and Hindu members seeking ratification I understand that the members of other communities will be prepared to support them.

4. In regard to the Compulsory Primary Education Act, I have repeatedly made it clear beyond doubt that the Act does not in any way affect the question of languages and that Government do not intend to make any departure from the *status quo* either in regard to existing schools or in respect of applications for new schools. There are already approximately 2,000 compulsory areas in the Punjab and any new compulsory areas which may be added after the commencement of the Act will be treated exactly as the old ones have been treated before it was passed.

5. As for the Gurdwara Amendment Bill which is a private member's bill and not a Government bill, I have already stated on the floor of the House that with regard to bills relating to religious matters which exclusively concern a particular community Government would be prepared to accept a convention that in such matters Government should in no case support the measure unless satisfied that the majority of the members of the interested community in the Assembly supported the bill. This should not, however, be taken to mean that Government would invariably support a measure for the sole reason that it had such a majority. It is only by convention set up by the House that this can be done as otherwise any restriction on the rights of members of the Assembly would be opposed to the constitution Act, but as I have said Government would be prepared to accept such a convention.

6. *As to the demand for the release of the Sargodha prisoners, I must point out to the House that the matter is still *sub judice*, but it will be as well if I state the facts leading up to the arrest of the prisoners under trial. The local Sikhs applied for permission to take out a procession on the birthday of Siri Guru Gobind Singh accompanied by Panj Piaras carrying unsheathed swords. In the exemption order which he issued, the Deputy Commissioner varied the route for which permission had been asked, by omitting from it the road leading past the Jama mosque. This omission was resented by the organizers, and on January the 8rd, at the time that the procession

[Premier.]

was due to take place, there was a discussion at a Sikh Diwan on the issues whether the procession, as permitted, should take place, or whether it should take place along the route for which permission had been asked, and the Deputy Commissioner's order be disregarded. Some of those present were keenly in favour of that course; and, as there was considerable excitement at the meeting, and it appeared that there was a danger of a procession being taken out at the last moment, by an excited minority, along the prohibited portion as well as the rest of the route, it was suggested to the Deputy Commissioner by the police that the permission for the procession should be cancelled. The time for which permission had been granted was from 4 p. m. to 7 p. m. and at or before 5 p. m. the order of the Deputy Commissioner cancelling the permission was conveyed to the organizers. Next morning, however, on the 4th (for which date no exemption order had been issued, so that a procession could not legally be taken out by virtue of the above-mentioned notification), a procession was suddenly taken out in a lorry; and it is alleged that assaults were committed on the police. As a result a number of Sikhs of Sargodha were arrested, and are under trial.

The question of the route which the Sikhs wanted to follow has since been examined in detail in order to determine whether it was the customary route, and a decision has been given by the Deputy Commissioner in their favour. The Commissioner has recently made a public announcement to this effect at Sargodha. I further understand that local Muslims have given an assurance to the Sikhs that they want the previous amicable relations between the two communities to be restored and will, therefore, see that all customary rights enjoyed by the Sikhs will be scrupulously respected. I also understand that prominent local Sikhs have reciprocated these sentiments of good-will and friendship. If either the accused or representatives of the local Sikh community on their behalf would now express their regret that there has been a defiance of law and give an assurance that they will endeavour to prevent its repetition in future, then Government would be quite prepared to direct that the cases now pending in court should be withdrawn. I am informed that the local Sikhs have already approached the local authorities on these lines.

All these matters were explained to Master Tara Singh at the interview to which I have referred.

7. To start a campaign of direct action against Government on these issues of secondary importance would in my view be strongly resented by the vast majority of moderate people of all communities throughout the Province, who are sick and tired of these constant communal squabbles and dissensions. What is even more important, to take such action in existing circumstances at this supremely critical stage of the war must seriously hamper the war effort of the Punjab and in particular must gravely prejudice Sikh recruitment and thus in the long run do lasting injury to the interests of the Sikh community as a whole. I need not labour that point. Any one who cannot see it for himself must be blind indeed. Leaders who deliberately urge their followers to such a course at such a time are incurring a grave responsibility, and it is my duty to warn them to think again before

they embark on a course of action which can only lead to disorder and suffering and which must gravely imperil the safety of India at a time of supreme crisis. I earnestly hope that the reports in the newspapers are not correct, because if they are, the unreasonable attitude of the persons who wish to take the law in their own hand, if they persist in it, would lead to a disturbance of the peace and tranquillity of the Province and seriously interfere with the war effort of the Punjab. This Government whose duty is clear, can never allow.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Is it a fact that the Honourable Premier has received serious allegations of the misuse of the Gurdwara funds ?

Premier : I have received complaints from time to time and I was told that there were certain pronouncements by the Judicial Gurdwara Committee and also by the High Court, but I have not read those pronouncements myself.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Considering the gravity of the situation, may I enquire from the Honourable Premier whether it would not be in the fitness of things if he ordered an unconditional release rather than demand that they should express regret ?

Premier : My honourable friend, I think, is not looking at the matter from the point of a law-abiding citizen, because if I were to allow an unconditional release of the people who have transgressed the law, it would mean that there would be no orderly government in this province. If, as I have said before, they express regret and give assurances for the future, I will be prepared to withdraw the cases against them.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : Considering the fact that the decision in regard to the route has been given in favour of the Sikhs, would it not be fair if the Sikh prisoners were released in these circumstances ?

Premier : I do not think that it would be fair to release people without their first expressing some kind of regret for breaking the law.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STOPPING THE TEACHING OF SANSKRIT IN SOME CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, HOSHIARPUR.

1416. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Inspectress of Schools for girls Ambala division, has recently issued orders for stopping the teaching of Sanskrit in (i) 9th class (High Department), (ii) in the 6th class (Middle Department), (iii) Senior Vernacular (I year) class (class for teachers) in the Government High School for girls, Hoshiarpur ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the teaching of Sanskrit by the Head Mistress of the school was started in 9th class in April and it was ordered to be "stopped at once" at the end of October by the Inspectress of Schools ;

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

- (c) whether it is a fact that several girls had taken up Sanskrit in all these classes, i.e., VI, IX and S. V. (I year) and they were compelled to take up Urdu or Physiology and Hygiene instead of Sanskrit after having read the subject for more than six months and consequently these girls have suffered instructional loss ;
- (d) whether the teaching of Persian has also been stopped in these classes ; and, if not, why this differential treatment regarding the teaching of Sanskrit and Persian ;
- (e) whether these orders were issued under the instructions of the Ministry or of the Head of the Department or by the Inspectress of Schools herself ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the Head Mistress of the said High School Miss C. H. O. Gorman wishes to retain the subject and has protested against its abolition ;
- (g) whether it is also a fact that a Sanskrit knowing teacher is available in the staff of the said Government School and no extra financial burden falls on the department by the continuance of the teaching of Sanskrit in the said school ;
- (h) if answers to the parts above be in the affirmative ; what are the grounds for which this drastic order has been passed in the middle of the term by the Inspectress of Schools ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes, under the orders of the Director of Public Instruction.

(b) The teaching of Sanskrit was started by the Head Mistress without permission in June, 1940, and the same was stopped in October, 1940, under the orders of the Director of Public Instruction.

(c) Yes ; but they had the option to take other elective subjects taught in the school.

(d) No. Persian is being taught only in the middle classes by the school for the last 8 years and it is not considered desirable to disturb the *status quo*.

(e) The orders were issued by the Director of Public Instruction.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes, but the introduction of additional elective subjects involves the appointment of more staff and therefore extra expenditure.

(h) The *status quo* is being maintained. The introduction of a new optional calls for the consideration of many points and in any case no new optional should have been introduced by the Head Mistress without previous sanction of the Department.

SELECTION OF ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

1417. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) community-wise, the number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors selected for the Police force from the Central (Lahore) Range on 3rd and 4th March, 1941 ;

- (b) community-wise, the number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police selected by the Board which sat for selection of candidates from the Jullundur Range out of the candidates called for interview by the Board appointed to select candidates from the Lahore Range this year?

The Honourable Malih Khizar Hayat Tiwana : (a) 10 ; 4 Muslims, 1 Hindu and 5 Sikhs, another batch of 8 were selected on the 16th March, 1941, among whom 5 were Muslims, 2 Hindus and 1 Sikh.

- (b) 3 (2 Sikhs and 1 Muslim) have been selected provisionally.

SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

1418. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of denominational Secondary and Primary schools for boys in the province, community-wise separately at present ;
- (b) the number of denominational Secondary as well as Primary schools for girls, community-wise ;
- (c) the total grant-in-aid that is being given at present to denominational schools of each community out of the provincial revenues and also the figures of grant-in-aid given from Local Funds Accounts to these schools, community-wise ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret I am unable to answer this question as the time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF CERTAIN M. L. As.

Mr. Speaker : I have to read out to the Assembly the following applications received from two members of the Assembly for permission to be absent from the Assembly.

MR. DEV RAJ SETHI writes : I shall feel obliged if you kindly grant me leave and excuse my absence from the further sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

CHAUDHRI KRISHNA GOPAL DUTT writes : My efforts to vindicate the right of free speech have landed me in a position which prevents me from attending the sittings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. I shall feel obliged if you could excuse my continued absence from the Assembly.

The question is—

That the permission asked for by the honourable members be granted.

The motion was carried.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (THIRD INSTALMENT), 1940-41.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of General Administration.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Minister for Finance: I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Miscellaneous.

The motion was carried.

ADVANCES NOT BEARING INTEREST.

Minister for Finance: I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Advances not bearing Interest.

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, ESTABLISHMENT.

Minister for Finance: 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, 1941, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads, Establishment.

The motion was carried.

SUPPRESSION OF INDECENT ADVERTISEMENT BILL.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): Sir, I introduce the Punjab Suppression of Indecent Advertisement Bill. I also move—

That the Punjab Suppression of Indecent Advertisement Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The Assembly will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause. Question is:

That clauses 1 to 7 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 move :

That the Punjab Suppression of Indecent Advertisement Bill be passed.

I congratulate the House on the quickness with which it has passed the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That the Punjab Suppression of Indecent Advertisement Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p. m. on Friday, 29th March, 1941.

the first of these is the fact that the
the second is the fact that the
the third is the fact that the
the fourth is the fact that the
the fifth is the fact that the
the sixth is the fact that the
the seventh is the fact that the
the eighth is the fact that the
the ninth is the fact that the
the tenth is the fact that the
the eleventh is the fact that the
the twelfth is the fact that the
the thirteenth is the fact that the
the fourteenth is the fact that the
the fifteenth is the fact that the
the sixteenth is the fact that the
the seventeenth is the fact that the
the eighteenth is the fact that the
the nineteenth is the fact that the
the twentieth is the fact that the
the twenty-first is the fact that the
the twenty-second is the fact that the
the twenty-third is the fact that the
the twenty-fourth is the fact that the
the twenty-fifth is the fact that the
the twenty-sixth is the fact that the
the twenty-seventh is the fact that the
the twenty-eighth is the fact that the
the twenty-ninth is the fact that the
the thirtieth is the fact that the
the thirty-first is the fact that the
the thirty-second is the fact that the
the thirty-third is the fact that the
the thirty-fourth is the fact that the
the thirty-fifth is the fact that the
the thirty-sixth is the fact that the
the thirty-seventh is the fact that the
the thirty-eighth is the fact that the
the thirty-ninth is the fact that the
the fortieth is the fact that the
the forty-first is the fact that the
the forty-second is the fact that the
the forty-third is the fact that the
the forty-fourth is the fact that the
the forty-fifth is the fact that the
the forty-sixth is the fact that the
the forty-seventh is the fact that the
the forty-eighth is the fact that the
the forty-ninth is the fact that the
the fiftieth is the fact that the
the fifty-first is the fact that the
the fifty-second is the fact that the
the fifty-third is the fact that the
the fifty-fourth is the fact that the
the fifty-fifth is the fact that the
the fifty-sixth is the fact that the
the fifty-seventh is the fact that the
the fifty-eighth is the fact that the
the fifty-ninth is the fact that the
the sixtieth is the fact that the
the sixty-first is the fact that the
the sixty-second is the fact that the
the sixty-third is the fact that the
the sixty-fourth is the fact that the
the sixty-fifth is the fact that the
the sixty-sixth is the fact that the
the sixty-seventh is the fact that the
the sixty-eighth is the fact that the
the sixty-ninth is the fact that the
the seventieth is the fact that the
the seventy-first is the fact that the
the seventy-second is the fact that the
the seventy-third is the fact that the
the seventy-fourth is the fact that the
the seventy-fifth is the fact that the
the seventy-sixth is the fact that the
the seventy-seventh is the fact that the
the seventy-eighth is the fact that the
the seventy-ninth is the fact that the
the eightieth is the fact that the
the eighty-first is the fact that the
the eighty-second is the fact that the
the eighty-third is the fact that the
the eighty-fourth is the fact that the
the eighty-fifth is the fact that the
the eighty-sixth is the fact that the
the eighty-seventh is the fact that the
the eighty-eighth is the fact that the
the eighty-ninth is the fact that the
the ninetieth is the fact that the
the ninety-first is the fact that the
the ninety-second is the fact that the
the ninety-third is the fact that the
the ninety-fourth is the fact that the
the ninety-fifth is the fact that the
the ninety-sixth is the fact that the
the ninety-seventh is the fact that the
the ninety-eighth is the fact that the
the ninety-ninth is the fact that the
the hundredth is the fact that the

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 28th March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**HANDCUFFING OF MIAN MUHAMMAD IFTIKHAR-UD- DIN, M.L.A.,
AND OTHERS ON THEIR TRANSFER FROM ONE JAIL TO ANOTHER.**

***7724. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., ex-President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee Dr. Choith Ram Gidwani, M.L.A. (Sind), President, Sind Provincial Congress Committee, Sardar Partap Singh, M.A., M.L.A., General Secretary, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, M.A., M.L.A. and about three more 'A' and 'B' class prisoners were handcuffed on both hands while they were transferred from Lahore Central Jail to District Jail, Gujrat, on the 1st March, 1941 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that persons deputed to take these prisoners from Lahore Central Jail to Gujrat Jail were Anglo-Indian or European Police Officials ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that they were removed in a lorry from Lahore Central Jail to Badami Bagh from where they were made to travel in a 3rd class compartment ;
- (d) if the replies to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same ; whether the Government propose to take any action in the matter ; if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No ; two Anglo-Indian police officers accompanied the prisoners only as far as the Badami Bagh Railway Station.
- (c) Yes ; the prisoners expressed themselves as being not interested in the class of accommodation in which they were to travel ;
- (d) It is not very clear what actions are to be justified by reasons, but in each case the action taken was dictated by rule or administrative convenience, or both.

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS FOR PROPAGANDA FOR
ADULT EDUCATION.**

***7688. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it has been decided

[Ch. Sumer Singh.]

by Government to allow all the District Inspectors of Schools a fixed sum of Rs. 15 per month as special travelling allowance under the head "Contingencies" to look after the adult education in the province; if so, when this decision was made and also the reasons which led the Government to arrive at this decision?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Yes. The allotment for travelling allowance of the District Inspectors of Schools did not permit them to go about as much as they should to supervise adult literacy work in connection with the anti-illiteracy programme for the current financial year. It was, therefore, decided to allot, out of the provision of Rs. 75,000 (since reduced to Rs. 65,000) voted for the adult literacy work, an additional sum of Rs. 15 per mensem to each District Inspector of Schools on account of travelling allowance in connection with the supervision of adult literacy work in his respective district.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Is there any harm if this amount is included in the allotment of travelling allowance of District Inspectors of Schools?

SHIFTING OF HEADQUARTER OF DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS BALLABGARH SUB-DIVISION.

***7570. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the head-quarter of the District Inspector of Schools, Ballabgarh Sub-Division, is now intended to be shifted from Ballabgarh to Gurgaon; if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : There is a proposal to shift the headquarters of the Assistant District Inspector of Schools, Ballabgarh Sub-Division from Ballabgarh to Gurgaon in order to give assistance to the overworked District Inspector of Schools, Gurgaon, but no decision has been made yet.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Is the proposed change in the interest of the public?

Minister : Yes, it is in the best interests of the schools.

CAPTURE OF KEREN AND HARRAR.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : Sir, the news of the fall of Keren and capture of Harrar is most welcome (*hear, hear*). Keren was one of the most formidable strongholds of the Italians in East Africa. It is a matter of joy and pride to us that the Indian troops, as usual, have taken a very prominent part in the capture of Keren. These important successes add another glorious chapter to the achievements of the Imperial troops in the middle East. We owe these victories to the brilliant leadership and strategy of General Wavell and the gallantry of our troops. In spite of the difficult nature of the country and in spite of the adverse climatic conditions, and in the face of numerically superior enemy forces, our troops routed them and captured Keren again, as they captured several other enemy fortifications. It is significant that these victories have come-

soon after the 28rd of March the day fixed for national prayer throughout the world for the people of the Commonwealth (*hear, hear*). On that date all subjects of His Majesty the King irrespective of caste, creed and colour prayed for the victory of our troops. It is to my mind an omen which indicates that the All Merciful Providence is with us (*hear, hear*). I pray that he may ever be with us and sustain us and protect us during this most critical period in the history of mankind. (*Amen*). I hope that I am voicing the feelings of the whole House, if I say that our prayers hitherto have been heard and as God-fearing people, it is our duty always to seek assistance from Providence in the righteous cause we have undertaken, because we and our gallant troops are fighting for liberty, justice and religion. I hope the House will allow me to move a resolution of congratulations and allow me to convey it to General Wavell, through His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. This is the resolution which I propose—

The Punjab Assembly rejoices at the capture of Keren and Harrar and is proud of the part played by Indian troops. Kindly accept and convey to all ranks of the Imperial forces our warmest congratulations for these brilliant successes and our prayerful good wishes for their welfare and final victory.

(*Hear, hear*).

Mr. Speaker : Resolution moved is—

The Punjab Assembly rejoices at the capture of Keren [and Harrar and is proud of the part played by Indian troops. Kindly accept and convey to all ranks of the Imperial forces our warmest congratulations for these brilliant successes and our prayerful good wishes for their welfare and final victory.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): I join the Honourable Premier in the expression of joy over these well-deserved victories in which our Indian troops have played so prominent a part. The news about Yugoslavia is also reassuring and I believe a not a very distant date we shall be having similar victories against the principal foe, namely, the Germans (*hear, hear*). I wish again on this occasion that a settlement had been arrived at between the Congress and the Government so that a greater measure of support may be given to the British in this hour of their greatest trial. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. Speaker : The resolution moved is—

The Punjab Assembly rejoices at the capture of Keren and Harrar and is proud of the part played by Indian troops. Kindly accept and convey to all ranks of the Imperial forces our warmest congratulations for these brilliant successes and our prayerful good wishes for their welfare and final victory.

The question is that this resolution be adopted.

The resolution was passed unanimously all standing.

APPROPRIATION AND FINANCE ACCOUNTS AND REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): As required by section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Province for the year 1939-40 and the report of the Auditor-General of India thereon.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE **AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR.**

Minister for Finance : As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the supplementary statement of expenditure 8rd instalment for the year 1940-41 authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following supplementary statement of expenditure for the financial year 1940-41, which specifies :—

- (a) the supplementary grants (third instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March 1941, 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.
7	17—Interest on works for which Capital Accounts are kept.	..	32,980	32,980
10	25—General Administration ..	11,300	..	11,300
30	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	..	21,000	21,000
33	57—Miscellaneous ..	200	..	200
34	Advances Repayable ..	20,000	..	20,000
24	Charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment	10	..	10

LAHORE,

The 27th March 1941.

H. D. CRAIK,

Governor of the Punjab.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES.

Working of Hydro-Electric Department.

Mr. Speaker : The House will resume discussion of the Demand relating to Electricity.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) : Sir, I need not go into the detailed history of the Mandi-Hydro-Electric Scheme, as the matter has been debated on the floor of this House on several occasions and in all probability will continue to be debated till we make the scheme a profitable one. On the other day Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang seemed to give an impression that no one assumed responsibility for the

scheme. It seems that this scheme which was undertaken some years ago was sponsored by Colonel Battye who was a great enthusiast about it.

But whatever we might say now, the fact remains that the Government of the day took such expert advice as was then available. It was Colonel Battye who prepared the scheme and then the hydraulic and civil side of it was examined by the Consulting Engineer of the Government of India and Mr. Sangster. The Project was further scrutinised by Messrs. Merz and McLellan of London and also by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partner. It is true that the project was submitted to this eminent firm of engineers in London but, unfortunately, they were not asked to visit the spot. They could not therefore be aware of the difficult local conditions and whatever advice they gave to the Government was based on the information which Colonel Battye and the engineers here supplied to them. In 1924 the comparative merits of the Madhopur Scheme and Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme came to the notice of the Government. The Government then appointed a Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council and that special Committee called three experts including Sir Frederic Gebbie the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India. After that Committee examined the two schemes—I do not know whether that Committee went to the spot or not—it advised the then Minister for Agriculture to proceed with the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme and it was on that advice that the Honourable Minister for Agriculture ordered that the scheme might be proceeded with. Whatever one may say as to the commercial aspect of the scheme, it is without doubt a marvellous feat of engineering skill. Colonel Battye worked with a missionary zeal over it. With regard to its commercial aspect I must say with regret that the capital cost—which was originally estimated at $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores went up to over $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores. While in the United Provinces the capital cost for generating one kilowatt came to Rs. 295, the capital cost per kilowatt in the case of this huge project, even if we take into consideration that 36 thousand kilowatts are to be generated, comes to 1,666 rupees. There is no doubt about the fact that this is one of the most costly schemes ever undertaken. With regard to the capital cost and generating cost, we must take certain facts into consideration. The scheme, as it was originally designed, had three stages. In order to develop full electrical energy, it had to undergo three stages. The first stage—the present stage—was to develop 36 thousand kilowatts with the present discharge of the Uhl river. The second stage was designed to raise the discharge of Uhl river by the construction of a dam so that we might be able to develop further energy to the extent of say 50 thousand or 70 thousand kilowatts and the third stage was to utilise the additional head available below the power house of the first and second stage. In order that the scheme may be fully developed into three stages, there were certain items of work which had to be executed originally in order to take into account the ultimate power development. For example, take the tunnel. It was not possible to construct a tunnel for generating energy only up to 36 thousand kilowatts and not to take into consideration the ultimate capacity of the plant. Therefore, a much bigger tunnel had to be constructed. The tunnel is so constructed that sufficient water can

[S. B. Sardar Ujjal Singh.]

pass through it for developing 72 thousand kilowatts. Similarly, the transmission line had to take note of the effect of these stages and the present transmission line was designed to take a load of 54 thousand kilowatts. It is on account of these factors that the capital cost of the first stage has risen so high.

It has been said that the present plant which was designed to generate 86,000 kilowatts has the capacity of generating only 16 or 17 thousand kilowatts. Perhaps my honourable friends who criticised the scheme on that score have not carefully studied how 86 thousand kilowatts to be generated were originally arrived at. I would refer them to the Report of the Hydro-Electric Enquiry Committee which was set up by the vote of the last Punjab Legislative Council in order to go into the whole question. That Committee had two experts. One of them was a very able man and had experience of hydro-electric works all over the world. That Committee, on page 26 of the Report, discussed the whole matter as to how much energy will be generated at the first stage. They divided it into three classes. For the first hundred cusecs—that is a minimum continuous supply of the river—you could develop 24 thousand kilowatts and for 30 cusecs at 99.9 per cent of the time you could develop another 7 thousand kilowatts. For another 20 cusecs for 95.5 per cent of the time another 5 thousand kilowatts, that is to say, 12 thousand kilowatts in the way of secondary and seasonal power load. That is how they arrived at the figure of 86 thousand kilowatts. Another point which requires attention is that this peak load is arrived at by a certain load factor. The load factor estimated by the Committee was 50 per cent. By the 50 per cent load factor 100 cusecs of continuous supply was to generate 24 thousand kilowatts. My honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal who as chairman of the Lahore Electric Supply Company should have some knowledge of these technicalities ought to know that peak load is in inverse ratio to the daily load factor. If you have a higher load factor—the peak load would fall. With the existing 73 per cent load factor, the power generated according to the same discharge of water cannot be more than 17 thousand kilowatts. So, there is absolutely no difference from the estimated supply of energy and the supply that you are actually getting. The difference lies in the load factor. The estimated load factor was 50 per cent while the actual load factor is 73 per cent. Another difference lies in the seasonal and secondary load which we are not able to develop. I shall come to that point later. With regard to cost of generation again, my honourable friend—Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal—because he is the one man who knows anything about electrical energy—must realise that the cost of generation is always the lowest when the plant is fully loaded up. In the initial stages of any electrical concern—may be of a thermal plant, or gas plant or any other plant—the cost of generation is bound to be high.

Then again, the rate one has to charge from the consumers does not vary or go with the cost of generation. Supposing my cost of generation is high and if I have to take up a load, I must take it up on economic basis. I must see whether it pays to the consumer to take up that load or not. I must compete with the open market. Take for example the case of an

industry. If a factory is being run by a steam plant, why should the man take electrical energy? If it does not pay him, why should there be a change over? So, in order to attract that industrial load, we must offer a rate which should be economic. Supposing we do not offer that rate and we say that our cost of generation is high and we do not offer an economic rate, the result would be that our cost of generation per unit will go still higher because the load on the plant will be small. After all, the first thing in any electrical energy is that whatever you produce must be consumed and you must take the load and unless you take the whole load the cost of generation will go on rising. In this connection, I must draw the attention to the report of the Enquiry Committee.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I illustrated my point by quoting the instance of the North-Western Railway to whom energy is supplied at the rate of 1·7 pies per unit. Could you please explain why such low rates are being charged from the North-Western Railway?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I shall come to that later. But my friend must know that the rate is for bulk supply, and it was the surplus power that was given to the North-Western Railway on contract basis which has terminated now. According to the new agreement to be enforced from October the North-Western Railway is taking load from secondary supply and the extra load of 3,500 kilowatts will be available for industrial or domestic purposes.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : When?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : From October next.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Not at present.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I say from October. I was going to quote the Enquiry Committee on the point that the cost of generation that the Committee estimated was 8·14 per cent per unit. They said—

It should be remembered, however, that the rate is an average one and that power for small industries and for domestic purposes can be sold off in bulk at a considerably higher figure and that the average rate is not necessarily the lowest rate at which large individual concerns can be economically supplied.

That is, for domestic purposes you will have to charge a higher rate but for big industrial purposes you will have to charge a lower rate.

Another point which my honourable friend raised was with regard to the loss in local distribution. He said that in 1937, there were some profits and in 1940-41 there were losses under local distribution. My honourable friend, perhaps, did not realise that before 1938-39, that is, in 1936-37, depreciation was not charged. After that depreciation used to be charged and that has added to the cost and naturally debited to the local distribution side. Another factor which resulted in the loss under local distribution was with regard to establishment charges. Previously the establishment charges used to be debited partly to capital and partly to revenue side. Now, in 1939-40 and 1940-41 practically all establishment charges are debited to revenue and local distribution side and nothing to capital. That has resulted in increasing the expenditure on local distribution. Another point which one has got to take into consideration is that in

[S. B. S. Ujjal Singh.]

the beginning when you start electrifying one town, the domestic load does not develop all at once. It takes some time. But you have to provide overhead-lines throughout the town. The initial working costs are high but as the load goes on developing the cost goes down and the revenue goes up. Then again, for industrial purposes you have got to give a very low rate. Take the case of Lyallpur. In Lyallpur cloth mills the rate charged varies from 4 to 5 pies per unit. That is good for industrial development. But, you will find that on account of low rate for the cloth mills, at the initial stages, the expenses would be comparatively high. In the course of a few years when you get full domestic load the revenue will go up and you will recover your cost and make profits.

Now, coming to the working expenses and gross receipts. I need not deal with them as my honourable colleague, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, has already dealt with those figures in detail. I would say only one thing that the gross receipts have gone up from 19½ lakhs in 1936-37 to 32 lakhs in 1940-41 on the assessment basis and the working expenses excluding depreciation — because there was no depreciation in 1936-37 — have arisen from 11.76 lakhs in 1936-37 to 16 lakhs in 1940-41, that is, the revenue has gone up by 13 lakhs and the total expenses have gone up by 4 lakhs. I do not say that there is no room for economy. I have been comparing total expenses, maintenance charges, establishment charges and depreciation with what the Enquiry Committee estimated. I find that whereas the depreciation and maintenance charges come approximately to the figure laid down by the Enquiry Committee, the establishment charges are certainly to some extent on the high side and I hope that the Government will investigate that matter. With regard to gross receipts, however, the picture is not so bright. The Enquiry Committee went thoroughly into the matter and in the seventh year they calculated that the gross receipts would amount to 49.84 lakhs, whereas in 1940-41 actually we found that the gross receipts did not exceed 32 lakhs. There is a big gap, and for that I think something must be done. The main problem of the scheme is how to increase the revenue. The Government would welcome any constructive suggestions from the honourable members in regard to this point.

Sir, another matter for investigation which the Enquiry Committee suggested was the possibilities of developing canal
3 p.m. falls before proceeding with the second stage. That time has not yet come. I understand that if the present supply of power to the North-Western Railway is released there will be sufficient supply of power available for another four years. After four years the Government will have to arrange to augment the existing supply, and the matter must be taken into consideration now. I should like to read out the words of the committee on the point—

What we wish to emphasise is the necessity for a thorough investigation of the possibilities of developing the falls on the Upper Bari Doab Canal and of other schemes before the second stage of the Uhl River Scheme is initiated and we strongly recommend that, in due course, an independent committee representing technical and financial opinion and commercial interests in the province should be instituted to report on this.

I dare say that the Government will consider the matter thoroughly before launching the second stage of the scheme. The real question is how to

increase the revenue; how to make the scheme a profitable one. One thing that must strike anybody who knows anything about it, is that this Uhl river has got a minimum discharge of 100 cusecs and it even fell to 95 cusecs for two or three days. The most difficult months are January and February when the flow in the river is low. If we could supplement our supply of electrical energy by some other source for two months, we will then be in a position to raise the capacity of the plants not only to 36,000 kilowatts but even much higher. One suggestion was to have a steam plant as a stand-by to work for two months. If we could have a steam plant naturally that will augment the supply of energy during these winter months and for the rest of the year the water in the Uhl river is sufficient to develop energy even more than 36,000 kilowatts. I understand that the Government carefully examined the matter and was very nearly on the point of placing an order when the war broke out and the question was postponed till the end of the war. On the question of increasing the supply of water in the Uhl river, the forest authorities were consulted. I am given to understand that Forest experts are in favour of preserving the catchment area of Uhl river. They are of the opinion that by afforestation of the catchment area the supply of water in the river will be increased 5 times, from 100 cusecs minimum it will rise to 500 cusecs. Honourable members would realise the value of the suggestion, if they know that one cusec of supply of water means an addition of Rs. 45,000. If by the method of preserving the catchment area we are able to increase the supply of water in the Uhl river, we will be increasing tremendously our resources and our revenue receipts. That is a suggestion which I believe the Government will consider very seriously. God knows when the war will come to an end; even when war comes to an end it will take a long time for people to come back to normal life when the machinery will be available. I hope Government will consider this point very seriously. We must realise that we have sunk capital to the extent of 7 crores on the main scheme and an additional sum of 2 crores on local distribution. There is no going back. We must try to make the scheme profitable. But at the same time we must be able to sell energy at such attractive rates to the industrialists as well as to the agriculturists as might prove an incentive to the development of agriculture and industries. Cheap power is our main problem. In this province we have the raw material: we have the necessary labour: we have the enterprise—I think the Punjabis are the most enterprising people: we find them all over the world—and the one thing we need is cheap power. We have not got coal in this province, and we must have cheap power. If cheap power is available I am sure enterprising Punjabis will come forward to set up industries, and all the things which we consume here, that come from outside, will be produced in this province. With this object we should all concentrate our energies and try to make constructive suggestions so that this scheme may become a profitable one (applause).

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, as most of the points which I wanted to place before the House have already been dealt with by my honourable friends Mir Maqbool Mahmood and Sardar Ujjal Singh, I am going to touch only a few things that I feel should be placed before of the House. As far as the working of the department

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

is concerned I am sure the majority of the members here will agree with me when I say that taking the figures placed before the House in the present budget we find that the reduction in the expenditure, has been to the extent of nearly Rs. 38,000. As Mir Maqbool Mahmood has pointed out in spite of the supply of electricity to several new areas such as Khangah Dogran, Lahore rural area and Jandiala Guru, etc., there has been a reduction in expenditure. The figures quoted by the Leader of the Opposition the other day when he told us that there has been a large increase of expenditure on different items such as in the number of overseers, linesmen and others are not quite correct. The department has worked most successfully and has managed to decrease the expenditure rather than increase it. When placing those figures before the House he did not take into consideration that electricity has been supplied to different new areas and that for increasing the supply of electricity in those areas, new men had to be appointed and that is why there seems to be an increase under certain heads of expenditure.

What I wish to talk about to-day is in connection with what was said by my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Ujjal Singh. As he pointed out, everybody in this House as well as outside feels that unless more electric power is supplied at cheap rates it will not be possible for us to have industrialisation on a large scale in the province and to utilise the raw material which is available in many parts of the province. There are three things as my honourable friend pointed out which are essential for this: (1) supply of good deal of electric power at very cheap rates, (2) skilled labour and (3) capital and machinery. With regard to the first, it is true that originally the scheme was intended to supply a very large quantity of electricity, but unfortunately instead of getting 35,000 kilowatts we are getting only 16,000 or 17,000 kilowatts. There are of course several schemes as my honourable friend pointed out by which we can generate more power and one of them which the Government is contemplating is the erecting of thermal plants in various areas of the Punjab. With regard to this I should like to point out that if these thermal plants are so necessary, what is the reason of not setting them up as soon as possible? We are told that money is not forthcoming. This is something which I fail to understand. We have a very great economist in charge of the financial destinies of the province. He knows that several countries in the world to-day are tackling their financial problems through internal borrowing. The one essential thing necessary for successful borrowing is security and our province is rich enough to supply a few crores of rupees if the security is forthcoming by the Government asking for a loan. If we cannot get the required sum we should not boast of the Punjab having such a good financial policy, but we know that the province has got the means at its disposal to supply a few crores of rupees whenever the Government asks for it. Internal borrowing means the circulation of money and it helps to reduce unemployment. By doing this we will be providing the best investment to the people, who feel shy of investing their money in private concerns.

Then comes the question of how to get the machinery. We are told that no ships are available at present or that they are liable to be torpedoed

and that the firms which were manufacturing the required machinery are now engaged in making armaments, etc., and that therefore it is not possible for us to get the necessary machinery for a long time to come. Not very long ago some American gentlemen came to see me and they said that they had heard that Public Health Department required a large number of plants for boring wells by machinery in several areas of the Punjab, that the supply of the machinery was not available in British Isles and that therefore they had come to India to tell us that they were prepared to supply the machinery at lower rates if we would place the order with them. I would request the Punjab Government not to wait for the war to come to an end, because this is the time when industrialisation can go apace, and we can establish some key industries in the province. It will also be possible for us to provide employment to our young men who are suffering so much through lack of work. Why should not our Government approach some big American concerns? I am sure we will be able to get the necessary machinery in America.

With regard to the erection of thermal plants in certain areas in Lahore I have got to say a few words. Sometime ago, nearly a year and eight months ago — on 4th August, 1939 — Government issued a notification for the acquisition of 35 acres of land opposite the Shalamar Hydro-Electric Power Station. All the proprietors were informed that if they constructed anything on that piece of land they would be doing so at their own risk. For the last one year and eight months nothing has been done. Sometime ago the proprietors sent a representation to the Minister asking him to let them know the intentions of the Punjab Government whether they were going to acquire the land, and if so, when, as they were losing a good deal of money. Most of these proprietors belong to my village and they are anxious that Government should tell them what they propose to do. I therefore request the Minister to tell us on the floor of this House as to what the intention is. Whether he is going to acquire that land and if not, why the poor proprietors should be allowed to suffer as they can neither lease it, nor erect any building on it.

I have got to say a few words with regard to the question of bulk supply for agricultural purposes. It so happens that there are several persons who are very anxious that something should be done in order to provide cheap electricity for purposes of agriculture. Two of my cousins have constructed tube wells in the well-known area of Bela. They came to see me the other day and told me that unless electricity is supplied at cheap rates it will not be possible for any tube wells to work successfully in the Punjab. In the United Provinces the tube well scheme has been a great success as the United Provinces Government is supplying electricity at six pies per unit. In the Punjab we cannot get any bulk supply at less than eighteen pies per unit. Unless cheap electricity is available it will not be possible for our tube well scheme to work successfully. Only the other day a colleague of mine sitting on these benches said that they must have water supply as soon as possible in certain parts of Rawalpindi which are on a high level and it is not possible for them to have canal water. The other day an expert was talking to me and he told me that if the Punjab Government were to consult some experts it would be possible for them to supply water for irrigation by tube wells where it

[Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz.]

is not possible to irrigate the land by canals. I would therefore urge upon the Government to seek expert advice so that we may be able to provide for the needs of the evergrowing population of the Punjab and to reduce the heavy burden on the present cultivated land. In connection with this, one word more. I understand that not only several of the small proprietors but our esteemed and honourable colleague Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan also asked for bulk supply of electricity. He submitted maps, supplied detailed information to the department but no information has been forthcoming and no reply to his reasonable request has so far been given. If a person of his status in the Punjab is treated like this, what about the poor small proprietors? I request the Honourable Minister to kindly look into the matter and see that whenever any such request is made, it should be dealt with expeditiously. I understand a number of reminders have been sent but no reply has been forthcoming.

It is true that this scheme has been called by several of the honourable members as a white elephant as far as this province is concerned. This is true, but after having spent 9½ crores, it is not possible for us to go back on the scheme now. What we have to do is to try and supplement the energy. These are the few suggestions that I place before the Honourable Minister and I hope that he will kindly bear them in mind and something will be done soon in order to add to the supply of energy as it is required both for the industrialisation of the province as well as for agricultural purposes.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh-Rural): I had no intention of taking part in this discussion, because I had already said what I had to say about this demand in the general discussion on the budget. But Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang by bringing in the name of Sir Jogendra Singh has prompted me to say a few words. I can at the very outset say that though Sir Jogendra Singh possesses outstanding qualities of head and heart, he has not been successful in his private industrial enterprises, not because he has not got the ability, not because he has not the energy, but because people always took advantage of his good nature. Perhaps the Government of that day realising this had placed this department in charge of a successful captain of industry, so as to improve matters, affect economy and to see that construction work is carried on in a more business like manner. I am sorry I have not been able to dig up old accounts so as to give correct figures, but I will depend upon the figures given by Doctor Sahib himself. He told the House that out of the total amount of 8 crores spent on this scheme, about 2 crores had already been spent when Sir Jogendra Singh took over charge of this department and that a large order had been placed in England. He also told us that during the time Sir Jogendra Singh held charge, the total amount spent on this scheme was nearly 2 crores including that big order placed in England. This shows that in the time of Sir Jogendra Singh, the amount spent on this scheme was exactly half of the amount spent during the time of Doctor Sahib.

Then again the speech of Doctor Sahib the other day raised two points. One was that this scheme was adopted in the teeth of a strong opposition, of which he was the leader and that public money to the amount of 8 crores has been wasted. The second point raised was that some mathematical

blunder has been committed by the experts in calculating the discharge of the Uhl River and that the actual output of electricity now generated was one-fourth of the estimated output for which this machinery at Jogendra Nagar was installed. With regard to the first point I would say that though Doctor Sahib was a very vehement opposer to the adoption of the scheme, yet when his time came to exercise control, or in his own words, I would say when this orphan along with his charming and sweet mother was thrown into the lions' den, they to their utter surprise found that this lion which roared with blood-curdling voice, looked so ferocious and whom they expected to devour them at any moment, was a tame one. Thus the alluring mother had no difficulty in exercising her charm and magic, that she not only succeeded in taking Doctor Sahib to Margate instead of Bourmouth, but got a promise from him that her child would be brought up in the same environments of luxury in which it had been born. Many times we pointed out to him that the prices which our neighbouring provinces paid for the material they got, were ten times or even twenty times less than the prices of the same material got by the department under his charge, but we were told "you shut up, my child will ride an Arab of Rs. 5,000 and will drive in swellears worth Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000." The child was so spoilt that he smashed many cars and even killed his mother in an accident. So you see he cannot absolve himself from the responsibility, merely by saying that he was trying to make good of a bad job. No, he was certainly swept away in the tide in which his predecessors had gone and he must share the responsibility along with them, if not alone.

Then with regard to the second point that a mathematical error was committed by the experts with regard to the discharge of the Uhl River and which came to light shortly after he had taken over charge of the department, this alone ought to have made the lion ferocious enough to devour the mother and the child, but nothing was done, not even an explanation was called and the experts went scot free.

Then again to rectify this mistake a proposal to supplement the water supply of Uhl River by constructing a dam was brought forward which never saw the light of the day.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I am loathe to interrupt him in his poetic flow, but he will excuse me for a second. Does he mean that when the Department was placed in my charge, I should have abandoned the scheme? I just want to know. Is that the Honourable member's intention? Does he mean that I should have after crores had been spent by Chaudhri Sahib and Sir Jogendra Singh abandoned the scheme because it was expected that it would cost one or two crores more, though actually it did cost about three crores?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Certainly not. What I meant was that a man of your intelligence and knowledge, which exceeded your predecessors should have had a greater control and should have exercised greater economy in this department.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : But for me it would have cost five crores more. How do you know?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : I have already submitted that I know from figures quoted by me in the last Council with regard

[S. B. S. Gurbachan Singh.]

to the rates which the United Province Government paid for their articles were much less than the price paid by the department under your control for the same material. No efforts were made to compare these rates or to take to task the people who were charging you so much here. I was referring to the second point of miscalculation of the discharge of the Uhl River. I have already said that these experts, have not in any way been taken to task and have been allowed to go scot free. This mistake was brought to light during his time but no effort was made to hold any body responsible. Again a scheme to supplement the supply of water in the Uhl River by constructing a dam near about Jogendra Nagar was also brought during his time, but no effort was made to construct that dam so that the water supply may be increased and this loss may be avoided. May I ask Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang what action he would have taken if, in his own private concern an expert had committed such a mistake? Would he have allowed him to go free and would he have sat quietly after the mistake was pointed out to him and allowed his concern to fail or he would have moved heaven and earth to rectify the mistake and made his failing concern a profitable one.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : What would you suggest?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : That you should have set that mistake right and you should have taken those persons who were responsible for it to task.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I should have put more water in the Uhl River?

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Certainly, there was a scheme before you and by carrying it out you would have saved this catastrophe of there being not enough water to run the turbines to their full capacity. My honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Ujjal Singh has already said that even now the same old scheme to supplement the supply of water of Uhl River from the catchment area was under consideration of Government. You with your experts could easily have done that. Then, sir, the time came when this juice was ready and had begun to flow on the wires. It was at that time that the Government had to declare the policy as to how this electricity was to be used. Well, here again the Doctor Sahib committed the greatest blunder, by choosing the wrong and short-sighted policy which aimed at immediate profits by selling electricity for luxury purposes instead of using it for productive purposes by providing cheap electricity for industrial and agricultural development of the province. In this manner he would have driven out poverty from this province, filled the coffers of the state many times over than this small deficit in this demand and would have earned the blessings of the hoardes of unemployed youth. He not only ignored our suggestions, and threw away my resolution passed by the Council, but even paid no attention to the voice of sincerity of a person like the late Mr. Owen Roberts (God bless him) who speaking 8 years back on my resolution about cheap electricity for agricultural purposes said as follows. With your permission I will remind Dr. Sahib of what he said, on the 23rd of March, 1933.

But we have got to make the best of a bad job and I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that we must not look at the matter from the point of view of the small shop-keeper. If this project cannot be run in his opinion at a profit

by selling his power at more than what it costs to produce it, then he should face at once the alternative of providing his electricity even at a small loss. In those directions where it promises immediate results to users. I would like to draw his attention to the employment of electricity in Northern Italy in connection with irrigation. Of course in this province or in any provincial scheme there is one great disadvantage, we cannot oblige railways to use electricity. In Italy, a great deal of the available electricity is employed in railways and in addition to that in Northern Italy certainly I have seen in many places, they have tram lines laid down which cannot possibly pay as tram lines; the return to the State comes from the fact that the cultivator's produce reaches the market cheaply and quickly. Then again electricity is very largely employed in the same area for irrigation and there again I do not think that there can be any question of selling it at a profit. Here your towns are very wide apart and I have often wondered to myself what could justify a main transmission line being carried say from Lahore to Gujranwala with nothing to pick up on the road. If the Government accept the fact that it cannot expect to sell at rates that will yield profit, then power be given to places where it will produce immediately beneficial results at any price or even for nothing. The return to Government will come indirectly from the growing prosperity of the country and I do feel we have got to realize this and the sooner we recognise it and make up our minds to supply at rates which will not cover interest charges, the better. There is no use of adhering to developments of a type not within reasonable expectation. If we accept the wider policy I think we shall receive some benefit from this scheme although we may lose on our interests or working charges on paper.

This is what he said.

Even such an advice was ignored and this short-sighted policy was blindly followed.

Further, I also want to appeal to the present Government that the sooner they look into this matter and try to change the policy which is at present being adhered to, the better, and thus add a larger gain to the province.

Lastly I would sound a note of warning, although I was not present when the mover of this cut motion made his speech, which I have read in the *Tribune* of the 26th of March. The mover has suggested that this concern should be leased or sold to some private people. He says that the energy was produced at 14 pies a unit while it was sold at a very small rate of 4 pies a unit or something like that. If the cost of production is so high, I do not see how a private concern can make both ends meet, unless the private concern sells it at 16 or 20 or 24 pies to the consumers and thus loot the public to fill their own pockets. The Government will be upsetting their own declared policy of helping the poor by agreeing to any such proposal, and I strongly oppose such a vicious suggestion, rather on the other hand, the Government should be on the lookout to buy the Lahore Electric Supply Company when the license terminates. I again warn the Government that tricks like the Jack in the box will be played at the time of the expiry of the license, but the Government should depend on its Chief Engineer who is an able person of outstanding ability and honesty and it should be seen that none of these tricks succeed, but Electric Supply Company should be bought by the Government so as to supplement their electric supply from the Hydro-electric scheme and thus sell electricity at cheap rates for agricultural and industrial purposes. With these words I strongly oppose the cut motion.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Sir I want to make a personal explanation. Sardar Gurbachan Singh has brought 3 or 4 charges against me and I wish to answer them. The first is that I had discovered that the

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

experts had erred and yet I went on with the scheme. I put a question to him whether he intended that I should have put an end to the scheme and he said 'no'. Then he said I did not take action against the experts after I had found them to be wrong. One was taken away by God and I could not do anything against the others as I expected that those who succeeded him would make the best of the bad bargain. The third charge was that I made a blunder in not giving electricity to agriculturists.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh: The Honourable member cannot make a second speech, otherwise I should also be allowed to say a few words in reply. Dr. Sahib took up a wrong policy.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Policy, all right. This shows the honourable member's ignorance of trade matters. He is entirely wrong from a business point of view. From a business point of view the Government had to sell to the best customer and for the best price and three big customers, the House would like to know, are the railway, the Lyallpur Spinning and Weaving Mills and one Mill in Lahore, each of whom are giving more than a lakh of rupees a year to the Government.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural): Sir, I had no intention to intervene in this debate especially at this late stage. But the discussion in the Assembly has shown on the admissions of the Government itself, that the Government has not been very successful in running this commercial department. No more authority is needed for this proposition than the speech of the honourable Finance Minister itself and the attempts made at the apology of the department by member after member sitting on the Government benches. I know that they had to contend with rather a difficult situation without much experience in this line and in the matter of purchases they were not dealt with very fairly and squarely by persons with whom this matter had been left. Even then, it is up to any Government to make the best of even a bad or in some cases a worse bargain. Unfortunately in this case, Government has not shown any aptitude for turning a bad situation into a good one. At the same time I have heard it stated by several members of the Unionist party that having proved themselves unsuccessful in running this department, they should burden themselves with taking over similar undertakings. It has been stated on the floor of this House that this Department should take over the Lahore Electric Supply undertaking. Fortunately and fortunately for this province—and all honour to those who are running this institution, the Lahore Electric Supply Company—it is one of our most successful industrial undertakings run on purely commercial lines without unnecessary extra heavy overhead charges which are a usual feature of all state undertakings and on account of this it is in the proud position of being a successful running Indian institution. It is a matter of pride to this province. It is one of the principle assets of this province which in regard to various other industries is helping the province. I am not a shareholder of this company. I am not in any way interested in this company. But I wish to give a warning to the Government, a warning to the taxpayer whether in the present state of the prices of electrical machinery, it would be a sound and economic proposition to take over such a heavy burden. Speaking roughly, the price which under the contract the Government will have to

pay to the electric supply company would be over 2 crores. Where is this 2 crores to come from? From my pocket, from the pocket of the taxpayer. If you calculate the amount of money which the Government and the taxpayer will have to spend on this company including interest even at 3 per cent, it would be over 2 crores. The interest would come to six lakhs and if you add to it depreciation charges on machinery at say 4 per cent it will come to another 8 lakhs. Six and 8 is 14 lakhs. Let us put it roughly at 10 lakhs. Before the Government can make anything out of the concern, it will have to set aside 10 lakhs for interest charges on capital and depreciation of machinery. Now looking at the balance sheet of the company we find that the net profit that it made was 6 lakhs. Supposing that by superhuman efforts the Government can make it yield a profit of 10 lakhs, how does the Government, how does the taxpayer, I respectfully ask, stand to gain on this transaction except that the Government meddles with matters which it should rather leave alone. Leave those things which are already well managed, in charge of those persons who are managing them. Why take upon yourself the burden which you have not been able to discharge successfully in other similar cases?

We are talking of white elephants. Do some of the members, who have put forward this unhealthy suggestion before the Government, want the Government to take any white elephant simply because the desire of some persons sitting on the Government benches is to introduce their own management instead of the company management? (*Laughter*). The Honourable Minister of Public Works has been pleased to laugh over this suggestion and very likely he has laughed over it because he feels that it is the intention of those persons who, being ignorant of the economic and commercial aspect of this undertaking, wish to grab at it because it will afford them opportunities to provide a few more jobs to their men. In a commercial undertaking this is the least part of the show which has to be looked into. Let us not repeat the example of the sugar mill at Bhiwani. Let us not repeat the costly blunder which you are perpetrating in the case of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. Before you undertake such things which are going on well, demonstrate your efficiency, demonstrate your ability to conduct your own Hydro-Electric Department well and when you have done that, it will then be the occasion for you to meddle with things which do not at present cause us any anxiety. I happen to see the Honourable Minister of Finance sitting there. It has been stated on the floor of the House that he is one of the most cautious and one of the most careful custodians of the Punjab finances. I wish to communicate to him the warning, lest he might be led by the criticisms of these appeals to risk the finances of this Province in such dangerous channels, that before he commits himself to such a hazardous undertaking, he may get a committee of experts appointed who may go into the financial aspect of the matter and he should look into the *pros* and *cons* of the matter before he commits the Province to another white elephant. With these words I support the cut motion.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural): We should thank the Honourable Finance Minister for focusing our attention to one department of the Government which has been showing a loss. Like all vigilant Finance Ministers our Minister has taken good care to see that whichever department is making a loss, that department should be

[S. Amjad Ali Shah.]

brought into prominence so that we may devise ways and means of reducing this loss. I have heard speeches from both sides of the House. There were some speeches from experts like my honourable friends Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal. We all know that the Hydro-Electric Scheme is neither paying nor has it remained within the bounds which were chalked out in the beginning and the Government had to spend much more than what the original estimate was. We also know that on account of the fall of the level in the Uhl river the electricity now generated has been reduced from 36 thousand kilowatts which was once estimated, to about 16 thousand kilowatts. We all know that. But one thing has not been brought out in any of the speeches which I have heard so far. That is, that the original estimate was for 4½ crores and we have spent very nearly 7 crores. Nobody has told us why we spent 7 crores. Where did the 2½ crores go? That is the first question which I would like to ask.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh : The original estimate was for 2 crores and some lakhs.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : After having noted this fact that 16 thousand kilowatts is the production of electricity now from this scheme, are there no other ways and means to increase this output which we have at present? This is my second point. My third point is that the 7 crores of rupees which we have spent, has presumably been spent on some plant, etc., and whatever machinery is being used today, is surely less than what was to be used when 36 thousand kilowatts were to be produced. I ask, what has happened to all the surplus machinery and material? Is it in the shape of lines and wires which the Government had bought hoping that the plant would generate 36 kilowatts of energy? Or we may be having more turbines than are actually used. All these questions have not been satisfactorily replied to. *(Interruption)*. I will repeat the question that if with the 7 crores of rupees we have bought machinery or surplus turbines to produce 36 thousand kilowatts of energy, and since only 16 thousand kilowatts of energy is being produced at the moment, where are those surplus turbines and other material? Cannot we make use of that? *(Interruption)*. There is another point which I would like to make and that is this. The Uhl river has surely bigger flow of water during the summer than in winter. Couldn't we introduce some plants which may be worked by steam and thereby raise our production to a uniform level of say 30 thousand kilowatts because during the summer when the river has more water in it, we could produce more electricity than in winter and in winter we could supplement this energy from the generating plant worked by steam. My honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh charged my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang with various things. I will charge him for one thing. *(Interruption)*. I do not think he will say that I am not talking a fact.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : There can be exceptions.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : What I am going to say is that my honourable friend is a leading businessman. With that experience behind him and with that business acumen we would have expected that if this Department was not doing well as a Government department, he ought to have

tried and seen if big business people would be prepared to take it over and work it.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : *Mari hoi mahin vi koi lenda e ?*

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah : He should have invited them if they could work the scheme. I know that no business concern would pay for the mistake of the Government which was governing this province at the time the scheme came into existence but when I hear my friends say that we must make the best out of the bad bargain and we must continue the scheme, I oppose that and the reason is this. Supposing we lose 25 lakhs a year, surely my honourable friend would not go on suggesting that we should go on with the scheme even if we lose 25 lakhs per annum. If we go on losing this amount for twenty years, is this business? (*Interruption*). I ask my friends where are they going to pay the interest from? He should not have raised that question. After all interest is paid on the capital invested.

Although my honourable friend is a businessman, he does not understand sound business. I would certainly not be a party to such a proposition or such a business. Supposing this was a business concern. What would be the company doing and what would the directors do, when they go on sinking money year after year, to see that this business, which was a losing concern, should go on. No sound businessman would have permitted such a thing. Of course, if there were prospects of its being profitable and paying, I would have certainly supported that proposition. I very warmly support my honourable friend, Sir William Robert's proposal that a committee should be appointed. I would only add one thing in that connection and it is this, that where you have electrical experts, you must also have business men who should understand where the losses can be recouped. Of course, we have already an expert committee, but they have not suggested any concrete proposal by which this loss can be mitigated.

One more point before I finish and it is this that why should we not try an experiment of giving over the juice to the business concern. (*Interruptions*). I have reason to think that this side of the business of selling electricity has not been rightly handled. I do not blame the department because they are not business experts. If everything was left in the hands of the business concern, it would have been more properly handled than it is being handled today. I draw the attention of my honourable friends to a private concern which is generating electricity from the hydro-electric machinery. It is the Tata powers, which is near Khandala, between Bombay and Poona. The subscribed capital of this company is Rs. 2,69,28,000 and they have made a profit in 1939 to the tune of Rs. 32 lakhs and declared a dividend of 7½ per cent. Their each share, the nominal value of which was Rs. 100, is worth Rs. 160 now. This Tata Hydro-Electric Company supplies electricity to the town of Bombay and also to the electric tramway company. This private concern with only 1/3rd capital of what we have sunk in this scheme has produced this huge profit. Surely that supports my contention that if we invite big business people to examine the scheme there may be a possibility of handing it over to them and thus cutting our losses. I do not see why we should fight shy of that proposition.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, it is a very complicated affair. The Government have invested capital to the tune of nine crores of rupees in the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. I was also of the opinion that the Government should give up the aforesaid scheme as it was a losing concern. But after hearing the speech of honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal, I have changed my views and am now strongly of the opinion that the Government should keep the aforesaid scheme under their own control. The capitalists want that the Government may hand over the control of the said scheme to them so that they may earn huge profits from it. Once a moneylender was going on foot. A few coins dropped out of his pocket. He did not want that other people should know that he had dropped a few coins. The ground was slippery. He feigned that he had slipped and fell down and while rolling on the ground he collected the coins and again pocketed them. My friends who are capitalists are at present behaving exactly in the same manner. They want to hide from us their real intentions. What they want is that the Government should abandon the aforesaid scheme and pass it on to them so that they may earn profits from it. All their criticism has been made with that object in view. May I enquire from Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal that if this is not a profitable concern how can he expect it to yield any profits when under private control of a few capitalists?

Then Sayed Amjad Ali, Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal, Sir William Roberts and a few other members suggested that a committee may be appointed to make enquiries regarding the Mandi Hydro Electric Scheme in order to find out whether it can be made a profitable concern. To appoint any such committee would be a great blunder. Men who are opposed to the Scheme's remaining under government control would be members of that committee and then they would make suggestions which would suit their own purpose of getting it out of the control of the Government in order to make it a private concern. They will naturally suggest that the scheme should be abandoned. The object of all the criticism that has been levelled against this scheme is that the Government may consent to making it a private concern.

Then, Sir, energy is supplied to a cloth mill at Lyallpur at the rate of three, four or five pies per unit. We all know that to the general consumers it is sold at the rate of five or six annas a unit. I cannot understand why it is being supplied to the aforesaid cloth mill and other factories at such low rates.

Whenever we ask the Government to construct the Bhakra Dam Scheme they tell us that they have not got any money to undertake its construction. But they have money to spend on the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme every year. They spend money on the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme and also incur losses on account of it. But they refuse to spend money on schemes which are very necessary and which are bound to be profitable.

In answer to a question put by Sardar Gurbachan Singh, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang said that if he had been made incharge of the aforesaid scheme at the time when Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was made incharge of it he would have certainly abandoned it. May I enquire from him whether he would have done the same thing if it had been his private concern without trying to make it yield some returns?

But he thought that as the money belonged to Government there was no harm even if it was frittered away in losing concerns. If he had suffered losses to the tune of 4½ crores of rupees in any of his private concerns I would then have seen how he would have felt the loss? In that case he would have surely taken some interest in its working and would have tried to make good that loss. But so far as this scheme is concerned he thought that if the public money was being wasted let it be so. Why should he bother about it? After all that money did not go out of his pocket?

Then he was pleased to observe that he was not to blame for the losses of the scheme at all and it was Sir Chhotu Ram who was responsible for that. Let me tell him that Sir Chhotu Ram has himself admitted that he had no experience of any business at all and if he had made a mistake Sir Gokul Chand Narang, who had plenty of business experience, should have taken some steps to persuade the Government to drop that scheme. But he did nothing of that sort. As usual he stood up the other day and blamed the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram.

Besides it has come to my knowledge that electric energy is being supplied to North-Western Railway at cheaper rates. I do not know who is responsible for effecting that transaction. To my mind this is not fair at all. (*An honourable member*: How does it harm you?) My honourable friend has inquired how does it harm me. I am a zamindar and such a transaction does harm the vital interests of the zamindars because it is their money which has been invested in the launching of this scheme. I know that so far as he is concerned it does not harm him at all. But all the zamindars do feel about it and they think that electric power should not be supplied at cheaper rates to the North-Western Railway. There is every justification for us to protest against such a kind of transaction. It appears that my honourable friend thinks that if the rich people suffer losses that is something which should be taken notice of but if the poor people bear losses that does not matter at all. If that is his view point he may be right in putting this question to me otherwise not.

There is yet another thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Government in connection with this department. That is that when a department is running at a loss it is the duty of the Government to make some economies in its working expenses. But so far they have not taken any such step. I have been informed through private sources that there are many posts of engineers in this department which are not needed at all. In fact the work of the department can be carried on efficiently even without them. I think it will be only fair if such posts are abolished. Similarly reduction can be effected in the establishment of clerks as well, although I do not think that any large savings can be effected by abolishing their posts. Anyhow my suggestion is that many posts which carry very high salaries can be abolished very easily and in this way much saving can be effected in the working expenses of the department. Let me tell you Sir, that it is these expert engineers who are responsible for the loss of the scheme. If any one of them had made such a suggestion in the time of any king of olden days not only he even his children would have had to bear the consequences of its failure. They should thank their stars that they have made this suggestion in the days of democracy when they have been

[Ch. Ram Sarup.]

let off without any punishment. However my suggestion is that Government should take utmost care and see that this scheme instead of being a losing concern becomes a profitable one.

In conclusion I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to take over the Lahore Electric Supply Company so as to relieve my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal of the responsibility of looking after it. With these words I oppose the cut motion.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (North Punjab Non-Union Labour) (Urdu): Sir, the Hydro-Electric Department has been under discussion for the last two days. During the course of debate some honourable members have called it a "white elephant" while there are others who have termed it as the baby of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. My submission is that if it is a white elephant it should have been treated in the manner that white elephants are treated. On the contrary if it is a baby of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram it should have been treated in the manner suggested by Chaudhri Sahib himself. Any way what I mean to say is that this department has not been meted out that kind of treatment which it amply deserved. Sir, during the course of discussion an attempt has been made to give a communal colour to this matter and also the question of the Lahore Electric Supply Company has been imported into it. So far as these questions are concerned, I do not propose to give any reply to them because I am to some extent interested in the Lahore Electric Supply Company and if I begin to defend it on the floor of the House honourable members would tell me that I am doing so because I happened to be its Chairman. Let me tell my honourable friends that many shareholders of this Company are Muslims and many of its directors have also been Muslims. (A voice: But how many Muslims are employed in it?) Sir, I admit that the main disqualifications of this concern are that it happens to be owned mostly by Hindus and secondly that it belongs to non-agriculturists. Anyway I do not want to dilate on this point any further. I would leave aside the questions whether the Lahore Electric Supply Company is a Hindu company or not, or whether I am interested in its working or not. Assuming that the Lahore Electric Supply Company is taken over by the Government, let us consider as to what is the financial position of this department, whether it is paying or not and if it is not paying how can we make it a profitable one. I may remind the House that the other day I put forward two suggestions for improving the working of this department. One of them was that a standing committee should be appointed which should go into the working of this department and make suggestions for improving its existing conditions. My second suggestion was the same which the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram made in 1933 to the effect that the sale of electric energy should be handed over to some private company. Now my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood in the course of his speech, which I must admit was relevant to the point, tried to make out a good case out of a bad one. I expected that he would also support us and tell the Government frankly about the shortcomings of this scheme. But he like an able lawyer tried to make out a good case out of a bad one and gave us facts and figures to show that the income of this department had gone up while its expenditure has gone down. In business concerns we cannot be led away by such

facts and figures only. What we have to see is the net result. Instead of touching the real issue, i.e., as to what was the actual loss incurred by the department he cited facts and figures in such a manner which appeared to be attractive to laymen. But he has not cared to state as to what has been the net result. I hope the Honourable Minister would try to throw some light on this point. In this connection I may point out that when I made a suggestion for the appointment of a standing committee I did not do so because some body's interest was involved in it. The reason why I put forward that suggestion was that crores of rupees of this province, which include the money of both agriculturists and non-agriculturists, have been invested in this scheme, and I wanted the setting up of a committee which should go through the whole question and should guide and scrutinize all further expenditure.

The suggestion that I ventured to make the other day has found support in various parts of the House. Sir William Roberts and Sayed Amjad Ali Shah from the Government side and Malik Barkat Ali, and other independent members, from the opposition supported my suggestion for the appointment of a committee. Even the Press expressed its approval of my suggestion. Anyway I hope the Government will keep the interests of the tax-payer foremost in their mind. The Honourable Minister has said that he is a layman. Well I myself also claim no special aptitude and am as such a layman as he is, but does this fact preclude one from offering a suggestion which he in all good faith thinks is for the good of the province? So much good money of the tax-payer has been spent on this scheme and therefore, it is but proper that a Committee be appointed to go through it and see how it can be made paying. When Chaudhri Muhammad Zafrullah Khan moved a resolution in the old Council recommending the appointment of a committee to examine the scheme, the Government welcomed the proposal and a committee was appointed.

Minister for Public Works : But did the appointment of that committee prove of any use to the province?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : That is for you to say. What I want to submit is that this scheme is causing a huge loss to the province and, therefore, you must take expert advice as to how it can be made a paying concern. I have drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the Hydro-Electric Department is selling electric energy at rates lower than the cost of its production. Chaudhri Ram Sarup also has given one or two instances. Sir, I have great respect for the business acumen of Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, but I am sorry that I cannot agree with what he has said to-day. He was pleased to tell us that electric energy was being sold at less than cost price in order to popularize the scheme. My submission is that no business man would adopt such a method or advance such an argument. For instance where does the question of popularising the scheme arise in the case of the North-Western Railway? I have quoted the opinion which the Honourable Minister of Development held to the effect that such a scheme should be run by private companies. In addition to that I have quoted authorities like President Roosevelt and Mr. Wilkie. Now I would like to know what the Government has to say in the face of these expert opinions. May I speak for another five minutes, Sir?

Mr. Speaker : No. I am sorry I cannot allow any more time to the honourable member. His time is up.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Very well, Sir, then I resume my seat with these remarks.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana) : First of all I may congratulate the honourable mover of this cut motion for the lengthy speech that he made the other day. He has established a record for himself. Though he could not excel the record of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, I think his is a creditable performance all the same and we can expect better results when the next general discussion of the budget is on.

At present I have no mind to go into the details of the scheme or the history of it because we have heard a lot about it already, nor do I intend to apportion blame to one minister or the other who has been in charge of it at various stages of its progress. The province knows the history of the scheme and all its details. The scheme was originally estimated to cost Rs. 4½ crores and if this estimate had not exceeded the prospect of the scheme would have been different ; but the actual estimates were exceeded and we spent seven crores on the scheme. I would not go into the question as to how this estimate was exceeded, as Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang is not present here. But the facts are that after spending this seven crores we found that the load factor had been miscalculated and that the water supply in the river did not come up to our expectations. These facts are already fresh in the minds of honourable members and I would therefore not like to go into them also. When I took over charge of the department the whole scheme had been complete and it was a running concern. Therefore I am not concerned as to how this white elephant was conceived who conceived it and whether it was a good transaction or not. But I should like to say one word in regard to the responsibility attributed to my honourable colleague Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. It has been said that he conceived this idea. I do not think there was anything wrong in that. It was at the subsequent stages that the estimates were exceeded. I took up the department as a going concern and I am to-day concerned with the four years during which I have been in charge of the scheme and how we have done our utmost to make the best of a bad bargain. As I have already said during the course of the general discussion good Punjab money has been to some extent wasted on the top of a Mandi hill. I have been asked where. My reply is, in the khud, that is where big tunnels have been constructed in anticipation of second and third stages of the scheme. When I took charge of the project I got all these matters examined and the results are now before the House. It has been said that since I took charge of it there has been a loss in the scheme. That is an erroneous statement. I do not say that we deserve any special credit for the increased income, because it was a concern which was bound to get more load and hence more income. But what I would like to point out is this. In 1936-37 the income was 19·56 lakhs, in 1937-38 it was 23 lakhs, 28·084 lakhs in 1938-39, 28·39 lakhs in 1939-40 and this year it is 32·06 lakhs. The figure of 29·82 lakhs which was quoted has got to be explained. The previous system of accounting was on the income assessed. The Accountant-General ruled that it should now be on cash basis, that is, the income realised in the year, that

means, virtually eleven months' income has been taken into account. So there is an apparent decrease, but really there is an increase and you will observe that though the income has not exactly doubled, at least there is a big jump from 19 lakhs to 32 lakhs.

Then the maintenance expenditure has been attacked. It has been said that this also has gone up. I may quote figures to prove that this is not the case. It is again a question of accounting.

It was 3.01 lakhs in 1936-37; 3.17 lakhs in 1937-38 and 3.36 lakhs in 1938-39. But it was again brought down to 3.04 lakhs as special retrenchment was effected and thereabout it stands to-day. In this year's account it is shown as 4.48, but that figure again requires an explanation because of the changed accounting system. Previously certain items that were charged to capital account are now being charged to revenue account, and there again we have done it in order to place the scheme on business lines. Another great difference in accounting that has come about which has already been explained is that previously up to the year 1938-39 no depreciation was shown. So naturally if you do not allow for depreciation there is bound to be more net revenue. We have done away with that. In other words, we have put the scheme, as it should be, on a businesslike basis. Take this year. The depreciation shown is 10.50 lakhs. So there is straightaway a difference of about 10 lakhs. That does not mean an actual decrease in income. It only means that the scheme has been put on sound business basis.

The establishment charges have been stated by some members to be heavy. There again it is not a fact. Though the number of consumers has gone up by 20 per cent within the last year, the establishment charges are more or less the same. The increase is due to another reason. In accordance with the previous accounting system some of the establishment is shown against the capital account and some is shown against the revenue account. With War intervening the capital expenditure fell from 12 lakhs in 1939-40 to 3 lakhs in 1940-41. Hence the establishment charges debited to revenue went up, and that is the reason for the increase otherwise a comparison with figures would show that establishment has been kept as low as it could be economically, and every effort has been made to retrench where it was found necessary. As Mir Maqbool Mahmood pointed out, within the last two years retrenchment to the tune of Rs. 38,000 has already been made—Rs. 19,200 in the gazetted establishment, and the non-gazetted staff has been retrenched to the extent of Rs. 19,324. Establishment has sometimes to be increased when we are undertaking a new scheme, but it is according to a formula which was arrived at after a very careful examination, so that no excess staff is engaged. I would therefore say that instead of a decrease there is an actual increase in the income, and the revenue position is also better to the tune of 1.66 lakhs over the figures of the previous year. But still this does not mean that we have been able to make up the gap between the interest charges and the revenue. There is a gap and that remains with every scheme of this type for a long number of years. In this case the gap is particularly big, because of the initial expenditure incurred the scheme for which, as I have already said, we are neither responsible nor in any way answerable. It was due to the legacy that we got. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang was not here when I said that I am not

[Minister for Public Works.]

here to apportion blame, but that so far as I am concerned I got it as a legacy. I do not think that he can deny or anybody else can deny that.

The scheme was originally supposed to generate a peak load of 36,000 kilowatts, that is the load that we expected. At present actually it roughly comes up to 18,000 kilowatts. Out of this the present load is in the vicinity of 16,000 kilowatts.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the peak load expected was 48,000 kilowatts or not, when this machinery was installed ?

Minister for Public Works : I will come to that later on. At present we have got a margin of 2,000 kilowatts with us. We have arrived at an arrangement with the North-Western Railway that we will release 3,500 kilowatts. So we have a margin of 5,500 kilowatts. This is the load that we can supply at all times. If that is what the honourable member meant when he asked the question. Peak load of course varies, and there the limiting factor is the reservoir at Joginder Nagar. We can meet that peak load from the reservoir, but beyond that we cannot.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Is the machinery installed capable of generating only 17,000 kilowatts ?

Minister : This machinery is controlled by water supply ; that is the limiting factor. I would still say that in the year 1945-46 according to the present rate of progress the scheme will be fully loaded but still there will be a gap. The income we hope to get when the present margin of primary power has been absorbed is Rs. 47 lakhs and the interest charges at 4 per cent will be in the vicinity of 29 lakhs. So the gap will be 8½ lakhs if we do not do anything more. So in order to cover this gap we have to see what we can do and how best we can make the concern pay. The second and third stages have been examined and we have come to the conclusion that the cost would be ? (*Interruption*). Government has served a notice on the Lahore Electric Supply Company and when this has been taken over, then we think that peak load will be forthcoming. At present the industrial load is two-thirds of the entire demand in the system. The industrial load is not so paying as is well known. It has been pointed out that in some cases it is between 4 and 5 pies a unit, while the domestic load is more paying. At present we have not got much domestic load, and when we take over Lahore, we expect that that load will be forthcoming. Then the position will be that we will get another additional 37 lakhs from the Lahore undertaking. This is talking of the year 1943-44. In other words, you might say that the present deficit will be covered and new revenue will be forthcoming—78 lakhs minus 43·5 lakhs, that is to say 34·5 lakhs which will pay exactly 4·06 per cent on the entire capital of the undertaking, Uhl River undertaking *plus* the cost of acquiring Lahore. After that we hope to be square. That is neither the province would lose nor would it gain anything.

So the combined show will give us exactly the interest charges, including the interest on the Lahore company. These are estimates for purchase and the whole thing has got to go to arbitration and we do not know what will be the exact amount. These are rough figures and this is what I am

advised by the experts. After a very careful examination the experts say that the income and the interest charges will be balanced.

Then again for a large portion of the year, when there is ample supply of water in the Uhl we can generate considerable amount of power but when there is low supply of water there will have to be a black-out. We will have therefore to fill in that gap also. The proposal was to have a thermal plant to supplement it when necessary. The plans were ready and we were going to order it. But the War has intervened and so we will have to wait for 2 or 3 years after the war to put in the thermal plant. When the thermal plant is put in, it will mean that the entire scheme would be changed. Instead of having a greater load in the summer when there is plenty of supply of water and a lower load in the winter, we will supplement the lower load by the thermal plant. At that stage we hope that there will not only be no loss but we will actually make some profit. Then the total production will go up to 40,000 kW. roughly and the capital cost will be as high as 1,140 lakhs.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : What will be the cost of the thermal plant ?

Minister for Public Works : It had been estimated to cost something like 90 or 95 lakhs of rupees—three sets generating 12,000 kW. or 36,000 kW. in all. This is just to fill in the gap of low water period and will work for 2 or 2½ months in winter when the water-supply in the Uhl falls. Here again I am not holding out any sure hopes. But this is what the experts have estimated after a very thorough and careful examination. So I am putting all this before the House with that reservation. I am a layman and I cannot state with authority whether all this estimated income to a penny will be realised. It is estimated that the working expenses including maintenance and repairs and establishment will be in the vicinity of 103 lakhs and the anticipated revenue with a maximum demand of 40,000 kW. would be, Lahore undertaking 52 lakhs and the rest 71 lakhs. In all, the estimated income would be 123·5 lakhs or say 124 lakhs roughly. The deductions will be 103 lakhs and 21 lakhs will be the profit realised which is roughly 2 per cent. (*Interruption*). My honourable friend wants me to say when this will be actually realised. I am not a prophet. As soon as the thermal plant has been installed and the energy is available throughout the year, then the hope will be realised. In the case of business concerns of this sort they do not pay the maximum interest right in the beginning. They have to wait till the time is reached, when the entire system is loaded. I do not think that we should be either too optimistic or too pessimistic. But I think if we proceed on these lines, the whole scheme instead of being a drain will be a source of profit. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :* Where do you intend to put this thermal plant ?) The idea was to put it at Shahdara as soon as we could. Now we find that the machinery cannot be imported from England due to the war. A suggestion has been made that we might get it from America, but the cost will be enormous and I do not think it will be worth while getting it from America. Enquiries are being made and as soon as circumstances permit us to do so, thermal plant will be installed. A suggestion has also been made that we should augment the water supply in the Uhl by closing the catchment area. Experts have also calculated

[Minister for Public Works.]

the cost of that scheme and they say that if we spend 4 lakhs we will have enormous increase. Sayad Amjad Ali has put it at a high figure, but I would not be a party to hold out any such hopes. It is a very difficult matter in which to forecast anything exactly. Experts say that if we close 140 square miles there will be a considerable increase. An increase of one cusec, they say, will bring in a revenue of Rs. 45,000 so that for an increase of 10 cusecs we will get a revenue of 4½ lakhs. What exactly will be the increase in water supply by closing this area, I will not prophesy. But I think this is a scheme which is worth careful examination and should be taken up as early as possible. If there is an increase in water of the Uhl we might even now make up the leeway and get profit out of the scheme. The main difficulty is the deficient supply in the Uhl and if that is tackled, the revenue will go up at once. So there is no harm in trying this experiment and later on we can take up the question of the thermal plant.

One thing more. It was asked why the Government does not hand over the working of this department to a private concern especially when this department is a losing proposition. The honourable mover of this cut quoted certain figures regarding generation. He pointed out that the cost of generation was as high as 14·698 pies. Now if you refer to that statement you will find that including depreciation and excluding interest, the cost comes to only 4·84 pies, while the average return per unit sold is 10·56 pies. It was asked why we do not sell it at 14·698, that is the cost of generating a unit. If we do that, the result will be that some consumers would either start their own plants or will not take the load from us. We have to sell this energy at a rate which is economical to the consumers because he has alternative supplies available to him. (*An honourable member*: What about Government departments?) Specially in the case of industries this is being done because we must make it worth while for the man to purchase from us. It is also indirectly a subsidy to industry, plainly speaking.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Even the present rates for industry are high.

Minister for Public Works : That criticism is there and I have already got demands that the present rate should be increased.

Mian Abdul Aziz : You get indirect benefit also.

Minister : That is why we have kept the rates low. But the point is whether they are not too low and whether the subsidy to industry is not too great.

The subsidy to the industry may not be very great, but the trouble with the Branch is that the main paying loads are those for domestic purpose. As has been pointed out we have not got much of the domestic load. The remaining two-thirds of the load is industrial. Therefore we have got to examine this question if we have to make more income. I have just indicated the line. I shall now come to local distribution. The minor schemes are charged at the rate of 8·25 pies. If a big concern like the Delhi Cloth Mills pays 4 to 5 pies and the local distribution from the main scheme is expected to pay 8.25 pies, naturally there is a loss over sales to big industrial

consumers. I hope you have followed this. I said that energy is sold from the main scheme to distribution system at 8·25 pies and when we sell it to industrialists and get only 4 to 5 pies, there is a loss. This is the basis on which accounts of the working of local distribution are kept. There is where the difference lies. As to Railway, we have to examine the whole question of tariffs and we do so from time to time and if we find that there is a scope for getting a little more money, we do consider the matter. In the beginning when we entered into a contract with the Railway surplus power was available, but now we can get more paying rates. I will tell you why the Railway is getting that power on these concession rates. I think the Punjab Government has been a gainer in this transaction. First when the Hydro-Electric scheme was started, as the honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand knows, there was not sufficient demand for load forthcoming. The rest of the power was going waste and no income was being derived. The North-Western Railway were the first consumer to come forward and they gave the Punjab Government 25,000 rupees in a month and took a load which would have otherwise gone waste. We got 3 lakhs a year roughly out of them when the power was surplus. We have gone on with that up till now, but we have now told the Railway that we will have a new agreement after the present one and as soon as we can get better rates we can sell the load elsewhere.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : May I know when the agreement with the Railway expires ?

Minister for Public Works : The new [agreement will come into operation from October next. The new agreement is that when the energy available from the scheme is not sufficient the Railway start their own plant. Therefore we are for the time being selling something for which we can get nothing elsewhere and as soon as we get other buyers we sell it to them after the expiry of the present agreement.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : At what rate will you supply to Railway from October next ?

Minister : At 4½ pies.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : The present rates are 4 and something pies up to 6 lakhs and beyond that it is one pie and something.

Minister : This is the old agreement. As I have said they will be willing to use their own stand-by plant when we cannot supply energy. It is only in the summer that we will get this income from them. At any subsequent stage if you find that more paying load is available and we take up the Lahore and Sialkot and other companies, then we can stop this supply and there is nothing to stop the Government from making money elsewhere.

Mian Abdul Aziz : May I ask one question ? Is it a condition of the contract with the Railway that you are giving them energy at that rate only for the surplus power which you have got at the present moment ? Supposing industries require that load will you be able to withdraw that load from the Railway ?

Minister : I have clearly explained that the Railway will take the load when we have got surplus, in winter they have to use their own plant.

[Minister.]

Railway is the only concern which has got these rates. As soon as thermal plant is ready, we will have sufficient supply about 40,000 kW. all the year round and we need not sell it to Railway, if we do not want to, unless they would pay us as others pay.

Mian Abdul Aziz : For how long have you been doing this with the Railway ?

Minister for Public Works : For three years. I was saying that the previous Government before us tried to give retail selling to some company. I cannot say whether it was during the time of the Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, but actually tenders were invited and only one firm Calendars Cables or some body else came forward with a tender. No body else throughout the whole of India came forward with any other tender and the result was that after enquiry this tender also was withdrawn. So it is not the case that no attempt has been made. I for one believe that the main income is from retail selling and the Government will be ill-advised to part with it and farm it out. Government may not be making as much money out of this as a private concern may make out but I am doubtful about the advantages of such a course. For instance it would not be possible to help industries or agriculture. A private company will not be so considerate towards these interests. The general policy now-a-days, as in the case of Railways is that state should manage these concerns, public demands that state should run these big industrial concerns and not farm them out. Would any body like farming out revenues of the Punjab ? There are also national concerns and I think they can be best managed by Government. We are trying to do our best and we have done our best, but if there has not been much success so far it is not the fault of the present Government, it is because of the heavy capital expenditure already incurred and interest charges. I hope that if we go on on the lines suggested by me, before long it will be possible, though it may take some time, to make this white elephant, instead of being a drain on the resources of the Punjab, a paying proposition. As regards the proposal for a Committee no useful purpose would be served by an additional committee. That demand under these circumstances is not acceptable. One word more before I finish with my speech. I

5 P. M. would like to explain about a particular question put by the honourable lady member. She asked me as to what would happen to the land acquired for the thermal plant in Baghbanpura as some delay has taken place. We are trying to ascertain what area is exactly wanted and the intention is that only the necessary area should be acquired so that the owners would get the price and later on we can build the thermal plant over this site.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,36,000 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 Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

The motion was carried.

STAMPS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 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 Stamps.

The motion was carried.

FORESTS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,74,300 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.

REGISTRATION.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 70,200 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 Registration.

The motion was carried.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION, ETC.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,53,800 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 account of Motor Vehicles Taxation and other Taxes and Duties.

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,09,100 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 Irrigation (Works).

The Assembly divided : Ayes 57, Noes 12.

AYES.

Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Akbar Ali, Pir.
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, Mian.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Balwant Singh, Sardar.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
Dassindha Singh, Sardar.
Dina Nath, Captain.

Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
Few, Mr. E.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.

Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Guest, Mr. P. H.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar.
 Haibat Khan Daha, Khan.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jafar Ali Khan, M.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
 Khizar Hayat Tiwana, The Honour-
 able Malik.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Sir.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan
 Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan,
 Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hussain Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari,
 Nawab Sir.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur
 Captain Malik.

Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur
 Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur
 Mian.
 Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib
 Thakur.
 Roberts, Sir William.
 Roshan Din, Chaudhri.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chau-
 dhri.
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab-Sir.
 Sohan Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
 Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Lal Singh, Sardar.

Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
 Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
 Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.

The following demands were then put from the Chair and adopted :—

- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,70,200 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 charges on Irrigation Establishment.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,04,200 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 Irrigation (Capital).
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,93,900 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 Administration of Justice.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,31,30,700 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.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,400 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 Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,83,500 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 Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education and Education in Backward Tracts).
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,60,31,400 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 Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,74,700 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 Public Health.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,83,000 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 Agriculture.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,13,700 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 Veterinary.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,67,200 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 Co-operation.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,79,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 31st March, 1942, in respect of Civil Works.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,84,300 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 Buildings and Roads Establishment Charges.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,15,900 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 connected with Electricity Schemes.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,30,400 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 Civil Works (Capital).
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,44,700 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 Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,50,000 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 Famine.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,10,400 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 Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,700 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 Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,08,900 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.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,21,200 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 Miscellaneous.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,28,000 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 Repayable.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,51,600 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 Loans and Advances Bearing Interest.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,50,000 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 Provincial Excise.
- That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,90,100 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 Jails and Convict Settlements.

LAND REVENUE.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,48,700 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 Assembly divided : Ayes 52, Noes 18.

AYES.

Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, Mian.
 Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Dina Nath, Captain.
 Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
 Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Few, Mr. E.
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Guest, Mr. P. H.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jagjit Singh, Man, Sardar.
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
 Khizar Hayat Tiwana, The Honourable Malik.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Sir.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.

Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.
 Roberts, Sir William.
 Roshan Din, Chaudhri.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
 Sohan Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.
 Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
 Girdhari Das, Mahant.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.

Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Lal Singh, Sardar.
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 31st March, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 31st March, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH SATYAGRAH MOVEMENT.

***7691. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of arrests, district-wise, in the province in connection with the present congress Satyagraha Movement from the 29th November, 1940, to the 15th of March, 1941;
- (b) the number of A class, B class, and C class prisoners among them and also the number of détenus, if any?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :

(a) 368.

(b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to Assembly Question No. 7627¹ on the 20th March, 1941. To bring this information up-to-date, and to give details of arrests by districts, would involve an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justified so shortly after the reply already given.

ARREST OF SOBHA RAM OF CHUND BHARWANA, TAHSIL JHANG.

***7692. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one M. Sobha Ram from Chund Bharwana, tahsil Jhang, was arrested on the 21st February, 1941, for raising anti-war slogans, by the Superintendent, Police, Jhang;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent in question on reaching the spot where the said Sobha Ram was arrested began to lecture and asked the Muhammadans among the audience to leave the place as they had nothing to do with the Congress as that was a Hindu organisation;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the said Superintendent of Police actually beat some Muslim workers with dandas and abused Sobha Ram, Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders;

[S. Moola Singh.]

(d) whether it is a fact that M. Sobha Ram was made to travel a distance of 14 miles on foot with handcuffs on both hands while other prisoners were taken in a lorry ;

(e) if the replies to (a), (b), (c) and (d) above be in the affirmative the reasons for the same ; and whether Government intends taking any action against the said Superintendent of Police ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :

(a) Yes.

(b) A big hostile crowd of Muslims had surrounded the Congress meeting held at village Chund Bharwana, consisting of about 100 Congressmen and women. Muslims of this village had already on previous occasions expressed their resentment against the holding of anti-Government meetings and shouting of anti-war slogans, etc. In order to avoid any communal trouble the Superintendent of Police of the district advised the Muslims to leave the place.

(c) No.

(d) Yes. The Sub-Inspector of Police in charge of the escort also travelled on foot as there is no regular bus service between Chund Bharwana and Jhang.

(e) No action is called for.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is it not a fact that lorries for carrying convicts guilty of moral turpitude were present on the spot where Mr. Sobha Ram was arrested, but in spite of this he was made to travel a distance of 14 miles on foot ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : Sir, I have already stated that lorry service was not available there and that is why Sobha Ram and the Sub-Inspector in charge had to travel 14 miles on foot.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it not a fact that other criminal offenders were carried from that place by lorries ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : Not to my knowledge.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is it not a fact that Mr. Sobha Ram stated before the court that the Superintendent of Police abused Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders and also asked the Muhammadans to leave the meeting place as they had nothing to do with the Congress as that was a Hindu organisation ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : I have already replied in the negative to part (c) of the original question.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AND HONORARY SUB-JUDGES.

*7696. **Syed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah** : Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the total number, district-wise, of the honorary magistrates and honorary sub-judges in the province ;

(b) the total average expenditure incurred annually on the maintenance of the staff, etc., district-wise, attached to the honorary magistrates and honorary sub-judges in the province ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) The honourable member will find this information in Part II of the January issue of the Half-Yearly Civil List.

(b) I regret that the time and trouble involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state the necessary qualifications for an honorary magistrate?

Minister : How does that arise out of this question? The question was about the total number, district-wise, of honorary magistrates and for this I have referred the honourable member to the Civil List.

Sardar Ajit Singh : May I know as to how many honorary magistrates have been appointed by the Government from the members of the Unionist Party since the 1st April, 1937?

Sardar Ajit Singh : As the question is about the total number, district-wise, of the honorary magistrates, why does the Honourable Minister decline to tell me the number of honorary magistrates appointed from the Unionist Party since 1937?

Sardar Moola Singh : May I know if any honorary magistrate has been appointed from the members of the Scheduled Castes since 1937?

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE JOURNAL.

***7693. Khan Sahib Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qadri :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether the Industries Department has ever considered the need for a good commercial intelligence journal for purposes of spreading news and knowledge of industries and commerce; if so, with what result?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : A journal entitled the "*Sanat-o-Hirfat*" was started by the Department of Industries for disseminating commercial and technical intelligence as early as the year 1921, but it was discontinued in 1923. For the last ten years the Department has been publishing a monthly summary of industrial and commercial conditions of the province. From July last the Department has again started a quarterly Urdu journal entitled the "*Hunar*" which deals with economic, industrial and technical subjects.

INSTITUTION FOR DEAF AND DUMB.

***7694. Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a large number of deaf and dumb children in the Punjab and that there is no institution in the province for the training of the deaf and dumb in human speech as well as crafts; if so, the reasons therefor and the action that is intended to be taken to make up the deficiency?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : In 1914 the A. P. Mission opened at Ludhiana a school for the deaf and dumb under the charge of Mr. B. K. Chatterji and Government promised a grant of Rs. 200 per mensem.

[Minister of Education.]

As the Mission authorities severed their connection with the institution, Mr. Chatterji re-opened the school at Lahore the same year, and Government again sanctioned a grant of Rs. 200 ; but it was closed in 1917. In 1928 a scholarship of Rs. 20 per mensem was sanctioned to enable a deaf mute to undergo a course of training at Calcutta. In 1929 the school was re-opened at Lahore under the charge of Mr. Chatterji but it was closed after six months as the attendance was poor. In 1935 a proposal to re-open the school was made by certain interested persons, but it did not mature for want of a suitable teacher and funds. Since the year 1937 the authorities of Lady Noyce School for the Deaf and Dumb, New Delhi, are being paid an annual grant not exceeding Rs. 800 to meet the deficit in proportion to the number of Punjabi students.

RETIREMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL, MAYO SCHOOL OF ARTS.

***7697. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) when the present Principal of the Mayo School of Arts is due to retire ;
- (b) whether the Government intends to advertise this post and recruit his successor through the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Public Service Commission, if not, the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) 29th March, 1942.

- (b) The matter has not been considered yet.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUENCIES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

***7689. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that recently orders were issued by Government to so revise the constituencies of the District Board, Jullundur, as to give due representation on the Board to each community ; if so, how much progress has been made so far in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : Yes, orders were issued recently. The Deputy Commissioner is taking necessary action.

CASES OF BURGLARY, THEFT, HOUSE-BREAKING, CATTLE LIFTING, DACOITY, ROBBERY AND MURDER IN THE PROVINCE.

***7690. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) total number of cases of burglary, theft, house-breaking, cattle lifting, persons found in possession of unlicensed arms, of dacoity, robbery and murder registered with the police throughout the province in 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940 ;

- (b) how many of these cases, category-wise, and year-wise were challaned and how many of these successfully ended in conviction ;
- (c) in how many of these cases the investigating officers were censured by the courts and what action was taken by the Government against them ; and, if no action was taken against any of them, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

(a) and (b) A statement giving the information asked for by the honourable member is laid on the table. Figures of cases of burglary and house-breaking have been shown together as separate figures for each of the offences are not available. Figures showing cases of persons found in possession of unlicensed arms are also not available.

(c) The time and trouble involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Statement showing the number of cases registered, challaned and convicted under important forms of crime during the years 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940.

Year.	BURGLARY OR HOUSE-BREAKING.			THEFT.			CATTLE LIFTING.			DACOITY.			ROBBERY.			MURDER.		
	Number of cases registered.	Number of cases challaned.	Number of cases convicted.	Number of cases registered.	Number of cases challaned.	Number of cases convicted.	Number of cases registered.	Number of cases challaned.	Number of cases convicted.	Number of cases registered.	Number of cases challaned.	Number of cases convicted.	Number of cases registered.	Number of cases challaned.	Number of cases convicted.	Number of cases registered.	Number of cases challaned.	Number of cases convicted.
1937 ..	16,191	3,501	2,697	7,982	3,468	2,997	3,895	1,453	1,126	107	59	43	836	306	190	1,076	708	421
1938 ..	17,008	3,843	2,900	8,836	3,464	2,889	4,131	1,501	1,114	147	52	28	999	360	236	1,215	758	361
1939 ..	17,637	4,391	3,221	9,261	3,844	3,211	3,765	1,620	1,186	228	87	64	1,044	411	261	1,398	832	432
1940 ..	16,646	4,042	3,042	9,161	3,744	3,196	3,893	1,640	1,228	275	123	75	1,119	497	312	1,472	977	514

DIVISIONAL PANCHAYAT OFFICERS.

*7638. **Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the Divisional Panchayat Officers so far appointed and the respective Divisions to which they have been posted ;

(b) whether it is a fact that for some of the Divisions in the province Divisional Panchayat Officers have not been appointed so far, if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) (1) Sardar Mohindar Singh Thind, Jullundur Division, and

(2) Chaudhri Devak Ram, Ambala Division.

(b) Yes. The question of appointment of Divisional Inspectors in other divisions is engaging the attention of Government.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know when these Divisional Panchayat Officers were appointed ?

Parliamentary Secretary : They were appointed some time ago. It is very difficult to give the exact time.

Mian Abdul Rab : Can you not give the approximate time ? Was it four months or six months or eight months ago ?

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

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to whether Government does not consider other divisions to be fit for the Divisional Panchayat Officers to be appointed there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government has taken into consideration the question of the appointment of the Divisional Panchayat Officers in other divisions. Government is already on the look out for suitable men, and as soon as they are found they will be appointed.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether it is a fact that there are complaints against the Divisional Panchayat Officer appointed in the Jullundur Division ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The word " complaint " is very vague. Unless the honourable member mentions the exact complaint he is referring to, it is difficult for me to answer the question.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Did they belong to the divisions where they were appointed ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I think so.

Mian Abdul Rab : When can the appointments of the remaining Divisional Panchayat Officers be expected ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is very difficult to give a date, but Government intends to appoint them as soon as possible.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is it a fact that Chaudhri Devak Ram was appointed on the recommendation of the Minister for Development ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There can be no better recommendation for a post like that.

CONCESSIONS TO SONS OF TEACHERS.

***7695. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that fee concessions have been awarded in Government High School, Gurgaon, during the last year to the sons of teachers of that school whose salary is above Rs. 50 ;
- (b) the name of teacher, caste, salary, the name of the authority granting the concessions, the year in which it was granted and whether it was granted out of the prescribed limit of poverty concessions ;
- (c) the list of all applicants for fee concession who were rejected during the last one year with their caste, income of their parents, whether agriculturist or not ; if not, out of the prescribed limit, the authority of rules under which the officer granting could do so ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes ; but the concessions were granted under Article 120 of the Punjab Education Code under which no income limit has been prescribed, and not under paragraph 8 of Article 121 of the Code.

(b) The necessary particulars of the teachers are as follows :—

Serial No.	Name.	Caste.	Monthly salary.	Year of award.	By whom awarded.
1	B. Bishen Singh ..	Sikh ..	Rs. 70	1940	Divisional Inspector.
2	Q. Manzur Ali ..	Qureshi ..	70	1940	Ditto.
3	Ch. Prabhu Dyal ..	Hindu Jat	55	1940	Head Master.

The concessions were granted within the prescribed limit of poverty concessions.

(c) The requisite information is not available as the rejected applications are not preserved.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NAIB-TAHSILDARS AND ZILLADARS.

1419. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the number and the names of the persons who have been appointed as Naib-Tahsildars and also of those who have been appointed Zilladars by direct recruitment (not by promotion) from 1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1941, with the names of the districts to which each of them belongs, stating therein against each name whether he is a member of a statutory agricultural tribe or not ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

EXCISE SUB-INSPECTORS.

1420. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri: Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the number and the names of the persons who have been appointed Excise Sub-Inspectors from 1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1941, by direct recruitment and not by promotion with the name of the district to which each of them belongs, stating therein against each name whether he is a member of a statutory agricultural tribe or not?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal: A statement showing the required particulars is attached.

Statement showing the persons appointed to the post of Excise Sub-Inspector by direct recruitment during the period from the 1st April, 1937, to the 1st March, 1941.

No.	Name.	Home district.	Whether member of a statutory agricultural tribe or not.
1	Lala Mulak Raj ..	Montgomery ..	Non-agriculturist.
2	M. Karim Dad Khan ..	Rawalpindi ..	Agriculturist.
3	M. Muhammad Suleman Khan ..	Rohtak ..	Do.
4	M. Nazir Ahmad Qureshi ..	Ludhiana ..	Do.
5	S. Tasaddaq Hussain Gardazi ..	Multan ..	Do.
6	Ch. Barkat Ali ..	Hissar ..	Do.
7	S. Jagdev Singh ..	Sialkot ..	Non-agriculturist.
8	Ch. Faiz Ahmad ..	Gujrat ..	Agriculturist.
9	D. Amar Nath Ahuja ..	Shahpur ..	Do.
10	Agha Nisar Hussain Khan ..	Ludhiana ..	Non-agriculturist.
11	Lala Manohar Lal Nagpaul ..	Muzaffargarh ..	Do.
12	Pirzada Ahmad Shah ..	Montgomery ..	Do.
13	Ch. Madan Gopal ..	Mianwali ..	Do.
14	S. Ajmer Singh ..	Ferozepore ..	Agriculturist.
15	Lala Roshan Lal ..	Dera Ghazi Khan ..	Non-agriculturist.
16	S. Prem Singh ..	Rawalpindi ..	Do.
17	Ch. Muhammad Sadiq Tewar ..	Sheikhpura ..	Agriculturist.
18	Mr. Luthar Prince ..	Multan ..	Do.
19	Ch. Muhammad Raziq ..	Karnal ..	Do.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

1421. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the number and the names of persons stating the district to which each of them belongs and further how many of them are members of agricultural tribes who have been recruited as Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police by direct selection (and not by promotion) from 1st April, 1937, to 31st March, 1941?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana: One hundred and nineteen persons were appointed direct in the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police during the period between the 1st April, 1937, to the 31st March, 1941, of whom 93 were members of the notified agricultural tribes. It is not in the public interest to give their names, but the following state.

[Minister of Public Works.]

ment shows the districts and the communities to which they belong:

Serial No.	Name of the district.	Number of residents appointed.	COMMUNITY.			
			Muslims.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.
1	Hissar	1	..	1	..	..
2	Rohtak	3	1	1	1	..
3	Ambala	1	..	..	1	..
4	Simla	2	2	..	..	..
5	Hoshiarpur	7	..	2	5	..
6	Jullundur	9	8	1	..	..
7	Ludhiana	3	2	..	1	..
8	Kangra	1	..	1	..	..
9	Ferozepore	3	..	1	2	..
10	Lahore	10	3	2	5	..
11	Amritsar	11	4	..	7	..
12	Gurdaspur	5	2	2	1	..
13	Sialkot	6	5	..	..	1
14	Gujranwala	4	..	3	1	..
15	Sheikhpura	2	..	..	2	..
16	Montgomery	8	7	..	1	..
17	Lyallpur	9	4	..	5	..
18	Muzaffargarh	1	1	..	..	..
19	Dera Ghasi Khan	1	1	..	..	..
20	Gujrat	4	2	1	1	..
21	Shahpur	5	4	..	1	..
22	Jhelum	6	4	1	1	..
23	Rawalpindi	4	1	2	1	..
24	Attock	4	4	..	..	..
25	Mianwali	3	2	1	..	..
26	Delhi	2	..	1	1	..
27	Patiala State	1	1	..	..	..
28	Kapurthala State	2	2	..	..	..
29	Muzaffarnagar (U. P.)	*1	1	..	..	..
Total		119	61	20	37	1

*Son of a retired Punjab Police officer.

POLICE CONSTABLES.

1422. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state, community-wise and district-wise, the total number of police constables recruited from 1st April, 1937, to 1st March, 1941, in the Punjab?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : The time and trouble involved in collecting the information would not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

PUNJABI AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

1423. Sardar Tara Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number at present of primary and also of secondary schools for boys in the Punjab in which Punjabi is exclusively the medium of instruction;
- (b) the number at present of primary schools in the province in which Punjabi is the medium of instruction as an alternative to Urdu or Hindi;
- (c) the number at present of scholars studying Punjabi in primary schools in the province?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) 12.

(b) 89.

(c) 4,555.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS AMONG DEMONSTRATORS.

1424. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of demonstrators employed for the science laboratories in all the Government Colleges in the province during the last two years, community-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Muslims are not properly represented in this branch of service; if so, the steps Government intends taking to make up the deficiency?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A statement giving the required information is attached. No permanent demonstrator was recruited in any Government College during the past two years.

Part-time Demonstrators.				Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.
1939-40	..	..	..	1	2	8
1940-41	..	..	..	8	2	7
Total				4	4	15

(b) Yes. Every effort was made to give due representation to each community during this period, but sufficient Muslims with the required qualifications were not available.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG INSPECTORS, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

1425. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number and the names of the candidates, community-wise, accepted during the last two years for the posts of Inspectors, Co-operative Societies, Punjab, with the educational qualifications of each of them?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : A statement is laid on the table—

List of Inspector candidates accepted during the last two years, i.e., from the 1st January, 1939, up-to-date.

Serial No.	Name.	Community.	Educational qualification.
1	M. Pateh Singh	Hindu ..	Matric.
2	Ch. Ganda Singh Mangat	Do. ..	Do.
2	Ch. Sukhdev Singh	Do. ..	Do.
4	Ch. Jhabbar Singh	Do. ..	Do.
5	Ch. Lekhi Ram	Do. ..	Do.
6	Ch. Shah Muhammad	Muslim ..	Do.
7	Khan Jan Muhammad Khan	Do. ..	Do.
8	Ch. Muhammad Khan	Do. ..	Do.
9	Ch. Chaudhri Khan	Do. ..	B.A.
10	S. Bakhtawar Singh	Sikh ..	Matric.
11	S. Natha Singh	Do. ..	Do.
12	Ch. Ram Karan	Hindu ..	B.A.
13	Ch. Hari Singh	Do. ..	B.A. (Hons.).
14	Ch. Gurdial Singh	Do. ..	B. A., LL.B.
15	Ch. Abdul Hamid	Muslim ..	B.A.
16	Ch. Jawahar Khan	Do. ..	B.A.
17	Khan Zia-ul-Rehman	Do. ..	B.A.
18	S. Sardara Singh	Sikh ..	B.A.
19	S. Gurmukh Singh	Do. ..	B.A.
20	S. Amrik Singh	Do. ..	B.A.

Eleven candidates were taken by promotion from among the Sub-Inspectors and nine were taken by direct recruitment. The tenth place reserved for Muslim non-agriculturists has been readvertised as the number of such applicants originally offering themselves was very small.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR SUNDAR SINGH MAJITHIA.

Mr. Speaker : I have to read out to the Assembly an application received from the Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia. It reads—

As required by sub-rule (1) of rule 33 of the Punjab Assembly Rules of Procedure, I apply for permission of the Assembly to remain absent from the sittings of the Assembly during the period of my illness.

The question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

The motion was carried.

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR.

Minister for Finance (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, as required by section 80 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the schedule of expenditure for the year 1941-42, authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by subsection (1) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following schedule in respect of the financial year 1941-42 which specifies—

(a) the grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly; and

(b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE.

Grant No.	Major Heads of Account.	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	42,48,700	1,21,000	43,69,700
2	8—Provincial Excise	11,50,000	..	11,50,000
3	9—Stamps	1,50,000	..	1,50,000
4	10—Forests	23,74,300	4,61,200	28,35,500
5	11—Registration	70,200	..	70,200
6	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts. }	4,53,800	21,500	4,75,400
	13—Other Taxes and Duties .. }			
	XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses. }			
7	17—Interest on Irrigation Works for which Capital Accounts are kept. }	73,09,100	1,53,52,100	2,26,61,200
	18—Other Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues. }			

Grant No.	Major Heads of Account.	Grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly.	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
8	Irrigation—Establishment Charges ..	1,03,70,200	16,77,200	1,20,47,400
9	19—Construction of Irrigation Works financed from Ordinary Revenues.	65,04,200	..	65,04,200
	68—Construction of Irrigation Works (Capital Expenditure).			
10	22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations.	..	—15,34,500	—15,34,500
	23—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.			
11	25—General Administration ..	94,67,500	26,63,200	1,21,30,700
12	27—Administration of Justice ..	36,98,900	16,51,700	53,50,600
13	28—Jails and Convict Settlements	28,90,100	82,500	29,72,600
14	29—Police	1,31,30,700	11,16,500	1,42,47,200
15	36—Scientific Departments ..	2,39,400	21,400	2,60,800
	47—Miscellaneous Departments ..			
	62—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.			
16	37—Education (European and Anglo-Indian).	5,83,500	9,600	5,93,100
17	37—Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian).	1,60,31,400	1,51,000	1,61,82,400
18	38—Medical	45,66,400	6,35,100	51,01,500
19	39—Public Health	26,74,700	1,00,500	27,75,200
20	40—Agriculture	40,83,000	1,55,300	48,38,300
21	41—Veterinary	18,13,700	53,200	18,66,900
22	42—Co-operation	22,67,200	55,000	23,22,200
23	43—Industries	22,23,600	..	22,23,600
24	50—Civil Works	93,79,600	1,24,200	95,03,800
25	Buildings and Roads—Establishment Charges.	15,84,300	2,68,200	18,52,500
26	52—Interest on Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes.	37,36,000	23,11,000	65,47,000
	XI—Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.			

Grant No.	Major Heads of Account.	Grants made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly.	Sums required to meet expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
27	52-A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.	12,15,900		12,15,900
28	50-A—Capital Outlay on Civil Works met out of Extraordinary Receipts.			
	81—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.	8,30,400		8,30,400
29	53—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes met out of Revenue.			
	81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).	12,44,700	..	12,44,700
30	54—Famine	10,50,000	..	10,50,000
31	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	63,10,400	29,03,400	92,13,800
32	55-A—Commutation of Pensions financed from ordinary Revenues.			
	83—Payments of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure).	51,700	1,53,100	2,04,800
33	56—Stationery and Printing ..	12,08,900	..	12,08,900
34	57—Miscellaneous	53,21,200	21,200	53,42,400
35	Advances not bearing interest— Advances Repayable ..	4,28,000	..	4,28,000
36	Loans and Advances bearing interest— Loans to Municipalities, Advances to Cultivators, etc.	20,51,600	..	20,51,600
	Loans to Government servants..			

LAHORE:

The 29th March, 1941.

H. D. CRAIK,

Governor of the Punjab.

INDIAN REGISTRATION (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, I beg to introduce the Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill. I also move—

That the Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

[Minister for Public Works.]

In this connection I would refer the honourable members to the statement of objects and reasons. It is just a technical change. At present subsection (1) of section 22 of the Indian Registration Act has the following words which are now sought to be omitted: "not being houses in towns". As a survey has been carried out in Lahore and we hope to have maps and similar surveys carried out in other places, it is essential that there should be references to those maps. This is a non-controversial matter and it will mean a saving in litigation if there is a positive reference to maps and plans instead of vague references to roads and streets and localities as is the case at present in registered documents. I hope the Bill will be passed without any discussion.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment) 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.

Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Public Works : I move—

That the Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sardar Lal Singh : In this connection I just want to ask one question of the Honourable Minister. Are the maps and surveys holding numbers of all cities ready by this time, and, secondly, will not the public be encumbered with a lot of cost to get a copy of the map?

Minister for Public Works : I would like to explain that the section which we are trying to amend gives power to the Government to make rules. At present such rules have been made with regard to property "not being houses in towns". So that it is already there, and there will be no extra expenditure or inconvenience caused. On the contrary in towns where no such references are made, the descriptions are vague as to where a particular property which is the subject of a registered document is situated. So there is considerable confusion, and to avoid litigation we are taking power to make rules as regards property situated in towns also. It will apply to such towns where plans are available; and where survey has not been undertaken references will still have to be made to roads and streets. This is just a rule-making power which Government is taking over in the interest of all concerned, for keeping maps up-to-date, and to avoid litigation. So I think the honourable member will realise that it will neither be inconvenient nor will it cost anything.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB URBAN RENT RESTRICTION BILL.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana) : I have just received a request from my honourable friends opposite that they would like to discuss with me certain aspects of the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill. If that be their wish, I am willing to accede to their request for an informal discussion. Subject to this understanding,

I move—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

Sardar Muhammad Hussain (Chunian, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, as this is a very important and controversial measure and the majority of the Opposition members have not been able to examine it due to their being absent, I would respectfully suggest that its consideration be postponed. This will afford an opportunity to the Honourable Minister to informally discuss the question with the opposition and avoid a lengthy debate in the House.

Minister for Public Works : As far as the request of the honourable member is concerned, I have already stated before I moved the motion that if that be the wish of the honourable members opposite, I am prepared to accede to their wish in order that we might discuss the Bill informally and thereby save the time of the House. I would therefore ask for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Speaker : As the Honourable Minister has agreed and there is no other business on the agenda, the Assembly is adjourned till 12 noon to-morrow, Tuesday, the 1st April, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 1st April, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY CLOSURE OF LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL.

***7725. Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Lower Bari Doab Canal has remained closed for an unusually long period during this winter ; if so, the dates when it was closed and re-opened during the period ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the *rabi* crops of the zamindars concerned have been seriously damaged owing to the unusually long closure of the abovenamed canal ; if so, the steps, if any, so far taken to compensate these zamindars for the loss suffered by them and further to grant them relief in the form of remission in land revenue and *abiana*, and if no such steps have been taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

(a) The closures of the Lower Bari Doab Canal during *rabi* 1940-41 have been normal. The dates of closing and re-opening are—

Canal closed on 7th December, 1940, and re-opened on 16th December, 1940. The supply of water in the Chenab River and consequently the share of water due to the Lower Bari Doab Canal has been unusually low since December 16, 1940. In consequence of this although the Canal itself has not had unusually long closures the distributaries on the Canal have had longer rotational closures than usual.

(b) The unusual shortage of water in the river has affected *Kor* watering of *rabi* crops to some extent. The area of crops so affected is, however, relatively small and damage, where any, is being dealt with under the ordinary *kharaba* rules.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to what he means by the statement that the canal remained closed only for the usual period ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have said that the duration of the closure was not unusually long.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : May I know the period during which it usually remains closed ?

Parliamentary Secretary : From the 7th to the 16th December.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : Can the Parliamentary Secretary give the dates of closure for the last few years to show that the period of closure was not unusually long this year ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the duration of closure was almost the same during the previous years. If, however, the honourable member wants exact dates, I am afraid he shall have to give fresh notice.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : I put this specific question because in my opinion the extent of damage to the crops this year was unprecedented. It was due to the closure of canal for an unusually long period.

Parliamentary Secretary : As I have already stated the period of complete closure of the canal was the same as in previous years. However, there being much less water available in the river the supply to the canals was naturally inadequate and that affected the *warabandi* of channels.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : My point was that people did not get canal water for their lands. Now the Parliamentary Secretary has admitted that there was not enough water in the canal. Under the circumstances, may I know what relief the Government has provided to the zamindars who have suffered on account of this shortage of water ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the zamindars concerned make applications in this behalf the officers will visit the affected places and *kharaba* will be allowed in accordance with the rules.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : It is a well-known fact that under the *kharaba* rules every zamindar has to make an application and observe certain formalities before any *kharaba* remission is granted. But my question relates to the damage in general and not to the case of any particular zamindar. Since the Government has admitted that there was shortage of water you should have deputed your officers to ascertain the damage as a whole and grant some general relief. When the grievance is general you should not wait for every single zamindar to make an application. May I know what steps the Government has taken to ascertain whether or not any relief should be given to the zamindars in general ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is the duty of every zamindar to make an application whenever he thinks that he should get some *kharaba*. Government officials cannot visit every bit of land in a vast area. But if any zamindar or a number of zamindars make applications the officers will certainly visit the lands alleged to have been affected. Then if they find that *kharaba* is permissible it shall be granted.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : That is the procedure to be followed in individual cases in normal conditions. But here the whole *ilaga* has been affected. I am saying this as a zamindar from that *ilaga*. What has the Government done to alleviate this general distress ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not correct to say that the crops in that *ilaga* have failed as a whole. However, those who have suffered may apply for *kharaba* in accordance with the rules.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah : The honourable member belongs to that *ilaga*. May I ask his opinion about the situation as a zamindar of that *ilaga* and not as a member of the Government who has to defend the Government in all circumstances?

Parliamentary Secretary : I say this as a zamindar of that *ilaga* that although it is true that the crops this year are not so good as they used to be, yet it is not correct to say that the crops have failed in the whole area. As I have already stated, the proper course is that those who have suffered should apply for the relief permissible under the rules. Some of my own tenants have followed the same course.

Pir Akbar Ali : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that no water was available for preliminary irrigation?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not a fact that water was not available for preliminary irrigation as a general rule.

Pir Akbar Ali : Then may I know in how many particular cases it was not available? Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to say whether it was in 30 or 40 or 50 per cent cases that canal water was not available for preliminary irrigation?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question relates to the Lower Bari Doab and I have already stated that in general the condition of the crops was not so bad as it is alleged to be. However, I admit that certain areas were badly affected which deserve relief and in those cases the owners should apply for relief in accordance with the rules.

ADJOURNMENT.

Premier : Sir, I beg to move—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned to Monday, the 21st April, 1941, at 12 noon.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : May I through you, Mr. Speaker, request the Honourable Premier that it would be much better if the sittings are held earlier in the morning as it would become very hot at the end of April?

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned to Monday, the 21st April 1941, at 12 noon.

The motion was carried.

URBAN RENT RESTRICTION BILL.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Assembly will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 1.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (2), line 2, between the words "Punjab" and "but", the words "in which the Urban Immovable Property Tax is enforced" be inserted.

Sir, the object of my amendment is very simple. The provision in the Bill is that the Act shall apply to all urban areas in the Punjab. But my submission is that the measure should only apply to urban areas in the Punjab in which the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act is enforced. As you are aware, many towns were not included in the Schedule of Urban Immovable Property Tax Act and it was also stated by the Honourable Premier in the course of his speech that the Act, for the sake of mere experience, would be first enforced in a few towns. This being the position, I think, if the words proposed in my amendment are inserted in clause 1 my object will be achieved which is imply this. The rent restriction will not be obligatory in those towns where the said Act has not been enforced.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

That in sub-clause (2), line 2, between the words "Punjab" and "but", the words "in which the Urban Immovable Property Tax is enforced" be inserted.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, as far as the object of the honourable member is concerned, I have got no disagreement with him. That is the intention of the Government, that wherever the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act is applied, this Act will follow in its wake. Wherever the circumstances will arise and there is a fear of the incidence of that tax being passed on to the tenants, this Act will apply. If the honourable member would refer to sub-clause (3) of clause 1, he will be satisfied. This sub-clause is clear enough. So, I do not think that this amendment is necessary. If the intention of the honourable member is what he has said, he need not have any fear. The Government will apply this Act only in those places where the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act is in force. The object of the Government is to prevent the incidence of that tax being passed on to the tenants. With this explanation I hope the honourable member will not press his motion.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (2), line 2, between the words "Punjab" and "but", the words "in which the Urban Immovable Property Tax is enforced" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 2.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (b) (i), line 4, between the words "land" and "or", the words "not assessed to land revenue" be inserted.

Sir, it has been admitted in the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act and the Lahore Corporation Act that the lands already paying land revenue would not come under the purview of these Acts. If the proposed words are inserted, I believe, the clause would become more clear and no ambiguity would be left in it and the people concerned would understand their position more precisely.

With these few words, Sir, I move my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (b) (i), line 4, between the words "land" and "or", the words "not assessed to land revenue" be inserted.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Urdu*): Sir, as far as my opinion goes my learned friend, the Khawaja Sahib, by moving this motion to the effect that lands paying land revenue should not come under the purview of this Bill does not extend a helping hand to the tenants but commits cruelty to them. Let me point out to him if his amendment is accepted what will be the position. The Bill provides that the rent for those buildings which are let out for some business or other purposes, will neither be increased nor the tenants will be asked to vacate them provided they have been paying the rent regularly. But the object of the amendment moved by my honourable friend is that the Bill should not apply to lands for which land revenue is paid. It means that so far as the owners of buildings are concerned they will have powers to increase the rent and turn the tenants out any time they like. He says that this is not his object. If this is not his object he should withdraw this amendment in the interests of tenants. As he has always been helping zamindars, I hope he would do so now. Supposing there is a house with some land attached to it and my friend Sayed Amjad Ali gives it on rent to somebody. If the amendment under discussion is accepted it would mean that rent can be increased and the tenants can also be turned out from the house but he will not be turned out from the land. This seems to be a very funny proposition and if this is what my friend the mover of the amendment wishes, I am afraid, it would serve no purpose.

With these few words, Sir, I request my friend the Khawaja Sahib to withdraw his amendment.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad: I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad ((Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of sub-clause (c), the words "and approved by the Legislative Assembly" be added.

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

Amendments of this kind were previously moved on several occasions in connection with certain Bills but to my painful recollection none of them was ever accepted. However, I have put forward this amendment because I consider it absolutely necessary. Besides, the main object of my moving this amendment is that rules framed under the provisions of this Bill should be enforced only after the Government have obtained the approval of this House in this matter. I do not think that this amendment makes any unreasonable demand. It is only fair that this Assembly should approve of these rules before the commencement of the Act. I hope the Honourable Minister would be disposed to accept this reasonable amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of sub-clause (c), the words "and approved by the Legislative Assembly" be added.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana) : Sir, as far as I have been able to follow, the amendment seems to be out of order. If the honourable member wants that the rules should be approved by the Assembly, then the relevant clause under which the amendment can be moved is clause 16 under which the Provincial Government is taking powers to make rules but as far as I see this is only the definition of the word 'prescribed'. It means prescribed by rules. Rules may be made by the provincial Government or may be made by the Assembly. So, as far as this clause is concerned, if you are prepared to agree, I would say that the amendment is out of order.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Urdu) : Sir, I know that I have given notice of an amendment of this kind in connection with clause 16 of the Bill. But strictly speaking my object in moving this amendment, particularly at this stage, was to bring about uniformity in the provisions of the Bill. If you only give your careful consideration to this amendment, you would find that it is really necessary, and its acceptance would facilitate matters. I still hope that the Honourable Minister would see his way to accept it.

Mr. Speaker : The amendment is out of order.

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

That in sub-clause (c), last line, between the words "tenant" and sign " ; " the words "but does not include the tenant of a premises, the owner of which is either a local body or Government" be inserted.

Sir, the object of this amendment is that tenants of such lands and premises which are owned by the local bodies or the Government should not come under the purview of this sub-clause. As you are aware, Sir, under the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act lands and other property belonging to the Government and the local bodies were exempted from the operation of that Act. My amendment aims at achieving exactly the same end. In other words I want that the hands of the local bodies or the Government in regard to the lands or premises let out to the tenants should not be fettered. I hope the Honourable Minister would see his way to accept this innocuous amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (c), last line, between the words "tenant" and sign " ; " the words "but does not include the tenant of a premises, the owner of which is either a local body or Government" be inserted.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): I would like to say a few words in reply. The honourable member seems to be labouring under a misunderstanding. The object of the Bill is to prevent incidence of taxation being passed over to the tenant and thereby controlling the rents. If the control of rents is advisable or proper, or justified in the case of an individual, does it follow that the local body or the Provincial Government or any other Government is justified to go on receiving increased rent? What is objectionable in the case of an individual is more objectionable in the case of a local body or Government. Therefore, we cannot have two policies; one to prevent the landlord from making profit over and above what he was getting before and the other to leave a loophole for the local body. I do not think the honourable member means it. I admit the urban tax will not be levied on the property of local bodies but when we are controlling rents already, does it follow that because it happens to be a local body, it should squeeze more out of the tenant? I must, therefore, oppose this amendment.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (Urdu): Sir, the Honourable Minister has been pleased to remark that it is not the intention to have two policies. But how would he reconcile this anomaly? Under the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act a provision has been made to protect lands and other property belonging to the Government or the local bodies from the operation of that Act; but according to this sub-clause the Government as well as the local bodies, like other landlords, would be obliged to conform to law when dealing with their tenants. The honourable members might be aware that district boards have ample lands at their disposal which they usually let out to the people at nominal rents. Now if my amendment is rejected, they would have to face with great difficulty at the time of ejecting their tenants. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if the amendment proposed by me, is accepted, the Government or the local bodies would no longer feel any obstacle in the matter of recovery of possession of any premises from the tenants. Hence it is obvious that this amendment is extremely necessary. I would request the Honourable Minister to be good enough to accept this amendment.

Minister for Public Works: Sir, I am afraid, the honourable member has not followed exactly what I meant to convey. He is still labouring under a misunderstanding that because the local bodies have not been taxed or the Government buildings have not been taxed under the Urban Property Tax Act therefore they should be allowed to increase the rent. He has forgotten that a third party is involved and that is the tenant. In the case of the urban property tax the intention is clear and the Government buildings are not taxed. The reason is quite clear. It is taking money from one pocket and putting it into the other. In the interest of simplicity it was decided not to tax them. But here a third party is involved and the private landlords will be prevented from taking more rent. So, we do not want to leave a loophole for the local bodies. It is not the local body nor the Government, but it is the tenant whose interests we are safeguarding. We are safeguarding his interests against the local bodies and the provincial Government also. I am sure no local body will be desirous of getting more rent under the circumstances. I do not think the honourable member need worry about it and press his amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (e), last line, between the words "tenant" and sign ";", the words "but does not include the tenant of a premises, the owner of which is either a local body or Government" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : May I request the Honourable Minister to remove a doubt? In sub-clause (2) of clause 1, cantonments are specifically excluded. It says—

It extends to all urban areas in the Punjab but nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect the regulations of house accommodation in any cantonment area.

But on the other hand in sub-clause (f) of clause 2, the expression "urban area" means any area administered by a municipal corporation, a municipal committee, a cantonment board, a small town committee or a notified area committee. Here the expression "urban area" does include a cantonment board and under clause 1 (2) a cantonment board will not be regulated by this Bill at all.

Minister for Public Works : Sir, as far as I can see as a layman, the position is clear enough. If you would please see Federal Legislative List I under the Government of India Act, you will find that what we are debarred from legislating is local self-government in cantonment areas and the regulation of house accommodation. But we can control rents which fall under "contract" in cantonment areas, just as we can impose tax in cantonment areas. But what we cannot interfere with is the local self-government in cantonment areas and the regulation of house accommodation. So, to that extent in this Bill as it stands we have tried to see that it does not conflict with any provisions contained in the Government of India Act. We have said as follows :—

It extends to all urban areas in the Punjab but nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect the regulation of house accommodation in any cantonment area.

What we are debarred from legislating is the regulation of house accommodation. We have confined ourselves to the rents which fall under "contracts" and that is what we are only contemplating. There is not the least doubt that it will in any way conflict with the provisions of the Government of India Act. We have provided further in section 10, that this section shall not apply to any cantonment area. Where there was the least doubt of any conflict with the Government of India Act we have specifically provided that it should not apply to any cantonment area. But according to the Government of India Act we are perfectly within our rights to include cantonment areas in this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3.

Mr. Speaker : The first amendment¹ is out of order.

The second amendment is that the first paragraph be omitted.

¹ By *Rao Pohan Singh* : That for the marginal note the following be substituted—
"Power to exempt"

Rao Pohop Singh (Eastern Punjab Landholders), Sir, I beg to move—

That the first paragraph be omitted.

(Urdu): Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to impose a restriction on the landlords so that they may not pass on the Urban Immovable Property Tax to the shoulders of their tenants. At the time when the Urban Immovable Property Act was under consideration opinion was divided in the House whether the tax should be imposed on houses fetching Rs. 25 or Rs. 50 as monthly rent. In order to give a concession to the owners of small houses the exemption limit was raised considerably. But now a discrimination is being made in the case of rich people with big estates and owners of small property. By paragraph (1) of clause 3 you are applying the provisions of this Bill to premises the standard rent of which does not exceed four hundred rupees per month. In other words you want to impose restriction in respect of urban rent only on owners of small property. Those rich people who own big estates will not be touched by the provisions of this Bill. There should be no such discrimination. All owners of property should be equally affected by this Bill. The purpose of my amendment is to do away with any such exemption limit as has been provided for in clause 3 of this Bill. I have moved that the first paragraph may be omitted so that the provisions of this Bill may apply equally, to all people holding property. By clause 3 this impression will gain ground that the Government wants to favour the rich people who own big estates by allowing them to pass the urban immovable property tax to their tenants. I, therefore, request that the first paragraph be omitted.

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

That the first paragraph be omitted.

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Mr. Speaker, my friend Rao Pohop Singh has moved this amendment and in moving this he has considered the position of the landlords who own small houses. He thinks that the urban property tax which has been levied, should not be passed on and this Bill is to prevent that passing of the incidence of taxation from the landlords to the tenants. The reason why the urban property tax was levied was that the Government thought that the taxation on the rural people was more than on the urban people. As this party is committed to equalise the burden of taxation therefore they brought in that measure, the Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill by which they got the power to tax the people living in urban areas. Now we have to examine the consequences of this particular amendment and this particular section. If my honourable friend's amendment is carried what will be its effect? As far as I can see I might very humbly say that the object of the Government would be defeated because the object was to tax the people living in urban areas. That was the object of the Government. Now who live in the urban areas? People who matter or who can be taxed, who live in urban areas, are merchants, who carry on their business, landlords owning houses, professional people, doctors and lawyers and in the last category are the servants of the Crown. These are the people who live in urban areas. Now if this tax is not passed on, then who are the people who will be paying that tax: only one particular class and that is the landowners class, but that will

[S. Amjad Ali Shah.]

not meet the point which the Government had in mind when they introduced that legislation, because after all these urban people who live in these areas do not pay any other tax which the landlords pay. The landlords pay income-tax, lawyers pay income-tax, doctors pay income-tax, merchants pay income-tax and the servants of the Crown pay income-tax (*Minister for Education* : Not all.) But those whose income reach a certain figure pay this tax. Now the Government thought that the urban people living in urban areas do not contribute anything towards the provincial exchequer and therefore they made them contribute by levying this property tax. Now if this tax is not passed on to the tenants, who are doctors, lawyers or servants of the Crown, it will be only one particular class who will be paying to the exchequer of the province. Therefore I would humbly submit that the principle involved in passing that measure will be defeated if we pass this particular amendment. In support of this I may refer the House to the provisions of the Act of Bombay of which this is a copy. There they restricted this section by putting the figure of 80. They did not like the poorer class to suffer and by that they avoided by putting the figure of 80 that is, people who pay Rs. 80 as rent their rent should not be raised and the new taxation should not be passed on to them. As far as other people were concerned it was left to the tenants and the landlords to arrive at whatever settlement they possibly could. I would very humbly once again impress on the House that if we did not pass on this taxation to the tenants then we will be singling out one particular class, that is the landlord class who will be shouldering the entire burden of the urban property tax.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural), (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment now before the House. My honourable friend who has just now resumed his seat, has in a way made a protest on behalf of the landlords against the imposition of a tax on the urban immovable property. Let me tell him that taxes are imposed only on those people who have the capacity to pay them and it is in view of this principle that all the taxation measures have been enacted in the Punjab. I do not think that there is any room for anybody to complain against them. Besides, during the course of his speech he was pleased to observe that in Bombay the Rent Restriction Act applied to all buildings the rent of which did not exceed Rs. 80 and above that limit the landlords were permitted to shift the burden of the property tax on the tenants. My submission is that if that principle were to be adopted here that would only mean that he wants to protect the interests of the big landlords. That is what we are opposed to. What we want is that all the landlords whether they are big or small should pay this tax and they should not be allowed to pass it on to the tenants. I fail to understand why when the Government which claim to be the well wishers of the poor are imposing this restriction on the small landlords so that they should not pass the burden of the property tax on to the tenants, why they should exempt the big landlords from the operation of this clause. Justice demands that they should make it applicable to all the landlords whether they are big or small. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to see that no landlord is allowed to shift the burden of the property tax on to the tenants. With these words support the amendment now before the House.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan Rural): I support the amendment moved by my honourable friend. I think the Parliamentary Secretary has absolutely misunderstood why this Bill is being sponsored to-day. This Bill is not meant to tax anybody. The object of it is simply to see that the tax imposed on the urban property is not transferred by the landlords on to the tenants. If this point is accepted, then I do not see where justice requires that we should exempt those people who collect more than a certain sum of money as rent and tax only those who charge rent below that amount. No landlord, whatever the amount of rent he charges should be allowed to pass on the tax to his tenant. Otherwise it will come to this that while we exempt rich landlords who charge a certain amount of rent and more we will be taxing the poor people who will be collecting smaller rents. I suppose I have made myself clear and the House has followed me. (*An honourable member*: Are all tenants poor that they should be exempted from the burden of the tax?) I do not say that all tenants are poor. My point is that there should be no discrimination between tenants and tenants so far as this Bill is concerned. The question involved is not the protection of rich men or poor men. The point is one between the landlord and tenant. My point is that no tax should be allowed to be shifted on to the shoulders of the tenant. If this point is conceded, then the justness of the amendment will be apparent. There is no question of rich tenant or poor tenant nor rich landlord nor poor landlord. The simple question is on whom should this tax be imposed. I think that Rao Pohop Singh's amendment is quite reasonable and should be accepted and I therefore support it.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber: I rise on a point of order. My point is that this amendment is not in order. According to our rules no amendment can be made which nullifies altogether the object of the clause. This amendment will have the effect of vitiating the meaning of the previous clause. Therefore, I consider it out of order.

Mr. Speaker: How?

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber: This amendment will have the effect of nullifying the object of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The first part of the clause, as it stands, says—

The provisions of this Act shall apply to premises, the standard rent of which does not exceed four hundred rupees per month.

If these words were omitted, the result will be that there will be no limit. That is all. So, I do not see how it is out of order.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber: By omitting these words how can we conclude that it is meant for all?

Mr. Speaker: When no limit is imposed, as is proposed to be done, by the first part of the clause, the amount is immaterial.

Rao Pohop Singh (Urdu): I want to say one word. The honourable members are aware of the fact that the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act was passed in order to levy some taxes on the rich people of the cities. Now if the clause now before the House is passed that would mean that the big landlords would be in a position to shift that burden on to the tenants. That is what we are opposed to. What we want is that as the tax referred

[Rao Pohop Singh.]

to above has been levied on the propertied classes, it is, therefore, their duty to pay it rather than to shift it on the tenants. My submission is that if the clause as it stands is passed that would mean that we want to exempt the big landlords from its operation. This tax is a tax on property and not on income and, therefore, it is essential that it should be paid by the property owners only. So far as the other classes are concerned my honourable friends should not feel anxious about them. Their turn will also come and shortly the provincial professional tax measure will be introduced.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary): Anything coming from my friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah, so far as I am concerned, is entitled to consideration. I should, however, like to place before the House one or two essential principles which are involved here. My friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah concentrated his attention on one case where a rich tenant who can afford to pay Rs. 400 or more as rent is involved. I submit that tenants who would pay Rs. 400 per month as individuals are likely to be very few in this province, and I will deal with this point later. But there is another class of people whom we cannot ignore, that is those who take on rent godowns for storing agricultural or industrial products. I submit that if we deny the tenants of these industrial ware-houses of the protection of the

Bill, we will be going against the very principle of the Bill. I wish to invite the attention of Sayed Amjad Ali to the fact that when this clause was under consideration in the Bombay Legislature the protection which he seeks was not sought.

1 p. m.

I give a definite instance. There are two aspects of this question. Those premises which come within the premises or ambit of this Bill are subject to particular actions, one that the rent cannot be raised, and second, that under certain conditions there are certain restrictions on the estates of the tenants. I submit that if for an agricultural warehouse or an industrial warehouse, a person concerned, or a company concerned or a co-operative society continues to pay a rent, should we not give them the privileges we are giving to individual tenants? Secondly, if we find that a landlord like my friend Sayed Amjad Ali has rented his house, a very substantial house, to some agricultural or industrial warehouse, shall we deprive that agricultural or industrial enterprise from the protection of the rent being increased that we are giving to individuals? If we do that, we will be taking away from the industrial or agricultural enterprise all the privileges that we are extending to individuals.

Supposing there is an individual who pays a rent of Rs. 400 per mensem. If the person continues to pay that rent, if the person is fulfilling all the conditions of the contract, should we not give him the privilege which we are giving to other cases? But there is one point on which I have sympathy with Sayed Amjad Ali. There may be a case where there is a big tenant, a moneyed tenant like my friend Sayed Amjad Ali who is paying a rent of Rs. 400. He desires that the landlord of that particular tenant should be free to increase the rent of such a person. I submit if there are any such cases, the power is given to Government to examine, and if such cases are brought to the consideration of Government they will be considered by Government who will utilise the powers given to it.

There is one other point to which I wish to draw attention. The tendency in Bombay, as was pointed out in the Bombay debates has been that people have tried to bring houses into small tenancies so as to bring them within the figure mentioned in this particular Bill. It may happen here in Lahore, when rents are rising, that a person may divide the whole house into flats and rent them out separately thereby depriving the tenants of all the protection which we are securing to give them and thereby he may also pass on the rigour of the urban property tax to such persons. With this submission I would appeal to the honourable members that there is logic on both sides and that the few hard cases that he points out could be met with under the special powers reserved by the Government.

Mr. E. Few (Anglo-Indian): I think that Government was satisfied when it brought forward this Bill that the landlord on the whole has been having a very good time of it, though I do not mean that all landlords are capricious. If you take an individual getting Rs. 800 a month, you will find that not less than 30 per cent of his salary goes towards his house rent. I admit that the whole of the burden is to fall on the landlord exactly where it should but if the landlords can point out that their profits are below 6 or 7 per cent on the value of the property, nobody will object to a revision. With these remarks I support the measure and resume my seat.

Minister for Public Works: I am prepared to accept this amendment, so I need not say anything.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That the first paragraph be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Rao Pohop Singh: I beg to move—

That in the proviso the words "provided that" be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 4—7.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That clauses 4—7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 8.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: I move—

That in lines 1-2, the word "municipal" be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: I move—

That in line 2 after the word "tax" the words "levied by the local authority" be added.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 8 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 9.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 10.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the implications of sub-clause (1) in its present form are too clear to require any elaborate explanation. It reads—

No order for the recovery of possession of any premises shall be made so long as the tenant pays or is ready and willing to pay rent to the full extent allowable by this Act and performs the other conditions of the tenancy.

Now, if the sub-clause is left as it is, it would mean that once a man has taken a house on rent he practically becomes its owner instead of a tenant. For instance, I have been residing in a house of the late Rai Bahadur Binda Saran, since 1939. Now, as long as I pay the rent his successors will not be able to get rid of me under this clause as it stands. Not only that. A tenant may not be able to pay the rent, but if he is willing to pay, he can continue to occupy the House. Again a tenant could sublet whole or part of a house rented by him. It is to remove these anomalies that I wish to add this proviso. I need not take any more time of the House because my amendment is self-explanatory and I hope the Government will see its way to accept it. Sir, I move—

That the following proviso be added to sub-clause (1) :

Provided that the court shall make an order for the recovery of possession if the landlord satisfies the court that six months' notice to quit or such longer notice as may be required under the contract of tenancy has been served on the tenant.

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

That the following proviso be added to sub-clause (1) :

Provided that the court shall make an order for the recovery of possession if the landlord satisfies the court that six months' notice to quit or such longer notice as may be required under the contract of tenancy has been served on the tenant.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, I had given notice of an amendment to the amendment of Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan; but it has not so far been brought on the order paper. The sub-clause proposed by the Nawab Sahib means that if there is a contract between the landlord and the tenant its terms shall be binding on the parties, but in the absence of any such contract the landlord shall have to give the tenants six months' notice for the vacation of the premises. (*An honourable member* : Six months is the minimum period of notice. You are referring to the original amendment which has since been modified). Sir, what I understand from this amendment is that in the case of there being a contract the period of notice will be the one stipulated therein, otherwise the landlord shall have to give six months' notice. Now, if this amendment is accepted it will defeat the very object

of the Bill. The intention underlying the law is that the property tax should be paid by the landlord and should not be shifted on to the tenant. Now supposing a landlord has made an agreement with his tenant stipulating a notice of say one month, fifteen days or even one day.

Mr. Speaker : Please read your amendment with Nawab Muzaffar Khan's amendment proposed from the Chair. Your amendment becomes out of order.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan : All right, Sir, if you think that my amendment¹ is out of order, I have nothing more to say on this matter.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I am afraid that the meaning of this clause is not clear to some of us and while we are in agreement with the essence of the speech of Nawab Sahib, there is one point that we want to be made clear. The point that is troubling us is this. Supposing a person according to the agreement has to give a year's notice, but he gives only six months' notice under this clause, will that six months' notice be enough or will he have to give one year's notice?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : If the terms of the agreement provide two or three years' notice that is a different thing altogether.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Supposing I have an agreement with Nawab Sahib that I will give two years' notice, but I give only six months' notice, will it be all right under this clause?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : I do not think there is any ambiguity.

Mr. Speaker : The clause, as it stands, is perfectly clear. Notice may be fixed under the terms of tenancy and if notice is fixed at two years, he will have to give two years' notice; otherwise it will be only six months.

Minister for Public Works : May I suggest one thing? I would just like to explain. If we were to add the words "not less than" it will meet the purpose. The clause will then read "If the landlord satisfies the court that not less than six months notice...."

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : I do not think it will make any difference.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I would appeal to you to go through the wording of the amendment very carefully. It is—

Provided that the court shall make an order for the recovery of possession if the landlord satisfies the court that six months' notice to quit or such longer notice as may be required under the contract of tenancy has been served on the tenant.

I give a specific case. Maqbool Mahmood has taken a House on rent from Nawab Sahib and according to the terms of the agreement he has to give two years' notice, but Nawab Sahib gives me only six months' notice and we go to court and the court finds that Nawab Sahib has given me only six months' notice to quit, what will be the result? Will it be enough? I submit that the Deputy Legal Remembrancer is also doubtful about it and I would appeal to you who are the interpreter of the intentions of the

¹That in line 1 of the proposed sub-clause (1), between the words "any" and "contract" the word "existing" be inserted.

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

House to say if you are satisfied that the intention is clear. Otherwise, we should bring in these words "shall give six months' notice or such notice as may be required under the contract of tenancy, whichever is longer."

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : It is quite clear as it is and I do not see any difference in what is being proposed.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I am sorry, I am wasting the time of the House, but it is a matter of some substance. The intention on both sides is quite clear that we want a notice of six months or that which is prescribed under the agreement, but if we add the words "whichever is longer" it will make it clear.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : I do not mind, though I do not see any difference.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : That will remove all doubts and I am speaking with the authority of the Deputy Legal Remembrancer.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : I do not think we should bring in outsiders in this House. We have seen the draft of the same authority and you see what the results are. We should discuss it on its own merits.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : With due respect to Nawab Sahib, he should not mind the suggestion. The intention is clear and now that we are framing a law, why should there be any ambiguity deliberately left in the Bill? The clause will read—

Provided that the court shall make an order for the recovery of possession if the landlord satisfies the court that six months' notice or such notice as may be required under the contract of tenancy whichever be longer has been served on the tenant.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): There is not the slightest doubt that the amendment moved by my friend Nawab Sahib is calculated to improve the clause. The clause as it stood in the Bill was to say the least a most unreasonable one. The amendment makes it possible for the landlord to recover his house after giving six months' notice or if the period of notice provided in the contract is longer, a longer notice. But what I fail to understand is why the existing common law is being attacked in this indirect manner. All these relations of landlord and tenant are regulated by the common law, the existing Contract Act, etc. The object of the Bill seems to be that the urban immovable property tax which the landlord is required to pay should not be passed over to the tenant. Howsoever reasonable or unreasonable that object may be that is intelligible, although personally I think that to prevent a landlord from passing the tax to his tenant irrespective of the tenant's position is not an equitable procedure. But apart from that, why should an attempt be made to contravene the existing law? The existing law does not require six months' notice. The existing law requires a landlord to give notice for a period which is provided for in the contract or where there is no provision a month's notice as a rule, special circumstances being special. It might be in certain cases less as in the case of monthly tenancies, while in the case of yearly tenancies it may be a month's notice. I do not know of the law officers of Government have drawn attention to the repugnance

of this Bill to the existing law and whether all that is necessary to do where a proposed measure is repugnant to an existing law has already been done. I am only referring to it. It is their look out. There may be litigation and somebody may go to court and have this Bill, when it becomes an Act, knocked on the head. That is the look out of the Government and the look out of the people who might be affected by this law when it becomes the law of the land, but as a member of this House I must protest against this insidious and indirect attempt at undermining the existing law.

Why not amend the Contract Act, if they have the power to do so, which I doubt? Why should they contravene the existing law in this insidious and indirect manner? This is not the only instance. Several other instances have occurred in this House. It was only to bring this to the notice of the House and to your notice and to the notice of the public likely to be affected by it that I rose to make these remarks.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, one of the points which my honourable friend opposite has raised is of constitutional aspect and the other is of economic aspect. So far as the constitutional question is concerned I quite agree that the Bill when passed would affect the existing law of contract as regards certain matters. Therefore, I presume that the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill would refer it for assent to the Governor-General under section 107 of the Government of India Act; and when the assent is received the Bill which stands to objection, will be valid.

Now, so far as the other aspect is concerned, I might tell the honourable member that we are not the first to bring a measure of this nature. I would like to invite the attention of the honourable member to section 12 of the Bombay Act, passed on this very subject. It goes very much farther than we do. That section says—

No order for the recovery of possession of any premises shall be made so long as the tenant pays or is ready and willing to pay rent to the full extent allowable by this Act and performs the other conditions of the tenancy.

I submit that what is good in Bombay on a matter of this nature is also good here. And if in the interest of law and equity such a provision had been necessary to protect the poor section of the people there, it is still more necessary in the Punjab to protect the poor section of the people here.

The third point I submit is this. The honourable Doctor Sahib has raised the important question of the sanctity of contracts. I quite agree with him. The sanctity of contracts must be respected by all civilized governments. But I may submit that if there is something harsher than it appears under the garb of a contract which might exploit the poor section of the population, it is the duty of the popular Government to balance the burden and give protection to the poor section of people who are in need of protection. The Honourable Doctor Sahib says, "Why not amend the Contract Act?" I would submit, Sir, that it is not necessary. I would remind the honourable Doctor Sahib, who is an eminent lawyer, that this is a provincial Act and shall remain in force for 5 years, unless this period is extended by a resolution of the Punjab Legislative Assembly for a further period.

[**Mir Maqbool Mahmood.**]

There is another point also which my honourable friend opposite has frequently raised on the floor of the House. It is not the first time, he raised the point of the sanctity of contracts several times. Sir, I submit that it is an old cry.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I never used these words. I never discussed the sanctity of contracts. But if the honourable member wants to give a little bit of lecture on this subject, which is very dear to his heart, he will be out of order. I never raised the question of the sanctity of contracts.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I am glad that my honourable friend the Doctor Sahib is growing wiser. I would submit, Sir, that there are 6 lakhs of owners of houses so far as the urban areas are concerned. Out of the population of 2 crores not more than one-sixth live in their own houses, so five-sixths, that is, about 5 lakhs live in rented houses and the rest of the population of the Punjab are in most cases the poor section of the population. I think the Government has a good reason to be proud of giving the needed protection to the poor tenants in this province. And I am sure that all those who stand for the protection of the poor classes of the population will welcome this very important and wholesome measure in this province.

As regards the amendment of the Nawab Sahib, with all his experience he has the interest of both the poor and the rich classes at heart. We have also honest and *bona fide* landlords, who might have invested their whole life saving in landed property, and which is the source of their living. Those landlords should not be deprived of the right which they have enjoyed. Therefore, the Nawab Sahib has put forward an amendment which has the support of the whole Unionist Party behind it. We all support this most reasonable amendment. I, therefore move—

That the following proviso be added to sub-clause (1) :—

Provided that the court shall make an order for the recovery of possession if the landlord satisfies the court that six months' notice to quit or notice of such period as may be required under the contract of tenancy, whichever be longer, has been served on the tenant.

Minister for Public Works : I think the words 'less than' be omitted.

Mr. Speaker : Does the Nawab Sahib agree to his amendment being amended?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : No objection.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the following proviso be added to sub-clause (1) :

Provided that the court shall make an order for the recovery of possession if the landlord satisfies the court that six months' notice to quit or notice of such period as may be required under the contract of tenancy, whichever be longer, has been served on the tenant.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 10 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to oppose clause 10 as a whole. Apart from the reasons that my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has advanced on the basis of sanctity of the law of contracts, I want to oppose the clause on a matter of principle. So far as the object of the Bill is concerned, it appears that the Government means to stop landlords from passing on the burden of tax under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act to their tenants by ejecting the old tenants and letting the premises to new ones who are prepared to pay more. Personally, I am of the opinion that this burden is bound to be shifted, as already pressed in my minute of dissent, to the tenants, as the whole thing is the outcome of the great question of supply and demand. But even respecting the object of the Bill for arguments sake, I must submit that the Government is going beyond its limits when it debars a landlord from ejecting a certain tenant. The Government is interfering in the proprietary rights of the owners. Though there is a provision that an undesirable tenant may be ejected, how and where to prove that a certain tenant is undesirable? The landlord may desire to eject him for various other reasons sacred to him. It is a question of common sense that landlords have certain natural rights and interests in their property. Why should the Government interfere in those rights and interests? The Government should have been concerned with only the non-shifting of burden of taxation to the poor tenants. That is all it demands under the measure. But when we come to actual provisions of this Bill, we find that the Government is interfering with the natural rights of owners in their property. That is not fair. It is gratifying to see that the amendment, allowing the landlords to eject their tenants with six months' notice, moved by Nawab Sahib and accepted by the Government has removed some rigour of this provision, but the objection still stands, the basic defect is not removed even by this amendment.

Moreover, another condition laid down in the Bill is that if a tenant is willing to pay proper rent, he may not be ejected. That is not enough. A tenant may assure that he is willing to pay, but may not actually pay the rent. Mere assurance to pay is not enough. Now, if a tenant expresses his willingness to pay but does not actually pay the rent, and the landlord wants to eject such a tenant, the Government will intervene and say that the landlord must give him a notice of six months. Shall a landlord be compelled to keep such undesirable tenants in his own houses against his own will? That is preposterous. An owner has had some natural rights and interests in his property and those rights ought to be maintained and respected by the Government. This clause is running counter to those sacred rights and I, therefore, oppose it as a whole.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, I also wish to oppose this clause. There is no doubt that the Government wants to stop landlords from passing on the burden of taxation to the tenants. But in doing so the Government should not compel the landlords to keep undesirable persons in their houses against their will. Supposing the landlady is a widow and she has a daughter on whom her tenants have an eye.

Minister for Development : Please see the provision.

Mian Abdul Aziz : My honourable friend Nawab Muzaffar Khan has kindly given me a copy of this proviso and I am thankful to him for this. After reading it I do not find it sufficient. It is not enough. It does not go the whole way. If a certain tenant is bent on doing some mischief in the house, the landlord will be helpless under this clause and even under this proviso he will have to go to court. That is a long process. Why not make arrangements to nip the evil in the bud ? I recently appeared in a murder case in which certain tenants had an evil eye on the daughter of a landlord and ultimately this led to a murder. I want that undesirable persons would not be protected by the Government inasmuch as landlords are required to serve their tenants with six months' notice before ejecting them. I, therefore, oppose clause 10 as a whole.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I rise to oppose this clause because it appears to me that it is entirely foreign not only to the declared object of the Bill but also all other objects which have so far been expressed on the floor of the House. The main object why this legislation was thought to be necessary, as has been pointed out, was that it should not be open to the landlord to pass the urban immovable property tax to the tenant and, therefore, such a measure was necessary to prevent the landlord—

Mr. Speaker : The whole measure is not under discussion. It is only clause 10.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : And therefore such a measure was necessary to prevent this being done. Again, in a way, it was asserted that the landlords may, in certain cases, be inclined to charge excessive rent. This clause is entirely foreign to either of the objects. It does not restrict rent but it affects the right of landlords to eject the tenant who is in possession of particular premises. If the law laid down that from the incoming tenant the landlord would only be entitled to charge standard rent, one could understand it, but I want the honourable members of the Unionist Party to consider how far they are justified in thus interfering with one of the essential rights of property, the right of the owner to let it to anyone that he likes. You may require, if you think necessary, that the landlord shall charge such and such rent. But what right have you to thrust an undesirable and in some cases unpleasant thing upon him ? What is meant is this. Supposing a person comes along to the landlord and says, 'I want your house for a month. I am not sure whether I shall stay for more than a month. Therefore I am not taking it for a year or 10 months, but I shall be your monthly tenant.' Now, if you wish to oust that tenant, you are only bound to give him one month's notice asking him to leave the house. But under the present measure you cannot turn him out of the house until you give him six months' notice and when you give him six months' notice he is not bound to go straightaway. Then you have a right to sue him and if you are rich enough and fortunate enough to have legal assistance, you will go to a court. Then you file a suit which will go on for years and years. So, the tenant who is not bound to stay in your house for more than six months cannot be ejected for at least 2 years, howsoever much you may try, howsoever objectionable the conduct of the tenant may be and howsoever straightforward the landlord may have

been. This is the intention underlying this measure. It seems to have escaped the mind of Nawab Muzaffar Khan when he put down the limit of six months that these periods of notices according to the law of contract as well as according to the transfer of Property Act are reciprocal and mutual. If there is an obligation on the part of the tenant not to leave the house for six months, I can very well understand it if there is also an obligation on the part of the landlord not to make him quit unless he gives six months' notice; otherwise how is it possible for a person to ensure that his promise would be fulfilled? In the month of July a person gives one month's notice to his tenant to vacate the house by the 1st of September, so that when the season starts in October he can let it out for a year. The man says, "give me six months' notice". Then he has no obligation to continue for six months, he has received six months' notice and he is bound to leave it on the 15th December when nobody takes that house on rent. Unless the desire on the part of the Government is to hit the property class residing in towns, I do not see what benefit they are conferring even upon tenants. I would submit that this clause is entirely uncalled for. Unfortunately, the members of the Unionist Party have thought that after all, this legislation affects the property owners in towns, what is it to us whether one law is passed or another law is passed? But I would submit that the responsibility of the Government is there. You will be pleased to observe that all the members, who were nominated on the select committee, as many as 8, Shaikh Faiz Muhammad, Chaudhri Abdul Rahim, Shaikh Muhammad Amin, Sardar Inder Singh, Chaudhri Het Ram, Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar Jagjit Singh Man and the Advocate-General, did not attend the meeting. Was there any dearth amongst the Unionist benches of the persons who were conversant with the conditions in towns, like Shaikh Sadiq Hassan, the Parliamentary Secretary, Sardar Ujjal Singh and so many other people? None of the members, who were nominated on the select committee, was conversant with the conditions in towns and they never knew about the effects of this Bill. So none of them cared to attend the meetings of the select committee. Of the other members who attended the meetings of the select committee, two members sitting on the Opposition benches put their notes of dissent and I am not quite sure, but with the exception of the Honourable Minister, three of them—I do not wish to give their names—are hardly conversant with the provisions of this Bill. A legislation like this which entrenches upon the law of contract and which professes to legislate about the relations between landlords and tenants should have been subjected to the criticism and consideration of lawyers, like the Parliamentary Secretary himself, who spoke in favour of this measure and other lawyer members of the House. It is a matter of great regret that to a legislation of such an important character affecting large urban interests, no heed is paid by any member of the Unionist Party. We, by our experience, have come to realise that any amendments moved from these benches are received with scant respect and therefore we do not move any amendments. Therefore, I submit that the provisions of clause 10 are entirely repugnant and are highly unnecessary.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, I would say a few words in reply to the arguments put forward by Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri. This particular clause has been

[Minister for Public Works.]

brought into this Bill verbatim from the Bombay Act on this subject. In order to avoid collusion between the landlord and the tenant this clause has been brought in. Unless you give some sort of security to the tenant — though we might lay down that the rents are not to be increased—there is nothing to prevent the landlord from asking the tenant to pay an advance, fulfil certain other conditions and then execute an agreement. If the tenant is prepared to come to some kind of agreement—

Mr. Speaker : Under the ordinary law relating to leases or contracts of tenancy one month's notice is required. If a house is taken for one, two or three months, then according to this law six months' notice is required. So in the case of a periodical tenancy, say a monthly tenancy you require six months' notice, because you fix six months' notice.

Minister for Public Works : Yes, that is the intention. What we are enacting in this Bill is that the tenant — though he could be ejected at one month's notice if this Bill had not been brought in — he will now have the security for at least six months. He cannot be ousted unless he is given six months' notice. Therefore, it must be clearly understood and the honourable members who are lawyers should know that it is obvious that the period of one month's notice or even one week's notice is being enhanced by the provisions of this Bill to a period of six months. Under the Bombay Act it is enhanced to a period of 5 years. If the Assembly so decides it can be prolonged for another period of 5 years or 10 years according to Bombay Act.

Mr. Speaker : The tenancy may be for one month only but the tenant must have six months' notice. Is this reasonable ?

Minister for Public Works : Reasonable and unreasonable are comparative terms. Things might be called unreasonable by one set of people and they may be highly reasonable according to another set of people. So this provision was considered reasonable enough for a period of 5 years in Bombay. I am obliged to the honourable Nawab Muzaffar Khan who has very kindly put forward this suggestion which I have accepted on behalf of the Government that if the period of five years is more rigorous or involves hardship it may be reduced to six months. That is what we are enacting in this Act. A landlord has no right to oust his tenant so long as he fulfils other conditions of the tenancy and he cannot be ousted from the premises unless six months' notice has been given.

But as Nawab Muzaffar Khan pointed out the tenants would otherwise become almost perpetual tenants or occupancy tenants which is not the intention as far as we are concerned. When that reasonable suggestion came along we wanted to give it a trial. That was the intention.

Clause 10 reads :—

No order for the recovery of possession of any premises shall be made so long as the tenant pays or is ready and willing to pay rent to the full extent allowable by this Act and performs the other conditions of the tenancy.

Subject to this provision nothing could oust him. It must be clearly understood that it is for a period of six months. Therefore I am obliged to Nawab Sahib for bringing forward this suggestion. We have reduced

the rigour but there is still interference with contract and to that extent we are amending the Contract Act. As was pointed out if this clause is not there the Act will be a dead letter. It will be easily liable to collusion between the interested parties (*Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh* : Where does the collusion come in ?) Between the landlord and the tenant. We are back again on the same theme. If the contracting parties are agreed, honourable member says, then the State should not interfere. There is another responsibility. The landlord wants to get more rent and the hardpressed tenant may be agreeable, it is the latter's interest which this law seeks to protect, otherwise more rent could be squeezed out of the man who is hardpressed. He will pay but eventually he will resent. This is the object and this clause is the very life of the Bill. It embodies an attempt to stop collusion : that is the relevancy of this clause.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Supposing a person comes along and says I want your house for a month on Rs. 10. At the end of the month he does not pay the rent. He does not pay because he has not got Rs. 10, yet he must continue to occupy the house for six months. Is that the sense of fairness of the Government ?

Minister for Public Works : The honourable member is saying something without reading the clause itself.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I have read it more carefully than you have done.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Minister for Public Works : I concede that being an able lawyer he must have. The clause says—

No order for the recovery of possession of any premises shall be made so long as the tenant pays or is ready and willing to pay—

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : He will say I am ready to pay.

Minister for Public Works : He will have to fulfil other conditions.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Supposing a man has not paid rent for two years.

Minister for Public Works : These very words exist in the Bombay Act where no such difficulty has been experienced. It is a hypothetical question from honourable members who do not like the Bill, and they see difficulties where none exists. I do not fear any of these difficulties arising. What happens now when this Bill is not passed ?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Ejection after a month.

Minister for Public Works : Here only the period of notice is being enhanced and the law is left unaltered. On this point I am afraid I am unable to agree with my honourable friend opposite.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 10 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 66, Noes 16.

AYES.

Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
 Abdul Rab, Mian.
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
 Akbar Ali, Pir.
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri.
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.
 Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.
 Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Khawaja.
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.
 Haibat Khan Dahi, Khan.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
 Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jafar Ali Khan, M.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
 Khizar Hayat Tiwana, The Honourable Malik.
 Kishan Das, Seth.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Sir.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.

Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Prem Singh, Chaudhri.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.
 Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.
 Ajit Singh, Sardar.
 Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
 Girdhari Das, Mahant.

Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jalal-ul-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.

Lal Singh, Sardar.
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,
 Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.
 Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.

Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sar-
 dar.
 Sita Ram, Lala.

Clauses 11 to 14.

Clauses 11 to 14 were put and carried.

Clause 15.

Mr. Speaker : Clause 15.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I suggest that you put each sub-clause to the vote of the House, because I wish to oppose sub-clause (2).

Mr. Speaker : Did the honourable member give notice of an amendment to omit the sub-clause ?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : No, Sir. I simply intend to oppose it.

Mr. Speaker : In dealing with this Bill I have been putting the clause to vote and not sub-clauses.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Then I oppose the whole clause. The standard rent in this case as the Bill itself shows is not equitable rent but is merely fixed at an arbitrary figure, the rent which was being realised by the landlord on a particular date, that is, on the 1st of January, 1939. Now, supposing some premises had been let out to a lessee for a period of twenty years, from 1920 to 1940 and in the year 1920 a sum of hundred rupees was the rent fixed for those premises. Therefore on the 1st of January, 1939, the rent which was being paid was Rs. 100 per month, a rent which had been fixed twenty years ago. Supposing it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that these very premises which are now waiting to be let to any tenant, can be easily let for Rs. 500 a month, supposing the court were to hold that — and of course there are properties in Lahore with respect to which such a thing could be possible — the legislature hereby is limiting the discretion of the court not to increase that rent beyond 10 per cent, though the premises can be let for Rs. 500, Rs. 400, Rs. 300 or for Rs. 200. This is the opinion of the court, this might be the opinion of the Administrator, but if this sub-clause is allowed to remain, there is no jurisdiction in the court to increase the rent to Rs. 111. It is limited to Rs. 110. Is that just ? This is no legislation. This is not the question of doing hardship to the tenant. This does not make good sense. You are limiting the discretion of the landlord to increase the rent. There may or may not be justification for that proposition, but one can understand if you take the power away from the landlord whether it is an agricultural landlord which will be a subject matter for future legislation or urban landlord for present legislation. But you as a legislator say, we will secure him a fair rent. You have appointed the court to fix the rent, but you say the test of the fairness is that it should not be more than 10 per cent. If the provision had been fixed with reference to certain standards, equitable standards, one could understand that, but if it is an arbitrary rent, I know of houses situated not far from here which had been let at Rs. 100

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

to certain friends of the landlords. Nowadays with the improvement of the site their rents might be Rs. 800, it might be Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. I am not concerned with individual cases. Let people suffer if they are generous to tenants whether officials or non-officials. I have no sympathy with them. But with a proposition like this that even when the court comes to the conclusion that the amenities have been increased, that new buildings have cropped up in the locality and that a large amount of money has been spent on the improvement, in no case shall the rent exceed 10 per cent. I raise my humble voice of protest against it.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (*Urdu*): Sir, I also rise to oppose this clause particularly for its sub-clause (2). The purport of sub-clause (1) of clause 15 is that if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that there is a case for an increase in the rent, the court may increase the standard rent of any premises. But simultaneously sub-clause (2) lays down that any such increase shall in no circumstances exceed ten per centum of the standard rent originally fixed. Had the provision gone no further we would have tolerated it to some extent, although I am against the unsound principle of giving only the ten per cent powers of increase to the courts. But, Sir, the real source of trouble is the fact that the standard rent has been defined as the rent which was being realized on the 1st January, 1939. There are many objections to this definition. For instance, if a man has let his house to a friend at a nominal rent on that date, which is much below that realized from similar houses in that locality, he shall be hard hit when he wants to let the same house to somebody else after the 1st January, 1939. There can be many other individual cases of the same kind. Take for instance, the case of a 20 years lease expiring in March, 1939. Now long leases are usually given on comparatively lower rents and rents of 20 years ago cannot go on without increasing after such a long time. But according to this clause the landlord will not be able to increase the rent, when letting his premises after the expiry of the lease to a new tenant. In my opinion he should have the right to approach the court for permission to increase the rent in proportion to the improvements made in the premises and according to the market value at that time. Then if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that the improvements and circumstances do justify an increase in rent to the extent of 20 or even 50 per cent the court should have the discretion to allow the increase accordingly. Why should the Government distrust its own courts of justice in their honest findings? Why restrict their discretion to the maximum of ten per cent only?

With these words I oppose the clause as a whole.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): It is strange that the very clause which we had put in in the interest of the landlord is being opposed. The main principles of this Bill are based on the Bombay Act. Those honourable members who have gone through the Bombay Act would realise that there is no such provision there. There the standard rent is fixed. A tenant becomes non-ejectable for a period of five years. Then no increase is allowed except on improvements. So that in this case you have a considerable improvement over the Bombay provision, that whereas under clause 6 for improvements of any premises a landlord can get 6 per cent over and above, the Bombay Act does not

provide any increase over the standard rent. We have put in this new clause 15. Our object in putting it in was that in Lahore there are places where there were no roads on the 1st of January, 1939. There new amenities are being supplied. Nuisances are being removed. Lights and roads are being provided. If there is an all-round improvement in any locality, then we should not in those circumstances insist on a standard rent which would have been a rent which was being paid to the landlord on the 1st January, 1939. There we have allowed the power of an increase to the court. If it is established that certain amenities have been provided to any particular locality we have put in a top limit of 10 per cent, and I do not think anybody can visualise more than an increase of 10 per cent rent in any part of Lahore or in any other urban area in the Punjab. This is a clause which goes positively in the interest of the landlord and it is strange that honourable members instead of appreciating the intention of Government have taken objection to it. As I have stated, I think my honourable friends will be satisfied that we have done something which is in the interest of the urban people of Lahore. I do not claim any credit for it. But it is a clause that should be passed.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 15 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 16.

Mr. Speaker : Clause 16.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban): I oppose the whole clause 16. This power of making rules is usurped by the Government. This power is being usurped not only in this Bill but in other Bills also, and it is repugnant to the spirit of the legislation. We never know what kind of rules there will be nor is there any indication of what those rules will be. The only saving is sub-clause (2) in which it is said that rules made under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication. It is all very well to say that they will be published. But what will be the effect of that publication? Will the people have any right to make any objections and will those objections be considered or heard? I beg to submit that this power of making rules is not to be usurped by the Government in this way. As a matter of fact it is the duty of the Government to publish those rules along with the Bill. Therefore I beg to submit that this clause is unjust and wrong and gives no opportunity for members of the legislature to consider and criticise the rules and it lies at the sweet will of the Government to frame any sort of rules it likes. With these remarks I beg to oppose this clause.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, I beg to move:—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill as amended be passed.

Mr. Speaker : I think the Bill ought to go to a drafting committee under rule 103 (2).

Minister for Public Works : As no material change has been effected except that two amendments have been passed which do not in any way affect the Bill, I think we need not take up the time of the House by referring the Bill to a drafting committee.

Mr. Speaker : Does any honourable member of the Opposition wish that the Bill be sent to a drafting committee? (*Honourable members :* No, no.)

Motion is—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill as amended be passed.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General Rural): Sir, the Honourable Minister while recommending the provisions of this Bill referred to the Bombay Act. The Bombay Act was a purely temporary measure to meet a particular accident. (*An honourable member :* So is this measure.) Now that Bill was Bill No. 18 of 1939. It was read for the 3rd time and passed by the Bombay Legislative Assembly on the 22nd of April, 1939, and one of the clauses in the Bill, clause 1 (3), lays down that it shall remain in force up to and inclusive of 31st day of March, 1940, so that the duration was definitely limited to a period which was less than one year. Then there was absolutely no provision in the Bill for the extension of its duration. There was no provision, as you find in our Bill, that its life should be extended by another period of 5 or 10 or 20 years by a mere resolution of the Assembly. This is the main distinction between the two Bills. The provisions of the Bombay Bill could be extraordinary, could be harsh, could be as bad as possible, because it was designed definitely with the object of preventing the passing on of the urban property tax to the tenant. Therefore no objection could be taken. What has the present Government of ours done? It wants to take its stand upon the provisions of a Bill of another presidency and yet it wants the House to believe that it is doing exactly the same thing, while it omits the most necessary provision in that Bill, namely the period of duration of the Bill which in that case was definitely less than one year.

Again, Sir, what was the Bombay Bill? The Bombay Bill was definitely confined to the few areas consisting of the Bombay town and the neighbouring small municipalities which form part of Bombay city itself. It was not a measure which was intended to be operative throughout the length and breadth of the Bombay presidency and not with respect to small contracts of tenancy between persons living in other notified areas or small towns. Clause 1 therein reads, "This Act may be called the Bombay Rent Restriction Act, 1939. It shall extend to the city of Bombay, the limits of the municipal boroughs of Thana Kurla, Bandra, and Ahmedabad", etc. All these places are definitely stated to come under the provisions of the Act. Now what are the provisions in this Bill which this House is being asked to pass? Clause 1 (2) of our Bill says: "It extends to all urban

areas in the Punjab". The areas are not specified and we are not allowed to move any amendment which definitely restricts its operation to areas to which the Urban Immovable Property Tax applies. This Bill of ours tends to regulate the relations between landlord and tenant in places to which the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act has not been extended and to places to which it may never be extended. You remember very well that the limit of taxation with respect to urban immovable property tax is Rs. 20. You know that there are urban areas and small towns where there are houses which carry a rent of more than Rs. 20. No Government could be wise to extend the tax to these areas.

Here is an attempt being made to modify the law relating to landlords and tenants in areas to which the immovable property tax has not been extended and to which it shall never be extended. Is the Honourable Minister justified in putting before us the provision of the Bombay Act? If the honourable friends of the ministerial party will permit me to say so, this is the most unfortunate way in which regardless of the circumstances and other provisions of the Bill.....

An honourable member : Read sub-clause (8).

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : It reads—

It shall come into force in such urban areas and on such dates as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, and shall remain in force in each such area for five years from the date of its enforcement in that area unless such period is extended by a resolution of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

This section nowhere lays down that the Punjab Government shall only extend it to areas to which the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act is applied. I wish the Government would give an undertaking on that point. (*Inter-ruption.*) My learned friends sitting on the back benches of the Unionist Party without any sense of responsibility wish to speak on behalf of the Government. I want them to answer whether it is the policy of the Government. I want to know whether the Honourable Minister agrees with my learned friend from Gurgaon who wishes to mislead me, pardon me for saying that.....

Minister for Public Works : Do not infer anything as coming from me. I have yet to speak.

Mr. Speaker : His objection is based on commonsense.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I cannot attribute attitudes and opinions to people and places and where I have always found them lacking. We find that this Government has ever been actuated by no regard in the welfare of the inhabitants of this country. Here is a legislation which, as I have pointed out earlier, does not affect the rural but affects the other people. What I am respectfully submitting is this that here is an attempt being made to foist on this province and place on the Statute Book of this province as a permanent measure what in Bombay was definitely designed to be a temporary measure, designed and calculated to meet a definite need.

Mr. Speaker : In what year was the Bombay Act passed and when did it come into operation? Was it only for one year?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I have no information on this point.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I will answer that point after your speech is finished.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : As far as I have been able to find there is no provision in the Bombay Act.—I stand open to correction—which authorises the Government to extend the operation of this Act. Our Act, you will kindly see, is not for five years. It is for five years from the date it is extended to a town. If six years hence, you will be pleased to observe, any Government chooses to extend it to the town of Kasur or Khudian, it will be in force in that locality for ten or eleven years hence. And again the Government has taken the power to extend it for another five years or ten years or twenty years by a mere resolution of the House. That provision does not exist in the Bombay Act. Sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of Bombay Act says—

It shall remain in force up to and inclusive of the 31st day of March 1940 :
Provided that the expiration of this Act shall not render recoverable any rent which during the continuance thereof was irrecoverable or affect the right of a tenant to recover any sum which during the continuance thereof was under this Act recoverable by him.

Minister for Public Works : I quite follow the whole thing.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The Honourable Minister has said that he has understood the whole thing, but I am sorry that he has not understood it. He seems to think and the party behind him seems to think that they are dealing with the rights of urban proprietors and that is a matter of no concern to them. Do you remember that on the floor of this House a Bill was sought to be moved by the Congress Party and the Bill was that the tenants who had continued in possession of certain lands for 7 years should not be liable to be ejected, if they continue to pay the rent? What was the attitude of this party to that measure? Even leave to introduce the Bill was not given and all the grounds, all the arguments which are usually advanced against Bolshevism and against expropriation of property, against rights of ownership were advanced and it was turned down. Now here you are conferring a right of non-ejection on a person who has taken the house from you for two days, for one month or for six months and yet it does not appear to affect the members sitting on the other side.

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

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : To what section of the Bill is the honourable member now referring?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I am referring to the inequity that is being perpetrated by this Government by means of this class legislation.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : As it is, the Bill contains no such provision.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : There is a provision of non-ejection.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : Read that.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : What I wish to ask is, how would these gentlemen like a legislation being passed that a person who was their tenant on agricultural land last year should not be liable to ejectment at all if he continues to pay the rent? Again, Sir, how would you like that you should not have the right to regulate the rent that you should charge from the tenant? Sir, I for one am one of those who believe that the time has come when the heavy rents which are being charged by the landlords from their tenants should be regulated and it should be laid down that no absentee landlord who does not cultivate with his own hands should be able to take from the tenant more than one-sixth of the net produce of the land, one-sixth or one-tenth. We all know very well that at present the usual rate of *batai* is one-half or one-third or one-fourth. I submit that time has come when the State should interfere to regulate the rent charged by the landlord from his tenant of agricultural land and it should in any case be not more than one-tenth of the net produce of the land. Again persons who have been cultivating land for two or three years should not be liable to ejectment if they are prepared to pay the standard rent. I ask the honourable members of the Unionist Party to realize the implications of the measure which they are passing to-day. If the legislation had been of a temporary character like the Bombay legislation none of my arguments would have been applicable, but this legislation which the present Government has sponsored is a kind of permanent measure and is a measure which would apply apart from the provisions of the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act. After having passed this measure, can any honest and conscientious member of the Unionist Party say that if a similar measure is sponsored by the Opposition or by any member of their own party, they would have any ground to withstand a measure of that type? I ask the Honourable Minister for Public Works to join with me in supporting a measure of that type if he thinks that his present measure is based on grounds of justice and equity. I am one of those who do not believe in private property. I believe there are honest private proprietors who are reasonable towards their less fortunate brethren. They should perform their duty magnanimously and with generosity and brotherly feelings. Therefore, I am opposed to all measures of confiscation or expropriation whether by one party or the other. But if at any time the first aspect of the matter assumes a serious aspect in this province, the persons here responsible for it will be the members of the present Unionist Party. The time is coming fast ahead, it shall come sooner than we expect, when the relations of tenants and landlords of agricultural land will be improved.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) : Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Mukand Lal Puri, as we all know, is a very able lawyer. He can argue even a bad case very ably. But he will forgive me that to-day he argued his bad case like an able lawyer who comes to court rushing and is given the paper book. He just glances at one page and starts arguing without going through the history and other evidence behind that particular case.

Now, Sir, the objection with which he charged the Government was that the Bombay Act was only for one year. I quite agree, that the Bombay Act is only for one year, but one would expect from a lawyer of his standing

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

that he would go behind the history of the case to find out why it was intended for one year. The first line of the Bombay Act begins with the following words :—

Whereas it is expedient to restrict the increase of rents of certain premises in consequence of the levy of the urban immovable property tax in the Province of Bombay.

He would also remember that in Bombay the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act was not passed as a separate Act. It was provided in one of the clauses of the Finance Act. It was introduced for one year. Therefore the Bill with regard to the urban immovable property tax is to be passed from year to year. It is not my own statement. I will refer the honourable member to the statement made by the Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly on that question. He will find that during the debate on this matter in the Bombay Legislative Assembly on 20th April, 1939, while replying to the remarks of Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, the Speaker remarked :—

The honourable member will see that the immovable property tax forms part of the Finance Act and that is why it will be coming to this House from year to year. If that is so, any Act which as the title shows here, is going to give some benefit so long as that Act is in force, will necessarily have to be restricted in life to that period only.

And it may interest my honourable friend to know that my information is that after that these Bills have been repeated by the Government. So far as this point is concerned, I am sure, he was speaking without a paper book.

He further said that the Bill in Bombay was restricted to certain urban areas. If he will compare the provisions of the Bombay Act with this Bill, he will find that the Bombay Act was limited to certain urban areas, which were referred in that Act itself. Here he will find that the original Bill was limited to certain urban areas cited in the schedule, but the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill has made it clear that the intention of the Government is to limit the application of this Bill to those areas where the Urban Immovable Property Act will apply. So far as this point is concerned, I am sure he will find that his argument has no force.

He further told us that the Bombay Act was not so stringent as the Bill under consideration. What is the position in Bombay? In Bombay from all those houses which come within the definition of that Act, no one can be ejected who pays rent or is ready and willing to pay rent and abides by the terms of the Act. In Bombay there is no question of 3 months' notice or 6 months' notice. But here under our Bill he cannot be ejected without 6 months' notice. I am sure my honourable friend will concede that our Bill is more moderate in operation as compared with the Bombay Act. That is all, Sir, as to the main attack which my honourable friend brought against this Bill.

As to the second point I would submit that all such economic measures are unpalatable. There should be no economic interference with the strict application of the law of contract, but we have reached a stage when an economic evolution without interfering with justice, equity and fair play is needed. Economic relationship should be formed without involving bitterness.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, although this measure is going to adversely affect my own interests, yet I would frankly admit that it is calculated to benefit the people on the whole. (*Hear, hear.*) As a matter of fact the people are divided into two groups, 'haves' and 'have nots'. This Bill will stop the 'haves' from passing the burden of the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act to the 'have nots'. Plainly speaking, the object of this Bill is that the owners of houses in the towns should not recover from their tenants what they will have to pay to the Government under the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act by increasing the rents of their houses. Now if the owners of houses increase the rents of their houses that would mean that they would be recovering the tax from their tenants. The Government wants to check this. Our Government has become wiser by the experience of others. I may inform the House that when in England an Anti-Usury Act was passed, the money-lenders had adopted several methods to make good their loss by recovering additional sums of money from the poor people. Our Government was afraid that the owners of landed property in the towns would also adopt similar methods to pass on the burden of taxation on the poor tenants. That is why the Government has brought forward this Bill. It is a commendable step and I welcome this right step on the part of the Government, which deserves our gratitude.

There was, however, one rigour in the Bill which the amendment of Nawab Sahib has removed. Now the owners of houses will be able to eject undesirable tenants from their houses by giving them six months' notice. A shorter notice than this would have been harassing the poor tenants. Supposing a landlord gives his tenants a notice of one month only. In that case the poor tenants would be put to great difficulty. The owners of houses certainly would have resorted to these tactics in order to harass the tenants. They would have said that they themselves want to live in the house in question. Hence the poor tenants would have to vacate it immediately and find another house in a short interval. They would have done it simply to force the

3 p.m.

tenants to pay them some amount in addition to the rent for being allowed to remain in possession of the premises and escape the botheration of finding out some other house and shifting to it. In many cases the tenants would have been compelled to pay this extra amount by borrowing. By this provision of six months' notice for vacation both the landlords and the tenants will be benefited.

Then, Sir, Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri, although he knows me intimately, in the moment of excitement forgot my name. This does not matter much. What I am concerned is about his remarks that any other Government that may succeed the present Government at any time may be approached with the request that the landlords' share in the agricultural produce may be reduced to one-sixth and that Government would accede to such a request. I was surprised to hear such contrary remarks from him. He is an enlightened person and it is expected from him that he should care more for the poor than for the rich people, and should not oppose this Bill.

The question is on whom the burden of taxation usually falls in civilized countries. We all know that it falls on those who are able to pay. Zakat

[Sh. Sadiq Hasan.]

is collected from those who are rich. It is never imposed on poor people. Similarly the burden of taxation should fall in this province on people who have the paying capacity and not on those who lack it.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) (*Urdu*): Sir, the honourable members are very much mistaken if they regard that the Government is justified in passing this measure with all its novel provisions. It has been ignored by them that amongst landlords some are rich and hold big estates while there are others who own small estates yielding small income. And similarly amongst the tenants there are some who are rich while there are others who are poor. It is wrong to think that all landlords are equally rich. As such a discrimination of the sort as is being sought to be introduced by this provision is quite unnecessary. Our Honourable Ministers do not own much house property in Lahore, but does it mean that they are poor and propertyless? I think it is not proper to impose this sort of restriction on the mutual relations of the landlords and their tenants. The purpose of the Bill is absolutely lost. You want me to quote some verses. Here they are—

سوال از امان جراب از دیوان
ن ج می، دیوانه، من ج می، سرالد

These verses fully explain your case. The purpose of the Bill was to restrain the landlords from passing the immovable property tax to the tenants. I fail to understand the reasons why the landlords and tenants are being subjected to the provisions of this new measure and why the provisions of the Indian Contract Act have been regarded as insufficient to govern the relations of landlords and their tenants.

Then it has become almost a habit with our Honourable Ministers to make certain exceptions in the application of the provisions of an Act. True to their habit they have made certain exceptions in this Bill, too, and to those exceptions its provisions will not apply. I fail to understand why they are fond of making discriminations. Even under the present circumstances it is difficult to eject a tenant from a house. The courts also show an inclination towards keeping the tenant in possession of the house in cases in which landlords seek the help of the courts to eject them. The Government was not justified in incorporating this type of provisions in this Bill. When the Government Benches were asked to explain the necessity of these provisions they referred us to the provisions of the Bombay Act and said that they had taken them from that Act. You do not follow the example of Bombay in all matters. In all those matters which suit your purpose you follow Bombay, but you do not follow that province in matters which may be very wholesome but which may not suit your purpose. You must not take away the rights of the landlords over their tenants or *vice versa*. It is the duty of the Government to protect their just rights. It is most unjustified that you allow the tenant to leave the premises occupied by him on a single day's notice and force the landlord to eject the tenant occupying his premises after first serving on him a six months' notice of ejectment. This is not even-handed justice. Before law all should be equal. Even under the present circumstances it is most difficult for a landlord to eject his tenant. There are cases of such tenant

who have remained in possession of the premises against the will of their landlords for years. It is as difficult to eject a tenant occupying a house as a tenant in possession of some agricultural land. I know of a case in which an agricultural tenant continued to quarrel with his landlord for ten or twelve years and the latter was unable to turn him out. Similarly, I know of many instances in Lahore where tenants have refused to vacate the houses for two or three years and they could not be turned out unless they themselves wanted to do so. Anyway it is necessary that if on the one hand it is the duty of the Government to see that the landlords may not pass on the burden of the urban immovable property tax on the tenants, on the other hand they should also look to the interests of the landlords.

Now, it has been provided in the Bill now before the House that the "standard value" shall mean "the rent at which any building was let on the first day of January, 1939". I do not know on what principle this definition has been set down. It is possible that the landlords may make improvements in their building which necessitate the charging of more rents than they have heretofore been realizing. But under this definition landlords shall be debarred from increasing the rents of their premises even though they may have made improvements to justify the increase in rents. I therefore see no reason why one and the same standard value should be fixed for ever. Sir, we have seen that during the last 20 years Lahore has made considerable progress. Who can say what will be the condition of Lahore say after ten years? Why go far off? It is quite conceivable that after the war the standard rents of houses may increase. Then there is another side to the picture as well. There are many undeveloped areas in Lahore where so far no houses have been constructed and if houses are constructed in such areas it is quite conceivable that on account of plenty of houses the rents may fall down. It is therefore my submission that we cannot fix any hard and fast rules about the standard value of houses. As a matter of fact it changes with the change of circumstances. I do not say that the tenants should not be afforded any protection from the rapacious landlords. By all means do so. But along with this I must submit that such stringent clauses should not be included in the Bill so as to make it unduly favourable to one class and unfavourable to another. As experienced legislators we should mete out equal treatment to all the classes. Let us not in our overzeal of benefiting the tenants, harm the vital interests of the landlords. I would therefore request the Honourable Minister to see his way to provide such clauses in the measure which should make it equitable for all classes. But I regret to say that I cannot pin my faith in this Government who always provide some *ultra pulla* clauses in the Bill with a view to make it irksome to some people. Their attitude reminds me of a verse which is as follows:—

بہ ہر کسب و کار میں

میں آئے-دیتا ہوں بار بار

With these words I resume my seat.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): Sir, I have no intention to make a long speech. I shall try to be very brief. I want to refer to just a few points. First

[Minister for Public Works.]

of all the honourable Mr. Mukand Lal Puri called the Bombay Act a temporary measure and said that this Act was for a very long period. This criticism has been replied to by the Parliamentary Secretary that there the Act is repeated from year to year, while the life of the present Bill has been confined to 5 years only. But by means of a resolution of the Assembly its life may be extended. We expect that within the next 5 years rents would stabilise and probably there may not be any need to have such an enactment permanently on the Statute Book. The circumstances cannot be foreseen and if after that period it is essential to have an enactment of this type, it would not be necessary to take the time of the House and spend public money on enacting this measure once again. Such is the case with other enactments. If the Assembly desires that it should be effective beyond a period of five years, they can by a resolution extend the life. Virtually this is a temporary measure. But it is not temporary in that sense in which the Bombay Act is. An annual Bill for controlling the rents would be an absurd thing and the Bombay Assembly would have created a farce. The object of that Bill is to continue with the urban property tax which is repeated there from year to year. As I have said originally when that particular clause was under discussion, the intention of the Government was that this Act will be applied wherever there is a necessity. Why have we brought forward this measure? We have received hundreds of applications from the people asking that rents should be fixed. So we have come forward with this measure. Wherever we find that in a particular locality there are such complaints, the Government will extend the provisions of this measure only to that locality. As I said, it will follow in the wake of the urban property tax because the tenants' rights are in danger on account of the increase in rents. It will be applied wherever it is necessary and there will be no need of applying it to other localities from where no complaints have been received.

It was said that areas have not been specified. The reason why we have not specified the areas is that wherever necessity arises, after the application of the urban property tax, we will apply this Bill. I am glad that my honourable friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hassan, though he has house property interests had seen the justification of this Bill and supported it. It is very creditable to a house owner to support a measure which goes to a great extent contrary to his private interests.

As to the criticism of the honourable member who spoke last, the reason why we have copied this Bill from another province, and why we are not original in this and some other cases is, that the policy we follow is that where there is good to be found elsewhere we have no hesitation in copying it. Whatever is in the interest of the province, whether original or not, we do it. We are original as well as followers so far as good things are concerned. So, that criticism, I do not think, is valid. Then the honourable member went on to say that this Bill was one-sided in its application. It is one-sided in this respect that it prevents the increase of rents and protects the tenant and gives him security up to a period of six months. We cannot, on the other hand tie a tenant, if he has contracted to leave the house after one month, to the premises and lay down that unless he is given six

months' notice he should not quit. The landlord can find another tenant. While this Bill provides the liberty under the ordinary contract to the tenant, it may be said that it harshly and adversely affects the landlord to that extent ~~that~~ it insists on six months' notice. The rigour of the Bill has been considerably reduced by bringing in the period of non-ejection of the tenant from five years to six months. It was said in this connection that *ultra pulta* (3, 3f) clauses have been put in. I have not been able to find out any such clauses in this Bill. These clauses are to some extent meant to prevent the collusion and not to make this Act a dead letter. If the honourable member means that these clauses are topsy turvy because they will make the Bill ineffective, then he can hold that opinion; otherwise I think that the clauses are such that for a good landlord they will not create any unnecessary difficulty and to an honest tenant they will give certain security without involving hardship in the case of the landlord also.

My honourable friend, then, brought in unnecessarily the question of a tenant of agricultural land. There again an ordinary tenant cannot be ejected unless he is served with a six months' notice. So, I think the provisions of the present Act will place the tenant in an ordinary urban area more or less on the same footing with the tenant of agricultural land and there is neither undue favour in one case nor undue hardship in the other.

It was also pointed out that the Bill prevents all increase in rents. I would draw the attention of the honourable member who represents the Christian constituency who said that no provision has been made for any increase of rents, to the fact that the life of the Bill is five years. Even in this period of five years if further amenities have been provided, he will see that 6 per cent is allowed on improvement and again according to clause 15 of this Bill 10 per cent is allowed for the amenities like roads and other developments in the locality. So, for the very cases which the honourable member cited, due provision exists.

Another honourable member went on to say that if the house is given to a friend, there may not be any increase in the rent. I submit that there is a particular clause which provides that if a house has been let on a nominal rent the court can determine the standard rent. So no real hardship will arise in this case. The provision is already there.

In these circumstances I am sure this Bill will meet with the approval of the House. This is a temporary phase when new taxes are being imposed and the rents have got to be adjusted. It will provide protection to the tenants and will not put landlords to any undue hardship. When the economic disturbance has passed over and stability brought about there will be no need perhaps for this measure and the Government of the time might think that there is no need to continue it on the statute book. It is just meant to get over this phase and adjust matters according to the new conditions. With these words I hope the House will pass the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Bill as amended be passed.

The motion was carried.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following members:—

Chaudhri Muhammad Husain;
Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan;
Chaudhri Faqir Husain Khan;
Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan;
Chaudhri Ranpat Singh;
Sardar Joginder Singh Man;
Chaudhri Tikka Ram;
Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh;
Sardar Lal Singh;
Sardar Moola Singh.

The quorum to consist of five members.

I may be allowed to say just a few words in making this motion. There have been for many years loud complaints that weights and measures have not been standardised in this country, and from the very beginning I had the matter in my mind and was keen to bring forward a Bill of this nature. It so happened that under the Government of India Act the fixation of standard weights and measures rested only with the Government of India, and the Government of India took pretty long to bring forward a Bill of that nature and pass it. That Bill fixing the standard of weights and measures was passed by the Government of India only in 1939, and now I have brought forward this Bill in order to give effect to the wishes of the people of this province.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: By what date do you want the select committee to submit its report?

Minister for Development: The select committee to report on this Bill by the 17th of April, 1941.

Mr. Speaker: The motion moved is—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Chaudhri Muhammad Husain;
Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan;
Chaudhri Faqir Husain Khan;
Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan;
Chaudhri Ranpat Singh;
Sardar Joginder Singh Man;
Chaudhri Tikka Ram;
Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh;
Sardar Lal Singh;
Sardar Moola Singh.

The report of the committee to be submitted by the 17th April, 1941, and the quorum of the committee to be five.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, the 21st April, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 21st April, 1941.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

Chaudhri Mohar Singh (North-West Gurgaon, General, Rural) was sworn in.

REFERENCES TO THE LATE HONOURABLE DR. SIR SUNDAR SINGH MAJITHIA.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): Sir, it is with the deepest regret that I rise to make a reference to the sad demise of my most revered colleague, the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia. On behalf of the House I wish to express our profound and heart-felt sympathy to his sons and other members of his family. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia was, with the one exception of yourself, the seniormost member of this House in point of age. He was a member of the previous Council also and he held the portfolio of Revenue under dyarchy. With the advent of provincial autonomy he was the first Revenue Minister of the present Government and we all know how assiduously he worked to keep up the traditions of that high office, and in spite of his age and failing health he stuck to his work in spite of remonstrances from his friends and relations; and eventually he died in harness like the soldier that he was. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, while he was a vigilant custodian and champion of the rights and interests of the Sikhs, was never to my knowledge unfair or unjust to any other community. He was a profoundly religious man and he not only believed, but also lived up to, the great traditions of his religion in accordance with the preachings of the Gurus, the great founders of the Sikh religion.

His work in the philanthropic field is well known to all of us and in the matter of charity it was as it should be, that is, very generous and widely distributed. I may for the information of this House say that it was not confined to his own community, but was bestowed on other communities also. He was a stalwart among the gentry of the province and his loss will be felt in every sphere in which he lived and worked. It is almost impossible to conceive of another person with such wide interests and activities, and I am afraid that the Sikh community's loss is so great that it will find it difficult to find another leader of his calibre.

As Revenue Minister he was of course always working hard to see that the legitimate grievances of the zamindars were removed. You know

[Premier.]

that during his regime large remissions were given throughout the province because he believed that the underdog, especially the poor agriculturist, should be given relief. In spite of his age and in spite of the heavy and onerous task which fell to his lot since the advent of provincial autonomy he was always cheerful and his sense of humour never left him. I believe I am voicing the feeling of everyone of us in saying that it is with the profoundest regret that we to-day pass this resolution of sympathy for one of our revered friends and a great patriot.

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh (Minister for Development): Sir, I associate myself with every word that the Honourable Premier has said about my revered Leader. He was a true Sikh, a genuine disciple of our great Gurus. He lived a life of a true Sikh, he modelled his life after the great Sikhs of old. His whole life was a life of sacrifice, a life of hard work for the welfare of the Panth; and he has left a rich heritage for the coming generations of Sikhs. He has raised a great monument of his life work for those who want to serve the Panth and his example will work like beacon light for those enthusiastic young men who want to do service to their community. He was a staunch Sikh and veteran fighter for the Sikh cause. But at the same time he had no bigotry in him and he had no ill-will against the followers of other faiths; rather he had lifelong friends among Mussalmans, among Hindus and it may be among Christians.

In this connection I cannot but refer to one small incident which happened about a few years ago. I was a young lad of fifteen then, a school student and had come to Amritsar on the occasion of the Deep Mala. I had a few class fellows of mine with me. I had an impressionable mind then. I had then the first *darshan* of my great chief at that time. There was a big Sikh gathering in one of the *bungas* attached to the Golden Temple. I saw a young man very decently dressed, having an air of aristocracy about him, himself sitting far away from the central place where our Guru Granth Sahib was installed. He was wiping the dust of shoes of the *sangat*. That was a touching scene. Several youngsters were standing round about. Every one of us was deeply touched by the sight of the young man, because Sir Sundar Singh might have been about thirty years old then or a little less, a young man having an air of aristocracy about himself, learning the first lessons of service and humility. An elderly Sikh gentleman was standing by. When he explained to us as to who the young man was, the impression was all the deeper upon us young men who were sitting this way and that way, may be from various places in the province. Even though he was learning the essential lessons of Sikhism because our religion is based upon service and humility—these two essential qualities, essential virtues of our religious faith lead to devotion which is the dominant note in Sikhism—even though he was learning his first lessons, he was at the same time giving the widest publicity to our faith and was doing it in the most effective manner. From that time onwards I have known him intimately and his whole life was lived in the same spirit in which it was begun. He was the truest Sikh who lived like a Sikh and in my opinion there could be no higher praise to a man. With these words I associate myself with the Honourable Premier in all that he has said for my late leader.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : It is with a heavy heart, a heart full of grief that I rise to pay my quota of tribute on behalf of the Khalsa National Party to our late leader Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia. I had the privilege of working with him in close collaboration on the various political sub-committees of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, as a member of the Sikh Education Committee and as a member of the Council and Managing Committee of the Khalsa College, Amritsar, for nearly 22 years, and ever since then I have learnt to admire him for his high qualities of head and heart and more particularly his strength of character. Although a stalwart Majha Sikh belonging to a distinguished aristocratic family, he remained throughout his life a complete teetotaler. In public life he set up an unapproachable standard of honesty, hard work and devotion to duty. His severest critics could not find any fault with the management of funds entrusted to the care of his organisations. A true Sikh that he was, he had a highly religious bent of mind and he gave his all to the service of the Sikh community. All social, religious, political and educational movements in the Sikh community owe their origin and progress to the inspiring guidance, zeal and untiring efforts of Sir Sundar Singh Majithia and the small band of selfless workers whom he rallied round him. The recognition of the Sikhs as a separate important political minority was due mainly, if not exclusively, to the fight put up by Sir Sundar Singh Majithia and his co-workers of the Chief Khalsa Diwan. As a true Sikh, he did not believe in caste and he jealously safeguarded the interests of the Sikh community as a whole, without at the same time encroaching upon the rights of others. Sometimes he disclosed his aristocratic nature, but those who were intimately associated with him knew, that beneath the occasional out-burst of temper lay a soft and kind heart. By his death the Khalsa National Party has lost a great leader, the Khalsa Panth a great and true Sikh and the province a great gentleman.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with all that has been said regarding the various qualities of head and heart of the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia. He was indeed a very great man and was one of those who are highly respected in the province. He held many high offices, in all of which he acquitted himself so well and with so much credit. In the domain of education his services were second to none. Khalsa College, Amritsar, is a standing monument of his activities. The Sikh Educational Conference which has done so great a deal in the advancement of education in the province owes a good deal to him. The Punjab is distinctly the poorer to-day by the passing away of such a gentleman. His loss to the Sikh community is indeed very great and the void his death has created is well nigh impossible to fill.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan (Attock North, Muslim Rural), (Urdu) : Sir, it is impossible to find words for expressing the heartfelt grief and shock caused, by the sad demise of the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, to the people of the Punjab in general and to the honourable members of the Assembly in particular. Not only did the late Sir Sundar Singh serve the cause of the Panth, to which every brick set in the walls of the Khalsa College, Amritsar, bears ample testimony, but he also tried to be fair even to the members of other communities. On his very first appointment as the Revenue Member in the Punjab he boldly appointed

[K. B. Nawab Muzaffar Khan.]

an Indian and that too a Mussalman, that is myself, as the Reforms Commissioner. I cannot easily forget his kindness and impartiality in reposing so much trust in me as also the days that I spent under him. His various qualities of head and heart, his simplicity, sincerity, righteousness and unaffected generosity have won for him a place in the hearts of his compatriots.

It is my earnest prayer that God Almighty may bless his soul in the hereafter as He blessed his life in this world.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban), (*Urdu*): Sir, indeed the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia had so many good qualities in him that if they are expressed here they would take the whole time fixed for the day. I, therefore, quite agree with the statements of the Honourable Premier and other honourable members in which they have mentioned the outstanding qualities of the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia. He had a personality which in spite of simplicity inspired a reverential awe in everybody. Particularly the Punjab and this Assembly stand poorer by his death and the people of the real Punjab have borne an irreparable loss by his sudden demise. The death has snatched away a man from them who was their great sympathiser and well-wisher. I would not be wrong if I say that the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia was a true Punjabi. What I mean by saying so is that the real Punjab is a land within five rivers and out of our six Ministers four are such who belong to trans-Sutlej valley and one belongs to trans-Jhelum and another belongs to a district situated just on the border line. Therefore the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia was the only Minister who being a good citizen of the province could be considered as a true Punjabi.

An Honourable Member: Are the other Ministers Madrasis?

Mian Abdul Aziz: They are not Madrasis. But as the Punjab is considered as a land within five rivers, only Sir Sundar Singh was a person who belonged to this province in the true sense of the word. I, therefore, express my feelings of regret particularly on behalf of the members hailing from the Central and real Punjab. It is most lamentable that the cruel death has taken away a man from us with whom we have been working since long. I hope that the present Minister would do his duties with the same sincerity with which the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia had been doing. I may also submit that if it is said that the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia could not do what he liked to do for the benefit of zamindars, the fault was not his only. As a matter of fact he was not in a position to accomplish this task without the goodwill of the cabinet collectively. Anyhow he was a stalwart of the gentry of the province and he was a personality most respectable as a man, as a friend, as a sincere worker and as a Minister. Hence it is our duty to lament on the death of such a unique person as Sir Sundar Singh Majithia who led a life of activity and died in harness.

Sir William Roberts (European): Sir, I have very great pleasure in adding my tribute to the memory of Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, on behalf of the European community. He was a great gentleman and like all great gentlemen, was distinguished by great simplicity of character, a trait which appealed not only to my own community but to other communities also.

He inherited in himself the tradition of agriculturist and his wide business connections made him also full of sympathy with the trading and business community of the province. I think everybody will admit that his first ideal was to fight for his own community but of course in reaching that he gave the whole-hearted effort for the good of the province as a whole. I always thought it a great compliment to the broad-based Ministry of Sir Sikander that a man with such strong convictions as Sir Sundar Singh Majithia should not only be able to work, but work happily and contentedly, within the fold of the Unionist Ministry. We have lost in him a great gentleman.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I not only associate myself with all that has been said by the previous speakers but it is impossible for me to speak without emotion. I am so full of his memories that I find it difficult to express my sense of loss or to frame in words what my heart feels. I feel no words of mine can speak about my uncle more eloquently than his work which will keep his memory green in spite of the whirligig of time. Where was the Khalsa College, the Khalsa schools both for boys and girls, and the Chief Khalsa Diwan? Where would have been the Sikh Educational Association, the Akali Party and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, if my late lamented uncle and his friends had not started the work which stirred the community into an active religious, social, educational and political effort? It is true my community lacks cohesion, but the fire of faith which had been lighted by him will burn up the dross and consolidate the community into a united nation. He is gone but his work lives and those who aspire to take up his work will fulfil the mission of Gurus if regardless of personal proclivities they all unite and strengthen the unity of the community and uphold the flag of the Khalsa. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia served with such light and strength as the Gurus gave him, for the best interests of his community and country. Steadfast in his loyalty to the Crown, steadfast in his devotion to the Gurus and steadfast in his resolve to stand firm in the position to which he was called, he has set an example of performing his dharma to the end which has been rarely equalled. Hidden under his iron will and strong attitude, he had a heart of gold full of love and sympathy for all. Here is one of the many people on whom he has bestowed great love and kindness. To him, Sir, I owe my very existence and most respectfully and with a sincere prayer in my heart, I pay my humble homage to his memory and support this resolution.

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Urdu*): Sir, whatever is to be said about the intellectual, moral and spiritual qualities of the late Sir Sundar Singh Majithia is bound to fall short of the actuality. It is possible that my words may seem to be formal to those who do not know him personally. But a person who has been intimately in touch with him knows it perfectly well that these words are not formal but are based on truth. Fortunately I had the privilege of working with him for the last four years and I can, therefore, say that during that period I saw that where he had been upholding the cause of his own backward class he had been a great sympathiser for other backward classes also. His qualities of head and heart were beyond praise and I think it is difficult to find a more conscientious and persevering man than him. He was a vigilant custodian of the rights of his class. Religion was deep-rooted in him and he had much re-

[**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.**]

gard for it and therefore he had always been respecting religions of others. He left no stone unturned in the discharge of his duties.

The province, particularly the zamindar community, stands poorer by his death. Strictly speaking his sudden demise has given us a rude shock and it would take long before we can get over it.

Chaudhri Faqir Hussain Khan (Tarn Taran, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, I have had the honour of meeting the late lamented Sir Sundar Singh Majithia on several occasions during the period he held office and also previously. I always valued his nature and farsighted advice and fully availed of it. Strictly speaking he was the very embodiment of all human virtues; and it is the least to say about him that the Amritsar district can justifiably feel proud of having produced in him a person of outstanding merit and sterling worth. The Punjab stands poorer by his death and as a matter of fact his sudden demise has caused an irreparable loss to the province.

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I feel it my duty to add my humble tribute to the memory of the late revered Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia whom we do not find amongst us to-day. There is no doubt that the Sikh community has lost a big pillar of the community by his sad death. I have had the honour and pleasure of knowing him since I was a student in the Khalsa College which as has already been said is a standing tribute to the life work of Dr. Sir Sundar Singh. It was highly fortunate that at a certain stage of the history of the Sikh community when education was greatly needed a man of aristocratic origin renounced his aristocratic views and gave up his life of comfort and ease and came out into the public to suffer all sorts of privations peculiar to public life and did his duty not only by the educational needs of the community but also by the great Singh Sabha movement which filled a big gap in the progress of the Sikh community. We on this side of the House had our differences, but let me, Sir, give this humble tribute to his memory that just as we are trying to do our duty, he was trying to do his duty on his part (*hear, hear*) and I think that his later life was very much marred by political differences which have been the bane of the Sikh community and which made his life somewhat uncomfortable and difficult for him to do his very best that he should have liked to do. With these words I support the motion made.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, I associate myself with all that has been said by various speakers about the late lamented Sir Sundar Singh Majithia. I think I am the only member of this House who can claim to be the oldest friend of Sir Sundar Singh. I formed his acquaintance about the year 1889-90 when he was a student in the Chiefs College, Lahore. We have been friends throughout and I had the pleasure of often seeing him at Amritsar. We used to take long walks together. He generally kept a *tasbeeh* in his hand. He was one of the noblest gentlemen I have known and his death is a great loss not only to the community to which he belonged but to the whole of the province. I don't think the Punjab can find his substitute. But what cannot be cured must be endured as we have to submit to the inevitable. I shall now put the formal motion to vote.

The question is—

That deepest sympathy and condolence be offered, on behalf of this House, to the members of the late Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia's bereaved family.

The motion was carried all members standing. •

Mr. Speaker : The next question is—

That the House do now adjourn as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 22nd April, 1941.

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.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 22nd April, 1941.

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

OATH OF OFFICE.

Major Malik Sardar Khan Noon (North Punjab, Landholders) was sworn in.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

KHAKSARS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

***7764. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount spent on the Khaksars Inquiry Committee ;
- (b) the nature of the report submitted by the above-mentioned Committee ;
- (c) the date when the report of that Committee was submitted to Government ;
- (d) the action, if any, taken by the Government on that report so far, and, if no action has so far been taken, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Rs. 16,780.

(b) and (d) The matter is still *sub-judice*.

(c) 29th May, 1940.

BABU GURBAKSH SINGH, COMRADE CHHAJJA SINGH AND COMRADE CHANAN SINGH.

***7785. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Gurbakhsh Singh, Comrade Chhajja Singh and Comrade Chanan Singh, who were arrested under section 129 (1) of the Defence of India Ordinance, 1939, on the 7th January, 1941, at Mahilpur, district Hoshiarpur, and detained in the Hoshiarpur Sub-Jail under section 129 (211) and due to be released on 6th March, 1941, have not been released so far ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): Babu Gurbakhsh Singh is being prosecuted in a case under rule 39 of the Defence of India Rules. Chhajja Singh and Chanan Singh are now detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules—the orders under which they are detained do not specify the period of their detention.

CONGRESS SATYAGRAHA NEAR AMRIT ELECTRIC PRESS, GWALMANDI,
LAHORE.

***7786. Sardar Ajit Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Congress Satyagraha meeting was held on the 19th March near Amrit Electric Press, Gwalmandi, Lahore;
- (b) that the said meeting was declared an unlawful assembly by an Inspector of Police present there;
- (c) that without giving reasonable time to the crowd to disperse the Deputy Superintendent, Police, present at the meeting came to the dais and addressing Lala Jagat Narain, President, City Congress Committee, Lahore, said, "I want this dais, I want this microphone, I want you";
- (d) whether it is a fact that without giving any further notice the police took possession of the loud speaker;
- (e) whether it is a fact that Lala Jagat Narain mentioned above is still under police custody; and if so, under what section of the law?

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

(b) Yes, except that it was the Deputy Superintendent of Police who declared the assembly unlawful.

(c) No. Reasonable time was given to the crowd to disperse, and the Deputy Superintendent of Police merely informed Lala Jagat Narain that he was under arrest and that he was taking possession of the microphone, which had been used for the commission of an offence.

(d) Yes. The loudspeaker was taken into possession as it had been used for the commission of an offence.

(e) Yes. Lala Jagat Narain was arrested under rule 38 read with rule 121 of the Defence of India Rules.

GRANT OF LAND TO TENANTS IN THE ATTOCK DISTRICT.

***7731. Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the steps, if any, that have been taken so far by the Government for granting lands to the tenants now on the point of starvation in the Attock district as recommended in the resolution passed unanimously by the Assembly on 28th November, 1940?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The matter is under the consideration of Government and necessary action is being taken. Deputy Commissioners concerned have been asked to submit proposals.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : When was the Deputy Commissioner asked ?

Premier : About three weeks ago.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether it is not redtapism with a vengeance ? It is four months now that the resolution was passed unanimously by this Assembly.

Parliamentary Secretary : I can assure the honourable member that the Government are taking every possible step to give effect to the resolution at the earliest possible date.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan : And they took action only three weeks ago !

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Was the action taken after the question had been tabled ?

Parliamentary Secretary : May I remove a misunderstanding ? It does not mean that the Government took no action on the resolution before the Deputy Commissioner was asked. Other officers had to be consulted and the question where land is to be allotted was being taken into consideration. The matter has been under consideration ever since the resolution was passed.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN THE JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

***7759. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on the work of consolidation of holdings in the Jullundur district since April, 1937, through the Co-operative Department as well as through the Revenue staff, the extent of area that was consolidated by each department during this period, the number of holdings consolidated, the average cost per acre and the portion of the cost borne by the landlords concerned ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : A statement is laid on the table.

The consolidation of holdings work in the Jullundur district is being carried on only by the Co-operative Department and the following statement gives the information asked for by the honourable member :—

Year.	Expenditure.	Area consolidated.	Number of blocks.	Average cost per acre.	Contribution.
	Rs.	Acres.		Rs.	Rs.
1936-37	Not available.	19,286	47,092	2 2 2	11,477
1937-38	43,791	14,620	31,842	2 14 5	8,843
1938-39	47,318	18,465	39,065	2 7 5	11,906
1939-40	67,173	14,857	33,545	2 6 4	10,022

NOTE.—As the Co-operative year begins from 1st July, the information for the year 1936-37 has, therefore, been given.

FAILURE OF GRAM CROP IN TOBA TEK SINGH TAHSIL.

***7768. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the failure of the gram crop this year in the tahsil of Toba Tek Singh due to certain adverse winds ;
- (b) whether any applications to this effect have been received by Government from the zamindars of Chak No. 366-J. B., Tahsil Toba Tek Singh ;
- (c) whether the failure is general or limited to certain areas in different parts of the district ;
- (d) the way in which Government intends to afford relief to the sufferers ;
- (e) whether he is aware that gram crop has failed successively in this district in some previous years too ; if so, whether it is intended to hold an inquiry into the frequent failures of gram in Lyallpur district ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) and (b) Yes.

- (c) The failure is fairly wide-spread but not uniform.
- (d) Remissions of land revenue and abiana, where admissible, will be granted in due course according to rules.
- (e) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—The Department of Agriculture is already engaged in investigations.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Does Government intend to give any general remission on account of this general failure ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the remissions of abiana and land revenue will be given according to the rules where necessary.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Does the Parliamentary Secretary understand the ordinary method of general remission ? This is a special case where the Government should give a general remission.

Parliamentary Secretary : What I have said in my answer is that the damage was not uniform ; in some places it was more and in others it was less. Therefore the remissions had to be granted according to the rules.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I know the average extent of the damage in so many annas per rupee ?

Parliamentary Secretary : How can I give the average when there was no uniformity ? It will be misleading, if I give any average when the damage was not uniform.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Are you making enquiries in regard to that ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already said that the local officers are enquiring and they will give remissions where necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

***7734. Sardar Santokh Singh :** With reference to the answer by the Honourable Minister of Finance to question No. 1982* by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (*vide* Volume IV, page 492, of the Legislative Assembly Debates) that the term of the appointment of the Special Official Receiver expires on the 1st of June, 1941, will he be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is necessary to engage a Special Official Receiver any longer ;
- (b) if so, whether any procedure has been laid down or rules framed for the selection of the person to be appointed ;
- (c) if so, whether these rules have been published ;
- (d) if not, when does the Government propose to publish them so as to enable the likely candidates to apply in time ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a), (b), (c) and (d) This matter has not yet been referred to Government by the High Court. It will receive due consideration when occasion arises.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : When does the Honourable Finance Minister expect any reply from the High Court ?

Minister for Finance : I have said that the matter has not been referred to the Government by the High Court.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : When does he expect that to happen ?

HUNGER-STRIKE OF COMRADE MANGAL SINGH.

***7738. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Comrade Mangal Singh, a 'C' class political prisoner in District Jail, Shahpur, has recently resorted to hunger strike ; if so, the date when he went on hunger strike and the reasons for which he has done so ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : Convict Mangal Singh has never been on hunger strike in the Shahpur Jail.

ARREST AND DETENTION OF PANDIT HARBANS LAL AND LALA DARBARI LAL, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS OF NURMAHAL.

***7744. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Pandit Harbans Lal and Lala Darbari Lal, Municipal Commissioners and Income-Tax payers of Nurmahal, district Jullundur, were arrested and sentenced under the Defence of India Act to one year and Rs. 200 fine at Jullundur on the 19th February and 20th February, 1941, at Jullundur ;
- (b) whether they are placed in the 'C' class ;
- (c) whether they were transferred to the District Jail, Ferozepore, with handcuffs and fetters on ;

[S. Ajit Singh.]

(d) if so, their weight individually at the time of arrest and at present;

(e) the state of their health;

(f) whether it is a fact that they have been placed in the "C" class; if so, the steps which the Government is prepared to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) They were convicted on the 20th and 22nd February, 1941.

(b) and (f) They have been placed in "B" class.

(c) Yes.

(d) The weight of these prisoners at the time of their admission in the District Jail, Jullundur, was as follows:—

	Lbs.
Harbans Lal	116
Darbari Lal	185

Their present weight is as follows:—

	Lbs.
Harbans Lal	112
Darbari Lal	180

(e) At the time of admission in jail the state of health of Harbans Lal was indifferent and of Darbari Lal was good. The present state of health of the former is satisfactory except that he is being treated as an outdoor patient for chronic dyspepsia as a result of pyorrhœa alveolaris. As regards the latter his health is good except that he has got pyorrhœa alveolaris of two teeth in the lower jaw for which he is getting the necessary treatment as an outdoor patient.

GRIEVANCES OF PRISONERS IN DISTRICT JAIL, SHAHPUR.

*7751. **Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Jail, Shahpur, in the Punjab, where 'C' class political prisoners are being kept was used for keeping some T. B. prisoners in the past; if so, the reasons why that Jail has been selected to confine such prisoners;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prisoners punished for offences against the state and the prisoners punished for offences involving moral turpitude are made to parade together on every Monday in the above mentioned Jail; if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prisoners in the first category in that Jail are compelled to put off their *Gandhi* caps as soon as they enter the jail premises; if so, why;

- (d) whether it is a fact that political prisoners in Shahpur Jail are made to interview their relatives behind the Jail gates while the relatives of the second category of prisoners are allowed to interview their relatives and friends without any such restrictions ; if so, the reasons for this differential treatment ;
- (e) what sort of labour is taken from the political prisoners in that Jail ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that not long ago even some of the religious books were not allowed to be used by the ' C ' class prisoners in that Jail ; if so, why ;
- (g) what steps, if any, does the Government intend taking to remove the grievances of the political prisoners in that Jail ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Yes. The barracks for tubercular prisoners were dismantled in 1931. The jail was selected for the confinement of prisoners as accommodation was available in it.

- (b) No. They are paraded separately.
- (c) All ordinary prisoners have to wear the prescribed prison clothing in jail.
- (d) No distinction is made between any prisoners in this matter.
- (e) Satyagrahi prisoners are employed on spinning and ban making.
- (f) No.
- (g) In view of the answers I have given, perhaps the honourable member will inform me of the grievances to which he is referring.

DIFFICULTIES IN INTERVIEWING PRISONERS IN DISTRICT JAIL,
SHAHPUR.

***7752. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Lehna Singh of Sargodha went to interview some of the political prisoners in District Jail, Shahpur, on the 14th March, 1941, and had to suffer great inconvenience in seeking that interview ;
- (b) whether it has come to his notice that great inconvenience is caused to the relatives of the prisoners who go there for interview and in many cases these relatives are made to wait from morning to evening before attracting the attention of the officers concerned to their application for interview ;
- (c) if the replies to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same and the action intended to be taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Dr. Lehna Singh applied for some interviews on the 14th of March, 1940, but his application was refused.

(b) and (c) The enquiries I have made show that only six applications were received by the jail authorities for interviews with prisoners. Only one of the applicants had an interview because the remaining prisoners refused interviews because they wished to have them in places other than those

[Minister for Finance.]

specially set aside for the purpose. Applications for interviews are received up to 10 a.m. and interviews are held as soon as possible after this. My information is that no persons coming for interviews have been made to wait unduly long and no action is called for.

COMMISSION, ETC., RECEIVED BY SPECIAL OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

***7762. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

- (a) the total amount of commission received by the Special Official Receiver as receiver of the insolvents' estate, whether in final settlement or on account from the 25th July, 1935, to the 15th March, 1941 ;
- (b) the total amount of travelling allowance drawn by him during the period mentioned in (a) above ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) The total amount of commission received up to the 15th March, 1941, by the Special Official Receiver who took over charge of his duties on the 1st June, 1938, is Rs. 1,95,905-7-1, which includes Rs. 55,000 on account of the sale of shares of the Bharat Insurance Company, Limited, Lahore, which belonged to the Estate of the late Lala Harkishen Lal.

(b) Rs. 11,100-10-10, which includes Rs. 3,458-0-9 on account of the actual expenses of a trip to England undertaken by him to appear and contest a case in the Privy Council.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

***7763. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** With reference to the answer by the Honourable Finance Minister to question No. 1932 by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (*vide* Volume IV, page 492 of the Legislative Assembly Debates) that the term of the appointment of the Special Official Receiver expires on the first of June, 1941, will he be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is necessary to engage a special official receiver any longer ;
- (b) if so, whether any procedure has been laid down or rules framed for the selection of the person to be appointed ;
- (c) if so, whether these rules have been published ;
- (d) if not, when does the Government propose to publish them so as to enable the likely candidates to apply in time ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a), (b), (c) and (d) This matter has not yet been referred to Government by the High Court. It will receive due consideration when occasion arises.

TAX LEVIED ON THE PILGRIMS TO SAKHI SARWAR IN
DISTRICT DERA GHAZI KHAN.

*7722. **Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hasan Khan Gurchani**: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the tax levied on the pilgrims to Sakhi Sarwar which is a well known sacred place (*Khankah*) in district Dera Ghazi Khan is prejudicial to public convenience and is the cause of great worry to the pilgrims of the province as a whole;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that this tax interferes with the liberty of pilgrims who come in great numbers from all parts of the country with the result that the number of visitors (pilgrims) has decreased and the income of the above-mentioned sacred place (*Khankah*) has been badly affected; if so, the action Government intends to take in the matter;
- (c) whether the District Board, Dera Ghazi Khan, realises any other tax from the pilgrims of the said *Khankah* in addition to the above-mentioned tax and whether it spends anything for the benefit of the said *Khankah*; if so, full details of income accruing from these taxes and the manner in which it is disbursed?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) No, Government has no such information.

(b) Government's information is that the tax is not likely to affect adversely either the number of pilgrims attending the fair, or the income from the fair itself.

(c) The Board does not realise any other tax from pilgrims. The proceeds of the tax are to be applied to the Sakhi Sarwar Water-supply Scheme.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hasan Khan Gurchani: May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to what amount the District Board spends on water supply which is the main excuse for imposing this tax on the pilgrims?

Parliamentary Secretary: The District Board spends the income thus derived on the water supply scheme. The capital expenditure on the scheme which amounted to Rs. 24,000 was provided by the Government.

BRANDING OF CATTLE FOR CHECKING CATTLE LIFTING.

*7723. **Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hasan Khan Gurchani**: Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that in district Dera Ghazi Khan the cattle, viz. cows, buffaloes, camels, horses and donkeys belonging to agriculturists and non-agriculturists owners are branded by district board and police officials, and the owners have to pay fees for it and the money thus realized is distributed in a way not agreeable to the poor;

[K. B. Sardar Mohd. Hasan Khan Gurchani.]

- (b) whether it is a fact that in this way a part of the animal's body is disfigured and the animal suffers from it for many days ;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that at the time of branding by holding and casting many animals are hurt and sometime there are fractures and abortion ;
- (d) whether he is aware that sometimes more than fixed fee is charged and that the zamindars or the owners of the cattle are made to provide the branding officials with wood and charcoal and are not paid for it ; if so, why ;
- (e) whether a similar arrangement exists in any other district of the Punjab ; and if not, what other ways are adopted for checking cattle lifting ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) A voluntary system of branding cattle has been started in Dera Ghazi Khan district since last year ; but the police take no part in it. A fee of six pies per animal is charged and a certificate is issued. This fee just covers the expenses.

(b) No.

(c) No. The system is voluntary and pregnant and immature animals are not branded.

(d) No.

(e) No such arrangements exist in any other district. A special campaign to check cattle lifting is, however, carried out during the hot weather months every year in the south-western districts bordering the river Indus. Extensive patrolling, combined with *naqabandi*, is an effective preventive. Similar measures are taken in most districts to prevent this form of crime.

TRENCHES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RAILWAY LINE NEAR VILLAGE
LODHAN, DISTRICT RAWALPINDI.

***7733. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the residents of village Mankiala, Lodhran and some others of the Rawalpindi tahsil strongly protested to the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, against the action of the Railway Department in digging out trenches on both sides of the Railway line near the Northern Signal adjoining the Lodhran village, as this caused injury to the animals of the villagers ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on the representation made by the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, the Railway Department agreed that the passage may be made smooth by the District Board, Rawalpindi ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said District Board agreed to spend Rs. 200 so that the legitimate grievance of the people may be removed ;

(d) whether it is a fact that afterwards the Railway authorities backed out of the agreement ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the said villagers have since made a number of representations to the Deputy Commissioner ; if so, what action has been taken to persuade the Railway authorities to concede the legitimate demand of the said people ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

DELAY IN THE DISPOSAL OF THE APPEAL OF EX-SECRETARY,
DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

***7735. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the reasons for the inordinate delay in the disposal of the appeal preferred by the ex-Secretary, District Board, Jullundur, against the order of his dismissal by the said Board pending with the Government for the last two years ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The completion of the records and its thorough examination took time before the Government decided to launch a fresh enquiry. The report of the local officers to whom the enquiry has been entrusted some time ago is awaited.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether it is a fact that the appeal of the ex-Secretary is pending for the last two years ? If so, when is a decision on the appeal to be taken by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : As I have already stated the report of the local officers is awaited and as soon as the report is received the Government will take action.

Mian Abdul Rab : When was the report of the local officers asked for ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is very difficult for me to give the exact time without notice.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is it not a fact that the report of the local officers was asked for only 2 months back while the matter has been pending with the Government for the last two years ?

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE MURDER OF DARSHAN LAL, SON OF
ARJAN DAS PURI OF GOWALMANDI, RAWALPINDI.

***7755. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the steps, if any, which have been taken to trace the murderers of one Darshan Lal, son of Arjan Das Puri, of Gowalmandi, Rawalpindi ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the father of the murdered boy has mentioned to the authorities the names of the alleged culprits and has accused the local police of Rawalpindi of negligence in the matter ; if so, the action which has been taken on the complaint of the said Lala Arjan Das ?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : (a) The case has been thoroughly investigated but no clue of the culprit has yet been found.

(b) Yes. The persons suspected by the father of the boy were interrogated but no evidence could be secured against any of them. Efforts are still being made to trace the murderer. The father did complain of negligence on the part of the police, but the report was without foundation.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BUND ON BEYEN NEAR VILLAGE NALSIAN IN
NAKODAR TAHSIL.

***7758. Mian Abdul Rab :** With reference to the interim reply given to my starred question No. 7604, asked on 10th March, 1941, will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the answer to this question is ready ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The answer to question 7604 is as follows. :—

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No proceedings under the Legislative Assembly Act were taken by the Revenue Officer concerned through an oversight. The bund was constructed for the benefit of the villagers and they have all since agreed to give this land free of compensation to District Board.

(d) No.

INSTITUTION OF CASES BY THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY IN LAW COURTS.

***7777. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases instituted in law courts by the Administrator, Lahore Municipality, since the appointment of the first Administrator ;

(b) the amount spent on these cases ; and

(c) the number of cases won ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) 246 cases up to the 1st April, 1941.

(b) Rs. 11,670-10-6.

(c) 210 (including 19 which were partly successful).

SUBSTANTIVE PAY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

***7778. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the substantive pay of the Administrator, Lahore Municipality ;

(b) the pay including the allowances that the present Administrator is now drawing;

(c) the pay and allowances he is drawing as Chairman, Lahore Improvement Trust, apart from those mentioned in (b) above?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) Rs. 1,200 per mensem plus £25 per mensem overseas pay in the senior time-scale of the Indian Civil Service;

(b) (i) Rs. 1,200 per mensem plus £25 per mensem overseas pay in the senior scale of the Indian Civil Service;

(ii) Rs. 296-10-0 per mensem as special pay;

(iii) Rs. 100 per mensem conveyance allowance; and

(iv) Rs. 150 per mensem house-rent allowance.

(c) Half of the pay including overseas pay and house-rent allowance, but excluding the fixed conveyance allowance is recovered from the Lahore Improvement Trust.

SINKING OF WELLS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY IN VILLAGES.

***7720. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that provision was made for the sinking of wells for the improvement of water supply for drinking in the villages in the province in the Budget for 1939-40 and 1940-41; if so, the number of wells actually sunk during these two years and the amount actually spent for the purpose for which it was provided out of the total provision?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : Yes; provision was made and work is in progress on 78 wells. Rs. 58,891 have so far been spent.

CANVASSING FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, HOSHIARPUR.

***7761. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur district, has recently issued any circular to Tahsildars, Lambardars and Zaildars of the above-mentioned district calling upon them to work for the admission of students to the Government College at Hoshiarpur which is shortly going to be raised to the position of a degree college; if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : A letter was addressed by the Deputy Commissioner to the District Board and the District Soldiers Board anticipating their appreciation of the decision of Government to raise the Government Intermediate College, Hoshiarpur, to the degree standard and asking them to show their gratitude by giving their support to the Institution. The letter was endorsed to Tahsildars, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies and the District Inspector of Schools, Hoshiarpur. No circular to Zaildars and Lambardars was issued.

COLOURING OF VEGETABLE PRODUCT.

***7765. Mr. P. H. Guest :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the colouring matter Oil Orange 'E' prescribed under the Colourization of Ghee Act for the colouring of "vegetable product" is a colour made from coal tar;
- (b) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, whether the Public Health authorities have advised him that the quantity of colour prescribed is harmless to health?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Mr. P. H. Guest : Since the answer is "yes" in both the cases, will the Honourable Minister kindly explain or reconcile that statement with this Gazette Notification in which it is stated that colours made from coal tar must not be used in cooked food?

Minister : What notification is the honourable member referring to?

Mr. P. H. Guest : It refers to the mixing of colours in cooked food.

Minister : I would require notice.

IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUNJAB UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE REPORT.

***7721. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the steps which Government have so far taken to implement the recommendations of the Punjab Unemployment Committee Report; and if no such step has been taken so far to relieve unemployment in the province, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : A statement showing the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Punjab Unemployment Committee, is laid on the table.

Those recommendations of the Punjab Unemployment Committee which have been or are being implemented.

*Recommendations Nos. 2 and 3.—Measures to check destruction of culturable soil by chos or river action.—*With the creation of the Anti-Erosion Circle of the Forest Department everything possible is now being done in this direction. The process of soil conservation is necessarily lengthy and involves the close co-operation of the people concerned. Efforts are being made to obtain this in various ways; but, as in all such cases, rapid progress cannot be expected.

*Recommendation No. 11.—Provide one Agricultural Assistant and two Mukaddams in each tahsil to do demonstration and propaganda work.—*There are 114 tahsils in the province and on the basis of one Agricultural Assistant and two mukaddams per tahsil, 114 Agricultural Assistants and 228 mukaddams are required. At the time of the Report of the Unemployment Committee there were 88 permanent Agricultural Assistants and 146 permanent mukaddams for district work, thus leaving a shortage of 26 Agricultural Assistants and 82 mukaddams. Since then half that shortage has been provided by Government.

Recommendation No. 13.—Greater publicity of the work of the Department of Agriculture through the Information Bureau and the Department of Rural Reconstruction. The Department continues to supply information through these sources, to as great an extent as possible.

Recommendation No. 15.—Crop planning.—The Department of Agriculture and the district officers are carrying intensive propaganda to make people grow the best crops and the best varieties of those crops for each area.

Recommendation No. 17.—Measures to encourage bee-keeping, sericulture and poultry farming.—The Departments of Agriculture and Industries are taking keen interest in these matters.

Recommendation No. 19.—Survey of wool producing centres in the province.—The matter is receiving attention in connection with the industrial survey of the province now in progress.

Recommendation No. 20.—Promotion of sheep breeding.—Sheep breeding units have been established in different parts of the province. The Veterinary Department organises demonstrations in high class sheering. The marketing staff is advised to organise demonstrations in grading up of wool.

Recommendation No. 21.—Intensive campaign of "better cattle" propaganda.—Herd Book and pedigree registration schemes for the Haryana Cattle and Nurrah buffaloes are being taken up shortly. Side by side with the providing of approved bulls for breeding purposes, the inferior male stock and scrub bulls are being eliminated by whole-sale castrations throughout the province.

Recommendation No. 22.—Legislation to prevent adulteration of ghee.—The Punjab Pure Food (Amendment) Act, 1940, forbids the sale of artificial ghee unless it has been given the prescribed colour.

Recommendation No. 24.—Promote increase of areas under gardens by supply of nursery plants.—Steps have been taken to further increase the departmental supply of reliable fruit nursery plants and the number sold annually is steadily increasing. The supply is now further enhanced by the activities of the Fruit Development Board which has started fruit tree nurseries under its own auspices and has already begun to issue plants.

Recommendation No. 25.—Establishment of a wholesale Fruit market at Lahore.—The Lahore Municipality proposes to establish a wholesale fruit market at Lahore at a cost of about Rs. 4 lakhs and a site near the Lahore Railway Station has been obtained for the purpose.

Recommendation No. 26.—Development of Fruit Preservation Industry.—Much has been done to develop the fruit preservation industry since the Unemployment Committee reported and considerable progress has resulted.

Recommendation No. 29.—Special study of fruit industry as a part of four years' course at the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur.—Students are now permitted to specialise in horticulture by taking it both as a major subject for the B.Sc. (Agri.) degree and as a subject of research for the M.Sc. (Agri.) degree.

[Minister for Finance.]

Recommendation No. 32.—Extra allowance of water for irrigation to fruit gardens.—The proposed extra allowance of irrigation water for fruit growing has been granted.

Recommendation No. 38.—Regulation of weights and measures.—A draft bill to establish standards of weights and measures is before the Assembly.

Recommendation No. 48.—Suggestions for promoting compulsory primary education.—The Punjab Primary Education Act, 1940, meets the object.

Recommendation No. 52.—Legislation to secure compulsory registration of all medical practitioners whatever.—The committee appointed to consider the question of registration of hakims and vaidas has submitted its report to Government in the Medical Department. The recommendations of the Committee are being considered.

Recommendation No. 53.—Stopping of obscene advertisement in municipal and rural areas.—The Punjab Suppression of Indecent Advertisement Bill has been passed by the Assembly.

Recommendation No. 55.—Suggestions regarding realisation of fees from in-door patients in hospitals and dispensaries.—Charges are recovered from patients admitted in Private and Family Wards. Reasonable charges for Ex-Ray and Laboratory work in Government hospitals leviable from well-to-do patients have also been prescribed.

Recommendation No. 56.—Prohibition on opening and maintenance of private hospitals and nursing homes by Government doctors directly or indirectly.—Government medical officers are prohibited to maintain or to have a direct financial interest in Nursing homes, private hospitals or similar establishments.

Recommendation No. 58.—Appointment of private physicians and surgeons to Government hospitals in an honorary capacity.—Government have agreed to the appointment of eight private medical practitioners as honorary medical officers in district headquarters hospitals in the Punjab. Each medical officer will hold office for a period of one year.

Recommendation No. 59.—Acceptance of certificates from members of the independent medical profession without the formality of a countersignature by a Government doctor.—The practice of countersigning all medical certificates for sick leave given by registered medical practitioners has been discontinued.

Recommendation No. 60.—Spreading of medical aid in rural areas by subsidising private practitioners.—Eighty-three subsidised dispensaries have been established in the Punjab. It is proposed to open 39 more such dispensaries during the current year.

Recommendation No. 62.—Appointment of private medical practitioners as Health Visitors for schools.—It is proposed to appoint a staff of whole-time medical officers for medical inspection of school children both in urban and rural areas and to try the scheme in one district only, viz., Ludhiana.

Recommendation No. 78.—Practical training in business firms for graduates of the Hailey College of Commerce.—The principal of the College is able to arrange for such training for the B. Com.'s in Government and business offices.

Recommendation No. 79.—Immediate industrial survey by a committee of experts with a view to establish large scale State industries.—A systematic survey of the Province is in progress.

Recommendation No. 83.—Manufacture of machinery.—The manufacture of machinery and the development of metal industry have received the attention of the Department of Industries. The special metal institutes at Ambala and Sialkot provide training in the production of small engines, etc. The Industrial Schools at Gujranwala, Jhang and Ludhiana specialise in tool making, lock making and hosiery machinery. A metallurgist has been appointed to advise these schools and industrialists.

Recommendation No. 88.—Establishment of Pottery industry.—A Central Pottery Agency has been set up for the improvement of the pottery industry. The Agency, it is hoped, will ameliorate the conditions of the potters.

Recommendation No. 89.—Appointment of a committee to survey the establishment of small scale industries.—A systematic survey of the Province is in progress.

Recommendation No. 90.—Grant of small loans aggregating Rs. 20,000 a year for five years to suitable young men with adequate scientific training or practical experience to promote establishment of minor industries.—Government have gone a step forward. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned as grants-in-aid (not loans) during the last year to help the educated unemployed in setting up small industries. An equal amount has been provided in the budget for the year 1941-42.

Recommendation No. 92.—Experimental scheme for industrial research.—The Department of Industries provides necessary facilities for industrial research at various institutions under its control. A special Research Fund has been created with a capital of Rs. 1,50,000 to subsidise industrial research systematically.

Recommendations Nos. 95 and 96.—Increase in the number of industrial marketing adviser—appointment of expert advisers to organise marketing.—Besides the marketing organisations connected with the cotton and woollen industries, the Department of Industries has two marketing officers to help the industrialists of the province. The Arts and Crafts Depot provides facilities to cottage workers to market their products. Lastly, a commercial section has been added to the Marketing Organisation, Amritsar, with a working capital of Rs. 50,000 in order to make the organisation more helpful to the weavers.

Recommendation No. 100.—Establishment of a Provincial Stores Department.—The Provincial Stores Purchase Department started functioning in 1939 and is fast establishing its usefulness.

Recommendations Nos. 112 and 113.—Legislation to secure proper hours of work in shops, private offices, etc., and to secure a fortnight's leave on full pay during a full working year to employees in private offices, etc.—The Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, meets the object.

Recommendation No. 115.—All Government servants who have either attained the age of 55 years or completed 25 years' service to be retired.—Orders have been issued for the retirement of officials who have completed 25 years qualifying service, on the ground of inefficiency, etc.

[Minister for Finance.]

Recommendation No. 181.—Appointment of music teachers and professors to schools and colleges as an experimental measure.—The University of the Punjab maintains a list of approved instructors, both for vocal and instrumental Indian Music to teach in girls' colleges.

SUPERSESSION BY CHAUDHRI PARTAP SINGH IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT, AMBALA.

***7726. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Partap Singh recently promoted to the post of a clerk in the office of the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Ambala, has been allowed to supersede a number of his seniors possessing better academic qualifications; if so, the exact number of such persons and also the reasons for the supersession?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : Chaudhri Partap Singh, Stock Assistant, on Rs. 25—1—35 of the Ambala division was promoted by the Superintendent of that division as a temporary clerk in the scale of Rs. 25—1—35/1½—50/2—60 in his office. By his promotion from the post of Stock Assistant to that of a clerk no supersession took place in the Ambala division.

POSTING OF BHAI DALIP SINGH IN PUNJAB VETERINARY COLLEGE.

***7727. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Bhai Dalip Singh who has been posted to the Punjab Veterinary College in place of Chaudhri Mam Chand had had any teaching experience; if not, the reasons why he has been selected to succeed Chaudhri Mam Chand;
- (b) whether the Principal of the college was consulted in regard to this change, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) No, but he has the necessary qualifications.

(b) No, as the arrangement was not considered a permanent one.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAUDHRI DALIP SINGH IN PLACE OF MUSHTAQ RAI IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES.

***7728. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Mushtaq Rai, who has passed the Intermediate examination of the Punjab University and who had worked in the office of the Director of Veterinary Services for about a year in a temporary vacancy of a clerk has recently been discharged to make room for one Chaudhri Dalip Singh who is only a matriculate; if so, the reasons for preferring the latter to the former?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : Yes. There were in 1939 three vacancies of clerks in the department which were ordered to be filled by allowing a vacancy each to a Muslim, a Sikh and a Hindu belonging

to statutory agricultural tribes. The vacancy reserved for a Hindu was filled by Chaudhri Matu Ram, B.A., a jat, but owing to illness, he proceeded on leave and ultimately died. In his vacancy one Mushtaq Rai, F.A., was appointed. As he was a non-agriculturist, it was decided to give the vacancy to an agriculturist and thus Mushtaq Rai had to be discharged. The vacancy was eventually filled by the appointment of Chaudhri Dalip Singh, Matric and a Hindu Jat who was already working in the office in a leave arrangement.

OWNERSHIP OF TREES ON SHAMILAT AND PRIVATE LAND IN MURREE AND KAHUTA.

***7739. Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the trees grown on the *shamilat* and private lands in Murree and Kahuta tahsils are not treated as the property of the owners of the lands but as that of Government ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) The sole object of Government in asserting this claim is to safeguard the interests of the people by effectively preserving the trees against indiscriminate felling and lopping which hasten denudation and endanger the stability of the hillsides.

GUZARA FOREST OFFICER.

***7740. Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed an officer on special duty as Guzara Forest Officer in the Rawalpindi district ;
- (b) if so, when the appointment was made ;
- (c) the total expenses involved by this appointment since the creation of this office in respect of (i) pay, (ii) travelling allowances of the officer in question and his establishment ;
- (d) the fund from which the officer and the establishment are paid ;
- (e) the duties entrusted to the officer and the arrangement that existed for carrying out of these duties before his appointment ;
- (f) the reasons, if any, for the creation of this post ;
- (g) the nature of the recommendations made in this respect by the committee appointed by the Government a few years ago under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. C. Garbett, Financial Commissioner ;
- (h) whether the permission of the above-mentioned officer is required for granting trees to the zamindars for private building purposes ;

[Ch. Mohd. Yasin Khan.]

- (i) the number of applications which were made by the zamindars during his tenure of office for the purposes mentioned in (h) ;
- (j) the number of applications accepted and the number of trees granted ;
- (k) the number of trees granted in each of the last three years ;
- (l) the number of trees sold by the officer during his time and the manner in which the proceeds have been utilized ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) Yes.

- (b) 1st April, 1939. Actually he took over charge on 26th April, 1939.
- (c) The total expenditure from the 1st April, 1939 to the 31st March, 1941, is as follows :—

	Rs.
Pay of Guzara Forest Officer.. ..	15,638
Pay of Establishment	3,089
Travelling Allowance of Guzara Forest Officer	1,817
Travelling Allowance of Establishment	1,142
Total	21,681

(d) Provincial Budget Head "7—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration—Forest Reserves and Grazing Lands."

(e) *First part.*—To assist the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, with the management and control of the Guzaras and to advise him in technical matters of administration.

Second part.—There was no such previous arrangement.

(f) and (g) As at (e) first part.

(h) No. For the convenience of right-holders this power has been delegated to the Tahsildar, Murree, and five Honorary Forest Naib-Tahsildars. The Guzara Forest Officer only assists the Deputy Commissioner in the control of grants made by these officers.

(i), (j) and (k) Information is being collected in this respect and will be supplied to the honourable member when complete.

(l) *First part.*—None. Under the Guzara Rules the Commissioner, Rawalpindi, is the sanctioning authority for the sale of trees. Seven hundred and seventy-two trees have been sold, however, since the appointment of the Guzara Forest Officer.

Second part.—The sale-proceeds were credited partly to the owners of the land from which the trees were sold and partly to the central and village Guzara Funds.

GRIEVANCES OF THE ZAMINDARS OF KAHUTA AND MURREE TAHSILS.

*7741. **Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a few years ago Government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. C. C. Garbett to go into the grievances of the zamindars of Murree and Kahuta tahsils regarding the forests;
- (b) whether Government has taken any action to redress the grievances of the zamindars in the light of the recommendations of the above-mentioned committee;
- (c) if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sardar Dasanulha Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Since the appointment of a Guzara Forest Officer, in accordance with the recommendation of the Punjab Government Forest Commission, 1937-38, considerable improvement has been effected in the management and control of the Guzaras to the direct benefit of the people.

By strict supervision much progress has been made in preventing the illicit export of wood from this area. Amendments have also been made in the agreements of forest contractors to minimize the possibility of misappropriating Guzara wood. Protection of trees has been organized through lambardars and grants to right-holders are also being controlled to reduce the likelihood of misuse or improper sale of timber. The result of these measures has been that the Guzara funds have benefited to the extent of about Rs. 8,900.

The disposal of right-holders' applications for trees required for building purposes has been expedited by entrusting the verifications of such applications to panchayats.

Village Guzara funds have been started and the villagers concerned will be associated with the expenditure of these funds.

The management of *shamilat* has been improved by partition of *shamilat* land in 83 villages of the Murree tahsil and one village of the Kahuta tahsil. The cost of this work was borne entirely by Government.

The acute economic problem of this area caused by the increased pressure on the land is receiving the attention of Government and the various departments of Government are endeavouring to discover what can be done both to enable the people to obtain a living and to arrest the erosion of the soil which has been going on for many years and thereby reducing the capacity of the area to support its population.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Is the Government aware of the fact that the post of Guzara Officer is very unpopular amongst the zamindars of that *ilaga*?

Minister : The Government has no such information. (*Hear, hear.*)

**GRANT OF EXTENSION IN SERVICE TO THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR
OF FORESTS.**

***7756. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the present Chief Conservator of Forests has been granted an extension of one year's service after the attainment of the age of 55 years ;

(b) if so, (i) whether it is usual to grant such extensions or whether some special reasons exist for granting him this extension ; and (ii) how much extra expense the Punjab revenues will have to bear on this account ;

(c) if there are some special reasons, what those reasons are ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) Special reasons existed. (ii) Rs. 7,740.

(c) Urgent demands of timber for war purposes from the department of Supply of the Government of India necessitated the setting up of a complicated organization which rendered it extremely inadvisable to make a change in direction at that stage. The present Chief Conservator of Forests was engaged, though on a more restricted scale, in similar operations during the last Great War and the Government did not wish to deprive themselves of his experience and energy. Moreover, both the permanent Conservators of Forests were on long leave, one of them being on leave preparatory to retirement and the other on leave to undergo an operation in the United Kingdom. Neither of them, was, therefore, available so that Government had to choose between granting an extension to the present Chief Conservator and appointing to that high rank a comparatively junior and officiating Conservator.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is it not contrary to the Government rules that no extension after 55 years should be given to anybody ?

Minister : Under the circumstances it was necessary that extension should be given.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is it not a fact that this gentleman was superseded ?

Minister : Which gentleman ?

Mian Abdul Aziz : The present incumbent.

Minister : No officer was superseded.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is it intended that he should be given further extension ?

Minister : What does the honourable member mean by present incumbent ?

Mian Abdul Aziz : I want to know whether my question is so ambiguous that the Honourable Minister does not understand it ?

Minister : If by present incumbent the honourable member means the present Chief Conservator of Forests, then there is no question of his being in any way superseded.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Not superseded; but I put the question whether it was contemplated that he should be granted an extension.

Minister : I fail to understand this supplementary question.

Mian Abdul Aziz : May I appeal through the Honourable Speaker whether the question is such that the Honourable Minister cannot understand it?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : May I know the causes for the failure to understand the question?

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

RAPID PROMOTIONS GIVEN TO FORESTER IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

***7757. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last two years or so a Forester, III grade, was promoted to the rank of Deputy Ranger, III grade; thus superseding not only the men in his own grade in the forest department but in the higher grades, i.e. I and II grades;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same man within less than a year was again given promotion from Deputy Ranger, III grade, to the rank of Forest Ranger, thus superseding all his seniors in the three grades of Deputy Rangers;

(c) if the answers to the above (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the name of that man, the number of those whom he superseded during his promotion in each grade, and also his special qualifications to justify this rapid promotion?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Mian Mohindra Singh II. He superseded 77 and 22 officials in the cadre of "Foresters" and "Deputy Rangers", respectively. He was appointed as a "Forester" on 20th January, 1932 and passed the Punjab Forest School in 1934. He was recommended for training at the Forest Rangers' College, Dehra Dun, in 1937 and again in 1938, but no seat could be made available for him. His work was considered of outstanding merit. Consequently in February, 1940 his name was submitted to the Public Service Commission who considered him suitable for promotion to the post of Forest Ranger in the Punjab Forest Department.

**TRADERS' CONFERENCE DECISION TO OPPOSE THE
PUNJAB MARKETING ACT.**

***7760. Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether Government is aware of the decision taken at the Traders Conference held at Lyallpur on the 30th March, 1941; with a view to setting at naught the Punjab Marketing Act; if so, what action does the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—Government is not prepared to take any action. The traders have had every opportunity to state their objections and to make their suggestions both when the notification under section 8 was issued and when the rules were published.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Has the Government realised by now that this Act is absolutely unworkable?

Minister : The Act is positively workable.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Has the Government made necessary arrangements for the zamindar to get proper price for his produce?

Minister : The Government will make perfect arrangements for all these things.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : When will the Government make this arrangement, because the wheat is already on hand?

Minister : The necessity has not yet arisen. When the necessity arises, the honourable member will see that the Government will make every possible arrangement in its minutest details.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Is the Honourable Minister aware that in mandis crops have been returned to villages? Has not the necessity arisen?

Minister : The Government has no such information.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I know whether the Government is prepared to give facilities for the realisation of land revenue if the crops are not sold?

Minister : When the necessity arises, the Government will do everything for the benefit of the poor peasants.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Will the Government let the zamindars of this province know as to the methods which they intend to adopt to tide over this temporary difficulty arising out of this crisis?

Premier : The Government hope that those people who are making this agitation will see reason and will not cause any damage to themselves and to the province.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Will the Government give some idea as to the arrangements that they intend to make?

Premier : When the Government enters into that particular phase then my honourable friend will know what action the Government is prepared to take.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is he aware of the fact that gaddas of gram crop coming to Hissar and Hansi mandis were returned to villages? Has no necessity arisen in those areas?

Premier : I am glad that they have gone back. The zamindars must also make sacrifices if they want us to stick to our principles.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Is the Government prepared to see that *ata* and *dal* for the poor does not go up in prices owing to this deadlock?

POLITICAL ABSCONDERS.

*7745. **Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state with reference to my starred question No. 7621 answered on the 20th March, 1941:—

(a) the number of those political absconders accused of participating in the Congress Satyagraha movement and also those who are triable under the Defence of India Act and Defence of India Ordinance, 1939;

(b) the number of those among them who have been arrested and also the number of those who are still at large?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): No persons accused of participating in the Congress Satyagraha movement is reported to have absconded. As regards the other classes of persons mentioned by the honourable member, information is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the advantages to be derived.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Sir, it is necessary for the Government to tell us of the political absconders triable under the Defence of India Act so that the public may be in a position to know them and hence not to give protection to them for which they are being harassed by the Government officials.

Premier : One of them is Mr. Subhas Bose whose name the honourable member must have read.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Will you please point out some Punjabi?

Premier : You want a Punjabi. Abdullah Safdar is one of them. Go and apprehend him. (Laughter.)

ARREST OF LALA JAGAT NARAIN AND OTHER SATYAGRAHIS IN
GWALMANDI, LAHORE.

*7754. **Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Lala Jagat Narain, B.A., President, City District Congress Committee, Lahore, Comrade Atash Pasruri, Virendra Bhushan, Rovel Chandar and Gajan Ram were arrested from a Congress Satyagraha meeting held in Gwalmandi near Amrit Electric Press on the 19th March, 1941; if so, the offence for which they were arrested;

(b) whether it is a fact that this gathering was declared unlawful by the Police, Deputy Superintendent, Police, present at the meeting and the loud speakers installed were also removed by the police; if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that no reasonable time was given to the public to disperse; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that these five persons were kept in *Zanana Havalat* in Gwalmandi Police Station and that Mr. Romesh Chandra, son of Lala Jagat Narain, was not permitted to see and hand over the food to his father and was turned out of the police station; if so, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Yes: Lala Jagat Narain, B.A. was arrested under Rule 38 read with Rule 121 of the Defence of India Rules; Comrade Atash Pasruri, Virendra Bhushan, Rovel Chandra and Gajan Ram were arrested under Rule 38 of the Defence of India Rules.

(b) Yes. The gathering was declared unlawful by the Deputy Superintendent of Police as there was every likelihood of a breach of the peace. The loud speakers installed were taken into possession as they were being used for the commission of an offence.

(c) *Part I.*—No.

Part II.—Does not arise.

(d) *Part I.*—Yes; because adequate accommodation elsewhere was not available.

Part II.—No; does not arise.

HOLIDAY FOR *URS* HAZRAT DATA GANJ BAKHSH.

*7767. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the local holiday for *Urs* Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh falling on the 19th March, 1941, was observed in the Government offices on the 18th March, 1941; if so, the reasons for observing the holiday a day earlier and the action intended to be taken in the matter in future?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): Local holidays are declared by the Deputy Commissioners. No representation was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, from the Sajjada Nashin of the Shrine or anybody else intimating that the *Urs* Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh would actually fall on the 19th of March, 1941, and not on the 18th March, 1941, as declared already.

TRANSFER OF PORTFOLIO OF INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT TO HON'BLE MINISTER FOR FINANCE.

*7771. **Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in the Assembly Chamber, during the discussion of the demand for Industries in the Budget for 1941-42, an opinion was expressed, which met with general approval, that the Industries portfolio should be transferred to the Honourable Minister for Finance;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present Minister in charge of Industries expressed his willingness and approval of the change.

(c) whether and when the portfolio of the Industries department is proposed to be given over to the Honourable Minister of Finance?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a), (b) and (c) The subject has already been entrusted to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Will the Honourable Minister for Finance please lay on the table of the House as soon as convenient some definite development programme for industries ?

Mr. Speaker : That is not a question.

**SARDAR CHANAN SINGH, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MIAN
IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN, M. L. A.**

***7787. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Chanan Singh, Personal Assistant to Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., the President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, is now suffering from eye trouble, if so, how and by whom he is being treated ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has lost in weight considerably since his arrest ; if so, how much and why and what is his general state of health at present ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Yes, he is suffering from chronic granular lids and is being treated by the medical Officer of the Central Jail, Montgomery.

(b) He has lost some weight since his arrest but accurate figures are not available. In any case, his present weight is 22 lbs. more than the normal standard and his general state of health is good.

HONORARY NAIB-TAHSILDARS IN RAWALPINDI.

***7742. Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether there are any honorary Naib-Tahsildars in Rawalpindi district ; if so, the nature of the duties they perform ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : *First part.*—Yes. There are five Honorary Forest Naib-Tahsildars in the Rawalpindi district.

Second part.—Those officers are entrusted with the duty of regulating the removal of timber from the Guzara Forests which, in practice, involves the responsibility of—

(a) inspecting and hammer-marking trees to be felled after the necessary permit has been granted.

(b) the seizing of property liable to confiscation under section 52 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and

(c) making arrests under section 64 of that Act.

ACREAGE RATE IN NILI BAR COLONY.

***7746. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the acreage rate which is realised in the Nili Bar Colony along with the fixed number of instalments ;

[S. Ajit Singh.]

(b) the total acreage rate paid by Messrs. B. C. G. A., Punjab, Limited, Khanewal, for a lot from 1930 to 1932 in the Nili Bar Colony and the rate at which payment was made?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) (i) *Perennial area*.—Rupees 3 per acre of the gross culturable area within the chakbandi if paid at once, or Rs. 4-4-0 if paid in 14 half-yearly instalments; the first 13 instalments being payable at the rate of annas five per acre and the 14th instalment at the rate of annas three per acre.

(ii) *Non-perennial area*.—Rupees 1-10-0 per acre of the gross culturable area within the chakbandi if paid at once, or Rs. 1-12-0 if paid in 14 half-yearly instalments of annas two each; the recovery being made with the land revenue for the Kharif harvest at the rate of annas four per acre per annum.

(b) *First part*.—Rupees 2,055-7-6 in kharif, 1929 and again Rs. 2,055-7-6 in rabi 1930.

Second part.—Rupees 0-8-6 per acre per harvest.

AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN LOWER BARI DOAB COLONY.

*7747. **Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Agricultural Farms in Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony allotted to public through private treaties on long leases as dairy farms and also conditions on which each of the farms at Jahania, Khanewal and Jahangirabad in Multan district have been leased out;

(b) the amount of revenue received by way of lease from each of these farms and the basis on which this amount has been fixed;

(c) whether Government have allotted or intend to allot such farms in Nili Bar Colony as well?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) *First part*.—One.

Second part.—There is no cattle breeding or dairy farm at Khanewal. Jahangirabad and Jahania cattle breeding farms are held on the conditions published with Punjab Government notifications Nos. 8515-C., dated the 27th November, 1935, and 1945-C., dated the 8th June, 1937, reproduced on pages 148-49 and 150-51 of the Punjab Colony Manual, 1938 edition, Supplement No. IV, —vide correction slips Nos. 21-C.M., dated the 22nd July, 1936 and 88, dated the 29th April, 1938.

(b) *First part*—

			Rs.
Sir Datar Singh's Dairy Farm	..	..	1,895
Jahangirabad Cattle Farm	..	..	9,044
Jahania Cattle Farm	..	..	8,508

These are the annual average figures of land revenue and *malikana*, but do not include water-rates and cesses. The assessment of land revenue is fluctuating from year to year.

Second part.—The amounts are recovered in accordance with the provisions contained in clause 8 of the statements of conditions referred to in part (a) above.

(c) No.

PAY OF GAUGE READERS.

***7766. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the maximum pay of a gauge reader (Pansal Nawisi in the Irrigation Department is Rs. 15 per mensem, the fixation of which is left to the discretion of the Superintending Engineers, as communicated to the General Secretary, Gauge Readers' Association, Lahore, by the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, in his letter No. 4296-97-Est. C., dated 10th March, 1938;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of the Gauge Readers in the Majitha Division of the Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle have so far been given the maximum pay of Rs. 15 per mensem even though some of them are on the eve of retirement; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether he will be pleased to state the names of the Gauge Readers in the said division and the community to which they belong, also giving against each the number of years of service put in by him and the pay each one of them is getting at present?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House.

INCONVENIENCE TO PRISONERS IN DISTRICT JAIL, SHAHPUR.

***7753. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that District Jail, Shahpur, mainly consists of tents;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the 8th and 9th March, 1941, the political prisoners in that jail were made to sleep in the tents in spite of the rains;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are only 4 latrines for 500 prisoners in that jail;

(d) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, what action does he contemplate taking to redress these grievances of the prisoners in the above-mentioned jail?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. I must repel the suggestion that tents do not afford protection from rain.

(c) No. The number of latrines is seven with 74 seats.

(d) A number of chappars and extra latrines and water taps are being provided.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

***7770. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct an inquiry into the affairs of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme ; if not, why not ;

(b) whether the persons responsible for the colossal waste of public money involved in the above-mentioned scheme have been suitably punished ; if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) In 1929 Government set up an Inquiry Committee, in accordance with a resolution of the Punjab Legislative Council, to review the progress of the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme during the construction stage. The Committee's report, published in 1930, was carefully considered by Government and such action as appeared suitable and necessary was taken. Government are fully aware of the working of the Scheme at present and of the possibilities of expansion, and do not consider it necessary to appoint another Committee of Inquiry for this purpose.

(b) No such recommendation was made by the Inquiry Committee of 1929-30 and Government cannot admit the assumption that there was wilful waste of public money in the construction of the first stage of the Scheme. It may be pointed out that the execution of the whole Scheme was contemplated in three stages. Certain works were erected at Jogindernagar and Brot on a scale which was considered necessary for the operation of the Scheme when all the three stages had been executed. For reasons which were not fully appreciated at the time when the Scheme was originally conceived, Government have decided not to proceed with the execution of the second and the third stages. It is now proposed to augment the supply of energy during the winter months by the installation of a Thermal Station so that full advantage may be taken of the vast quantity of Hydro-Electric power available in the summer months.

Government are satisfied that the Scheme is being operated at present as economically as possible.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS TO DISTRICT BOARDS FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION.

***7769. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the names of district boards to whom the additional grants for primary education (detailed on page 114 of

the volume of New Expenditure for 1941-42) will be made giving separately the amount of additional grants which will be given to schools where *Hindi* is the medium of instruction and further that which is proposed to be given to the Kangra District Board for the spread of education?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : I regret I am unable to answer the question until I have received the recommendations of the Inspectors and Inspectresses.

SUPERSESSION BY CHAUDHRI GELLA RAM, PERSONAL ASSISTANT
TO THE DIRECTOR, VETERINARY SERVICES.

***7730. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Gella Ram has been appointed Personal Assistant to Director of Veterinary Services, Punjab, in preference to a number of senior class II officers in the Veterinary Department possessing better academic and professional qualifications, if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : Yes, the appointment of Personal Assistant to the Director, Veterinary Services, Punjab, was made purely by selection in the interest of administration. The appointment of Personal Assistant carries no allowance, is not a promotion, and is mere transfer, and therefore question of seniority does not come in.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : What was the pay of Chaudhri Gella Ram on 1st April, 1937?

Minister : I require notice for that question.

GUZARA FUND.

***7743. Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether there is a *guzara* fund in the Rawalpindi district; if so, the manner in which it is utilized?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—The fund is spent for the benefit of the villagers concerned.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG COMPOSITORS IN GOVERNMENT
PRINTING, PUNJAB.

1426. Sardar Ajit Singh : With reference to the answer to unstarred question¹ No. 1104, asked on 4th April, 1940, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of compositors recruited since 1st January, 1941, community-wise;
- (b) whether before making the recruitment these posts were advertised and whether it was stated in the advertisement that a particular community was to be preferred in the recruitment; if so, which community;

[S. Ajit Singh.]

- (c) the present number of permanent compositors, community-wise ;
- (d) whether any precautions were taken to redress the grievances of the Sikhs who are under-represented in the department ; if not, why not ;
- (e) whether there are any posts of permanent compositors vacant at present ; if so, their number and the manner in which it is intended to fill up these vacancies ;
- (f) how many vacancies of Department Section Holders have been filled up community-wise after 4th April, 1940, and the share given in them to the Sikhs ?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :

(a) Muslims	..	..	..	..	7
Hindus	..	..	..	..	4
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2
					—
			Total	..	18
					—

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

(c) Muslims	..	..	..	..	59
Hindus	..	..	..	..	21
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2
					—
			Total	..	82
					—

(d) Government have prescribed the following percentages for the representation of various communities in the Printing Department, Punjab :—

	Per cent.
Muslims	50
Sikhs	20
Hindus and others including Scheduled castes and Indian Christians	30

The present inequalities can be redressed only through recruitment in future. The pace of recruitment will depend on the number of vacancies that occur from time to time.

(e) Yes ; three. The rule of practice is to promote men from the temporary establishment who have at least 10 years' continuous service to their credit. Seniority and merit are the determining factors for selection.

(f) One. A member of the Hindu community was appointed by departmental promotion in accordance with the principles referred to in (e) above.

Second part does not arise.

GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIPS BY INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT.

1427. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of scholarship-holders, community-wise, who are in receipt of scholarships from the Industries Department at present ;
- (b) whether there are any applications for grant of scholarships pending at present with the authorities of the Department of Industries ; if so, when these applications may be expected to be disposed of ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : I regret that I cannot undertake to collect this information as its collection would entail time and labour out of all proportion to the advantage to be gained therefrom.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS AMONG PROSECUTING SUB-INSPECTORS, INSPECTORS AND DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE.

1428. Mian Abdul Rab : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the percentage at present of each community in the cadre of Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors, Prosecuting Inspectors and Prosecuting Deputy Superintendents of Police in the province ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Muslims are under-represented in these posts ; if so, the action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana : (a) The following statement gives the required information :—

	Prosecuting Deputy Super- intendents of Police.	Prosecuting Inspectors.	Prosecuting Sub-Inspec- tors.
Muslims	22·2	24·4	37·5
Hindus	44·4	68·3	43·5
Sikhs	22·2	7·3	19·2
Indian Christians ..	11·2	..	..

(b) Yes, but appointments to the rank of Prosecuting Deputy Superintendent of Police and Prosecuting Inspector are made by the promotion of officers from the lower rank by selection tempered by seniority and not on communal basis. Recruitment in the rank of Prosecuting Sub-Inspector is made by the selection of the best available candidates without any consideration of the community to which they belong.

REPRESENTATION OF QANUNGOS IN THE JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

1429. Mian Abdul Rab : With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 7608, asked on 10th March, 1941, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether inquiries in this connection have been completed; and, if so, with what result?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

1430. Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of agriculturist and non-agriculturist clerks, community-wise, in the office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Punjab;
- (b) Is it a fact that there is no Hindu agriculturist in the office;
- (c) Is it a fact that the question of appointing an Assistant to the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Punjab, is under the consideration of Government;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government intends to appoint a Hindu agriculturist?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a)—

	AGRICULTURISTS.		NON-AGRICULTURISTS.	
	Permanent.	Temporary.	Permanent.	Temporary.
Hindus .. ..	..	..	3	1
Muslims	1	1*	..	..
Sikhs .. ..	..	..	1	..

(b) Yes. But these appointments were made some years ago.

(c) and (d) The appointment to the post of Assistant Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Punjab, has already been made on the advice of the Public Service Commission by the promotion of a non-agriculturist Hindu who was working as Companies' Clerk in the office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Punjab.

*Is holding an officiating vacancy for six months.

SPECIAL OFFICIAL RECEIVER.

1431. Sardar Lal Singh : With reference to the answer by the Honourable Minister of Finance to question No. 1932 by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava (*vide* Volume IV, page 492, of the Legislative Assembly Debates) that the term of the appointment of the Special Official Receiver expires on the first of June 1941, will he be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is necessary to engage a Special Official Receiver any longer ;
- (b) if so, whether any procedure has been laid down or rules framed for the selection of the person to be appointed ;
- (c) if so, whether these rules have been published ;
- (d) if not, when does the Government propose to publish them so as to enable the likely candidates to apply in time ?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) (b) (c) and (d) This matter has not yet been referred to Government by the High Court. It will receive due consideration when occasion arises.

— — — — —

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS,
ATTOCK DISTRICT.

1432. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some time ago a preliminary inquiry was ordered by Government against the present District Inspector of Schools, Attock district, into certain allegations against him ; if so, the nature of the allegations against the latter ;
- (b) the findings of the inquiring officer if the enquiry has been completed ;
- (c) the date on which the said inquiry was ordered ;
- (d) whether the report of the inquiring officer has so far reached the Director of Public Instruction ; if so, when and the action taken by him on the report ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that a deputation of leading men of the Attock district and another of the members of the District Board, Attock, recently waited on him and the Director of Public Instruction and made representations for the transfer of the District Inspector of Schools from the said district on which an assurance was held out to the deputationists that the officer will soon be transferred ;
- (f) whether he is aware that the Deputy Commissioner, Attock, also gave a similar assurance when some thirty members of the District Board, Attock, wanted to discuss the conduct of the said District Inspector of Schools by means of a "no confidence" motion in the District Board ; if so, the action so far taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : It is not in the public interest to reply to the question.

CHANGE OF DESIGNATION OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

1433. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that only recently the designation of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools has been changed to that of Assistant to Inspectors of Schools ; if so, the reasons which have led Government to change the designation ;
- (b) the privileges that the Deputy Inspector of Schools as such used to enjoy and the powers that were delegated to them ;
- (c) whether the designation of the two Deputy Inspectors of Schools for Rural Science has also been changed ; if not, the reasons for making the exception ?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : (a) Yes. For administrative convenience.

(b) None.

(c) No. It was not considered necessary.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

MOTOR VEHICLES STAND AT RAWALPINDI.

Sardar Ajit Singh : 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 failure of the Government to establish a general stand for public motor vehicles at Rawalpindi and not prohibiting the use of previous private unlicensed stands and causing thereby an unnecessary trouble to the public.

Mr. Speaker : The motion does not appear to be in order. May I ask one or two questions from the honourable member ? When did the Government fail to establish the general stand for public motor vehicles ? When should it have been established ?

Sardar Ajit Singh (Urdu) : According to law the Government was under an obligation to establish general stands by 1940 ; but it utterly failed to establish it.

Mr. Speaker : Please answer the question : when was the Government bound to establish it ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : I think it is only recently that the Government failed to establish the stand, and in fact it did not do the needful till yesterday.

Mr. Speaker : I hold that the motion is out of order.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, 24TH APRIL, 1941.

Premier : Sir, I move—

That Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 24th April, 1941.

I think I owe a little explanation to the House. You must have seen on the business paper yesterday that we had originally intended to take Wednesday for Government business, because we thought that it would be possible to finish the business by Wednesday so that Members could disperse to their homes without having to remain at Lahore unnecessarily; but subsequently I came to the conclusion that this session might last a little longer. Several members represented to me that we should not take up Wednesday if the session was likely to continue beyond Wednesday and we should not take up an off day. I agreed and therefore this technical motion has been necessary. I might also inform the House that I propose, with the approval of the Speaker and with the concurrence of my friends opposite, to bring forward one or two amendments to the Marketing Act which I think are necessary. For that reason it may be necessary to suspend the Rule, and allow the House to sit a few days longer. One amendment is with regard to future transactions, because we must make the position clear. Therefore I propose to bring forward an amendment on that point. Incidentally there are one or two other lacunæ in the Act which, I think, it might be as well to fill in now so as to avoid any difficulty later on. I hope my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will agree and that it will not be necessary for us to press the motion to the House, and with the approval of the Speaker I will take up the amendments as soon as they are ready. They are not ready and we have decided to put them off. As soon as we finish the business on the list the House will adjourn. As I have explained, we had originally intended to take up Wednesday: now we are not taking up Wednesday because we may have to continue for a few more days.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I know whether the Opposition will be allowed to move amendments to the Marketing Act?

Mr. Speaker : I will see that the Opposition is in no way treated unfairly.

Sardar Santokh Singh : For that, you will require notice and we shall not be able to give it.

Premier : If the amendments are relevant to the amendment that we move in the amending Bill, my honourable friends will be in order to ask the Chair to waive the rules about time, and I will not object in that case on the score of time.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I enquire from the Premier whether he will give us the next Thursday, because he promised to give us a non-official day at the end of the session.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 24th April, 1941.

The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Mr. Speaker : The House will proceed to elect the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh : I propose—

That Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh be the Deputy Speaker of the House.

Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann : I second the proposal.

Mr. Speaker : As there is no other proposal, I declare Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh duly elected as Deputy Speaker of the House.

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh : Sir, permit me to thank you, the Leader of the House, the Ministers and all the honourable members of the House. I thank them most sincerely for their kindness in electing me to this exalted office, and I request them that they will similarly help me to perform my duties as they have unanimously elected me.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : On behalf of the House I congratulate our colleague Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh on his election as Deputy Speaker of this House unanimously. Judging from his past work in this House and as Chairman occasionally, I am sure, that he will discharge his duties in accordance with the best tradition of his office. I congratulate him.

(At this stage Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh occupied the Deputy Speaker's seat amidst cheers.)

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : I present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill.

I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Can the report be presented and discussed the same day under the rules? It has been presented just now and we are asked to discuss it.

Secretary : The report was circulated to members ten days ago.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please read rule 96? The Honourable Minister's motion is in order.

Question is—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clauses 1 to 13.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 1 to 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 14.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural): Sir, I beg to move—

That in lines 6-7, between the words "instruments" and "at" the words "in all headquarter towns in the districts and" be inserted.

This amendment seeks to restore the omission in the Bill which the select committee has made. You know that this Bill purports to regulate weights and measures and impose certain kinds of penalties on persons who do not keep proper weights and measures or other instruments. Now in the Bill as originally presented, the Provincial Government took upon itself the liability as given in clause 14, which reads—

The Provincial Government shall provide proper and sufficient means for verifying, adjusting and stamping weights and measures and weighing or measuring instruments in all headquarter towns in the districts and at such other places as the Provincial Government may determine.

Now the clause as it has emerged from the select committee takes away the liability of the provincial Government to provide such means for verification, adjustment and stamping weights and measures and other instruments in all headquarter towns. The clause now runs as follows:—

The Provincial Government shall provide proper and sufficient means for verifying, adjusting and stamping weights and measures and weighing or measuring instruments at such other places as the Provincial Government may determine.

This legislation is being passed not only in respect of towns but also in respect of remote villages. A village may consist of 10 or 12 hamlets and there too these instruments require to be regulated and it is an offence to maintain and keep the instruments which are not stamped with the necessary Government stamp. The original clause laid down that the Government, in order to facilitate the proper stamping, shall keep some person at least at the headquarter towns. That means that the Government could keep such persons to regulate these instruments not only at the district headquarters but also at the tahsil headquarters and other places. At any rate it would have been necessary to keep them at the district headquarters so that any person who was doubtful as to the accuracy of his weights and measures could go and verify. This was a very necessary provision and I do not know why the select committee has made this change. Now supposing the Government did not provide such facilities at the headquarter towns, but only provided them at the five divisional towns. What an amount of inconvenience and trouble this would cause to a man who lived in a remote village and who wanted to verify his seer or his tola, if he is a goldsmith or a yard if he is a clothier or a weaver. Suppose he lived in a remote village in the Multan district or Jhang district, would he have to come to Multan or Lahore in order to have his instrument verified? The original provision was very necessary and I do not know the reason why the select committee has omitted it. It is necessary in the interests of the efficient working of the Act itself. If you make facilities for proper verification of the measures people would readily avail themselves of those facilities. Otherwise it would be very hard for a man who lives at a distance of 400 miles

R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.

from the nearest headquarter town where such facilities are provided, to come and get his measures verified. So the original provision in the Bill was a reasonable one and there must at least be one such centre in each headquarter town, if not at each tahsil headquarter. I find that in the Bill as it has emerged from the select committee, this very necessary provision has been knocked out and I should like to know the reasons for the same.

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

That in lines 6-7, between the words "instruments" and "at" the words "in all headquarter towns in the districts and" be inserted.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South West Punjab, Sikh, Rural), (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the amendment that has been moved by my honourable friend, Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri, is not only very important but also is of a technical nature to which, I think, Government should have no objection. Besides, my submission is that Government should provide standard weights and measures in all district, tahsil and sub-tahsil headquarters and, if possible, in all post offices as well so that people should not have to undertake long journeys for the purpose of getting their weights and measures standardized. Some districts are so very big that the people residing in it will have to incur a good deal of expenditure before they can go to a place where they can get their weights and measures standardized. For instance there is a town Burewala 84 miles from Multan in the Multan district. The zamindars of this village will have to incur expenses to the amount of 8 or 10 rupees for getting their weights and measures standardized. Now in order to save them from unnecessary expenditure and trouble it would be well if Government take steps to provide standard weights and measures in the headquarters of all districts, tahsils, sub-tahsils and, if possible, in all the post offices as well. This is in short very important amendment and I hope the Honourable Minister would see his way to accept it.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, there was no intention on the part of the select committee to place any obstacles in the way of business people. All that the select committee wanted was that there should be facilities for checking and verifying weights and measures at as many places as possible. The expression "only headquarter towns" was regarded as a little ambiguous. It was felt that it might refer to the headquarters of districts only, or it might refer to headquarters of tahsils. The intention of the select committee was to afford as many facilities for the purpose of checking and verifying as possible. The word "other" should not really have occurred in the wording of clause 14 as it appears now. It is not in accordance with the amendment which was suggested by the select committee. If we omit the word "other" as it stands in the body of the clause now it will meet the objection which Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri has in view. But if he thinks that it would be more useful to have the original wording of the clause restored, I have absolutely no objection.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Have the original wording.

Minister : I accept the amendment.

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

That in lines 6-7 between the words "instruments" and "at" the words "in all headquarter towns in the districts and" be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 14 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 15—17.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 15 to 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 18.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I have to amend my amendment a little. I want the words to be inserted to read "after sunrise and before sunset."

Mr. Speaker : That is not the motion as originally worded.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Then let it be "during working hours." It will save the inconvenience to the public and there will not be much fuss about it in future. Let the wording be "at all reasonable times during working hours." I hope the Honourable Minister will accept it, because it would save any fuss in the future.

Mr. Speaker : I allow the honourable member to move his amendment in the amended form.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1), line 3, between the word "times" and the sign "," the words "after sunrise and before sunset" be inserted.

This will be convenient to the public as well as the officers.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration amendment moved is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 3, between the word "times" and the sign "," the words "after sunrise and before sunset" be inserted.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : We have stuck to the expression "at all reasonable hours" in all the Bills which have come up for discussion before this House. This expression also occurs in other Acts such as the Excise Act. Therefore while there is no intention of inspectors being allowed to enter premises at unreasonable hours, I do not think it is worthwhile to change the well-known and well-understood wording. I can give an assurance to the honourable member that every precaution will be taken that unreasonable hours are not selected by inspectors for entering business premises or other premises under this Act.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 3, between the word "times" and the sign "," the words "after sunrise and before sunset" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : My next amendment again needs a little amendment. I seek your permission to move—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 7-8 the words "or are in the possession of any person" be omitted.

There is reason for moving this. In our own houses we use many other things than these certified weights as *wattas* and I do not want that these small zamindars with three kanals or two marlas of land should be made to go all the way to district headquarters to buy a small weight, because he wants to feed his own cattle and has to weigh three seers of gram. Why should he incur all this unnecessary expenditure? Therefore, if these words are omitted a great hardship would be removed from the zamindars.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 7-8, the words "or are in the possession of any person" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 19.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I beg to move—

That in line 1, between the word "not" and the sign " , " the words "either personally or collusively" be inserted.

The intention is that nobody should make any profits, because he holds that position. He can make profits through somebody else and if he is found that he is making profits collusively he should not be allowed. He should in no case make any profits because of his official position.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member's position is not quite clear.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I need not press it.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 19 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 20—24.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 20 to 24 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 25.

Sir William Roberts (European) : I beg to move—

That in lines 6—10, for the words "with imprisonment.....both", the words "with a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with imprisonment which may extend to three months for failure to pay the fine" be substituted.

I know how much everyone in this province welcomes the introduction of this Bill. It must be remembered that anyone prosecuted under this Act is bound to suffer tremendously in his business and it seems to me that imprisonment is going to be a very very severe penalty and my object in this

amendment is to mitigate the hardship in the way the Act is carried out. Prosecution alone is a serious penalty and there is surely no need for such drastic action as imprisonment. There are then two ways in which a man can break the law under this measure without being legally guilty. For example if he has got a spring balance, he can be prosecuted under this law for possessing a spring balance. Then again we have got machines for weighing human beings and produce, generally these machines are used for the sake of convenience, they will come under this Act. And you can imprison a man for possessing these machines. I, therefore, suggest the Honourable Minister to accept my amendment. The object of the Honourable Minister will be achieved without causing undue hardship.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, the amendment moved is—

That in lines 6—10, for the words “with imprisonment.....both,” the words “with a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with imprisonment which may extend to three months for failure to pay the fine” be substituted.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, the object of my amendment is practically the same, and I would like to support the amendment of my honourable friend Sir William Roberts. There should be no imprisonment, the punishment of fine would do. The people for the first time should be given an opportunity to understand the law and to comply with its provisions. And afterwards, if it is found necessary to enhance the punishment, it can be done later on.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, the honourable member who has moved this amendment has entirely misunderstood the meaning of this clause. He says, suppose I happen to have a faulty balance with me without my knowledge of its being faulty and without any intention on my part to do any harm to anybody there-with, I may be punished and sentenced to an imprisonment of three months. He is entirely wrong. Here the words used are—

Whoever fraudulently uses any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, shall, on conviction, be punishable.....

Under this section it is the fraudulent use of any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument which is punishable. It is not mere use, but fraudulent use which is punishable. Therefore, this amendment has no force in it.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in lines 6—10, for the words “with imprisonment.....both,” the words “with a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with imprisonment which may extend to three months for failure to pay the fine” be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 26 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 26.

Sir William Roberts (European) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in lines 4—6, the words “or weighing or measuring instrument” be omitted

[Sir William Roberts.]

Again, Sir, my object in moving this amendment is to remove undue hardship to the house-wives, who generally use weighing instruments and spring balances. If you would refer to the Clause, it says—

Whoever makes, sells or disposes of or causes to be made, sold or disposed of any weight or measure.....

There are manufacturers who live on making spring balances and there are persons who use them for domestic or professional purposes. There are persons who for the sake of convenience use these spring balances. In England house-wives generally use spring balances for their domestic use. I do not see any reason why those who use these spring balances for private use should come under this law.

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

That in lines 4—6, the words "or weighing or measuring instrument" be omitted.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, I see no reason in the amendment. When a man who uses false weights and measures knowingly is sentenced to imprisonment, why should a man who manufactures and provides false weights and measures, or disposes them of or sells them knowing them to be false be treated differently? In a way such a person will be more at fault than the man who uses them.

Sir William Roberts : It means that any shopkeeper who sells spring balances whether they are meant for weighing human beings, or for any other harmless purpose is liable to prosecution.

Minister for Revenue : Yes, if he knows them to be false.

Sir William Roberts : Every spring balance is false. Spring balances are used everywhere in this country. They take little space. In the railways spring balances are used though they are illegal. They are used for the sake of convenience. There are people who want them.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That in lines 4—6, the words "or weighing or measuring instrument" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I beg to move—

That in line 8, for the word "rigorous," the word "simple" be substituted.

My amendment has become all the more necessary because the previous amendment of Sir William Roberts has not been accepted. That was a necessary amendment. Considering all the circumstances of the case it is necessary that the word "rigorous" should be deleted and for it the word "simple" be inserted, though I feel that even simple imprisonment would be too much according to my ideas because in the first instance I would allow him to go scot-free, that is, I will let him go away with a warning and if the offence is repeated, then there should be simple imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in line 8, for the word "rigorous," the word "simple" be substituted.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I find that the Bills which are generally introduced in this Assembly are copied from similar Acts elsewhere. There is nothing wrong about it, but I should like to know from the Honourable Minister of Revenue, if he would take the House into confidence,

as to the Act or Bill from which this draft of our Bill has been copied so that one may be quite sure that the provision that is made here in Section 26 follows some model. An imprisonment is imprisonment and if the expression here were punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, it will be open to a court to award simple imprisonment or rigorous imprisonment because the word "imprisonment" includes imprisonment of every description whether simple or rigorous. What I wish to know is whether the restriction of the words "rigorous imprisonment" is the result of the imagination of my honourable friend the Minister for Revenue or has he got any model. In all legislations of this type the punishment provided is usually a fine.

Minister for Public Works : میرے ذہن میں تو ایسا ہے

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : May I know if he has copied it from some other Act ?

Minister for Public Works : Bombay Act. I have said so.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I have every reason to accept your statement, but I am just asking him this question. After all self-respect even of a Minister is not wounded slightly by replying to the queries of a member who may unfortunately be sitting on the opposition benches. The object of putting this question is merely to facilitate this discussion and the reason is, did it arise out of his particularly keen desire to be as hard as possible on persons who have to deal with weights or measures or has he got any precedent in support of it ? I wish to know that. But the Honourable Minister of Revenue is mum and I have to proceed on the assumption that it is again a piece of legislation to which he has not given much thought and about which he is not open to any argument. That is what his attitude amounts to. I merely wish, through you, to ask the Honourable Minister of Revenue if he can let us know that. If he is not prepared to do that, then I withdraw all that I have said.

Minister for Revenue : There is no reason why Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri should withdraw anything that he has said. If he only wants information, then I am prepared to give that information. This Bill is modelled on the Bombay Act. I am not in a position to swear that no word has been changed or omitted or added here and there. But if any word has been changed, omitted or added, it has not been done at my instance. Therefore, I do not remember. Most probably there has been no interference on the part of the Law Department of the Punjab Government. But I have no personal knowledge whether the word "rigorous" has been smuggled into it or whether it occurs in the original model on which this Bill is based. But I presume that the word "rigorous" occurs also in the Bombay Act and the reason is plain. In some cases the mere possession of false weights and measures is punishable. The use of false measures and weights is also punishable and punishable with imprisonment of either kind. A man who trades in, who manufactures false weights and measures, who supplies them to others, or who derives benefit from the trade of making or disposing of false measures is, I believe, a good deal more to blame than the person who uses it or who merely has a false weight or measure in his possession. Therefore, this word must have been deliberately added here and has come to us from the Bombay Act.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in line 8, for the word "rigorous," the word "simple" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 26 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 27.

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

That in line 1, between the words "sells" and "any," the words "or buys" be inserted.

Sir, I have moved this amendment in view of the difficulties which petty zamindars will have to face under this measure. In fact I see no reason in compelling a petty zamindar having only two kanals of land in his possession to keep the same weights or measures which a millionaire trader in cities will be asked to keep. Let me point out what the clause, as it stands, means. It means that if a dealer goes to some village with his own weights and buys some commodity there and later on those weights are found defective and objectionable the brunt will fall on the seller and not on the buyer. Would it not be an injustice done to simple-hearted zamindars who generally sell their grain to a dealer? For instance a sahukar comes to my village and asks me to sell some wheat, say ten seers. As the weights made of stone, available in villages, are considered to be no way less than the weights made of iron, I give him ten seers of wheat. The weights, later on, are found defective why should I be convicted on that score and not the buyer who is rather more responsible than I? My point is that in villages petty zamindars cannot afford and will not be able to afford to have the standard and stamped weights or authorised measures. In cities the case is quite different and therefore we do not object to the Government making such provisions in the Bill so far as transactions made in towns are concerned. As a matter of fact, a trader in cities deals with several lakhs of maunds of commodity and if he uses false weights he must be punished for that offence. But it is no justice to beat everybody with the same stick. This clause, I would submit, must be applicable to both the seller and the buyer in case the Government is not willing to exclude the seller from the penalty. In this way a petty zamindar would be saved from being adversely affected by this clause. Nobody can deny this fact that a sahukar purchases wheat from villages and sells it in towns and if my amendment is not accepted it would mean that the zamindars in villages from whom sahukar buys wheat will fall victim to this hard provision despite the fact that their weights made of stone are equal in weight to the standard weights. Sir, if this is a measure really to protect the zamindar from a dishonest sahukar then why force every zamindar to keep these weights and measures. This clause is much hard for the petty zamindars of this province, I must, therefore, say that it should be modified.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in line 1, between the words "sells" and "any," the words "or buys" be inserted.

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural), (*Punjabi*): Sir, I whole-heartedly support the amendment put forward by my honourable friend Mian Nurullah. I consider it extremely necessary in the interests of the poor zamindars who would be put to great hardship if it is rejected. Just imagine, Sir, how can the poor illiterate zamindars who sell ghee at their houses in the villages, can afford to keep authorised or standard weights. They are not dishonest people. They sell commodities like ghee with weights which are even much better than those used by the traders in the towns. Under this Section they would be penalised for no fault of theirs. I am of the opinion that this clause should be made applicable equally to the seller as well as the buyer. If the buyer wants to purchase certain articles from the zamindars it should be made obligatory upon him to bring his own standard weights so that the innocent and the indigent zamindar may not come to any harm. With these words I urge upon the Honourable Minister the desirability of accepting this useful amendment.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*): Sir, I fail to understand what yeoman's service my honourable friend Mian Nurullah desires to render to the zamindars by putting forward this amendment? It is clearly laid down in the clause under consideration that whoever sells an article by weights and measures other than the standard or authorised ones, shall be punishable with fine. Now the contention of my honourable friend is that the buyer who makes purchases with unauthorised weights should also be penalised. This is ridiculous on the face of it. How can the buyer know that the seller is using unauthorised weights and is duping him? Is it the intention of Mian Sahib that if an innocent zamindar goes to a town to purchase certain articles, he should be hauled up on the ground that he was guilty of buying those articles with unauthorised weights? Obviously we should be doing him a grave injustice in a case of this character. So my honourable friend's position is untenable. Perhaps he has moved this amendment at the instance of some interested persons. I may assure him that the clause, as it stands, would in no way prove detrimental to the interests of the zamindars. I, therefore, consider this amendment unnecessary.

Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah (Attock South, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah. It is a very useful amendment on the face of it as its object is to deal equally with seller and buyer. It means that when a seller is considered to be liable for punishment on account of selling any article by any denomination of weight or measure other than the standard weights why should not the buyer be considered guilty of the offence of using unauthorised weights. The treatment should be equal as both the seller and the buyer are guilty of the same offence.

It goes without saying that dealers go to the houses of zamindars and buy grains and other commodities with heavier weights and so naturally give them lesser money. For instance if they have to purchase 90 maunds of cotton they would get 100 maunds of cotton by using false weights. By this foul play the zamindars stand to lose much. Therefore, I am of the opinion that dealers should carry genuine weights along with them while going to villages for buying commodities from zamindars so that they may

[Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah.]

not get 100 maunds of grains instead of 90 maunds from the latter. But it is very regrettable that the present clause as it stands, means that if a dealer by hook or crook gets 100 maunds instead of 90 maunds and pays the price for 90 maunds to the zamindar no one can ask him to explain. Now let us see that in such cases who would be considered guilty? The poor zamindar, the seller. No punishment has been provided for the fraudulent and dishonest buyer.

If the Honourable Minister in charge pays a little attention to it he would realise that this matter does not concern a big zamindar but it deeply concerns a petty zamindar. The fact is that a *bania* goes to villages for buying grains and carries along with him false weights as I have already submitted and he does buy grains there by using those false weights. How strange it is that no punishment has been provided for such a dishonest *bania*.

Sir, I am sure if this amendment is accepted the fraudulent buyer would be punished for his faults and the brunt of all this omission and commission would not fall on the poor zamindar who is, in most cases, found to be innocent. I am, therefore, perfectly confident that if this clause is amended as my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has suggested, it would become more useful than it is now.

With these few words, Sir, I lend my strong support to the amendment moved by my friend Mian Sahib.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in line 1, between the words "sells" and "any," the words "or buys" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 27 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 28.

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

That at the end, the words "provided the weight or measure is found to be incorrect" be added.

Sir, this clause is also hard enough for the zamindars. If a zamindar sells wheat or grain by genuine weights why should he be punished for mere possession of unauthorised weights or measures which he does not use for trade purposes. It would not be wrong if I say that the number of penalties provided in the Bill is so large that it has defeated the very object of the Bill. I submit that if a zamindar sells some commodity honestly and accurately why should he be punished for an offence which he has not committed? He must be given freedom in that respect. With these few words, Sir, I move my amendment.

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

That at the end, the words "provided the weight or measure is found to be incorrect" be added.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu): Sir, my honourable friend sitting opposite does not appear to understand the point. It must be clear to him that clever people will continue deceiving the simple and unwary unless and until mere possession of unauthorised weights and measures is declared an offence. Now let me tell you what would happen, if this amendment is accepted. Every dealer would say that his weights or measures were accurate and it was immaterial whether or not they were authorised. In case they are found defective and inaccurate the owners will be punished otherwise not. This will open the door for keeping unauthorised weights. The best way for the Government to get rid of this difficulty is to declare the possession of false and unauthorised weights or measures to be an offence. If the possession of false weights is declared a punishable offence nobody would dare keeping false and unauthorised weights in his possession. I think the honourable member has now understood my point.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end, the words " provided the weight or measure is found to be incorrect " be added.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 28 stand part of the Bill.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural): Sir, I wish the House to understand as to what they are making penal under clauses 27 and 28. It is not the selling of articles by any weight or measure which is false which is made penal, it is not the selling of any articles by any weight or measure which profits the seller which is made penal, but the mere possession and the sale of an article by a weight which may be perfectly correct and which may even be to the detriment of the seller himself as evidenced in clause 27. Kindly see that clauses 27 and 28 go together. Let me place clause 27 before you.

Mr. Speaker : As clause 27 has been passed I cannot allow it to be discussed again.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I am mentioning it by way of illustration.

Mr. Speaker : Please confine your arguments to clause 28.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The preceding clause provides—

Whoever sells any article by any denomination of weight or measure other than one of the standard weights or measures or any authorised integral multiple or sub-multiple thereof, shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

I go to the house of an agriculturist. A lady comes out and says, " here is ghee, will you buy it," but I have not got any measure or weight with me. She takes hold of a seer which is really equal to one seer and two chhataks and she sells the ghee to me. That lady is liable to be punished up to a fine of five hundred rupees. She is absolutely illiterate. She in fact has weighed it to the customer with a weight which is 2 chhataks more. Mind you the words do not occur here that the article is being sold for the purpose of trade, as they are found in some other sections—

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is discussing clause 27.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : You might go to the house of any person and find seers, tolas or yards or other weighing instruments which are not stamped by Government. That is made punishable under Section 28 : he may have never used them, but may have in possession. It says—

Whoever uses or has in his possession for use for trade any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument which is not authorised, verified or stamped under or in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees—.

If a person has got a seer which really weighs 17 chhattaks, which is to his detriment, and makes sales with that, or if he has it in his possession he is liable to punishment. It is really the possession of an unauthorised weight by a person that is made penal irrespective of the fact whether that weight is exactly equivalent to the standard weight or not. With these words I oppose clause 28.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Sir, I also oppose clause 28, because it will cause great hardship to the zamindars. You know that in every village there is friction, and if an opponent wants to create mischief he can somehow put some tolas or chhattaks not stamped in the house of a poor zamindar who will be at the sweet will of the Inspector appointed by the Government. I doubt whether people are so honest in the world, when there is so much party-bazi, that they will not do it. In the face of these things, when party-bazi is going on when communalism is rife and when people are not as honest as they used to be, I say it will be very hard for the zamindars and it will bring much greater hardship and litigation, and the oppression will go on as it is. I think this should be amended, because, as was pointed out by Mr. Puri, it is the mere possession and not the use of any weights and measures which would make him liable to a penalty under the Act. I think this will be an act of oppression as many Acts have already been so labelled and are being opposed. I think Government should take care and should not hurry up with this measure and then meet with difficulties which are later on created for not giving proper thought at the proper time. This will cause havoc and great hardship to the zamindars. If nothing is going to be done then the words "or has in his possession" be deleted.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I am sorry that the honourable member Sir William Roberts did not move the amendment which stands in his name on the agenda. I am sure if he had moved it the Honourable Minister would have accepted it. There is every likelihood of this clause being misused by certain people against others to cause them unnecessary worry and trouble. I do not say that all the people in the Punjab are honest and that they believe in fair dealing. There are many who use defective measures and weights. The measures with which they weigh commodities while selling are different from those with which they weigh when they purchase any commodity. The Government is justified in punishing such people. But there are many other people against whom the provisions of this clause will be applied for no fault of their own. Every one has enemies. And it is very possible that ones enemies may cause to be placed in ones house any defective weight and then report

to the police to come and discover that defective weight. There is every likelihood of people seeking to satisfy their enmity against others by such nefarious methods. The same can also happen in the case of a factory or a mill. Any body can leave a defective weight within the premises of a factory and then report to the inspector about its presence there. The inspector on discovering that false weight would start a case against the factory resulting in great hardship to the proprietors. I remember that in Amritsar once illicit liquor was placed in the house of a friend of mine by his enemies without his knowledge. I knew him to be a good man, incapable of any such crime. The police was informed of the presence of illicit liquor on his premises. His premises were searched with the result that illicit liquor was discovered. A case was started against him. I approached Mr. Puckle on behalf of my friend and told him the whole story. He told me that he could not believe that illicit liquor could be placed in any house like that. I explained to him how it could be done and then he agreed with me. Similarly in the case of false measures people are likely to misuse the provisions of this clause against their enemies. Not only the honest shopkeepers are liable to be put to lot of trouble by misuse of this clause, but also the zamindars can be put to a lot of inconvenience by its misuse. Any man can throw a small defective weight in the house of a zamindar and then report its presence there to the authorities who would come and discover it from the poor man's house and then haul him up before a court of law. It is the duty of the Government to see that innocent people are not put to trouble by any such misuse of this clause by interested persons. With these words I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur, North, Muslim, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, what would be harsher than that a man who is not using weights and measures stamped by the Government should be arrested. It is a matter of common knowledge that in every zamindar's house there are weights of stone and he uses them for weighing various articles for his own use. Many zamindars on account of poverty cannot purchase weights and, therefore, keep stones of equal weight in their houses. Those stones are in no way less in weight than the standard weights. This clause will put all the zamindars to a lot of trouble. Ninety-five per cent of the cases of illicit distillation of liquor are fabricated. Illicit liquor is placed in the houses of people and they are arrested for the possession of that illicit liquor. In the same way weights which are not stamped by the Government will be placed in the houses of people to cause them inconvenience by their enemies. Thus, in the presence of this clause it will become very easy to involve people in false cases. Any person can place an unstamped weight in the house of another and then inform the police of its existence there. The poor man in whose house the false weight will be thus placed will not know of its existence until the house is raided by the police and false weight discovered. The scope of corruption for the police will also be increased considerably. Already there is a lot of corruption in the police department. A provision should be incorporated in the Bill for the punishment of any person who may use this clause so unfairly. I hope the Honourable Minister will give consideration to this brief submission made by me. With these words I resume my seat.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram):

2 p. m.

I have not been able to understand the attitude of the honourable members. They had been complaining loudly and bitterly that shopkeepers were in the habit of cheating the poor innocent zamindars. To-day the very members come forward with the plea that if the present law is enacted it will result in hardship to zamindars. Every law, however simple, means an encroachment on an individual's liberty. Let my honourable friends clearly understand that. If they want false weights and measures to be done away with, then the present law will have to be passed. I do not deny that there may be stray cases of actual hardship where even innocent men may suffer, but on the basis of that bare logical possibility you cannot condemn a measure which is otherwise calculated to secure the greatest good of the greatest number.

Now just look at the wording of the clause. What has to be proved in order to secure a conviction? It must first be proved that a man either used or had in possession an unauthorised weight or measure. It has further to be proved that he had it in possession for the purpose of trade. Mere possession is not objectionable under this clause. It must be proved that the possession was for the purpose of trade. Therefore there is no real danger of any innocent person, whether zamindar or non-zamindar, suffering under this clause. I, therefore, submit that the fears expressed by the honourable members are absolutely imaginary.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That clause 28 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 29.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That clause 29 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 30.

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

That in lines 1-2 for the words "whoever uses....for trade" the words "any trader possessing a" be substituted.

I think if this amendment is accepted that would exempt the zamindars from the operation of this clause. The clause as it stands provides—

Whoever uses or has in possession for use for trade—.

This includes in it zamindars as well. If this clause is passed in its present shape it would entail great hardships on them. If, however, in place of these words the words "any trader possessing a" are substituted that would make this clause applicable to traders only. For it is they who use weighing and measuring instruments for the purpose of carrying on their business. If they keep false scales and false weights they do so with the ostensible object of cheating the public. It is, therefore, the traders and traders alone who should be controlled. I will certainly have no objection to this clause provided it is made specific for the traders alone. If the Honourable Minister accepts this amendment that would exempt the zamindars from unnecessary trouble. After all it is never the intention of the

zamindars to defraud anybody and it is, therefore, proper for us to make such provisions only for those people who have evil intention in keeping false scales and weights. I hope the Honourable Minister would see his way to accept this amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in lines 1-2 for the words "whoever uses.....for trade" the words "any trader possessing a" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 30 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 31 to 40.

Clauses 31 to 40 were put and carried.

Schedule I.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I have got an amendment to the first schedule.

Mr. Speaker : Has the honourable member given notice of his amendment?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : No, Sir. I propose to move it just now. It relates to wet measures based on British standard pound.

Mr. Speaker : Sorry! I cannot allow it to be moved without notice. The question is—

That the first Schedule be the schedule to the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the second schedule be the schedule to the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the title be the title to the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Revenue : I beg to move—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill as amended be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill as amended be passed.

Mian Abdul Aziz (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban), (Urdu) : Sir, the real object of the Bill now before the House is not clear as has often been the case with measures passed by this Government. Generally the aims and objects are so vaguely defined that the real object of a Bill becomes almost obscure. If, however, by the insufficient information supplied to us in the statement of objects and reasons the Government wants to make us understand that they are doing a great work by saving the people from the fraud of the dishonest traders, I would like to invite their attention to chapter XIII of the Indian Penal Code. Under the heading "Offences,

[Mian Abdul Aziz.] relating to Weights and Measures" they will find sections 264, 265, 266 and 267. These sections are already in existence and practically cover the whole field which this Bill intends to legislate upon. I fail to understand the necessity of bringing forward the new measure when already these sections which sufficiently cover offences in regard to Weights and Measures are in existence. But if on the other hand our Government is merely inventing ways and means whereby fresh contracts for the supply of new weights and measures can be given to their friends or a few posts of inspectors can be created for the relatives of the members of their party, it is quite a different matter. In that case I have nothing to find fault with in this measure.

The purpose of this Bill seems to be that a few people may be provided with jobs or that some friends of the members of the Government may be granted contracts for the supply of the new weights and measures. It is obvious that in each city or village there are a few weights of various denominations in every house or, if not in every house, at least in every other house. Thus the total number of weights, big and small, comes to thousands. In Lahore alone there must be no less than 25 thousand weights and if the whole of the Punjab is to be supplied with the necessary number of weights the contract will naturally be an enormous one, running into lakhs of rupees.

So far as I have been able to find from the perusal of this Bill I have nowhere found any reference to the sections contained in the Indian Penal Code. I wonder what would its framers say when after it has become a law and a case under it goes to a court and the public prosecutor or the other party want to have it heard under sections 264 or 265 of the Indian Penal Code. There is sure to be a clash between the two Acts. So far as the Indian Penal Code is concerned it has been very ably and carefully drafted and has stood the test of time to this day. The Indian Penal Code is not one of that category of legislative measures passed by our Assembly which need an amending Bill before the ink with which they are written is dry. The Honourable Premier himself had to announce this morning the intention of the Government to bring forward some amendments to an Act of theirs which has not come in force as yet.

Again there are certain questions which present themselves in regard to the application of this measure and to which no answer is provided in the text of the Bill. First of all, the question crops up as to who will be responsible for the manufacture of weights and measures under the new Act? Is the Master of His Majesty's Mint at Bombay to whom a reference has been made in the body of the Bill to undertake this job for the Punjab Government? Besides this there is the problem of existing weights and measures. Will the weights now in use which have test marks and which have cost thousands of rupees to their owners be condemned and their use prohibited? What is to be done with them?

Minister for Public Works : They should be destroyed.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Well, you are enormously rich and you can afford to replace the existing weights with new ones, but what about the poor people? Those millions who do not earn more than a few annas per day

will certainly be very hard hit by the passage of this Bill. I would, therefore, humbly request the Government to see their way to legalising the lakhs of weights in use to-day which are marked and considered reliable but do not bear the proposed prescribed stamp. Then a curious thing about this Bill is that the Government has fixed the weights and measures for dry substances, and measures for liquids and length, but they have not taken it into consideration that if the zamindars instead of buying new weights and measures say that in the case of liquids, for instance, their vessel is equivalent of a certain measure and they will sell milk or some other liquid according to that, would you prosecute them? Again what can the Government do if I refuse to sell mangoes by weights or in dozens, but by baskets? Have you ever given any consideration to the difficulties that may have to be faced when this Bill actually comes into force or do you care only for bringing about an increase in the number of Acts brought on the Statute Book during the Unionist regime? You say this Bill has been brought forward for saving the poor zamindars, but I think that it is intended for ruining them. May I know from the Honourable Minister if a Bill of this nature was contemplated to be introduced in the old council and was given up as harsh and impracticable? If not, what was the good of wasting eight or ten thousand rupees of public money on this session when people did not need such an Act? (*Interruption.*) That is not all. There is another ridiculous aspect of this Bill. On reading the Schedule at the end of the Bill one wonders whether the experts who can understand the highly technical language contained therein are to be called from England or will they come from Rohtak? That part of the Schedule which deals with tolas, mashas, seers and maunds is intelligible to a layman like myself. Again when it comes to the "multiples of dry measures" and still further to their sub-multiples, we may be able to make some head and tail of it, but when it comes to the explanation of dry and wet measures we find in the Schedule—

The unit for measure shall be the standard grain, that is to say, that weight which when multiplied by 1799.84585 is the weight in vacuo of the iridio-platinum cylinder in the custody of the Mint Master, Bombay, certified by the Standards Department of the British Board of Trade as having a weight of 1799.84585 grains in vacuo....

I would expect the Honourable Minister-in-charge to explain the last 10 lines or so. What is this "in vacuo" and "the iridio-platinum cylinder?" I am afraid perhaps the Honourable Minister even does not understand. I have already submitted that it is absolutely unnecessary to get this Bill passed. A provision already exists in the Indian Penal Code and a further burdening of the population with the restrictions intended to be imposed by this Bill is really an unnecessary hardship. Many other means can be adopted for checking any possible shortage in the standard weight of the existing weights and measures. I urge this point at the time of the third reading of the Bill although I am aware that it will be useless. I also know that even if the honourable members sitting on that side of the House do not approve of this measure, at the time of voting they will have to vote with the Government. Anyway it was my duty to point out these things and I have acquitted myself of my duty.

Sardar Muhammad Husain (Chunian, Muslim, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, this Bill is very mischievous and ill-advised inasmuch as its passage will mean that besides others the zamindars will be compelled to keep weights stamped

[S. Muhammad Husain.]

by the Government. I am free to admit that those traders who keep wrong weights with dishonest intentions must be prosecuted. But poor zamindars keep in their houses ordinary weights only for weighing their grain, etc. for household requirements and, therefore, it is not desirable to compel them to keep stamped weights and get them properly checked. It will result in unnecessary litigation involving much expenditure to the Government and a great hardship to zamindars. You know, Sir, that party factions in rural areas are responsible for quite a large number of false cases, and I submit that this measure will go to swell that number considerably. People will place wrong weights in the houses of their enemies and thus get them entangled in litigation. In fact, I am of the opinion that not only in the case of zamindars, but with respect to other people also this measure is absolutely superfluous because the use of wrong weights, etc. and dishonest dealings in this connection, can be dealt with quite effectively under the Indian Penal Code. Anyway, it is absolutely unnecessary to compel zamindars to keep stamped weights. It will prove a source of great hardship to them. In view of these facts, I oppose this Bill.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Sir, I know that this Bill has been put forward with good intentions, but I am afraid I cannot agree with the provisions. The fact is that the Unionist Party has now turned into a dead weight and therefore it matters little which language I speak. (*Laughter.*) All right, if my honourable friends opposite want me to speak in Urdu I do so for their sake as I think any stick is good enough to beat a horse. (*Renewed laughter.*) Sir, I was submitting that the provisions of this Bill are most objectionable and if the Government give us undertaking to the effect that these provisions would be modified, we would not stand in the way of the passage of this measure. Let me tell you what those objectionable provisions are. For instance, the possession of false weights or measures has been declared an offence. But no particular definition has been given with regard to this offence or any other. It may be said by the sponsors of the Bill that the definition is there where it has been stated that the possession of false weights if kept for purpose of trade would be considered a punishable offence. I do not agree to it. Supposing a man has in his possession some weights for his own use and not for purposes of trade. What proof has the Government to show that he has kept those weights not for his own use but for the purpose of trade? In order to harass such persons in whose possession such weights are found irrespective of the fact that the owner has kept them for his own use, the Government have presumed that the possession of those weights would lead to fraud in trade and hence consider it necessary to punish. This is not fair on their part to think so. In this connection I would like to make a passing reference to the amendment moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah who has pointed out that if a dealer goes to some village with his own weights to buy some commodity and in case those weights are found defective and objectionable the brunt would fall on the seller and not on the buyer. Would it not be an injustice done to a simple-hearted zamindar who sells his grains to a dealer? Sir, the Honourable Minister in charge has not been kind enough to accept this reasonable amendment of my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

If it had been clearly provided in the Bill that if a man goes to some other place and buys any article by any denomination of weights or measures other than the standard weights or measures, he shall, on conviction, be punished with a heavy fine, the case would have been different and rather reasonable. But the Government has not moved its little finger in this respect and has not expressed its willingness to accept the amendment in which the mover has stressed this point that the buyer should be punished for his cleverness and not the seller who does not know whether or not the weights of the buyer are genuine. I think it is now apparent from this instance that the Bill is full of such absurdities. The second objection that I want to raise is with regard to penalties provided in this Bill.

Minister for Development : I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is simply repeating his own argument and the arguments advanced by other honourable members.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The point of order is frivolous and has been raised with the object of attracting the cinema.

Mian Abdul Aziz : Is it the business of the Honourable Minister to control the proceedings of the House or is it for you, Mr. Speaker?

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : Many members would like to stand up and raise points of order because of the film that is being taken just now. In fact I was not repeating any arguments. I was putting forth points that had not been mentioned before.

Mr. Speaker : Does the Honourable Minister contend that arguments advanced at one stage of the Bill cannot be repeated at another stage?

Minister : This is the same stage.

Mr. Speaker : This is not the same stage. The motion that the Bill as amended be passed is the final stage. Of course the debate is more restricted at this stage than the previous stage, but it can extend to all matters contained in the Bill.

Minister : May I make a submission? The arguments addressed by the present speaker are the same as those advanced by Mian Abdul Aziz.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I know on a point of order whether photos of honourable members can be taken without their consent?

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber : I submit that this Act as it is going to be passed by this House is very severe, it is so severe that I can very well say with the Poet for the Honourable Minister who is putting forth this Bill—

گوئی یہی ظلم من لوگ نہ اس قدر

کی جس سے بات اس نے شکایت نہ رکھی

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, there is no doubt about the fact that such a Bill was urgently needed to stop the use of defective weights and measures by dishonest persons, but when we study the various clauses that have been incorporated in this particular Bill we find that they are such as will work undue hardship on the poor zamindars who from times immemorial have become accustomed to the use

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

of their own particular weights and measures often of stones, bricks or wood. Every person in whose house there would be a weight unstamped by the Government will be liable before law. In many villages there are groups who are hostile to each other. In the presence of this clause which is now before the House any person inclined towards mischief can secretly place a false weight in the house of another and then inform the police to come and discover that false weight from his house. The police would come, raid the house concerned, discover the false weight and proceed against the poor person. I fear that the public may not agitate against this Bill when passed into an act in the same manner as they are protesting at present against the Marketing Act.

The next point I want to urge is that in this Bill only a seller is made liable to be prosecuted for the use of false weights and measures but not the purchaser. I think both should be made liable to be prosecuted for selling and purchasing with false weights or measures.

Moreover, to begin with, its application ought to be restricted to markets alone and not extend to all individuals using any measures or weights privately in their houses. This would save poor zamindars from a lot of trouble. Later on if it is found desirable it can be made applicable to all persons. In law the actions of a person are judged in relation to his intentions. If you are not willing to exempt the zamindars or individual persons from the application of the penal clauses like the one now before the House at least make a provision in the Bill to the effect that persons would be liable to punishment if it is proved against them that they kept any false weight or measure with fraudulent intention.

This Bill will cause lot of trouble to the people who deal in perishable commodities. For example, milk-sellers take their milk into the towns and sell it there. Every morning we find so many people coming to the city carrying milk in tins and pots on their heads or behind them on the bicycles. These poor people shall have to keep authorized measures and also learn such measures as gallons, pounds and ounces, etc. They will always remember Chaudhri Sahib for doing them such an ill turn.

Then there are so many misprints in the Bill which are likely to result in misunderstandings and wrong interpretations. For example turn to page 14 of the Bill. In paragraph 2 in the line last but one there is the word "is" which in all probability is a misprint.

Sir, certain matters are highly technical and may not have been understood even by the Honourable Minister. For instance—

The equivalent value of the above-mentioned iridio-platinum cylinder when weighed in Standard Indian Air against Brass weights having a specific gravity of 8.143 is 1,800.00394 grains, that is, a brass weight whose value in vacuo is 1,800.00394 grains will exactly equilibrate the above-mentioned iridio-platinum cylinder in Standard Indian Air.

Since the Punjab tola equals 180 grains in vacuo its absolute value is equivalent to .10000856 of the absolute value of the above-mentioned iridio-platinum cylinder. But in practice, all verifications against the above-mentioned iridio-platinum cylinder are carried out by weightments in air, and therefore the value 1,800.00394 grains is always used for verifying weights.

Standard Indian Air is defined as follows:—

Temperature.—85 deg. Fahr. 29.44 deg. Cent.

Pressure.—A column of mercury at 0 deg. C. 29.8 inches or 766.919 mm. in height. Carbon diox. gas: 0.0006 of the volume of air vapour tension: 0.75 inches = 19.05 mm. Latitude at Calcutta 22.35' 6.6". Height above M. S. L. = 22.6 feet. 1 litre of standard Indian Air at Calcutta weights 1.14917 grams.

Now who will abide by them or understand them properly?

I was pointing out, Sir, the difficulties of those people who live 10 miles away from Lahore, some 20 miles out of Lahore, who bring on their bicycles two cans of milk. How can they understand all these specifications? A poor zamindar who sells his own 10 seers of kapas and who generally uses a measure, which is otherwise quite correct and is not marked by the officer appointed by the Government, will also be liable to be punished. What will happen of these very poor people? There are so many *sabzi faroshes* and other petty shopkeepers, who will be penalized. These poor people are already crying against the Marketing Act. Many people have come to me and asked me whether they should close their shops on Sundays or Saturdays. If you will make rules severe you will be creating a great trouble. I welcome this measure, but at the same time I request that there should be no hardship on the poor zamindars. There are many defects in this Bill and they should be removed before it goes to the third reading.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu): Sir, my honourable friend, Mian Abdul Aziz, wants to know what emergency has arisen for the enactment of a measure of this nature when sections 265, 266 and 267 of the Indian Penal Code have been and are in force to cope with any situation which this Bill contemplates dealing with. The learned Mian Sahib had already lost sense of justice and fairplay and now it appears that he has bidden farewell to common sense as well. (Mian Abdul Aziz: I am only following in your footsteps.) However, long before the introduction of this measure, in fact from the very beginning of 1937 it was being urged upon us on behalf of the public that weights and measures should be standardized in the Punjab. This demand had gathered great force. I am afraid I cannot accuse Mian Muhammad Nurullah of stability or consistency of views. Previously when he used to sit on the Unionist benches he was very keen to see weights and measures standardized in the Punjab. Whenever I raised the question of false weights and fraudulent scales (*kani-dandi*) on the floor of the House or outside he used to exult with joy and say, "Chaudhri Sahib, tell us by movements of your hands as to how we should deal with false weights and fraudulent scales (*kani-dandi*)". I used to reply—accompanying my words by suitable physical movements—that so far as false weights were concerned they should either be thrown into the river Ravi or should be melted down and handed over to some iron-smith and the fraudulent scales should be torn to bits and put into a fire (*chulha*). (Hear, hear.) I do not know what has happened to bring about a change in his mind. To my mind he has fallen a prey to the subtle tricks

[Minister for Revenue.]

of clever capitalists, since he has gone over to those benches and that is why he has learnt to indulge in such cheap criticism. Anyway, according to the constitution it was within the jurisdiction of the Government of India to have enacted a measure for the standardization of weights and measures. So long as that Government had not standardized weights and measures it was not possible for us to enforce any such measure in the province. The Government of India passed the Standards of Weights and Measures Act in 1939 and the public began to repeat their demand that a measure of the nature under discussion should be enacted in this province to enforce the use of standard weights and measures. It is in response to that persistent demand of the public that I brought forward this Bill. I really fail to understand why my honourable friends are now raising a hue and cry against it. I think, to some extent the filming of the proceedings of this House to-day is responsible for these protests; otherwise so many speeches would not have been made to-day. (*Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri*: What about you?) I also seem to have given way to this temptation. (*Loud laughter.*)

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Weights and Measures Bill as amended be passed.

The motion was carried.

ELECTRICITY (EMERGENCY POWERS) BILL.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat, Tiwana): Sir, I introduce the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill. I move—

That the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal,
Chaudhri Prem Singh,
Chaudhri Ranpat Singh,
Rao Pohop Singh,
Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber,
Mian Muhammad Nurullah,
Sardar Balwant Singh,
Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh,
Mian Abdul Rab,
Mr. E. Few,
Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samed,
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad,
Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan,
Khan Sahib Sayed Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qaderi,
Mian Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, and
Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri,

and that the quorum be five.

I ask for the permission of the House to constitute this Committee as it is of more than 15 members. I might explain the reason for additional number of members. The Leader of the Opposition suggested certain names and I did not like that his wish may not be acceded to. That is the reason why the usual number has been exceeded.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal,
Chaudhri Prem Singh,
Chaudhri Ranpat Singh,
Rao Pohop Singh,
Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber,
Mian Muhammad Nurullah,
Sardar Balwant Singh,
Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh,
Mian Abdul Rab,
Mr. E. Few,
Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad,
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad,
Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan,
Khan Sahib Sayed Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qaderi,
Mian Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, and
Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (North Punjab, Non-Union, Labour)
(Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by the 31st of December, 1941.

Sir, the Honourable Minister for Public Works has moved that the Bill be referred to a select committee but my proposal seeks to send it for circulation with a view to eliciting public opinion thereon. Strictly speaking the Bill, as it stands, has no parallel in the history of legislation of any country which claims to have a democratic constitution. I would ask the Honourable Minister to point out even one single country in the world where a measure of this kind has been brought on the Statute Book. I may tell him that in other provinces there are towns which are of vital importance from the historical, political and population point of view. It is the business of municipalities to arrange for street lighting, but so far nowhere any emergency has arisen necessitating the Government to enact a measure of this character. But things go differently in this land of five rivers. Here the Government seem to have sensed an imaginary danger and on the basis of that have put forward this Emergency Bill. It simply passes my comprehension as to what particular necessity or a pressing need prompted them to sponsor this measure. Now, Sir, if you peruse the statement of objects and reasons, you would find that the first paragraph runs thus—

The object of the Bill is to provide against a situation, in which, for one reason or another, the public may be put to grave inconvenience owing to the refusal of licensee under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to maintain a continuous supply of electrical energy for street-lighting purposes.

This indicates that the Government are apprehensive lest a licensee should fail to supply electrical energy for street-lighting and that they want to safeguard the continuity of supply of energy by means of this Bill. If this is the only object, the question arises whether no other avenue is left to the Government to achieve this end. May I know if strangulation of companies, engaged in the electricity industry was the only course open

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

to the Government by which they could attain their object? If that is the attitude of the Government, then I must say that it is sheer injustice which they are going to perpetrate on the private enterprise. I see no reason why Government should take over the management, capital, machinery, etc., of private companies. They should rather go into the root of the matter and the municipalities on which the onus of maintaining street-lighting falls should be asked to have square dealings with the electric supply companies. (*Interruption.*) Perhaps I have not been able to make myself clear to the Honourable Minister. I was laying stress on the points that if the Government were anxious to maintain the continuous supply of energy for street-lighting purposes, they should pull up the municipalities and should ask them to maintain their position in such a manner that such a position may not arise at all.

(*At this stage the Honourable Minister for Public Works was seen whispering something to Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal.*)

The Honourable Minister has asked me to give way as the Honourable Premier wants to say a few words. I have agreed to comply with his request on the understanding that after the Honourable Premier has finished, I would be allowed to continue my speech.

Premier : May I interrupt my honourable friend just for a minute? I am free to admit that he can make a brilliant speech on the Bill under discussion, but I would like to remind him that the measure has yet to pass through a good many stages. Besides the various readings in the full House there will be the select committee stage and my honourable friend will be there to make as many suggestions as he may think necessary. He should, therefore, let this Bill go to the select committee and utilise the time thus saved for a thorough discussion of the next Bill which requires his immediate attention: This Bill is going to be taken up in the next session but the other one will be disposed of before the termination of the present session. It is, therefore, in his own interest not to delay the discussion of the second Bill by making a lengthy speech on this motion. As I have pointed out, the honourable member and his friends would do well to focus their attention on the second Bill and let this motion be carried without unnecessary waste of time.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal (Urdu) : The Honourable the Premier has been pleased to remark that I should not make a lengthy speech. I would have certainly agreed to the suggestion, but I hope the Honourable the Premier will appreciate that this is a subject of great public importance and it is wholly in the interest of both the Government and the public that it should be discussed thread-bare. In this Bill an important and a fundamental principle has been involved and that is that the Government want to take over the control of private electric companies under the pretext of maintaining the continuity of street-lighting. I must confess that I cannot subscribe to this way of doing things. In view of this fact, I hope Honourable the Premier will appreciate my point of view and will not mind if I take some time to place facts and details before the House.

Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani : On a point of order. The honourable member is making a second speech.

Mr. Speaker : He is not making a second speech. He was expressly asked by a Minister of the Government to allow the Premier to give his warning or advice to all members of the House and therefore he resumed his seat. So he is entitled to proceed with his speech.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : Sir, I was submitting that if this Bill, as indicated in the statement of objects and reasons, sought to ensure the continuous and uninterrupted supply of energy for street-lighting purposes in the towns of the province, then this object could be realised in various other ways. The Honourable Minister is aware that all the municipalities are directly under his control. He should carefully review and examine their working and administration and remove defects and irregularities rampant there. He should see that the municipal committees duly observe the agreements with electric supply companies and properly discharge their obligations towards them. In this connection I may tell him that the Director of these companies are not lunatics or crazy of enjoying blackouts at the cost of their own income. There is no reason why they should plunge the citizens into darkness and inconvenience them unnecessarily by refusing to supply energy for street-lighting and thus jeopardise the source of their income. (*Interruption.*) The Honourable Minister seems to have missed my point. I want to lay emphasis on the fact that he should make a sifting enquiry into the working of the municipalities with a view to asking them to set their houses in order. But if he does not care to pay attention to this useful suggestion, then to acquire private electric concerns and take hold of their management and property under the garb of certain reasons, having absolutely no applicability to the case, is nothing short of unadulterated coercion. Besides, he is fully aware that the relations of the municipalities and the electric supply companies are generally far from cordial. Perhaps it would not be out of place to mention here that in order to avert the danger of refusal on the part of electric supply companies to supply energy, the Government had some years ago prepared a Model Agreement to guide the municipal committees for making agreements with electric concerns. It is a thousand pities that so far many agreements have not been entered into by the municipalities with the Electric Companies. May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he has ever cared to find out the root cause of the disputes that arise between the municipalities and the electric supply companies, and why such agreements are not entered into? What steps has he taken to ensure the compliance of agreements by the municipal committees when agreements have been entered into? He must bear this fact in mind that these companies which he intends to bring under his thumb are the pride of the province. Their working, their administration and their position in the commercial world and above all their prosperity are the hall-mark of efficiency of the private management. On the other hand, the Hydro-electric Department which has all the resources of a mighty Government at its back bears no comparison with them because it is being run at a loss. But what is the state of affairs? The Government instead of removing the root cause and finding out who is at fault and responsible for creating these difficulties, have quietly put forward a measure calculated to take possession of the property of the private companies. It can easily be construed from this attitude that the Government is bent upon crippling and even annihilating these flourishing electric supply companies.

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

Then I would like to draw the attention of the honourable members to another important matter. You would remember, Sir, the Honourable Minister for Public Works has times out of number deprecated in strong words the mal-administration of the municipal committees and as a result of that he has brought about the supersession of several of them. But what wrong have the electric supply companies committed? For what fault are they being penalised? Is it because of their prosperity that the Government under the pretext of an emergency, want to stifle their existence by means of this obnoxious measure? I am constrained to remark that it is nothing short of robbing Peter to pay Paul. I fail to understand with what face the Government feel keen to side with the municipalities and are prepared to throw the well-managed and prosperous electric supply companies overboard.

Then it has been stated in the second paragraph of the statement of objects and reasons :

A situation of this character arose in Lahore in May, 1934, when owing to a dispute between a private electric supply company and the Municipal Committee, the former threatened to cut off the supply of energy necessary for lighting the streets of the town. Had effect been given to this threat a serious situation would have arisen. The danger was averted by the issue by the District Magistrate of an order under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure : and shortly after, the dispute was settled by the parties concerned by reference to arbitration.

I would like to make it clear that the statement referred to above is entirely unfounded and I question its veracity. This portion has not the least bearing on the Bill now before the House. I can quote chapter and verse in support of my contention. Again the emergency of the type of which a mention has been made in the Bill exists nowhere in India. I challenge the Honourable Minister to quote even a single instance. The incident out of which much capital is being made by the Government is a solitary example and it took place some eight years ago in May, 1934.

Minister for Public Works : Now let us be businesslike.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I am already offering my criticism in a businesslike manner. He should have the courage to face the music. If he feels diffident, I cannot help it. I must discharge my duty which I owe to the public and express my dissatisfaction at the Bill. As a matter of fact it is my bounden duty to point out the lacunæ in this measure. (*Interruption by Pir Akbar Ali.*) Yes, my speech jars on Pir Sahib. It is because of my honourable friend's utter ignorance of the subject.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not be personal.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I was goaded to hit back. Well, sir, I was submitting that the incident which has been made the basis of this emergency measure, occurred in May, 1934. You will observe, sir, that for eight long years the Government never felt the necessity of legislating such a measure and it is strange enough that now when the state of affairs is exactly the same as existed previously, they have suddenly discovered that a state of emergency has come into being. However if they must enact a piece of legislation for this purpose, they should have only armed themselves with certain powers to avoid the recurrence of the situation which arose in 1934, and for that limited purpose alone, but strange

it is that they have put forward a Bill intended to empower them to take control of electric supply undertakings. It is painful to find the defaulter—I mean the municipalities, particularly the Lahore Municipal Committee—going scot free. Not even a warning has been administered to them while the electric companies and particularly the Lahore Electric Supply Company, are being made to suffer for no fault of theirs. Again when the situation of 1934 arose owing to the unreasonable attitude of the Lahore Municipality, the predecessor of this Government duly handled it. If the previous Government could successfully deal with such a situation without adding a weapon of the type of this Bill to its armoury, I see no reason why this Government—a popular Government—should fail in solving this tangle. If they are convinced that the law, as it stands, does not carry them far, then it is open to them to effect an amendment in section 144, Criminal Procedure Code. But to take possession of the companies is by no means a right, just and equitable solution.

Now, I would like to make a brief reference to the history of the dispute which ensued between the Lahore Municipality and the Lahore Electric Supply Company.

Mr. Speaker : History of the case is not necessary.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I will not take long. I would finish it within a few minutes. This matter has a direct bearing on the subject under discussion. You would observe, sir, the Government have based their Bill mainly on this very incident. I fail to understand what else would be more relevant and germane to the discussion than the narration of the history of this case. Well, sir, on 13th May, 1929, an agreement was made between the Lahore Electric Supply Company and the Lahore Municipal Committee and clause I of that agreement runs as under—

This agreement shall remain in force for 5 years and after that until it is cancelled by either party after one year's notice, but its terms will be subject to revision at any time by the mutual consent of both the parties.

Now in accordance with the provisions of this clause on 21st April, 1933, i.e., a year before the termination of the agreement, a notice was served on the Company by Malik Barkat Ali, Advocate, on behalf of the Lahore Municipal Committee. During the period of 12 months the Company strained every nerve to induce the Municipal Committee to come to some understanding. As this notice was to result in a loss of income to the Company, it sent reminder after reminder to the Municipal Committee to conclude some agreement and thereby save the public from the inconvenience and hardship to which they would be put in consequence of stoppage of supply of energy for street-lighting. But all the efforts of the Company in this direction proved abortive. During this period of one year neither the Municipality concluded any new agreement nor did it cancel the notice of termination of the agreement, and besides this even payments were not made. The honourable members can very well realise that when no payment for the electric bills was to be forthcoming and the agreement had been terminated, the Company had no other alternative but to cut off the current. It is clear as broad daylight that the Company stands exonerated from the charge of refusal to supply the energy. It is a matter of common sense that when a customer refuses to buy energy and would not pay the dues, the Company cannot thrust upon him or throw away its commodity.

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

The wholly adamant attitude of the municipality left no alternative to the Company than to abide by their notice and cut off the street-lighting. The Company even then did not take the extreme step at once and sent a telegram to the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, to the following effect :—

As the Lahore Municipal Committee have terminated the agreement, dated thirteenth May, 1929, for supply of power to street lights and pumping stations the Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited will cut off the supply of electric energy to street lights and pumping stations at midnight between twelfth and thirteenth May, 1934.

This was done in the public interest so that a last minute effort may save the situation and the public may be spared of the inconvenience. Besides, the Company also sent a telegram to the Lahore Municipal Committee. It runs thus—

Take notice that as the Lahore Municipal Committee have terminated the agreement, dated thirteenth May, 1929, for supply of power to street lights and pumping stations the Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited will cut off the supply of electric energy to street lights and pumping stations at midnight between twelfth and thirteenth May, 1934.

The Deputy Commissioner realising the gravity of the situation lost no time in issuing an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, and got it duly served on the Lahore Electric Supply Company. He knew that the whole responsibility for the maintenance of the street-lighting lay on the shoulders of the Lahore Municipal Committee. So he assured the Company that Government would see that all the expenses incurred in supplying energy for street lighting were duly paid. As a result of this the payment of electric energy bills was made to the Company from day to day by the Government. These facts speak volumes. The timely and prompt action taken by the Government brought the situation under complete control. The public was saved of the ordeal of a blackout and immense inconvenience. In this connection I may be permitted to quote the remarks made by the Commissioner, Lahore Division, with regard to the conduct of the Lahore Municipal Committee. The remarks are as follows :—

In the first place I desire to place on record that the Municipal Committee of Lahore has lamentably failed in its primary duties of ensuring to the public of Lahore the proper lighting of the public streets and an adequate supply of pure drinking water. If the District Magistrate had not intervened on the afternoon of Saturday, May 12th by issuing his order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Lahore would at present be without any street-lighting and without any power to work the tube wells which form an essential part of the Lahore Water Supply. The Lahore Municipal Committee being responsible for the present situation must do everything in its power to put matters on a satisfactory basis. The present position by which the health and safety of Lahore depends on an emergency order issued by the District Magistrate is intolerable and must be ended by the Committee with as little delay as possible.

The remarks amply show that the state of affairs in the Lahore Municipal Committee had grown from bad to worse. Then the Government appointed an Enquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. B. H. Dobson, I.C.S.

Mr. Speaker : Suppose the Municipal Committee was to blame. What then? This House is not concerned with the history. The honourable member's motion is that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion by a certain date. He may give reasons in support of his motion. He can also oppose the main motion.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : My submission is that by narrating the history and by quoting the strictures passed by different officers of the Government, I want to prove to the hilt that the Lahore Municipal Committee was at fault. I want to fully apprise the Honourable Minister of hard facts relating to the dispute so that he might feel disposed to revise his views and invite public opinion on this Bill. As a matter of fact I intend to impress upon him the desirability of changing the shape of this measure in the light of these facts.

Mr. Speaker : Please try to be brief.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : While relating the history of that dispute I was submitting that the affairs of the Lahore Municipal Committee were gradually deteriorating. Consequently the Government appointed an Enquiry Committee consisting of Mr. B. H. Dobson as its Chairman and Raja Sir Hari Kishen Kaul and Sir Zafar Ali, a retired judge of the High Court as members. The Committee thoroughly examined the matter and passed strictures against the Lahore Municipal Committee. They made the following observations—

There is a good deal of ill informed criticism of the Company's arrangements. For example, the Committee complains that the Company charge them for all poles on which street lights are fixed without receiving any reciprocal credit for private connections attached to those poles. The Company contend, on the other hand, that the number of poles intended for private consumers to which street lights are fixed, is greatly in excess of the number of poles charged to the Committee, for street-lighting. The exact figures are now available, from which it appears that out of 7,375 poles, the cost of Rs. 1,482 is only charged to the Municipal Committee. The inferences are clearly in favour of the Company. The Committee complains also that the maintenance charge of Rs. 9 per annum is extortionate. The Electrical Engineer to Government has explained, however, that the charge is in accordance with usual practice and considerably less than the Committee would have to pay themselves, if they attempted to make their own arrangements.

The last lines of the extract constitute the considered opinion of an expert of the Government. This clearly shows which way the wind blew.

Then further on the Enquiry Committee opine—

The Committee have not much cause of complaint against the Capital loan arrangements, because they are at liberty to repay the loan if and when they wish, and as they appear to have made reservations for the purpose, they should lose no time in doing so.

Again another extract from their report is as follows :—

The relations between the Supply Company and the Municipal Committee are unfortunately strained. But after perusing a mass of not very edifying correspondence on the subject, I have formed the conclusion that the Committee are mostly to blame. For example a licensed plumber of the Municipality not long ago, without notifying the Company under section 15 of the Indian Electricity Act, dug a trench for a new water connection and in doing so punctured a high tension cable. The Committee in their reply admitted that they were not aware of the provisions of the Act. Other instances were brought to my notice in which trenches were excavated without proper notice in the vicinity of high tension cables. The Committee seem equally unaware of section 13 of the Indian Electricity Act, since they have more than once threatened the Company with legal proceedings for laying underground cables without proper sanction, even after receipt of one month's statutory notice from the Company which they ignored. Complaint is also brought against the Company that road surfaces are not properly repaired after they have been opened—

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

Then there is another extract from the same report, which I want to bring it to the notice of the honourable members. It runs thus :

The fact is that whereas the Company are punctilious in observing the letter of the law the Committee's employees have not the technical knowledge to meet the Company's contentions and resort to veracious methods inconsistent with the manner in which one corporate body should behave towards another.

I have quoted at length extracts from the comments made by the Dobson Committee and also the adverse remarks made by the Commissioner, Lahore Division, with a view to enable the honourable members of this House to form a correct opinion of the case. Now I would like to categorically refute the statement made by the Government that a settlement between the contending parties was effected by an arbitration. Strictly speaking this assertion is wholly unfounded and is not at all borne out by facts as I would show in a moment. To be brief the fact of the matter is that it was Mr. Jones, I.C.S., the first Administrator of the Lahore Municipality, through whose good offices the dispute was amicably settled in a short period. Hence it is crystal clear that no arbitration of any kind resolved this deadlock. It was Mr. Jones to whom credit is due for having brought about a settlement of this dispute. Well, sir, I have made a mention of the history of the case, as also of other facts having a direct bearing on the subject with the object of removing the misunderstanding that has been caused by the mis-statement of facts by the Government in their statement of objects and reasons. In fact I want to correct the wrong statement made by the Government so that the public at large may not be misled.

Now I would like to acquaint the House of the opinion expressed by Mr. Justice Coldstream in regard to the inefficiency and remissness of the Lahore Municipal Committee. He said to the following effect in a judgment—

No attempt has been made to question the correctness of the Company's statement of the facts leading up to the notice given on the 12th May, 1934, a statement which standing un rebutted, discloses both a deplorable neglect of public duty and a lack of sense of responsibility on the part of the Committee.

The honourable members would realise that Justice Coldstream knocked the bottom out of the case by making the remarks quoted above. He charged the Municipality of delinquency in performing its duty towards the public. Now every sane person would agree with me that the Lahore Municipal Committee was entirely at fault. It drove the Company to that situation and created an emergency. In this connection may I ask the Honourable Minister whether in view of the strictures passed by these officers, has he ever cared to take action to set things right? I feel that instead of sponsoring this Bill he should have overhauled the administration of the municipalities. That is the proper remedy for curing the ills of which he complains and which he wants to remove by the enactment of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Repetition.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : The other alternative open to the Government, as I have already stated, is to amend section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, and make it more comprehensive. Then I have also

proved that so far as the statement of objects and reasons is concerned, it is absolutely at variance with the text of the Bill. Now let us see as to what is the crux of the matter. To put in a nutshell the object of the Government in bringing forward this measure is to ensure the continuous supply of energy for street-lighting. If it is the intention of the Government to achieve this particular end by arrogating certain powers to themselves then I have no objection to their doing so. I am not opposed to Government's confining the legislation to this purpose only. I would suggest that all cases of disputes between the municipalities and the electric supply companies in regard to lighting of streets, should be referred to the Honourable Minister who is eminently suited for this purpose and his decision should be considered final. I feel that it is the imperative duty of the Government to see that the street-lighting is in no case jeopardised and I am sure that nobody with a modicum of common sense, would take exception to Government's arming themselves with certain powers to attain this object. But instead of adopting the right course the Government want to take control of electric undertakings lock, stock and barrel. This action is obviously against the accepted canons of justice, equity and fairplay.

Now I would like to draw the attention of the honourable members to another important point. This Bill adversely affects a large number of shareholders in the province. There is no doubt that certain shareholders are very affluent, but the bulk do not belong to rich or moneyed classes. They are more often than not retired government servants, widows and such middle class people who do not conduct any money-lending business. They are small investors who save a few rupees out of their hard earned money. They invest their little savings in some sound and secure public utility concerns, such as the electric supply companies. Again the shareholders do not belong to any particular community or constitute any monopoly in such concerns. They hail from all communities and classes, i.e., agriculturists, non-agriculturists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Europeans, etc. The honourable members can very well imagine the plight of these people when they come to know that the control of these companies is going into the hands of those who have miserably failed in conducting the affairs of the Hydro-Electric Department. They will certainly have serious apprehensions about these companies going to liquidation on account of the inefficient government management. Since a large number of shareholders would be affected by this Bill, it is only fair and reasonable that Government should circulate it for eliciting public opinion.

Again, I see no reason why Government should feel hesitant in accepting my proposal. It is not a taxation measure which the Honourable Premier always likes to be passed without circulation. The honourable members must be aware that in the case of money Bills he generally recommends for their reference to select committees where according to him all sections of the House are represented and all shades of opinion considered. But this argument does not apply to this Bill, in which the interests of municipalities, the shareholders, and the public, are involved. Hence Government would come to no harm if the Bill is sent for circulation.

Now I may be permitted to make a few observations for the careful

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

consideration of the Honourable Minister in charge of Industries. Unfortunately he is not in his seat. Well, sir, the responsibility for the development of industries lies on his shoulders. I wonder how he can tolerate the management of prosperous electric concerns being handled in this manner and see them going to ruin. When these concerns come under the control of the Government, the latter would appoint officers to manage them. Naturally they would make purchases of machinery and other materials and enter into contracts on behalf of these companies. But they, being inexperienced in the commercial line, are likely to commit mistakes. In howsoever good a faith they may conduct the business, they are apt to spell the ruin of these concerns. As a matter of fact the Government would not be able to inspire confidence in the public because the latter have already the bitter experience of former's singular failure in managing the Hydro-Electric Department. I challenge that the Government or for the matter of that their officers cannot run these electric companies as efficiently and successfully as the private management can do. I would ask the Honourable Minister for Industries to oppose this measure tooth and nail as it would go a long way to poison the mind of the investing public and discourage them to invest their capital in any industrial concern.

Besides, our province is industrially very backward. If any industry is flourishing here it is the industry of supply of electrical energy. The taking over of such concerns by the Government is bound to hamper the industrial activities and progress of the province. I would repeat that if the Government are keen that the street-lighting should not be endangered and they want to forestall and avert that contingency, they should strictly confine the legislation to that purpose. It should be made obligatory upon the companies not to plunge the towns in darkness in any case. But the solution they have put forward in the form of this Bill is most inequitable. To-day you want to grab the electric concerns, to-morrow you may seize some other privately-managed industries, because there is no limit to avarice. For instance, it would be open to the Punjab Government to declare an emergency and occupy a prosperous textile mill that may be working in the Province, on the imaginary ground that the mill was exporting its products to other provinces while they were needed here. In a case like this if the Government really needs these textile products, the best course is to place an order with the mill concerned and get the products, rather than to assume the management of the mills. This is what we visualise if this measure is passed into law.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : In emergency it can be done and if necessary it will be done.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : You do not understand what emergency is, nor do you understand anything of business. We are prepared to vest powers in the Government. But the difficulty is that the remedy for the disease has not been judiciously selected. (*Hear, hear.*) So far not a vestige of any emergency is to be found in the whole of this country. I wonder what particular emergency stares this Government in the face.

Now, sir, it has been proposed in the Bill that the Government can take over a company for six months but this period can be extended to two years. If you peruse the statement of objects and reasons, you will find there the following passage—

In the interest of public, it is most necessary that Government, in the last resort should be able to assume control of a Licensed Electric Supply undertaking and to provide for the continuance of public street lighting service for a period of two years.

The honourable members who are connected with trade and commerce, would agree with me that the basis of running private concerns and that of the state-managed ones is widely different. As a matter of fact the working of the privately-managed concerns by the Government even for six months would entirely change the face of the administration of those concerns and it would take years and enormous amount of money to rehabilitate them. And if the control is continued for two years, as is stated in the statement of objects and reasons, I am sure after that period the companies would go into liquidation and the emergency would also disappear. (*Laughter.*) Now the Honourable Minister has the privilege of having a ripe experience of the working of the Hydro-Electric Department. He has been at the helm of affairs for the last four years. Will he be kind enough to apprise us of any improvements effected by him in that Department with a view to making it a paying proposition? As far as my knowledge goes its condition is gradually deteriorating. If the private electric companies are taken over, they will meet the same fate at the hands of the Government; as whatever little profit they now make, would then disappear. In view of these irrefragable facts I fail to see any necessity of bringing this measure on the statute book. Again it has been stated by the Government that section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, does not equip them with adequate powers to deal with situations of this kind in all cases. I beg to differ with this point of view. I consider this section quite sufficient and as effective as it was in 1934. But if the Government are of the contrary opinion they can, as I have already stated before, amend it to cover such situations. But there appears to be no cogent reason why they should take over these flourishing concerns. Is their prosperity an eyesore to the Honourable Minister and he wants to strangle them? The measure is indeed a dangerous and hazardous one. It vitally affects the interests of the people and it is in the fitness of things that Government should circulate it and feel the pulse of the public by inviting their opinion on it. There is no hurry to rush through this measure. The much maligned situation or the emergency occurred long, long ago. If the legislation of the Bill is deferred for another 8 months for the sake of eliciting public opinion, Heavens won't fall; nor would the position of the Government be undermined. Besides, a great many lacunæ are generally left in the measures passed in such indecent haste. The Marketing Act is an instance to the point. The ink of that Act has not yet dried when Government have felt absolute necessity of amending certain provisions. The Honourable Premier himself announced to-day that an amending Bill would be put before the House. The honourable members are fully aware of the strong wave of indignation prevailing in the public because of certain stringent provisions in that Act. Both the zamindars and the traders are feeling the pinch. In

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

this connection I would draw the attention of the Government to one of the leaders published in the *Civil and Military Gazette* which also deploras the hurry which is being shown by the Government in legislating measures. (Minister for Public Works: Do not bother about the *Civil and Military Gazette*). Yes, my honourable friend can afford to ignore the opinion expressed by that newspaper because he wields power, being the Minister of the Government.

Well, sir, before I resume my seat I would like to refer you to certain provisions of the Bill, which I strongly deprecate. In the first instance section 3 (1) reads thus—

3. (1) If at any time it appears to the Provincial Government—

(a) that there is any likelihood of a failure in the continuous supply of a public electricity service or a diminution of such supply, and that such failure or diminution will be to the public disadvantage.

You will observe, sir, the clause is extremely wide in its scope. It enables the Government to take over the control of electrical undertakings not only for apprehended stoppage of supply to the street lighting but also for the diminution of such supply and even for any likelihood of failure of any kind to other consumers such as factories. The vagueness of the clause can be judged from the fact that even if supply of energy is refused to a certain factory for some internal disputes, the Company is to be penalised and deprived of its management. But who is to judge that a company is guilty of certain derelictions and as a result of that control of management should be taken over from it? According to the provisions of the Bill it would be the Government themselves. It is a pity that an interested party like the Government has been made the sole judge, while no independent tribunal is to adjudicate the matter.

Then section 3 (1) (b) reads as follows :—

3. (1) (b) that there is any doubt as to whether the Provincial Government or any other person is the owner of public electricity service, or during any period of transfer to the Provincial Government, the Provincial Government may by order in writing declare its intention of assuming possession and control thereof for and on behalf of such service.

It empowers the Government to take over the electric undertakings in cases where there is any doubt regarding the ownership of that concern. It is obvious that the reasons advanced in the statement of objects and reasons, already referred to by me, certainly do not warrant the enactment of a measure which arms the Government with such arbitrary powers, as provided in section 3. Part (2) of section 3 is to the following effect :—

3. (2) No such order shall be in force for more than six months, without prejudice to the issue of another such order at or before the end of that period, —

Provided that the maximum period during which any such orders may continue in force shall not exceed two years from the commencement of the first order.

The subsection confers powers on the Government to take possession and control of an undertaking for a period of six months in the first instance. This period in the discretion of the Government can be extended to two years. But the matter does not end here. The Bill empowers the Government or the officers appointed by it, to take hold of all books, accounts, documents, furniture and other properties, both movable and immovable.

The question arises as to how would these officers manage the affairs of the companies thus acquired. Even if these officers belong to I.C.S. or P.C.S. cadre they are not likely to achieve any appreciable success in running these private concerns because they will have no personal interest in the business. However intelligent and honest they may be, as I have al-

ready stated, lack of experience and business acumen in them would send these concerns to liquidation. If we peruse other sections of the Bill we find the Government have armed themselves to the teeth with very wide powers. Generally speaking their officers can do anything in the name of efficient management of the concerns. I may point out that if this efficient management is to be of the type as has been displayed by the results of the working of the Hydro-Electric Department under the control of the Honourable Minister, then Heavens bless these undertakings which may come under the control of the Government or its officers. These concerns would certainly go to the wall.

Again during the period the Government remain in possession of the electric concerns, if they or their officers enter into contracts for supply of power with another concern at a rate much below the cost of production (just as they did in the case of North-Western Railway, whom they provided power at the rate of 4 pies per unit while their own cost per unit was 8-2 pies), the company would be doomed. I wonder what would be the position of that undertaking when it is retransferred to the original owners. Obviously no private company can afford to sell its commodity below the cost price. It is because their own hard-earned money is invested in the undertaking. But the Government or their officers are not concerned with this aspect, because no personal interest of theirs is involved; nor have they to reap the profit. So they would do things carelessly. Besides, if contracts for large supply of material, say coal, machinery, etc., are entered into by them at fancy prices, as is generally the practice with the Government concerns, the position of the company would become extremely precarious. It is sure to run into debt for which these officers would no longer be accountable. Then there is another aspect of the question. If the officers are unfortunately corrupt or derelict, the loss sustained by the company as a result of their activities would fall on the finances of the company concerned.

Then last but not the least, section 12 is extremely vicious. It runs thus—

12. (1) No civil court shall have jurisdiction to settle, decide or deal with any matter which is by or under this Act required to be settled, decided, or dealt with by the Provincial Government.
- (2) No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any public electricity service during such period as it is in the possession and control of the Provincial Government from its liability on any contract entered into by the said service or by the Provincial Government on its behalf.

This section clearly indicates that the doors of courts have been shut to the aggrieved party while arbitrary powers have been vested in the Government. Nobody can question the irregularities committed by the Government during the period they remain in possession and control

[R. B. L. Sohan Lal.]

of the company. In this connection I may draw the attention of the honourable members to the fact that it has been provided in the Central Act that if the Directors of Limited Companies are guilty of certain lapses, they can be hauled up in a court of law to explain their action. But here in this case the Government have excluded the jurisdiction of civil courts altogether. This is a great flaw in this Bill as it strikes at the root of justice. I would, therefore, say even at the risk of repetition that the right diagnosis of the disease has not been made. The Government should not be afraid of inviting the view points of those whose interests are at stake. If my proposal is accepted, the Government would earn the goodwill of the people. Again if the Government apprehend that an emergency might arise during the period the Bill is in circulation, then I am prepared to give an undertaking on behalf of the electric supply concerns and if time is given to me I shall obtain their consent in writing that till the day the Bill is actually placed before the House after inviting public opinion, nowhere the street-lighting would be cut off on any ground whatsoever. I think this assurance would be enough to dispel any doubts lurking in the mind of the Government and they would be disposed to send this Bill for circulation. With these words I commend my motion to the House for acceptance.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1941.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to support the circulation motion moved by my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal. Let me first of all point out that the Honourable Premier's assurance that the Bill may be amended in the select committee is an old, old game and we can now see through it. The Government by this old trick wants to save its skin from the opposition and we now understand it perfectly well. Had it been our experience that on some previous occasions the amendments moved by the members of a select committee were incorporated in a Bill, we should have accepted this offer. But the past experience warns us to be alert now and we know to our own cost that amendments moved by us and even by some members of the Government party in the meetings of select committee were totally turned down by the Government. When this is our past experience how can we be expected to rely upon such empty assurances? As my predecessor Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal has said much in support of his motion, I would not repeat his arguments. But I would try to confine my remarks to some fundamental points only. The main reason for bringing forth this measure, as given by the Government in the statement of objects and reasons attached to this Bill, is that the Government must be given powers when some company threatens them with a deadlock of some sort and public convenience is at stake. In this connection the Government has cited a dispute that had arisen in Lahore in 1934 between the Lahore Electric Supply Company and the Municipal Committee and that things had come to such a pass that the former threatened to cut off the supply of energy necessary for lighting the streets of the town. I do not want to go into the details of this dispute, but I would like to discuss certain fundamental points in this respect. No one can deny the fact that when a private company starts its work it has to overcome many difficulties at the beginning. For instance, it has to sell its

shares in large numbers, and do the difficult spade-work before the installation of machine, and then profits remain out of sight for years until the company takes risks in making investments to great extents. These are plain facts and we should not lose sight of them while discussing such matters. We must not snatch away a concern from their hands, because a dispute has arisen between two parties. The one may quarrel with the other in a private capacity. The courts will do their duty and settle the dispute. The only thing that concerns the Government is when some deadlock is threatened and public convenience is at stake. The Government must have some powers to meet the situation. I am one of those who believe in giving some such powers to the Government to meet such grave situation, but I am not one of those who think that the only remedy is to take full control of it and ask the directors to retire and enjoy a sound sleep. It is no doubt the duty of the Government to provide against a situation, in which, for one reason or another, the public may be put to grave inconvenience for which a company may be responsible. They must remedy the evil. I am prepared to admit that. But that remedy should be according to the disease and rather worthy of the traditions of the Government. To say that for preventing any recurrence of such deadlock as was created in 1934 the Government should have a complete control on the progressive state of the privately-owned company will be improper and unjust. In this connection I would like to relate a story which, I think, is quite applicable to the Government. A man, who had had pain in his stomach went to a physician for treatment. The physician asked him to tell him the reason for his stomach pain. He said, "I do not know the reason for that but this much I remember that last night I ate overbaked bread." The physician gave him prescription which was nothing but antimony. The patient asked him surprisingly as to why he had prescribed antimony for him, while the trouble was in his stomach. The physician replied that if he had had good eyesight he would not have eaten the overbaked bread. Similar is the case with our Government. I submit that the powers the Government has under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code to deal with such situations are ample and these powers were successfully resorted to when a dispute between the Lahore Electric Supply Company and the Municipality arose in 1934. However, if the Government thinks that section 144 is not sufficient to cope with the situation, I may point out to them that in case a deadlock is created endangering the interest, public safety and the maintenance of continuous supply of electric energy for street lighting service, the Deputy Commissioner or some other competent authority may be empowered to take the necessary steps and let his orders be final in this respect. I do not understand why the Government fails to appreciate this point and lays stress on taking over the administration of the company for a period of six months or a year as the Government may choose. I think that my honourable friends would bear me out in saying that the position of shareholders of the company during the period would go from bad to worse. The company which has made itself run profitably after putting in their hard labour and industry for the last so many years, would be root-shocked and the shareholders who had been receiving their rate of dividend for the last so many years would greatly suffer by this provision. The company may go to the dogs and it may not survive this injunction by the Government. I, therefore, submit that the best way for the Government

[L. Sita Ram.]

is to make amendment in section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code and to provide such penalty for the company as should make recurrence of grave situations rather impossible in future than to resort to snatching it away altogether for some period.

To take over the work of the company under their own control would neither be in the interest of the Government nor in the interest of the public. If not now, at some later date, you are bound to realize the defects of this measure. Such an expense is now at the very door of the Government. At the time of the discussion of the Marketing Bill we advised the Government to circulate it for eliciting public opinion thereon. If they had accepted our advice it would not have taken more than two months to know the mind of the public on that measure, but in haste the Government rushed it through with the result that of their own accord now they have postponed the enforcement of the same Act for six months. It is always in the interest of the Government as well as the public if the former were to accept the criticism offered by the latter through the Opposition. It would save the public a lot of trouble as well as this House a lot of time and money. With these words I support the amendment now before the House.

(*Mian Muhammad Nurullah rose to speak.*)

Minister for Public Works : Sir, it is very clear from the Bill that it is just an emergency measure and the object is to save the public from inconvenience.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : On a point of order. Is the Honourable Minister going to make his speech in reply ?

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister has a right to speak at this stage as well as at a later stage.

Minister for Public Works : I was under the impression that the honourable members had finished discussion and that I was replying to the arguments. If any one else wants to speak, I would like to reply at the end of the debate.

Mr. Speaker : Mian Muhammad Nurullah wanted to speak but when the Honourable Minister got up, I called him.

Minister for Public Works : If you give me time later on I am prepared to give way provided my honourable friend is keen to speak.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I thought that if I do not speak now, I will get an opportunity of saying something after hearing the Honourable Minister, because in this Bill there are many very important principles involved. After hearing the Premier, I need only say that I do not agree with him. This is more important than the other Bill because the other Bill only relates to the question of notice, whether it should be one year or two years or three years for the acquisition of any running concern after the expiry of the agreement made with the Government for 10 years or 20 years or 30 years, as the case may be. Therefore, sir, I consider this Bill to be very important and this Bill includes very many extraordinary and very, very dangerous principles. Therefore, it requires proper scrutiny and views of the public. We have been failing in many cases of Bills in getting the views of the public and repenting later on. It may be a case like that. Therefore, I had also given notice of a motion that this Bill be

circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st October. The motion moved by my honourable friend, Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal, probably is that the report be made by the 1st of December. If it is going to be 1st December and the election is to take place this year, probably this Government will be deprived of the benefit of having passed or added another measure to their so-called unsuitable and ill-thought of measures. But if my motion is carried, it will give them time to have another small session and get it through, so that if this Government want to put another feather in their cap, they can do so and add one other measure to the list of so many measures which are very cheap in the market. Therefore, I thought that the time for which this Bill should be circulated should be reduced by two months to give Government an opportunity to get it through during their time before the election takes place. Anyhow, when I got notice of this measure, I was very pleased to read the first, second and third lines. I did not know the contents. I read the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill. When I read the next heading, the long title, that is, a Bill to provide for the protection of the public in cases of emergency, at once it came to my mind that somehow our Government have struck a method by which the public could be saved from air raids, etc., if God forbid they are made on us. Thus the return indirectly of the Hydro would be greatly increased. The Government have spent crores of rupees on the Hydro-Electric Scheme, and now probably they want to hit upon something very honest which will save the public from any future danger. But when I read the Bill and went through it clause by clause, I was simply astonished to find how the Government is callously trying to decrease and put back an important industry that was gradually coming up during the last 20 years in this province. I am connected with about 4 or 5 power stations as a shareholder, or a director and I know definitely what the conditions are in this province and how this industry has just begun to flourish. It is only during recent years that some of the important towns in the province have been electrified by private firms and it required good deal more thought and study to be able to go further into the villages and to make the industry a paying concern. An engineer, with whom I had the honour of working as a director, was telling me that after five years experience he had hit upon a new technique and new scheme by which it might be possible to take up small towns, mandis and small villages. They would be able to make the industry pay. But what would be the result if this measure is passed? May I tell you how they were coming to that conclusion? By starting big power houses, the capital cost is very great and naturally the return is very low. Even in the case of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, I might inform the House, probably it was after 5 years of the existence of the Company that it had begun to pay. I am connected with the Panipat Electric Supply Company, where the consumers are so conservative that they would not like it even if they get electricity cheaper. But there are indirect advantages of electricity, and in face of many difficulties the province was well on its way to be electrified. Engineers were about to feel their way. They are being hampered and discouraged by Bills like this. I am simply astonished to see why this industry is being discouraged.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 24th April, 1941.

1911

1911年1月1日
1911年1月1日
1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日



1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日

1911

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 24th April, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON REMOVAL FROM SERVICE.

***7704. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number and names of the Government servants, with the name of the department from which each of them was dismissed, for offences involving moral turpitude during the years 1937 to 1940, who have been awarded compassionate allowance under Article 353 (Civil Service Regulations) and also the names of such Government servants who have been refused the grant of the compassionate allowance with the grounds for refusal in each case?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The words "moral turpitude" are extremely vague, and I do not feel justified in making widespread enquiries from departments that would be necessary to collect the information. If, however, the honourable member wants figures for any particular kind of moral turpitude, such as corruption, I will endeavour to have the information collected, but Government cannot undertake to give reasons for the grant or refusal of compassionate allowances in any case, though each case is carefully considered on its merits.

SARDAR KARAM SINGH MANN.

***7707. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the weight of Sardar Karam Singh Mann, Bar-at-Law, has decreased since his arrest and detention and that he is kept in the lock-up for 24 hours and is not allowed to have morning and evening walks; if so, why and the action intended to be taken to remove these complaints?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): There was a trivial decrease (2 lbs. in 2½ months) in the weight of Sardar Karam Singh Mann after his arrest; he is now confined in jail in accordance with the rules prescribed for the treatment of such prisoners.

SARDAR CHANAN SINGH.

***7708. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Chanan Singh, Personal Assistant to Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, has been removed from police station Old Anarkali, Lahore, to some other place ;
- (b) if so, when and where, the period of his detention, the law under which he has been detained, the class and diet given to him ;
- (c) has he applied for allowance to his dependents ; if so, the action taken by the Government ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes ;

(b) (i) 18th February, 1941, (ii) Central Jail, Montgomery, (iii) this depends on future circumstances, (iv) rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, (v) he is being treated as a Security prisoner and given the diet prescribed for C Class convicted prisoners, which he is allowed to supplement at his own expense.

(c) First part, No. Second part does not arise.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is the Government prepared to grant any allowance to his dependents, if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : The main question is whether Sardar Chanan Singh has applied for allowance to his dependents and my reply to it is that he has not applied for allowance to his dependents.

PROFESSOR TILAK RAJ CHADDA.

***7709. Sardar Moola Singh :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 7564¹, asked on 21st February, 1941, will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the reasons for which the weight of Professor Tilak Raj Chadda, M.A., has decreased after his arrest and detention in the District Jail, Rawalpindi, and also state the names of the persons permitted to interview the said professor since his detention ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) : First part : the decrease in weight was only five pounds and it is not possible to assign reasons for minor decreases of this kind ;

Second part : seven persons have so far had interviews with him—it is not in the public interest to give names.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is it a fact that one Dalip Chand of Rawalpindi sent an application to the Deputy Inspector-General, Criminal Investigation Department, requesting that he may be permitted to interview Professor Tilak Raj Chaddah, and that the Deputy Inspector-General permitted him to see the aforesaid professor on 27th March but when he reached there for interview he found that Professor Tilak Raj Chaddah had been transferred to the Deoli Camp ?

Parliamentary Private Secretary : The honourable member asked the names of the persons who were permitted to interview Professor Tilak Raj Chaddah. I have stated that seven persons were allowed to interview him and that it is not in the public interest to give names of those persons. If my honourable friend wants information about any particular matter he should give notice and I shall certainly enquire.

Sardar Moola Singh : Sir, I asked the Government to state the names of the persons permitted to interview the said professor since his detention and in connection with this portion of my original question I further enquire whether one Dalip Chand of Rawalpindi applied to the Deputy Inspector-General, Criminal Investigation Department, for permission to interview the aforesaid professor and whether the Deputy Inspector-General permitted him to interview the aforesaid professor on March 27 and that when he went to see Professor Tilak Raj he found that he had been transferred to the Deoli Camp on the 25th March. I want to know whether all these which I have stated are facts. If so, why was he transferred before the date fixed for the interview?

SUB-TENANTS IN NILI BAR AND GANJI BAR COLONIES.

***7748. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of sub-tenants in Nili Bar and Ganji Bar Colonies who are landless and who are cultivating lands in those colonies for more than six years;

(b) the number of those sub-tenants who are cultivating those lands for less than 6 years?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The collection of this information would require an amount of time and labour out of all proportion to the results obtainable. I therefore regret that Government do not feel justified in calling for it.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Is it a fact that the number of tenants has considerably increased in the Nili Bar and they fail to get land on lease for cultivation?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I ask the Government if they are prepared to consider the question of leasing land to the sub-tenants?

Mr. Speaker : How does the question arise?

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY HAILSTORM IN CERTAIN VILLAGES IN JULLUNDUR, LUDHIANA AND HOSHIARPUR DISTRICTS.

***7784. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the average percentage of the damage done to crops, as ascertained after Girdawri in each of the following villages by a hailstorm which visited on the night between the 28th and the 29th September, 1940, in the villages Kahlon, Barnala, Bharta

[Ch. Md. Abdul Rahman Khan.]

Khurd, Baisyan, Dharampur, Hayala, Jafarpur, Gadani, Thana Banga, Hussain Chak, Chhokra, Kote Ranjha, Shaikhey Majara, Neelawal, Dilawarpur, Bilur Kalan, Mahdipur, Thathira, Nangar Chhanga, Sadarpur Kalan, Phool Makauri, Kanon, Wagara and others in tahsil Nawanshahr, district Jullundur and several other villages in the Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana districts ;

- (b) the reasons for charging land revenue in the face of the damage referred to above from the zamindars of the villages mentioned in (a) ;
- (c) the nature of the help or relief afforded by Government to those who have suffered on account of the devastating effects of the hailstorm referred to in (a) : if no help has been given, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) and (c) In the Hoshiarpur district, some of the villages, in which damage took place are under fluctuating assessment and the damaged areas are not assessed. In the villages under fixed assessment, remissions of land revenue to the extent of Rs. 2,025 have been granted where admissible according to rules.

In Jullundur payments were made without protest ; and without report to the Collector. The case of each village affected is now under examination.

As the damage in the Ludhiana district was insignificant, the question of relief did not arise.

Statement showing the extent of damage to crops by hailstorms on the night between the 28-29th September, 1940.

District.	Tahsil.	Village.	Percentage of the area damaged by hailstorm.
Jullundur ..	Nawanshahr ..	Kahlon	14
		Barnala	20
		Bharta Khurd	20
		Baisian	79
		Dharamkot (not Dharampur)	74
		Hayala	69

District.	Tahsil.	Village.	Percentage of the area damaged by hailstorm.
Jullundur— <i>conold.</i> ..	Nawanshahr— <i>conold.</i>	Jafarpur	52
		Gadani, Thana Banga	23
		Hussain Chak	30
		Chhokran	78
		Kot Ranjha	71
		Shaikhy Muzara	50
		Neelawal	74
		Dilawarpur	24
		Billoor Kalan	63
		Mahadipur	57
		Thathiala	77
		Nangal Chhanga	70
		Saidpur Kalan (not Sardarpur Kalan.)	22
		Phool Makauri	100
		Kanon	100
		Wagara—There is no village of this name in this tahsil.	..
		Sandhawan	51
		Khatker Khurd	53
		Muzari	50
		Bharoli	51
		Rahon	86
		Palian Kalan	72
		Sultanpur	64
		Namatpur	62
		Palian Khurd	52
		Saidpur Khurd	100
		Begumpur	55
		Kajla	80
		Karyam	57

District.	Tahsil.	Village.	Percentage of the area damaged by hailstorm.
Hoshiarpur ..	Dasuya ..	Ghull	83
		Nangal Khunga	73
		Tanda	69
		Mohan	68
		Jhans	62
		Dhadiala	51
		Jaura	14
		Raipur	25
		Kharl Khurd	3
		Khakh	1
		Khokhar	5
		Darya	2
		Bassi Jalal Khan	1
		Salempur	12
		Ghorewah	4
		Sagran	1
		Zabura	12
		Litter	3
		Kaloya	6
		Hambran	15
		Baich	9
		Saidpur	24
		Dehriwala	7
		Mohkamgarh	20
		Data	11
		Jhaj	26
		Babak	21
		Jhanwan	24
		Kandhala Jattan	12
		Kandhala Sheikhhan	16

District.	Tahsil.	Village.	Percentage of the area damaged by hailstorm.
Hoshiarpur—concl'd.	Dasuya—concl'd.	Bhagian	34
		Kandhali Naurangpur ..	26
		Masitpur Palkot ..	26
		Bundori ..	20
		Budhi Pind ..	8
	Garhshankar ..	Thehpathrali ..	22
		Chair ..	20
		Thandol ..	15
		Nangal ..	13
		Niana ..	54
		Chakli Kasab ..	9
		Nanowal ..	19
		Tandi ..	5
		Kamalpur ..	5
		Sakandarpur ..	1
		Khoja ..	8

NOTE.—There was no hailstorm in the Una tahsil of the Hoshiarpur district, while the damage in the Hoshiarpur tahsil of the Hoshiarpur district and the Ludhiana district was insignificant.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Is the Government aware of the fact that the zamindars of that area were forced to pay the land revenue demand before a certain date ?

Parliamentary Secretary : In my answer I have clearly stated that the zamindars of that area paid the land revenue without any protest. If the honourable member knows of any instance in which any person was forced to pay land revenue by coercion, etc., he can bring it to the notice of the Government.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Sir, there are villages in which 80 per cent of crops were destroyed. How could it have been possible for them to pay land revenue ? The reality is that the people had to pay land revenue by selling their jewellery, land, etc.

Mr. Speaker : That is a speech.

Parliamentary Secretary : Sir, it is wrong to say that people had to sell their jewellery and land in order to meet the land revenue demand.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali.]

No one sold his land or jewellery to pay land revenue. As regards the question of grant of remissions the Deputy Commissioner is considering all applications for remissions and will grant remissions to deserving cases according to the rules.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Is Government aware that in certain cases land revenue is being realized through the help of police agency ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : May I know whether the persons whose crops have been damaged to the tune of 50 per cent or above will be given relief by Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Certainly.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is it a fact that at the time of realisation of land revenue the tahsildar threatened the people ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, Sir.

SARDAR CHARN SINGH KHARBANDI OF LYALLPUR.

***7705. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Charn Singh Kharbandi of Lyallpur, Vice-President of the Punjab Provincial Motor Union, who is undergoing sentence of 9 months under Defence of India Rules in Ferozepore Jail was taken from Lyallpur to Ferozepore Jail with handcuffs and fetters on ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has been placed in C class irrespective of his high social status ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh) :
(a) Yes. The rules then in force have since been modified.

(b) Yes. On the information available I have no reason to think he has been given a wrong classification. I should point out that if the prisoner is dissatisfied he can move for a reconsideration of his case.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The Parliamentary Secretary has admitted that the classification was wrong. In view of this may I know whether Government could not place the prisoner concerned in a better class on their own account ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government do not admit that the classification was wrong.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Is Government prepared to defend the general policy of handcuffing Satyagrahi prisoners ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : This question does not relate to the handcuffing of Satyagrahi prisoners.

Sardar Ajit Singh : In view of the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary that the classification was not wrong may I know whether the office of the Vice-President of the Motor Union was not of a high status to warrant Government placing him in a higher class ?

ASSISTANCE UNDER STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT.

***7773. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of applications received for assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act and the number of applications accepted and the amount actually given during the 2 years 1939-40 and 1940-41 ;
- (b) the steps which Government propose to take to make loans available on easy terms to those intending to start industries in the province ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh) :

- (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.
- (b) The loans granted under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, are already repayable in easy instalments and so far as is known do not present any particular difficulty to the borrowers.

Statement showing the number of applications received for assistance under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, number of applications accepted and the amount sanctioned during the years 1939-40 and 1940-41.

Name of year.	Number of applications received.	Number of applications accepted.	Amount sanctioned.
			Rs.
1939-40 ..	145	32	99,990
1940-41 ..	190	50	1,58,660

INSTALLATION OF TEASING AND CARDING PLANT
FOR WOOL.

***7774. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the scheme for the installation of teasing and carding plant for wool in areas where wool is available has been abandoned ;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the action taken ;
- (c) the steps which Government have so far taken to develop the wool industry in the Punjab in general and in the Kangra Valley in particular ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh) :
(a) and (b) A scheme for the installation of a teasing and carding plant for wool in areas where wool is available was included in the Special Development Programme for 1941-42 but was omitted on grounds of economy.

(c) The undermentioned steps have been taken by Government to develop the wool industry in the Punjab :—

The Government industrial schools at Hissar, Panipat and Muzaffargarh, impart training in wool spinning and weaving. The travelling demonstration parties at Fazilka and Rawalpindi arrange demonstrations for the

[B. S. Thakur Ripudaman Singh.]

benefit of the weavers ; two more wool weaving demonstration parties—one for Dera Ghazi Khan and the other for the Eastern districts—have been sanctioned and will start working shortly. A scheme for the development of cottage and small scale woollen industries has been in operation since 1936 and as a result a number of designs in blankets, druggets, tweeds, shawls, saris, etc., have been introduced, most of which have been adopted with advantage. The wool finishing plant at Panipat has met a long standing necessity. Lastly financial assistance under the Punjab Industrial Loans Act, 1928, and the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, has been granted in several cases.

In the Kangra Valley the Government Industrial School, Kulu, specializes in wool spinning and wool weaving. This school has made a mark on account of the demonstrations and training given by it. The finishing station at Kulu provides facilities for teasing and carding wool. The Wool Spinning and Weaving Demonstration Party, Palampur, imparts practical training in spinning, weaving, carpet making and dyeing with fast colours.

SUPERSESSION BY CHAUDHRI RAM SINGH AND RANDHIR
SINGH, VETERINARY ASSISTANTS.

***7729. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that second grade Veterinary Assistants Chaudhri Ram Singh and Randhir Singh both from the Ambala division, have recently been promoted to the first grade ; if so, whether they have superseded any of their colleagues senior to them in service and if so, their number and names with the length of their service in the second grade ;

(b) whether the records of service of men so superseded were inferior to those of Messrs. Ram Singh and Randhir Singh, if not, the reasons for the supersession ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) Yes. The following officials were superseded :—

Name.	Service.
1. Lala Des Raj Bali.	} 14 years.
2. M. Shahab-ud-Din, III	
3. M. Badar-ud-Din.	
4. Bhai Bhan Singh	
5. M. Abdus Satar.	
6. M. Alam Khan.	
7. M. Niaz Mohammad.	
8. M. Ghulam Rasul Khan.	
9. Bh. Gurcharan Singh.	
10. M. Khuda Bakhsh.	
11. M. Tasaddaq Ali, I.	
12. Bhai Hari Singh, I.	
13. M. Abdul Aziz, III	

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Service.</i>
14. B. Rattan Lal.	} 13 years, 5 months.
15. M. Gul Mohammad.	
16. Bhai Waryam Singh.	
17. B. Ishar Dayal.	
18. M. Suleman Khan.	
19. M. Mahfuz Ali Khan.	
20. B. Tara Chand, II.	
21. M. Talib Hussain.	
22. M. Abdul Karim.	
23. M. Hidayat Mohammad.	
24. B. Bishan Das.	
25. M. Mohammad Shah.	
26. B. Madho Singh.	
27. M. Khuda Bakhsh Khan.	
28. M. Nazir Ahmad.	
29. B. Milkhi Ram.	
30. Bhai Sardar Singh, I.	
31. M. Sharif Ahmad.	
32. Bh. Randhir Singh, I.	
33. B. Sita Ram.	
34. Bhai Arjan Singh, I.	
35. Bhai Joginder Singh, I.	
36. M. Inayat Ullah Khan	
37. B. Amolak Ram	} 11 years, 10 months.
38. Bhai Prem Singh.	

(b) The promotions were made strictly by selection in terms of the principle enunciated in rule 7(3) of the Punjab Civil Veterinary Department Sub-ordinate Service Rules, 1933, promulgated with Punjab Government notification No. 2417-D., dated the 27th September, 1933.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is it a fact that Chaudhr Ram Singh and Bhai Randhir Singh who have superseded are Jats of the Ambala division ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I can say that about Ram Singh, but I cannot say anything about Randhir Singh.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Can the Parliamentary Secretary quote any instances in which any Muslim was given any lift like Ram Singh and Randhir Singh ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I want notice.

Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Is it a fact that even other non-gazetted men from the Veterinary Department promoted to the gazetted rank were Hindu Jats of the Ambala division ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I want notice for that question.

UNSPENT BALANCES UNDER SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

***7772. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the reasons why there are substantial unspent balances under various heads under Special Development Fund as shown on page 10 of the Finance Secretary's memorandum (Budget 1941-42) ;
- (b) the reasons why the whole of the unspent balance under each head has not been regranted for the year 1941-42 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) The unspent balances out of the grant for "Special Development Fund Programme" for the year 1940-41 were due to :—

- (i) unexpected delay in the selection of suitable officials for the operation of schemes ;
- (ii) reluctance on the part of the villagers to pay their share of the cost ;
- (iii) delay due to scrutiny of plans and estimates of certain schemes by technical engineering staff ; and
- (iv) abandonment of some of the schemes which proved partly or wholly unworkable.

(b) For the reasons given above, regrant out of the unspent balance has been allowed only to the extent likely to be utilized this year.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : What is the amount of unspent balance ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I want notice for that question.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : Do I understand that by allotting money for the beneficent departments from this Development Fund but not spending it, Government intended to hoodwink the members of this House and the public ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF LT.-COL. SARDAR SIR
MUHAMMAD NAWAZ KHAN.

Mr. Speaker : I have to read out to the Assembly the following application received from a member of the Assembly, for permission to be absent from the Assembly. Lt-Col. Sardar Sir Muhammad Nawaz Khan writes :—

I have the honour to submit that as I am employed here in a military capacity, therefore, I would be unable to attend the sittings of the Assembly for a period of sixty consecutive days, hence I apply for permission of the Assembly as required by Rule 33 (1) of the Rules of Procedure.

The question is—

That the permission asked for by the honourable member be granted.

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): I have to announce for the information of the House that Government proposes to bring in an amending Bill to the Agricultural Produce Markets Act, and with the concurrence of my friend the Leader of the Opposition we will take it up as soon as the present business is finished. I hope that copies of this amending Bill will be in the hands of members by to-morrow morning for perusal. The idea is that we should take it up after we finish the business on the Agenda to-morrow; if not to-morrow, on Monday. This would involve the waiving of the rules of business.

ELECTRICITY (EMERGENCY POWERS) BILL.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will resume discussion of the motion that the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be referred to a select committee and the amendment that the Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, last time I was trying to explain to the honourable members of this House that the Bill that has been brought forward regarding the taking over of electric concerns would greatly hit the development of electrification of towns in the province. You are all aware that this province is very much backward as compared with many other provinces which are far advanced in this respect. It is not merely a question of electrification of towns, it is not only a question of providing amenities by the use of electricity as against oil and other things. But it is bound to retard the industrial progress of the province and it would be a very bad omen to this country because we believe that it is only through industry that we can seek salvation and bring the people of this province to days of prosperity. I was also pointing out that engineers who had taken interest in these concerns, who are now practically pioneers who have put up power houses have been considering whether they were about to reach a stage when they can tackle the question of electrification of medium towns and villages. With a change of technique and some serious effort they would certainly have succeeded. If things are allowed to go on under the existing circumstances we would reach a stage when the progress in electricity would be great. But this Bill would certainly discourage them. The clauses in this Bill touch on vital principles and I think he would be a bold man who would in future, in the face of these provisions and enactment, come forward and apply for any licence for electrifying any town. I have had an opportunity of discussing the question. Probably you have not met any engineer who has taken over a few licences during the last few years and known their feelings. The managing agents are very much discouraged. I met at least two of them who told me that in the face of these provisions they would never care to take any licence. Government would be at liberty to take over any concern of this sort at any time they liked on a little pretext. In fact in this Bill you are not going to provide even a little pretext. Clause 8 says:

If at any time it appears to the Provincial Government:

- (a) that there is any likelihood of a failure in the continuous supply of a public electricity service or a diminution of such supply, and that such failure or diminution will be to the public disadvantage....

[M. Md. Nurullah.]

then they can take it over. This is a very abnormal, very retrograde and very reactionary clause. That is where none of those people who were the pioneers, who had taken the courage to invest money and who are controlling public money, would never come forward, in view of these provisions. What does this clause provide? It says "if there is any likelihood of a failure". This is more stringent than the Defence of India Rules. There it is said, 'if a man is about to act'. But here, 'if there is any likelihood'. At least there is the question of safety of the public. But here nothing would happen. I know from my personal knowledge that deadlocks and failures or break-downs are frequent. There is no business in which there is no likelihood of failure. I know to my personal knowledge that in Jhang only last year we had some trouble. It was a break-down. If at that critical stage Government had taken over the company worth about 4 lakhs it would have meant ruin. We know that Government had never succeeded in managing business affairs and if they had taken that company at that stage they would have ruined the company, ruined the poor investors some of whom would be widows, orphans, poor children studying in the schools and others living on the return of money invested therein. Not only the managing agents would have been hit hard but the poor people also who invested in it and who were expecting to be benefited by it. I need not mention many such instances of Government failure. My honourable friend sitting on my left had his say yesterday and now he wants me also to say something on how they have managed the hydro-electric scheme. It is a sad tale. I know I was promised a lot when crores were being spent out of the pockets of the poor zamindars. We were promised that we would have electricity and we can sink tube-wells and that we can improve our land. It is shameful to realize that the results are quite the opposite. It is regrettable that people at the head of the affairs did not take any interest and from our point of view we were duped to give money to the extent of 7 crores with no corresponding benefits. Nobody has sunk a tube-well. This is how you manage the affairs. I need not go into further details or further criticism, but would quote the words of the Honourable Finance Minister himself which are found in his budget speech. He has himself drawn a very gloomy picture and feels most hopeless about it. He says :

I speak to-day with my anxiety not much relieved about the financial results of the scheme. The construction of the scheme came to an end early in 1936 and according to original estimates it was anticipated that in the tenth year the scheme would yield a substantial net return then calculated at 5.75 per cent. The accounts of 1938-39 show that the interests charges exceed the net returns by about Rs. 9.85 lakhs, the disparity in 1939-40 was 16.45 lakhs. In the budget estimate for the current year it was expected that the deficiency would be still over Rs. 16 lakhs, but the revised estimates reveal a much more unsatisfactory position.

There you are. We have spent so much in a very nice way. You had all the money. You started very well. But what is the financial result? It is very discouraging from the point of view of the poor zamindars, who went on paying their extraordinary receipts and land revenue in the hope that they would get electricity in their villages. I need not take you further into these details. The budget speech of the Honourable Finance Minister shows that the prospect is very gloomy and I think it would be proper to

tell the honourable members of this House that if Government takes over any concern for six months in the first instance and then goes on giving notice for further periods and carry on business for a couple of years what will be the state of the company? From the Honourable Finance Minister's exposition of the management of the hydro-electric scheme, where they are running at a loss when they expected to make so much profit in 10th year of working, how can one imagine that Government will be able to manage better than the company?

What does the Honourable Minister say?

While the interest charges stand at Rs. 27,66,000, the net return has fallen to Rs. 5,51,000 as a result of drop in gross receipts, and increase in all directions of expenditure.

That is exactly what will happen, increase in all directions of expenditure and when you want to take over another company run by a private firm, then you will never be able to run it as efficiently, as carefully, with as little expenditure, as they can. In the Hydro-Electric Department you have been spending much more and increasing the expenditure, as the Finance Minister says:

The disparity has increased to over 22 lakhs. The budget estimates for 1941-42 shows that the difference between interest charges and the net revenue would be Rs. 17½ lakhs. The position in the current year has been particularly unsatisfactory because while the gross receipts have fallen, the establishment charges have increased.

Here you are. You are bound to increase the charges and the revenue will come down. People are afraid of you and your methods of managing such big concerns as Hydro-Electric. Again the Finance Minister says:

On the present working it may be said that on an average the net income of the scheme falls short of interest charges by Rs. 17 lakhs and even if we were to ignore the amount appropriated for depreciation, and that would not be justifiable business accounting, the gap will remain at about Rs. 6 lakhs. I see at present no prospect of the gap being substantially bridged over, much less the interest charges being completely met from that income, not to speak of there being a net return on the whole working of the scheme.

There is no chance, says the Honourable Finance Minister, of any net return from the undertaking. Again he says:

The most outstanding factor which leads to this unhappy position....

Mark the language. He says this unhappy position, though I think it is much more than that.

The most outstanding factor which leads to this unhappy position is that while the original scheme contemplated a generating capacity of 36,000 K.Ws., it is now realized that the output of power will not exceed 16,500 K. Ws. at daily load factor of 73 per cent.

This is a very important point to be rubbed into the heads of the honourable members as well as the Honourable Ministers. The Honourable Minister then was Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and he knows it much better than any body else, than even the present Minister, because the Government made a very big initial mistake, they estimated it at about 36,000 K.Ws.; and what do you find now? It is less than half, only 16,500 K.Ws. This is what happened to a business that you yourselves started; what will happen when you take over a running concern which is not giving proper supply? In that case I am sure you will never be able to run it and manage

[M. Md. Nurullah.]

it and the disparity in your calculations would be much more than in this case. That is why I say that you should never try to uphold this principle of taking over running concerns. The Honourable Minister continues to say :

This falsifies all previous financial forecast. The large reduction in the available energy now estimated is due to low discharge in the river Uhl during winter months; this is a matter beyond our control, though original estimates should probably have foreseen this situation. Apart from this paramount factor the most important circumstance that affects our net receipts is the expenditure on establishment. When a large part of establishment charges becomes debitable to capital account, the revenue account would have to bear only a part of this burden.

I need not take very long over this. All the same my contention is that when the Minister gives us this description of the Hydro-Electric scheme where crores of rupees have been spent, then what more can you expect from the Government when they take over a concern which is about to fail or where there is a likelihood of its failure to continue supply. I have pointed out that if you take over a concern like that at a critical moment when it is about to fail, then it would be a very serious matter and you will never be able to put it right. We know that Honourable Ministers of this Government have not been acting bona fide and have been interfering and have been going out of their way to put their nose into certain matters relating to commerce and industry, removing directors from private companies and doing very undesirable things. The bona fides of these Ministers is always questionable. A Government coming into power. It sees say Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang running successfully an iron and steel manufacturing concern. It wants to hit him. It can do so. It can say, look here this is a company running successfully with Mian Abdul Aziz as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mian Nurullah as a director, why not take it over. Take for instance, Jhang. They may say that Jhang is about to fail, as you may say that any body is about to act in a manner prejudicial to public interest and you may haul him under the Defence of India Act. You can allege a diminution of supply which no body can prove, even your technical engineers cannot do so. With these excuses you may take action and injure the reputation of the company and harm the investors. I therefore say that you should not uphold the principle that you are advocating here in this House to-day. It may be ruinous to the industrial advancement and electrification of the province. If to-day we do not question this principle and allow it to be accepted by the House, to-morrow the Government might come up with another Act and say that such and such a flour mill is needed by them, that a certain oil mill is not doing very well, this factory is not going to run well, let us protect that industry and the investors. Thus they can grab anything they like whenever it is their pleasure. In this way you discourage all private entrepreneurs and without private entrepreneurs neither your province nor industry of this province would run well. You must encourage private entrepreneurs rather than discourage them and for that reason do not proceed with this unwholesome principle of taking over any concern even though it is a public utility concern. Having got hold of a thing once, you are likely to extend this principle, to every matter, every factory, karkhana, in fact every thing which appears to you not to be running to your taste or the management of which is against

you. Therefore I submit that you should be cautious and I must enter my strongest protest against this Bill. As Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal said, it is only taking possession of the belongings of other people. I go further and say that it is not only taking possession of others' things, it is like *din dehare daka marna*. It is nothing short of *daka*. If you want to take over the Lahore Electric Supply Company, take it over by all means. Give them two years' notice and take it over, but why do you want to discourage the private entrepreneurs and spoil the whole fabric of industrial and electric development in the province?

I now want to take another point. They say that the power or contract will be with the Government and the liability would be with the company. How can you expect A, B, C, however well-intentioned he may be to have that feeling and sympathy for the investors if he has no liability to incur? If I am a director and I have invested Rs. 10,000 I may have some feeling for the interests of the investors also, for my own money is involved and if I lose that money, I may be ruined. But if in my place anybody is put who is part and parcel of the machinery of the Government and who has no personal interest in it, he can never have the same sympathy with that concern, because after all he will be there only either temporarily or on behalf of the Government which would not bother about the concern whether the concern goes to dogs or flourishes. Therefore this principle is also condemnable from this point of view, because the power will go into the hands of those who have no risk to run, who have no stake and who have no sympathy and who have no interests and who cannot have that courage of enterprise which always saves a private business from loss and leads it to flourishing heights. And you are coming in at a time of crisis without having those qualities and without having the heart. I, therefore, must protest against this. You are coming at the time of the crisis when you cannot have those qualities and you cannot be successful. Further on it is said that the conditions of service will be the same. I do not know why this Government is not fed up with administration, with making appointments of persons on odd jobs, with appointing clerks and all those things, for, if they have to appoint one clerk there will be hundreds of applications and many recommendations and thus they can please one and displease many. They ought to be fed up, but, on the other hand, they are hankering after more power. They want more control and they want to administer private affairs as well. Surely there is no emergency. Emergency has really not arisen. If it were for the duration of war then I will not mind it and I would support it. If there are any emergencies which they are expecting during this period of war, they can take over these companies for the sake of effective prosecution of the war. For this purpose you can do anything that you like even if the public suffers for I know that it will gain at the other end. We are not going to accept these principles for any other thing except the war emergency. It is said that the Lahore Electric Supply Company once did this and did that. As was pointed out emphatically by the Chairman of that company it was not the company which was at fault, in 1934. The Commissioner or whoever he may be—who investigated the matter—put more blame not on the Lahore Electric Supply Company but on the Committee. The Committee you can dictate to. It is the Municipal Committees who should behave well and not the electric supply companies.

[M. Md. Nurullah.]

Even if the municipal committee does not behave well and the electric supply company is going to be at fault, then you have got other powers with you. You have got so many other methods by which you can save the situation. When in the year 1934 the Lahore Electric Supply Company was going to cut off the current and put the public in the dark, did you not succeed by the application of section 144? I ask you, are there not enough provisions in the Act already? I need not take more time of the House on this matter but if you read the various clauses in the Electricity Act, you will find that there are ample powers by which you can dictate and do as you like. I think the life of any electric supply company is in the hands of the provincial Government in this province because it is the provincial Government which, in the first place, gives the licence. There are clauses in the licences by which the licences can be easily revoked. Therefore, if you want to put pressure on the companies so that nothing of this sort might happen, then you might add another clause so that in future, if there is any likelihood of that thing happening, you may be able to bring into action that new clause and thus save the public from any inconvenience. I have in my hands the Panipat Electric Supply Company's licence of 1934. It contains the revocation clause whereby the licence even can be revoked. You are, therefore, already armed with many powers which anybody would like to have and I feel that the provisions under the Government of India Act are enough. They have worked very well and there have been no mishaps or anything of that sort that is provided for in this Bill. The Honourable Minister of Public Works, in reply to a question put by Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri to the Honourable Minister of Revenue the other day, asking him the side from which the Weights and Measures Bill had come and from which Bill certain provisions were copied, said, that the provision came from Bombay by the Frontier Mail.

Minister for Public Works : I was not in charge of the Bill.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : But you are in charge of this Bill. The question then was put to the Honourable Minister of Revenue and the reply came from the Honourable Minister of Public Works, who is in charge of this Bill, that the provisions came from Bombay by the Frontier Mail. May I now ask him from which side has this Bill come? I think Sargodha Mail has not yet started and there is no other fast train from Lyallpur and, therefore, he has nothing to state. There is no Act of this nature anywhere in India, from which it could be copied. It is not copied and I think that it is the original brain-wave of somebody here simply with a view to grab power and put pressure on the commercial community, on the industrial enterprise of other people. I do not know for what it is being done. I ask the Honourable Minister to tell me the side from which it has come. Whether it has come from anywhere, or not, I say that it is not a whole-some one. You have mostly been copying others' Bills but here you seem to be giving a lead. It is a wrong lead indeed just as you did in many other cases. We daily find so many popular provisions being rushed through this House and when they actually come into practice, they meet with difficulties and before the ink has dried, they try to change them. These are unwholesome principles and you should not press them. You should not, because of sheer majority, carry this provision, and if you want to have

any special power mention it in so many words that it is for the duration of the war. Do not, therefore, try to go through this provision unless you send it to the public for eliciting their opinion. Public opinion will guide you in the right direction and you will later on find out how much opposition it is likely to arouse even if it be passed into an Act. You have previously been failing in your duty in not sending the Bills to the public. I would request you to take particular care and accept this motion for sending this Bill to the public for eliciting public opinion thereon.

I have already said that we are just in a small way beginning to electrify the province. Other provinces are much forward as Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri, who has just now come, will tell you later on. I was to carry on till he had come. (*Interruptions.*)

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I am going away.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : If you read the Statement of Objects and Reasons you will find many contradictory and unwholesome things. There is the question of penalties upon which I must say something. This is another matter upon which public may be concerned because there is the penalty of imprisonment for him who does not obey the order of the Government. The order of the Government may be foolish but it must be obeyed. Although the company be right, although the managing agents be right, although they be running smoothly, they must obey your order and if they do not, what is the penalty? Penalty of imprisonment should not be there. If it is your aim to electrify the province, if it is your aim to see that the public is not inconvenienced by getting into the dark and thus you want to protect the public and save the public from the discontinuance of supply of electrical energy by a private agency, then why have this penalty of imprisonment? There are many other methods by which you can achieve your object. When it is done, you can fine the managing agents and the company but why imprison all those people for a period which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or both? May I ask the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill as to how many villages have been electrified? (*Hear, hear.*) What is the percentage of population that enjoys the benefit of electricity in this province? We have just hardly touched the fringe and in future you are not getting any more people who will come up to take up this work, in the face of this penalty of imprisonment, and run a show worth lakhs of rupees and make it a success.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Make it a success for them.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : This will be a great risk and if you want to change your policy from to-day, take courage and say that you want to nationalize the industry. That will be something. Then I might have to think twice before saying what I am saying now. Do nationalize it. Make it a national industry. Let the benefit go to the poor, let the poor people enjoy, let this industry provide him with bread and butter, clothing and education. In that case you may nationalize the whole thing in the province. I do not mind that. Break these monopolies, make it a monopoly of the State so that the State may benefit and through the State the public may benefit, the public has something to eat, something to live upon, some clothing to wear and something to send their children to school. I know that in many countries these industries have been nationalized and people there are very happy. There is clothing and food for everybody.

[M. Md. Nurullah.]

There is education for their children and those who are pretty old, get pension. There the things have progressed to that stage but it is only because they have nationalized the industry and thus have made the people happy. If that is your intention, be bold and come out with the truth. Then I might be with you. There is another point which I must mention and which would be very injurious and harmful to the people. The Government being a party, they do not allow people to go to courts. I say that it will be denying justice to the poor investor, it will be denying justice to the people who have run risks. This is the only place where they can expect some justice, specially in this case when the Government is a party which is to decide that the electricity is about to fail and there is an excuse to take over the company. They being a party should in all fairness delete this clause. I know of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. Five years ago some of our land was taken by the Government but up to this time we have not been paid. When the Government is a party, it is only the High Court that can do justice and nobody else. Therefore, I would like you to consider this thing. You might have barred the lawyers coming up advocating the cause of the poor people in courts. That is quite a different thing. If a small officer of the Government reports against somebody, then you take action and debar that person or that company or that owner or entrepreneur from going to a court. That would be very harsh indeed. So, I would like you to delete that clause :

Again clause 12 (3) says :

nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any public electricity service during such period as it is in the possession and control of the Provincial Government from its liability on any contract entered into by the said service or by the Provincial Government on its behalf.

If the provincial Government efficiently or inefficiently, knowingly or unknowingly, or somehow enters into a contract on behalf of the company they will not be responsible for the liability on any such contract. According to this sub-clause the Government will not be responsible for any contract entered into by the Government or by the officer in charge of the company who has been placed by the Government. So this clause is again dangerous. Let the Government be responsible for the liability when they are forcing a contract on the said company. If the Government have entered into a contract knowingly they must be responsible for the liabilities put on it. This Bill is very dangerous from many other points. I submit that the Government must consider all these points most seriously and should not rush through this Bill like other Bills which were not circulated for public opinion. I, therefore, support this circulation motion.

Sir William Roberts (European) : Sir, I would like to support the amendment of my honourable friend, Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal. I hope he will agree with me if I change the date. I do not see any reason why 31st December should be fixed. I think the date should be as suggested by Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : I have no objection.

Sir William Roberts : I see no harm if the Government agrees to the circulation of this Bill. In fact, it would strengthen the hands of

the Government to do so. There is no hurry about this Bill. The evil referred to in the Statement of Objects and Reasons took place nearly 7 years ago, in 1934. It is not a taxation measure. The Honourable Premier, when speaking at the Chamber of Commerce lunch this year, said that the reason for introducing some of the Bills and rushing them through suddenly without circulation was that they were money bills and money bills could not be circulated for opinion. This does not apply to this measure. Therefore, I think the Government would be well advised if they agree to the circulation motion. Again, I doubt very much whether the Government have weighed the consequences of temporarily taking over commercial companies. In my opinion in 90 per cent of the cases, such companies taken over by the Government would do better to go into liquidation rather than suffer under the Government mismanagement where it would be impossible for them to carry on their business. My apprehension is that the Bill would result in disorganization of the industry. There are many other ways of achieving the object which the Government has in view. I press strongly upon the Honourable Minister that he should have the views of the public on this matter and send the Bill for circulation, specially in view of the present contingency when the opposition in this House is small in numbers.

Shaikh Sadiq Hassan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I may point out at the very outset that I am strongly opposed to State Socialism. I am convinced that this doctrine cannot prove a success in India as individual effort can manage and look after the industries better than the Government. But so far as the measure under discussion is concerned the matter stands on a different footing. This Bill has been brought forward with the object of breaking that monopoly which has been created by the electric companies. I feel that industry of electric supply is on par with other public utility services such as railways, posts and telegraph offices. The honourable members are aware that these public utility services are directly under the control of the Government. I, therefore, think that there is no harm if the Government take possession of the electric supply concerns also and break this unholy monopoly. I am of the opinion that it is the bounden duty of the Government to take a bold step in this direction and save the public of the grave inconvenience to which they are likely to be put in the event of refusal on the part of electric supply companies to provide energy for street lighting purposes. Again, I may point out that if the industry of supply of energy had not been a monopoly and was open to free competition, I would have objected to Government's interference in the matter. It is possible that the first directors of these companies may be capable and honest in their dealings but if these concerns pass into the hands of inefficient persons, the public at large would be put to great hardship. For instance, they can say that their load is not large enough to allow them to supply energy to the public on a liberal scale. Besides, there is a possibility of their supply arrangements being extremely defective. Suppose they entirely cut off the current for one reason or another. What would be the result? In the first instance the factories would be hard hit because their business would come to a standstill on account of the discontinuance of the electric energy. Secondly, they would be compelled to pay wages to the workmen without getting any output of work. In other words, they would be made to incur heavy losses for no fault of theirs. So far as the

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

difficulties of the people in general are concerned, they can very well be imagined by the honourable members. Under the circumstances is it not better and worthwhile that the Government should take over such concerns for six months rather than allow the innumerable factories go without energy? Besides, it is a matter of common knowledge that this is an age of electricity which has become a part and parcel of the life of an average citizen. Generally speaking the days of oil lamp in the towns are gone and little disturbance in the supply of energy causes enormous inconvenience to the public and unhinges their normal activities. The honourable members must be aware of the fact that during hot season it is well nigh impossible to carry on work in the offices, be they Government or otherwise, without electric fans. Again there are people who have acquired the habit of studying in the light of 50 candle power electric lamps and they find it hard to carry on their work in the dim light of oil lamps. It can be fully realized as to what would be their plight if the supply of energy is discontinued by the electric companies. I, therefore, strongly feel that it is the imperative duty of the Government to see that the supply of energy both for street lighting purposes and private use is not jeopardized in any way.

It is the duty of the Government to arrange for the convenience and comfort of the public and pass necessary legislation for that purpose. I will never advocate that the State should take possession of all the businesses.

Far from it, I believe in the right of personal property.
1 p.m.

But we must confess that it would be better for the public if services of public utility are controlled by the Government. Private persons who monopolize services of public utility often mismanage and harass the public. It is with a view to avoiding this that the Government want to bring under its control the electric supply companies. The monopoly of different companies should be broken and the Government should take charge of these concerns.

Coming to the objection raised by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah, I may respectfully point out that the position of the Government with regard to clause 10(2) is quite just and sound. This clause reads as under :—

Any dispute as to whether compensation is payable or as to the amount of any compensation so payable, shall, in default of agreement, be determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1940.

Now I wonder why did my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah object to this clause? It is based on justice and equity. If agreement is impossible between the parties concerned, arbitration is the only method to be followed. Justice and equity uphold this principle.

In the end I would appeal to the House to reject the circulation motion and support the passage of the Bill as it is calculated to break the monopoly of the private companies and bring the supply of the electric energy under the control of the Government.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, in view of the importance and urgency of this measure, I rise to oppose the circulation motion which is calculated to postpone the

consideration of the Bill for a long time, that is, up to the 31st of December, 1941. It is clearly a dilatory motion and must have been prompted by self-interest. If such a salutary measure is postponed for a long time, the public will certainly suffer very heavily. As a matter of fact this Bill is calculated to benefit the public at large for bringing the private electric supply companies to senses and to humiliate their pride to some extent. Now the ratio of shareholders in these companies is no more than 5 in a lakh, that is .002 per hundred. The Government want only to bring the electric supply companies under their own control. I wonder why some honourable friends are opposing this Bill? If they dispassionately consider the provisions of this Bill, they will certainly realize that it is a very salutary measure and must be passed as soon as possible. Only 5 per cent people will be affected by this and the rest of the public, that is, 95 per cent of them will be benefited by this Bill. It aims at the amelioration of the conditions of the public at large and removing apprehension from their minds and if a microscopic minority suffers, we should not mind. As a matter of fact we should look to the interest of the people on the whole. The monopolists of the electric supply will undoubtedly suffer. But let us consider how immense good will result from this to the teeming millions. Looked from this broad view, the Bill deserves the full support of the House. I really wonder why some honourable friends are opposing this Bill. As a matter of fact this measure is intended to put a stop to the countless malpractices and irregularities committed by the monopoly holders of the electric supply. I had enumerated at some previous occasion the manifold irregularities of the electric supply companies and I need not repeat them to-day and waste the time of the House. I welcome this Bill which deserves to be written in letters of gold. It also deserves big headlines in the newspapers. As a matter of fact this salutary measure like many others will be cherished as a proud heritage of the present Ministry. The business of supplying electric energy is in fact a service of public utility and it should have either been entirely run and managed by the Government or at least controlled by them. But if the Government now intends only to bring it under its control, the fact should be welcomed and the Government should be thanked. There is absolutely no meaning in the opposition to this measure. It is calculated to do a lot of good to the public and as such deserves our whole-hearted support. The chief reason for the protest of some honourable members is that the period of the licence of the Lahore Electric Supply Company is about to expire and the interested people fear that it will be taken over by the Government. But I may remind them that this Bill has nothing to do with taking over by the Government of the Lahore or any other Electric Supply Company. The intention of the Government is to have a control over these companies in order to avoid untoward happenings as the Lahore company once threatened to cut off connection. It bears no ill-will towards the Lahore Electric Supply Company or any other company. The Bill has the good of the whole province at heart and the people should not be deprived its blessings. This Bill will not only save the public from such threats of the electric supply companies as are often held out by them with regard to stoppage of electric supply, etc., but will also increase the chances of their getting electric energy at reduced rates. Although this is not the intention of the framers of the Bill but as I was referring to

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

the Lahore Electric Supply Company I said those words. It is explicitly stated in this Bill that the main object of this Bill is supervision of the work of the electric supply companies but it will simply enable the Government to take over the control of such of the companies whose service would be found defective or inefficient. Honourable Mian Nurullah stated that the Government is trying to interfere with the work of supplying electric current for purposes of lighting to the whole province. I say that it is not so. They are in reality trying to improve the service of these companies. This Bill will enable them to take under their own control such of the electric supply companies whose work would be found defective or not up to the mark. In this way it is very possible that they may find it desirable to take under their control all those electric supply companies who render inefficient service. With these words I oppose the circulation motion.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) : I sympathize with the last speaker. His speech reminded me of the case of a student who failed more than once in the Intermediate examination in the Mathematics paper because he had not been able among other things to solve questions relating to binomial theorem. When he sat for the examination a third time, he did not look at the examination paper but started answering the paper by saying 'Let me first solve the binomial theorem' because he had spent the whole of that year in learning the binomial theorem. Khawaja Sahib seems to be obsessed with the inequities or shall I say selfishness of the Lahore Electric Supply Company. At least there is something which is not to his taste in the administration of the Lahore Electric Supply Company. He gave expression to it when he was speaking on the last occasion in connection with the budget demand for Hydro-Electric Department. He did not repeat now what he had said then, but he certainly made a reference to it so that honourable members might recollect what he had said. Unfortunately Khawaja Sahib is doomed to disappointment, because the complaint that he made when he was discussing the Lahore Electric Supply Company on a particular ground will not be redressed by this Bill. This Bill does not touch, as was pointed out by my honourable friend from Amritsar, the question of dismissal or appointment of any particular candidate or candidates belonging to any particular class. Therefore all this opposition and all this enthusiasm shown by him are really beside the point.

Now, coming to the Bill itself, I have got up to support the circulation motion for a number of reasons. In the first instance, I think that the principle involved in this Bill, if there is any principle at all, is a vicious principle. Mian Nurullah when he was making his speech wanted to ask the Minister from where this Bill had come to Lahore. The Honourable Minister for reasons best known to himself did not refer to any particular train by which it had arrived in Lahore and did not mention the place from which it had come. I think it is nothing but an imitation, an incomplete and vicious imitation of something imported from Moscow. (*Minister for Public Works* : It came from the last regime). The last regime can defend itself if it becomes necessary. I say that this Bill is a vicious imitation of Bolshevik principles which were introduced a few years ago in Russia. And it is an incomplete imitation as I said, because it is neither fish nor flesh, nor good red herring.

It is neither here nor there. It is nothing but a temporary encroachment on private property for purposes which do not justify such an encroachment. My submission is that the whole province, whether Hindus, Mussalmans, or Sikhs, Unionists or Disunionists, all are opposed to the introduction of this vicious principle into the politics and administration of this province; because it would be like driving the thin end of the wedge into the right of private property in this province. If it is the Electric Supply Company to-day, to-morrow it will be some other company. Day after to-morrow it may be some textile company or some other factories of which there are very few in this province. Therefore my submission is that in attacking the very principle of this Bill I go so far as to say that no healthy principle is involved in this. We are familiar with the system of court of wards, we are also familiar with the guardians of minors and commissioners in lunacy and of such other cases. When a zamindar is a minor or if a major he displays inability to look after his affairs, the Government takes charge of his lands and manages them for him and when he attains majority or if he is found able to look after his affairs after a few years, then the estate is restored to him. But I have never heard, so far as this country is concerned, I may be entirely ignorant of the precedent which may be in existence up the sleeves of the Honourable Minister, but I do confess my ignorance of such a measure in any part of this country; and at least so far as this province is concerned the measure is absolutely a novel one.

Now, what is the reason given for this measure? It is not that the companies which are running the electric supply business are themselves incompetent or that the business is run by lunatics or by insolvents or by people who are entirely unable to look after their affairs. That is not the reason given. I think it does not lie in the mouth of any member of this Government to say that the people who are managing such big concerns are absolutely incapable of managing the affairs of their companies. If anything, whether the electric supply company is a big one or a small one, the people generally running them are men of business, while the members of the Government are not. Therefore, if anything, the persons in charge of those companies are more competent to run their business than any member of the Government can possibly prove himself to be, unless he devotes himself entirely to this business. I do not say that they suffer from any congenital inefficiency or incapacity. Not in the least. It is a question of not having had opportunities. ہر کے ہاں یہ کہہ سکتے ہیں

Everybody cannot do all sorts of things. Therefore when I say that they are not as competent to manage these business concerns as the directors of these companies are, I do not mean any disrespect nor do I intend to cast any reflection on their ability. What is the justification for such a measure?—One solitary instance of the Lahore Electric Supply Company which occurred in 1934. Not a single other instance has been quoted. Seven years have elapsed since that instance occurred. Not a single other case or an attempt of such a case has occurred anywhere else in the Punjab. And as that instance occurred in my time, I know all the reasons and the circumstances which led to that unhappy episode. I would not go deeply into the merits or demerits of the Lahore Municipal Committee as it stood in 1934, but the very fact that the supersession of that Municipal Committee had to be ordered and the very fact that that order is still maintained, although about

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

five years have elapsed, would show that there was certainly something wrong with the Lahore Municipal Committee, and even the present Government is not prepared to say that the order of supersession was an unjustified one. Among other things, this is a fact which must be well known to people who had anything to do with the Lahore Municipal Committee, that the Lahore Municipal Committee had failed to pay bills for the supply of electricity to the Lahore Electric Supply Company for a number of years, and the amount which was due from the Lahore Municipal Committee amounted to several lakhs. My honourable friend sitting here who is the Chairman of the Lahore Electric Supply Company tells me that the amount was something like several lakhs. I do not know the exact amount, but it is certain that the amount was very large. Several attempts were made by the Lahore Electric Supply Company to realize all its bills, but there was no response. The Lahore Municipal Committee on one excuse or another failed to pay those bills, and, as you know, Lala Harkishan Lal, its Chairman at that time, was not a person who would take things lying down. That everybody knows. After having failed by all peaceful means and businesslike methods to recover several lakhs which were due to his company from the Lahore Municipal Committee he held out a threat which might have been a mere bluff. He held out a threat that unless the bills were paid by a particular day, the supply of electricity for street lighting in Lahore would be cut off. There is not the slightest doubt that if this threat had been carried out, it would have been a great disaster and it would have caused the greatest inconvenience to the people of Lahore, both officials and non-officials. A great deal of work would have been stranded and hampered if this threat had been carried out. The District Magistrate of Lahore, the late Mr. S. Partab, issued an order under section 144 against the Lahore Electric Supply Company threatening it with punishment or with legal proceedings if the threat was carried out. But we were not sleeping over the matter. I was then in charge of the municipal committees and I was also in charge of the hydro-electricity while the Revenue Member was in charge of Electricity Act. The arrangement in those days was that the administration of the Act was not transferred subject and the Act was administered by the Revenue Member while the Hydro-Electric Department was a transferred subject, and was being administered by Ministers. We at once considered the matter and a letter was sent to Lala Harkishan Lal to come up to Simla. He was good enough to go to Simla. We held a sitting and in one hour the whole thing was decided. The President of the Lahore Municipal Committee was there, the Executive Officer was there and the Revenue Member who happened at that time to be Sir Miles Irving and myself settled the dispute. Every party was reasonable. A mistake was going to be made by one of our official friends but I caught hold of his hand and I said to him : "Do you know with whom you are dealing ? You are dealing with Lala Harkishan Lal." No kind of threats or any officialdom would pay with him, and we adopted a friendly method of settlement and in one hour, as I have said the whole difficulty was solved. There was no plunging of Lahore into darkness, and that threat was never carried out, though it was apprehended judging from the character of Lala Harkishan Lal, that section 144 might not have stopped him from carrying out his threat, if he was himself.

serious about it. But when it came to friendly settlement, the whole thing was finished in one hour. Now my submission is that even assuming that section 144 would not have proved an efficacious remedy in the case of an obstinate man like Lala Harkishan Lal or that in this case the threat was real, does one such instance only even though the threat was not carried out, justify the enactment of a measure like the one which has been placed before us by the Government? I consider it absolutely unnecessary. In the first place the principle is vicious. In the second place the enactment of such a measure is absolutely unnecessary, and I give you another reason why it is unnecessary. In the first place, there is a provision in the Electricity Act itself. If the Honourable Minister would look to section 3 of the Indian Electricity Act (d) (2) he would see that when the Government issues a licence, it is open to the Government to impose any conditions that it likes before the licence is issued and I think that the insertion of one clause that unless there is a breakdown and unless the circumstances are such over which a company has no control, it would be absolutely essential for an electric supply company to supply lights for street lighting and in case it fails the licence would be liable to be cancelled, the addition of one line in the licence form would do the trick and would serve the purpose which the Government has in view. Another reason is that the Government does not seem to have fully apprehended the mentality of business people. Do they think that any directors, unless they are lunatics, in which case of course they leave their directorate under the law, as they cannot be directors if they become lunatic or insolvent or suffer from any such disability, would intentionally and deliberately and viciously cut off street supply? They are not giving the supply as a matter of charity. It is part of their legitimate business for which they have started the company and a shopkeeper or a merchant would be an absolute fool if he says that he would not supply any goods to this individual or that individual. There must be some reasons, very strong reasons, which would compel a shopkeeper or a merchant not to carry on his business, and if those reasons are strong and he is justified in taking such an action, you cannot blame the merchant or the shopkeeper for adopting such a course. But ordinarily an electric supply company which stands to make profits from the supply of electricity would not cut off its supply. This, I say, is quite a sufficient guarantee for the continuation of the supply, ceaseless supply of street lighting. But then let us say that there is a breakdown and the company's funds do not permit replacement of machinery which has either broken or gone out of order. In that case, will the Government be prepared to purchase the machinery for the purpose? There seems to be no provision for this. Supposing the machinery costs 2 or 3 or 4 lakhs as in the case of big electric companies, is the Government going to take any such action? I am sure the Government would not take any such action. But I say that except in such special circumstances, the supply will not be discontinued because it is in the interest of the company itself that it should continue the supply.

Then, Sir, another reason, and that was a very important reason, that Sir William Roberts pointed out is that rather than make over their house to a stranger to be kept for two years or even six months, some people may set fire to their houses. Some people might even go to that extent. To go into liquidation, as Sir William Roberts pointed out, rather

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

than make over the concern to a two-penny half-penny official of the Government—after all the Minister himself will not go and take charge of the company, some subordinate official will go and take charge of it—is nothing short of setting it on fire. Rather than make over their concern to a subordinate official they would say, let us go into liquidation. They will rather do that, but even if they do not do that—(Interruption). Wisdom always comes in the course of time as past history shows. One has to wait 12 hours or 10 hours sometimes in the night for the day to dawn, but the dawn does come after all. It must follow the night and no doubt, wisdom would dawn even upon this Government, but it would take some time and perhaps much mischief would have been done by that time. (*Minister of Public Works*: Hope not.) Many hopes have been belied. There is another thing. If the Government appoints a court of wards, or a guardian for a minor is appointed by a court, they act in a paternal manner. Is the present Government in a position, in which it can be looked upon as a paternal Government or as even a fraternal Government by the people concerned? I have no hesitation in saying that all the electric supply companies—perhaps without a single exception, are in the hands of the trading classes. Perhaps I am cent per cent correct so far as this matter is concerned. Now from the treatment that these trading classes have received at the hands of this Government and are receiving—

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan: How would you define trading classes?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Non-agriculturists if you want me to put it like that.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan: Not all of them.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: I do not mean to say that there is no agriculturist. A director here and a director there may be an agriculturist. But almost cent per cent it is true, that these electric supply companies are owned and directed by non-agriculturists, i.e., by trading classes. Even if my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah, happens to be by accident a statutory agriculturist, he has at least the wisdom and commonsense of a trader. That is the reason why he has got up to move this motion. The mere fact that one happens to be born in a family which a foreign Government described as statutory agriculturist, does not necessarily preclude him from some commonsense and wisdom and some acumen for trade and business. And Mian Nurullah is happily one of the few exceptions which we have in this line. So that whatever may be the case, whether there are some statutory agriculturists as directors of one or two companies or not, the fact remains that at least most of these electric supply companies are run by non-agriculturists, people who are by profession and by tradition traders and judging from what has happened in this province during the last four years, can it be said that they have the slightest confidence in this present Government? My submission is that they have absolutely no confidence and they will not tolerate that their companies or their business should be taken over by force by the Government. Therefore I entirely enforce the opinion expressed by Sir William Roberts that rather than make over their concerns to members of such a Government,

they would prefer to go into liquidation. The case might have been different if the constitution of the Government were different, if the Government had won the confidence of the trading classes of this province. They might have been in some cases, rare cases though they may be, welcomed some assistance from the Government in setting their affairs right, but they know that if the Government itself had failed to set its own affairs right, it would be still worse if they made over their affairs to the Government. There is a Persian verse—

تو بزمن درجه کردی که درون خانه آئی

How have you managed your own affairs that you want to take charge of other people's affairs? I do not want to rub it in unnecessarily but the fact remains, as was pointed out by Mian Nurullah, that the great hydro-electric project which the Government had undertaken has not proved the success that it was expected to be. There are other concerns also which have not enhanced the credit of the Government so far as the business point of view is concerned. Therefore I tell you in all seriousness that this Bill is sure to create a sort of alarm in the minds of all the electricity companies, whether they are managed by Nawab Sahib or Mian Nurullah or by statutory agriculturists or non-statutory agriculturists, because nobody wants that his business should be entrusted to people who have proved themselves totally unfit for carrying on any business and who have also proved themselves totally unfit even in carrying out other administrative measures.

They have already made a hash of things. Look at the mess they have already made by some of the measures that they have passed. What is the condition of the province to-day? And in a few days more, heaven knows what is going to happen. This is all the handiwork of this ministry and it is this ministry that wants to come forward as the guardians of the electric supply companies, to manage their affairs when the electric supply companies themselves are not able to manage their own affairs. I do not see any justification why such a measure should have been brought forward. Looking at the Statement of Objects and Reasons the only reference is to a situation of this character that arose in Lahore in May 1934, that is nearly seven years ago. Then they say that section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code does not equip the authorities with sufficient power. It may be true, it may not be true. Section 144 itself could be modified so far as the period of war is concerned. Even during the period of the war it is not necessary because under the Defence of India Act Rules such a step could be taken and I am indebted to my friend Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal for placing in my hands a cutting from the Tribune of the 19th April, which contains Electricity Commissioner's order.

Minister for Public Works : *Woh khud hi bata dete.*

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Probably it came into his hands only later on. This is what he says :—

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Defence of India Rules.....

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

This is exactly what I said that the Defence of India Rules could be invoked for this purpose. The Electricity Commissioner with the Government of India, has issued the following order :—

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, Act IX of 1910 or any licence granted thereunder, the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, shall not save with the written permission of the Electricity Commissioner with the Government of India enter into any fresh contract or agreement with any person for a supply or an increase in the supply of electric energy, if the fulfilment, of such a contract or agreement is likely to result in a total demand by that person in excess of ten kWs. If a proposal for any such contract or agreement as aforesaid is made to the Corporation, the Corporation shall forward it to the Electricity Commissioner, who may in his discretion grant or refuse permission to enter into the contract or agreement.

Now this order means that the Electric Supply Company of Calcutta is precluded from increasing the load on its plant without the permission of the Electricity Commissioner attached to the Government of India. Why? This order seems to have been issued to prevent any failure of supply of electric light whether it may be necessary for street lighting of Calcutta or for any other public purpose. If even the entry into a contract may be prevented under the rules which are in force, a thing like plunging a city like Lahore or any other place where private companies are working like Multan, Ambala or Sargodha or Rawalpindi is out of the question altogether and steps could easily be taken to prevent such a catastrophe. Then, other complications might arise during the two years of stewardship of the Government. We know for instance that many owners do not give their factories on lease to others for a short period. Why? If a person comes to take a factory on lease for 20 years, they may be prepared to give it, say, on Rs. 20,000 a year, but if a person comes and wants to have the lease of the factory for three years, and offers Rs. 30,000 a year, they would not let him have it, because they know that a person who is interested in a property only for a short period will not manage it as carefully as the owner or as a lessee for a long term. Now what is the guarantee that everything will be properly managed by the representatives of the Government during their stewardship of two years. I know the reply that might be given to this. That there is a provision for compensation. No doubt there is a provision for compensation but there are so many things which are almost invisible in running a business for which to frame an estimate for compensation is out of the question. Why should the people who have no interest whatsoever in the property, not even for a day, take any extra care of it? Even the Government has no interest in such concerns, and its representatives would have much less interest. Why should they have the same interest as the owners? It might be said that the employees of the company will still be there. Will the Government be able to keep such a watch on them as the owners would be able to do? Certainly not. Although lands are eternal and have been so for thousands and millions of years, even lands would not be given away for management to outside persons for two years by any big landlord because he might apprehend that even land might deteriorate during these two years, the channels might suffer, there might not be sufficient manure and there might be other difficulties. I am sure the Government is not going to make compensation to the companies for any loss of profit. If there is any damage or something is broken, then a claim might

be made for compensation. Then it will have to be proved that there was no accident and that it was not done wilfully. The onus may be on the other side and all sorts of litigation may be the result of such a stewardship. Why should the Government poke its nose into the affairs of private people? Where is the real danger and I put it to the ministers whether they can seriously and honestly say that there is any prospect of such a danger as they have in view, whether they really think that there would be such mad people in this province who will stop the supply for street lighting and they will thus cut their own nose, as they say, simply to spite their face. Business people are not such fools. Unless they are driven to straits, unless they are absolutely forced to take such a drastic step, they do not want to cut down their profits in any way or to hamper their business. You must give them credit for commonsense and at least for their "*bania-sense*", for their trader's instinct, that they would, to use the words of some of the members of the Government themselves, rather die than lose a penny. If this is their mentality, according to them, they are not going to stop the continuous supply of electricity for street lighting or for any other such purpose. I therefore submit that the Bill should not have been brought forward and now that it has been brought forward and as it suffers from so many defects, an opportunity should be given to the people who are interested in this matter, to express their opinion. There are probably scores of electric supply companies in this province. There are probably forty or fifty of them and they are all deeply interested in this Bill. I am not sure if any one of them has been consulted. In fact this complaint is common that this Government does not take anybody who is likely to be affected by its measures into its confidence. I am not at all sure, I speak subject to correction, if any one of these companies has been consulted. Here is the Chairman of the biggest Electric Supply Company in this province and he had no official information from the Government in his official capacity that such a measure was going to be introduced.

The people outside have no idea that any such bill is being brought forward and they have had no opportunity whatsoever of expressing their opinion on this matter. I, therefore, very seriously and earnestly ask the Government not to make haste because haste almost always makes waste and people who do things in a hurry, as they say, repent at leisure. They should, therefore, take the people into their confidence. It is not a question of owners of electric supply companies only, it is a question of the convenience of the consumers and they might have also to say something on the subject. I would, therefore, strongly support the motion which is now before the House. It has been condemned as dilatory and so on. All such motions are in effect dilatory but delay is sometimes very useful. I would not, for fear of offending the feelings of my friends, quote the well-known verse relating to *Tajil* and all that (*Laughter*). I think that worse might have to be applied to our ministers because they do everything in such a great hurry. This is such a measure for which there is absolutely no hurry and no one is going to suffer. The zamindar's crops are not going to suffer, his merchandise is not going to suffer. Neither the zamindar nor the non-zamindar is going to suffer from this and I think that the motion is very reasonable and ought to be accepted by the Government.

Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): The Statement of Objects and Reasons mentions very clearly that the reason why the Government is introducing this measure is that the Government might be in a position to meet and successfully avert a situation like the one that arose in Lahore in May 1934 when the Lahore Electric Supply Company threatened to cut off the supply of energy needed for street lighting. Let me, at the very outset, make it clear that I for one have absolutely no objection to any powers being taken over for the purpose of resolving and meeting a situation of that kind. If a situation of that kind ever arises, surely there must be powers somewhere residing for resolving that situation. My learned friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang gave the history of the quarrel between the Lahore Electric Supply Company and the Municipal Committee and he was very much influenced by the fact that the Lahore Electric Supply Company was right in its contention as against the Lahore Municipal Committee and that, therefore, its President held out that threat. It appears to me that this way of approach is really faulty. Whether the Lahore Electric Supply Company was in the right or whether the Lahore Municipal Committee was in the right is a question which does not arise. The question that does arise is that if a situation of this kind for whatsoever cause comes into existence, should towns be permitted to be plunged into darkness? I know something of that quarrel because at a certain stage I was consulted actually by the Lahore Municipal Committee. I may inform Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and other members of the House that the case for the Lahore Municipal Committee was that the Lahore Electric Supply Company had been charging the Lahore Municipal Committee several times over, contrary to the terms of the agreement entered into between the Municipal Committee on the one side and the Lahore Electric Supply Company on the other side. But as I was submitting, the merits of the quarrel between the Lahore Electric Supply Company and the Lahore Municipal Committee do not really matter. What matters is that if a situation of that kind ever arises, power must be taken. As I have already said, I have no objection personally to the giving of powers for the purposes of covering an emergency of that kind. (*Hear, hear.*) I should like, however, to tell honourable friends that to the extent that I am prepared to give this power to the Government, I am not in the least taking up the position that the taking over of a private concern for any length of time is at all justified. All that I say is,—and I request the Honourable Minister also to kindly consider this—that if he wants to take over powers to meet a certain emergency, then he must take those powers to himself or to his Government only for the period of that emergency. My reason for supporting this motion for circulation is this that the proposed Bill goes much beyond the scope of the emergency visualised in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I will draw the attention of the Honourable Minister and the House to clause 3 (1) (a) which says —

3. (1) If at any time it appears to the Provincial Government

- (a) that there is any likelihood of a failure in the continuous supply of a public electricity service or a diminution of such supply, and that such failure or diminution will be to the public disadvantage (then) the Provincial Government may by order in writing declare its intention of assuming possession and control thereof for and on behalf of such service.

My complaint is that this clause covers situations of all kinds, situations which may not be emergent at all. For instance, the words used are "when there is any likelihood of a failure". Now likelihood is something quite different from an emergency, from an imminent danger. If you say that there is imminent danger of street lighting being cut off as the result of any action taken by any electric supply company, I would accept the position taken up by Government. Therefore, if you really want to meet any emergency, kindly draft your clause in such a manner that the clause may enunciate the emergency and make the Act applicable only to a situation where a threat of that kind emanates from any licensee. My second reason is this. It is stated in clause 3 (1) (b) as follows:—

3. (1) (b) If at any time it appears to the Provincial Government that there is any doubt as to whether the Provincial Government or any other person is the owner of public electricity service, or during any period of transfer to the Provincial Government, the Provincial Government may by order in writing declare its intention of assuming possession and control thereof for and on behalf of such service.

I must confess that I am not able to understand this clause. What are those situations and what are those circumstances under which a quarrel may arise between the Provincial Government on one side and the public electric supply company on the other about the ownership of that company? The ownership either belongs to the company or if it is being run by the Government, the Government is the owner. But what is that situation which the Government is contemplating when it has proceeded to frame clause 3 (1) (b)? I will put another aspect of the matter before the House. I have already said that you confine the legislation to the period of the emergency. Suppose an emergency has arisen, as soon as the emergency arises—as for instance, it happened in May 1934—you take the powers to meet the emergency. Suppose you take over and within two days after your taking over the company director says, "Well, I am prepared to carry on the work of street lighting." In that case why should you take over for six months? Where is the justification for taking over the administration of the company's concern for a period of six months? I entirely agree with Sir William Roberts that the taking over of a private concern of that character, though its service may be of the nature of a public utility service, is a very serious matter and only an emergency can justify the taking over and the taking over must be confined to the period of the emergency. As soon as the emergency disappears, as soon as the electric company comes to reason and realises that its action in plunging a whole town into darkness

is not justified by any considerations, as soon as the company realises this, where is the provision, I ask, in this Bill for returning the administration back to the company? I submit therefore that there are provisions in this Bill which require consideration and in order that full thought may be given to the matter from all sides, it is necessary that the Bill be circulated and there should be really no objection to the circulation of this Bill. Whether the circulation is till October 1941 or whether the circulation is till December, 1941, it does not matter, because the House will readily agree that there is no prospect really of any such situation arising in the very near future, say till October or till December. If a situation of that kind is not likely to arise soon, I do not say that you should not take these powers. I am prepared to

[Malik Barkat Ali.]

give you these powers. All I say is that you first consult the vital interests concerned and hear their point of view. When section 144 was requisitioned for the purpose of averting the situation of May 1934, objections were certainly taken to the action of the District Magistrate and it was felt that there was really no power in section 144 justifying the District Magistrate in passing the order that he did. Therefore, by all means take legal powers if you want them. But while taking legal powers, it is necessary that you should give an opportunity to those who are going to be vitally concerned by this measure, of looking at the various clauses of this Bill and of making their point of view clear before you. There is no harm in this, particularly when there is no present emergency and no present fear of a situation of this kind arising. I do not adopt the argument advanced on the floor of the House that such a situation will very rarely arise and therefore it is not necessary to take such powers. My simple answer is that it will very rarely arise, the powers will also be very rarely exercised. There is really no force in that argument. It was said that these electricity company directors are very sensible men. I do not say that they are not sensible persons. Certainly they must be trusted to administer their affairs in the best manner possible. But in spite of that, a situation did arise when the Lahore Electric Supply Company consisting of sensible directors and an able president was prepared to throw the city of Lahore into darkness. Therefore, to say that this legislation should not be undertaken because the thing is not likely to happen has no force. It was stated in the course of the argument that the object can be very well achieved by inserting a provision in the electricity licence to the effect that if ever such a situation arises the licence will be liable to be cancelled. I just pause to consider that argument. It is true that the insertion of a clause of that kind in the licence will make the licensee pause long before resorting to any drastic action. But the cancellation of the licence is not a solution of the difficulty. If the town is plunged into darkness, an electric company cannot be set up the moment the licence is cancelled. (*Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal*: A new concern will take over.) My honourable friend says that as soon as the licence is cancelled some new company will take over. But it requires time for that new company to come into existence and to set up and instal machinery. Do you mean to say that the people of the town will remain in darkness up to that time and will they not suffer? Therefore, my respectful submission is that the insertion of a clause of that character in the licence will not achieve the purpose which the present legislation is designed to achieve. If you are of that view that the insertion of that clause would achieve its purpose then you admit the necessity of giving power of that kind to the Government, whether through medium of a clause in the licence or whether through the medium of a provision in this Bill. Therefore, according to my way of looking at the situation, the remedy suggested is really no remedy. Powers must be given to meet that situation. If the situation is very, very rare, the powers will be very, very rarely exercised. At the same time, while I say so, I certainly request the Government to accept the amendment of my honourable friend for the circulation of this Bill, because there is really no emergency which stares you in the face. If there is any such emergency staring you in the face, I can understand your keenness in taking power to get over that.

situation. As I have already said, the Bill goes much beyond the scope of the emergency that you visualise and the best time for consideration would be when all the points of view have been placed before you as soon as the Bill is circulated. There being no real emergency staring you in the face, is an additional reason why this Bill should really be circulated. Although my reasons may differ from the reasons that have been advanced by my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang; I have after careful consideration of this Bill come to the conclusion that the best remedy is to accept the circulation motion. Let this Bill be circulated so that all the parties concerned may properly understand it and the Government also may be in a position to get rid of the objection that in order to avert an emergency and in order to resolve a difficult situation, the Government has no business to take over the whole concern for a period of six months, although the emergency may not really go on for six months. Not only that but you are taking powers of extending this period of six months to two years. So that it comes to this that although the emergency may be resolved in an hour, or in a day or in a few days, but you are getting the powers to administer that concern for a period of two years. You must admit that your administration cannot be so economical and cannot be so useful from the point of view of those persons who are owners of that concern. Therefore, this is all the more reason that this Bill should be circulated so that the Government may properly appreciate the objection that the parties concerned may direct at these various provisions. For these reasons I support the motion for circulation.

Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan (Gujar Khan, Muslim Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, when the Hydro-Electric Scheme was taken in hand, it was supported not by the present Government but by another person who even to-day is present in the House. He is opposed to this scheme at this present moment but in the beginning he was responsible for its execution. I refer to Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. The present Government undertook this scheme only when the previous Government of which he was a member had already spent a sum of six crores and it goes without saying that if this scheme had been abandoned after a heavy expenditure of six crores of rupees, the act would have been extremely unwise. As a matter of fact the predecessors of this Government had recklessly incurred a huge expenditure on this scheme. My honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has now turned round to blame the Government. But in reality it was he who had during his Ministership given contracts relating to this scheme at a profit of 800 per cent. He would refuse contracts to those who offered to accept less profit than this high rate. It was in these irresponsible ways that huge sums of money had been squandered away in connection with this scheme.

Mr. Speaker: Please speak to the motion.

Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan: I simply mean to speak to the motion. The Government ought to have supplied energy from the Hydro-Electric Scheme to zamindars for working wells, oil presses and flour mills. But it is a pity that energy is supplied to the town people only.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is persisting in irrelevancy. I will have to ask him to resume his seat.

Subedar-Major Raja Farman Ali Khan : A Persian saying runs as under :—

موسے را نهر کارے سائنند

(Different persons are created for different purposes.) Naturally therefore, if Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has not been able to do anything for the benefit of the zamindars, he is not to blame. But I may point out that a man should not hesitate to perform a good deed just as Muslims have been commanded to lose no time in attempting virtuous deeds.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. The honourable member will please resume his seat. He is persisting in irrelevancy and I cannot allow him to go on. The time of the House is being wasted.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana) : Sir, I have heard the speeches with attention about this measure, but I must confess that lot of irrelevant issues have been brought in the discussion which have no bearing whatever on the measure before the House. The hydro-electric scheme was brought in and its working was criticised. That is not the issue before the House and it has nothing to do with it. I have no intention to be side-tracked regarding that discussion. It was then said that we intend to take over the electric concerns. There is no provision of that sort in this measure whatever. This measure, as its name indicates, is merely meant to deal with specific cases of emergency that might arise due to any deadlock whereby the public might be inconvenienced with a threat of danger to public peace and interest : that is why we want to take over these powers. The merits of a particular controversy cited as an instance were brought in and it is no business of mine to go into details and merits and decide whether the Lahore Electric Supply Company was at fault or the municipality of the time. Honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand has taken cudgels on behalf of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, and the honourable Malik Barkat Ali has adequately put forward the case of the Lahore Municipality. Sir, I would leave the case championed by both the great lawyers without pronouncing on it and say that at least the emergency was there. It might be the fault of one party or the other but the emergency was there. The honourable Doctor says it was wrong to presume that an emergency existed. What would have happened ? Lahore would have been plunged in darkness. Would that not be an emergency ? Then, Sir, in the same strain he went on to criticise the vicious principle of the bill and said I might intimate by what particular train this measure had come. Reference was made to what I said the other day. As I said in my interruption and I would like to repeat, this Bill is a legacy which we have got from the last administration of which my honourable friend had the honour of being a member. This, Sir, is not a copy of any other provincial measure. The idea came to the mind of the last government and a bill copy of which I hold in my hand was published on the 28rd September, 1935. Memories are proverbially

short. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang being a member of the Government which published this Bill, should not have described this Bill, when the same is being brought up by a subsequent government, as based on vicious principles.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : There was some wisdom in their having discarded it.

Minister for Public Works : The Assembly may not have passed it but it was approved by the Cabinet of the time of which my honourable friend was a member.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : How do you know that this honourable member had no hand in killing that Bill ?

Minister : I do not know the secrets of the then Cabinet, but if he approved of it and did not call it a vicious principle then it is not a vicious principle now. It was said that since the year 1984 no other incident occurred for which this measure should be necessary. Honourable members conveniently forget that an emergency arose in 1938 in the case of the Sialkot electric company which is presided over by the same gentleman who presides over the Lahore Company. The directorate threatened to plunge the city of Sialkot into darkness. It was then to meet that threat that a similar measure was brought in in 1938. A special meeting of the Assembly was convened for the purpose, and half an hour before that, I would not like to be personal and go into details, certain directors of the company approached us and we came to an understanding. A threat was given to black out the city of Sialkot and we were given hardly two days' notice. You can imagine whether Government could make any arrangements in two days. We could not make any alternative arrangements. The particular difficulty in this and some other is that in some of these licences power is not there with Government to take possession of the concern.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : May I point out that in the case of the Sialkot Electric Supply Company there was no threat on the part of the Company to stop supplying energy. On the contrary, the term of the licence expired.

Minister : Yes, the period of license expired and therefore the company held out a threat—

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : There was no question of threat.

Minister : The licence did not contain a provision for the acquisition of the plant. That was the whip in the hands of the company whereby they said unless you give us extension we will throw the city of Sialkot into darkness. As the Assembly will recollect, we had to give the company an extension of five years.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal : It was the fault of the Government and Government is to be blamed for not including plant in the terms of the licence.

Minister : As I have said already, I do not propose to apportion the blame. If I go into the merits of the case I can prove that the company tried to derive a particular advantage out of a technical defect. At one

[Minister for Public Works.]

time it was contemplated to take a line from the Hydro-Electric scheme to Sialkot city, but during that period it was not possible to carry out the scheme. The company took advantage of this and dictated terms. What we propose to do under the present Bill is to prevent the occurrence of such emergencies in the future. As the hydro-electric lines were not ready by then and as we did not want the public of Sialkot to lose the benefit of electricity, we had to give the company an extension of lease for five years. Similar emergencies can arise again and they cannot be foreseen.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It was the Government that delayed the decision.

Minister for Public Works : I have said I would not like to go into the merits of the case. It has been pointed out that powers could have been taken under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Malik Barkat Ali has rightly pointed out, and I would not like to add anything to it, that section 144 is not the proper remedy. Even Doctor Sahib admitted it when he said that if it had not been his desire to compromise, perhaps Lala Harkishan Lal could not have been stopped by section 144. We on our part credit the present directors of the company with the same amount of grit and courage. Therefore we want to take proper legal powers into our hands to deal with such emergencies. These powers would not be used very often. I hope it will not be used at all, but we must have the power to deal with such threats.

It was argued that the Defence of India Rules could be used in such cases of emergencies. But the Defence of India Rules are there only for the war period and they can be used only for dealing with emergencies if they arise during the war. But as I pointed out we must have power to deal with such emergencies even when the war is over. As I have already stated I am not in a hurry to get this measure passed at once. What I am doing is to ask the House to refer it to a select committee so that the report of the select committee may be taken up for consideration during the next session. During the interval the public will have ample opportunities to offer their criticisms and the companies to put forward their views. The select committee will also have ample time to go into the details and submit its report before the next session. It was said by Doctor Sahib that the companies are managed by intelligent people. I agree with him. Able directors preside over these companies and they are fully conversant with the provisions of this Bill ; and if they have any criticisms to offer we would like to benefit by their advice and make the necessary changes during the select committee stage. The honourable member Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal has already been proposed as a member of the select committee. (*An honourable member :* Was this Bill published in the press apart from the *Gazette*?). We have for our part published it in the *Gazette*. If it is of sufficient importance it is for the Press to publish in it their papers. If they felt that it was a controversial measure they would have published it. The inference is that because this is a wholesome measure they did not feel any necessity to publish it in their papers. Generally the press publishes controversial matters and matters of a sensational nature. (*Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :* They were literally shocked and therefore they did

not notice it.) It was up to my honourable friend opposite to get it printed in the papers.

Then it was said that this Bill would harm industries. So far as that goes adequate reply has been given by the honourable member from Amritsar who pointed out that it would be harmful to industries if there is interruption in the supply of electricity. So, in this measure there is no question of harming industry or anybody. This Bill is intended only to take power to have better control over public utility service, viz. electricity. In every modern state such powers exist in the legislative armoury of the Government. When a monopoly is given to a public body the State must have a right to see that that monopoly is not abused or used against public interest. It is not intended by this measure to nationalise electricity. I know that there is a certain school of thought, a very strong school of thought that believes that electricity should be nationalised. I do not put forward that view at all. I want private companies to flourish and I want to help them as far as possible. Even where the hydro-electric lines are extended, if the licence of the existing companies expires, we will pay adequate compensation to them before they go out of the field. However, that question does not arise under the present measure. This Bill is merely to deal with emergencies only. The order will be for a period of six months in the first instance and may thereafter be extended to two years. But as soon as the emergency is over no Government would like to keep the order in force indefinitely. This measure will be used only to meet the emergency and when it is over the concern will go back to the owners. It was asked, what about the loss to the concern? I do not see what loss can arise. The same employees will be there to look after the plant and other property and the Government officials also will look after it and even supposing for the sake of argument that there is deterioration or damage done to the plant, there is ample provision for the grant of compensation to the people who claim it. So I would say that there is nothing in this measure which should perturb my honourable friends who have taken two days in discussing it. I thought that the Bill being harmless would be supported by all sections of the House. Doctor Sahib said that the measure had the tinge of Moscow in it. Really it has got no Moscow tinge at all.

There is one more point that I wish to refer to and that is about clause 12. Malik Barkat Ali asked why we have put in this clause to cover disputes between the Government and the company. I have already given the specific case of the Sialkot Electric Supply Company where the real dispute was whether the concern belonged to the Government or the company. Similar cases may arise about interpretation. It is only to tide over such difficulties during the interim period that the Government will have this power.

Certain remarks were made by Sir William Roberts, but I would not deal with them as he does not happen to be here now. I have repeatedly stated this is just a Bill to tide over emergencies in public interest. So I hope the House will refer it to a select committee. Any criticism that might be forthcoming from the interested quarters will be welcomed and considered. It is an innocent measure which should have the support of all sections of the House, particularly when a representative select committee has to deal with it. With these words I support the reference of the Bill to a select committee.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be circulated to elicit public opinion thereon by 31st December, 1941.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill be referred to the Select Committee consisting of—

Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal.

Chaudhri Prem Singh.

Chandhri Ranpat Singh.

Rao Pohop Singh.

Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

Sardar Balwant Singh.

Sodhi Harnam Singh.

Mian Abdul Rab.

Mr. E. Few.

Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Semad.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.

Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan.

Khan Sahib Sayed Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri.

Mian Allah Yar Khan Daulatana.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the quorum of the select committee shall be five.

The motion was carried.

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Public Works (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Tiwana): I beg to introduce the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill. I move—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

I would in this connection only refer the honourable members to the statement of objects and reasons attached to this Bill. As they will see, up to a certain time the period of notice in such cases used to be one year. Subsequently, I think, it was according to the amending Act of 1910 that this period was raised to two years. Now according to this amending Bill, it is sought to reduce that period to one year in view of the reasons put forward in the statement of objects and reasons. The policy of Government is that wherever circumstances are favourable, we intend purchasing electric supply undertakings and to supply energy from the Hydro-Electric scheme. So whenever the next option of purchase falls due, we intend exercising it, except in those cases where power from hydro-electric scheme is not available. In these circumstances two years period of notice that was considered necessary at one time is no longer essential. What is required is that sufficient notice should be given to the company to wind up. As a matter of fact.

they have ample notice already that on a particular date the period granted to them in the licence will expire. The intention according to this Bill is to revert to the old period of one year and this will mean no hardship.

The other important principle involved in this Bill is that it is intended to bring it into force with retrospective effect from the 1st November, 1940. The reason is that certain doubts have arisen as to the delivery in time of the notice of purchase to the Lahore Electric Supply Company. We intend sending a further notice to the Company so that the purchase of this Company by a fresh notice is placed beyond the pale of all doubts.

There is another reason in favour of the Bill. The difficulty is that due to the war certain uncertainties have cropped in. We do not know on what particular date we will have sufficient energy for taking over a particular undertaking. Therefore in view of these reasons explained in paragraph 2 of the statement of objects and reasons, I think it all the more essential that the period of notice should be reduced from two years to one year. With these few words I commend the motion to the consideration of this House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General Rural): I beg to move—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 31st October, 1941.

This Bill purports to amend section 7 of the Indian Electricity Act. This Bill, as the House must have noticed from the speech made by Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill, is not merely a Bill purporting to curtail the period of notice from two years to one year in the case of compulsory acquisition of private electrical undertakings, but it commits the province to a policy which is bound to be ruinous to its interests. In my opinion it is a dangerous onslaught on the revenues of the Government and will seriously affect its finances. On account of the rottenness of the Hydro-electric scheme and its inefficient management, the province and its finances have already been launched on a turbulent sea, and I shudder to see what the fate of provincial finances will be if the province is permitted to launch on this new policy which is enunciated in the statement of objects and reasons. That policy is: "the Punjab Government have decided that wherever circumstances are favourable the licensed Electric Supply undertakings in the province should be purchased when the next options of purchase fall due". We have just had it from the Honourable Minister himself that they wish to exercise this option in all cases except in such cases where the current is not available. My submission to the House is that during the budget session when the Hydro-electric scheme was criticised from all sides of the House, it was pointed out that the expert opinion so far as the management of utilities and particularly the electricity utility was concerned, was definitely in favour of private management than governmental control or governmental ownership. Opinions were quoted of no less authorities than the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, and of his companion, Mr. Wendell Willkie, and certain other

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

opinions were also placed before the House. To save the Government from the recurring loss which the Hydro-electric scheme brings to the Government, it was suggested that at least the distribution system of the Hydro-electric scheme might be given to the private companies. When this suggestion was made, the Honourable Premier was in his seat and he said that he had an open mind on the subject. This discussion took place on the 25th March.

Now, Sir, the discussion took place on 25th of August and the Honourable Premier stood up and in view of the criticism which has been levelled by friend and foe, by Sayed Amjad Ali, on one side and Rai Sahib Sohan Lal on the other.....

Mr. E. Few : On a point of order. May I ask whether discussion as to the merits of company and Government management is involved in the Bill or whether it is a simple question that the period of notice should be reduced from one period to another ?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I wish the honourable member had read the Bill before rising on a point of order. It is distinctly stated that the Government has from the 8th of April adopted a definite attitude and that was reiterated by the Honourable Minister just two minutes ago. But what I am pointing out is this. On the 25th of August a responsible minister and no less a person than the Honourable Premier has stated that on such a matter he had an open mind and in making that statement he was influenced by the volume of expert opinion which has been placed by certain members of this House. Now what do we find before the budget session is over ? On the 8th of April another Minister comes forward with a definite statement that the Punjab Government has decided to take over the licence of electric supply undertakings. Now the question which arises is, has the Punjab Government during this interval given any thought to this matter ? Can the Honourable Minister say that after the budget session, the question and a very important question, whether electricity should be generated and distributed in this province by private companies or should be state-managed, has ever been the subject of cabinet discussion or has he consulted any Minister ? Has he since the budget session when the Government amendment on Electricity Bill was so ably criticised by certain members, taken any expert advice ? Has any committee whether of experts or non-experts been called on this matter which has given its opinion ? The unfortunate thing is that the Punjab Government is committed to definitely new policies without much thought and consideration and here is a responsible minister of a Government proposing a revolutionary policy, I make bold to say, without any authority being given to him by the cabinet after the last budget session when the Honourable Premier was pleased to declare that he had still an open mind on the question. This is a matter which is racking the best brains of other countries including Soviet Russia, I make bold to say, a matter in which expert opinion inclines to private management of public utility companies especially in regard to electricity and I do not see any reason why any Minister of the Government should commit the Punjab Government to a policy without an expert examination of that question. Now we find that in those days Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram on the 8th of March

1933 definitely gave expression to the following views with respect to management by Government and with respect to private management by the companies. This is what he stated :

Nobody who has had any experience of the working of Government, who has observed the way in which funds are spent by Government departments or has any acquaintance with the manner in which private concerns are run, will doubt that private management is by far the cheapest. Any commercial concern that may be undertaken by Government is bound to result in a good deal of unnecessary over-head charges and therefore the Government should at least consider whether it would not be less expensive to the province to make over the working of this scheme to a private company. Some enterprising company may undertake the working of the scheme on reasonable terms ; some enterprising businessmen may come forward to float a company for the purpose.

Now, Sir Chhotu Ram is, I take it, one of the ablest members of the Government. Now I wish to ask the Minister for Public Works whether since the budget session he has had occasion to discuss this matter with him. Sir Chhotu Ram further said then :

Perhaps somebody may even now make it profitable. I feel absolutely sure that if the scheme is worked and administered by a Government department, it is likely to prove very expensive and is bound to result in a good deal of loss to the province.

From the speech the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram delivered on that particular day as to the relative merits and demerits of private management and Government management of electric supply companies, it is clear that Government management is less efficient and more expensive and very detrimental to the interests of tax payers. (*An honourable member* : It was addressed to a different Government.) I wish to ask the Honourable Minister of Public Works whether he had consulted the Premier before putting that sentence on the paper which is dated the 8th April. I want to put a definite question to him, namely, how is it that while on the 25th of March the Premier said he had an open mind, the Honourable Minister of Public Works on the 8th of April states that the Government has decided to take over every electric supply company provided there is enough guarantee of a profit ? I wish to know whether during this interval he had occasion to discuss this matter with the Premier and whether the cabinet as a whole took this decision, whether he had consulted any experts in this line or whether he had consulted any colleague of his before coming to this decision which may prove ruinous to the province. (*Interruption.*) The Honourable Minister of Public Works has been pleased to say that the Government has decided it. My particular question was, does the Government in this case mean the Minister of Public Works or the Cabinet. I take it from him that he is the Government with respect to a matter like this.

Minister for Public Works : I said nothing of the sort. The words are there and they mean what they mean. You are a lawyer yourself.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : With respect to a matter which falls in his portfolio I take it he is the Government and we certainly should respect his dictum or his observations. But in this matter I want to give him a warning and I give him that warning from altruistic motive and most sincerely. The Honourable Minister had during the discussion on the Hydro-Electric Scheme referred to the unfortunate white elephant which has been foisted on this province and he stated it was a legacy from the

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

previous Government. Now I wish to ask him whether he is not, by committing the province to a commercial undertaking no less in magnitude than the Hydro-Electric scheme itself, again leaving a legacy which his successors may have to repent, and the best test to apply is, would any person be prepared to invest his own capital on an undertaking of the kind which is involved in this case? If any person would not be prepared to risk his own capital in a venture of that type, I respectfully submit that no person, whether a Minister or whether a whole Cabinet, has a right to plunge the finances of the whole province into a situation of that kind. Why I ask is this. When here is the opinion of Sir Chhotu Ram, when here is the opinion of the Honourable Premier, I want to know whether, in an important matter like this, there was any consultation. After all discussions in this Assembly are intended to have some effect. After all they are not merely meant to produce noise in this Chamber. With that expert opinion before them whether they spent even half an hour over it in discussing the revolutionary change of policy. I make bold to say that these gentlemen since the 25th of March have not had a moment's leisure from the round of garden and dinner parties which they have been having, first in rightly saying farewell to the last Governor and then trying to entertain each other first on account of the Knighthood and then on account of the new ministership that has been conferred and on account of various other parties.

Mr. Speaker : These remarks are undesirable.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I want to know whether he has consulted the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, the Finance Minister, in a matter like this. You will be pleased to observe that it is not a matter which falls within his department.

Mr. Speaker : What is the honourable member driving at by these remarks?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : He has committed this province to a new line of policy without consulting his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker : In other words it means that what is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is incorrect. I cannot allow that.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : What I am submitting is that the province has a right to know whether Sir Manohar Lal whose condemnation of the Hydro-Electric Department was in the following words in his well-known budget speech of this year was consulted.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is irrelevant. The opinion expressed by him is not relevant.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The Honourable Finance Minister said—

I see at present no prospect of the gap being substantially bridged over, much less the interest charges being completely met from that income, not to speak of there being a net return on the whole working of the scheme.

He pointed out that not to speak of any return from this scheme it would be difficult to meet the interest charges. I want to tell the Government that if they did not take the advice of their own experts like Sir Chhotu

Ram and Sir Manohar Lal, at any rate they had the experience of the Hydro-Electric Department at their back.

Mr. Speaker : That is repetition.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The Hydro-Electric Department took over the distribution system of various towns with a view to make up for the loss in generation and it was pointed out in the budget session that this very Government and not the old Government since 1937 had incurred a loss of 56 lakhs of rupees. What I am asking, therefore, is this that in view of their working of the distribution system of the Hydro-Electric Department what reasons led them to think that taking over the distribution system of various electric supplies will lead to profit or that it will not be ruinous to the finances of the province as has been the case with respect to the Hydro-Electric Department? Leaving that aspect of the matter for the time being, what are the various reasons which lead the Government to take up private enterprises and nationalize them? One of the main reasons is that the private individual or the private company is making excessive profits. Being a monopoly concern, it is not fair to the consumer or to the Government. But does the Honourable Minister know that it is not possible for these electric supply companies to make excessive profits. There is a provision in the Electricity Act which enables the Government to fix the rates on which the electric current can be sold by a company. Then there is a provision in the Electricity Act which enables the Government to revise these rates, if a company is paying 20 or 18 per cent dividends. At the request of a few consumers or of their own accord they can set up a rates enquiry committee. I myself had the honour of serving on three of such rates enquiry committees. On the Rates Enquiry Committee relating to Lahore we went into the matters in detail with the assistance of experts. The enquiry went on for months. I again had the honour along with my honourable friend Mian Nurullah of working on the rates enquiry committee of the Rawalpindi Electric Supply Company and we had the same experience with respect to the Gujranwala Electric Supply Company and when I speak on these matters, I speak with a certain amount of experience on these matters, although no doubt with a certain amount of hesitation, because the matter is too technical for a layman, howsoever much time he may have put in. I find that whenever it is found that the finances or the conditions of the companies permit that their rates can be reduced to the advantage of the consumers, it is invariably done and we recommended a reduction in the case of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, we recommended a reduction in the case of Rawalpindi and we recommended a reduction in the case of Gujranwala and I understand that several other electric supply companies have been similarly treated by other rates enquiry committees. Therefore with respect to the electric supply rates there is no question of profiteering at all. There is no question of these companies deriving any undue advantage from the position of monopoly in which they are placed. Then the other reason which can be given for nationalization of the industry is the rationalization of the industry. It may so happen that two competing systems of meeting a public utility are working in the same town. There may be the tramway and there may be buses and there may be other methods of transport. They may be running into uneconomic competition. There may be the

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

case of a gas lighting company and there may be the case of electric lighting company. It may become necessary in the interests of the town or in the interests of the State or in the interests of the rationalization of the industry to take steps to take over the whole of the lighting system and put it on a proper basis.

With respect to those electric supply companies such a question does not arise because there is no competition and there is no uneconomic competition and, therefore, the question of nationalization of industry is also not a ground on which this Government's policy can be based. Then there is the third reason which appeals to socialists and that is the nationalization of industry, but we had it from my friend Sheikh Sadiq Hassan that he was opposed to nationalization—to nationalise industry on that basis—and if I understood my friend the Minister of Public Works aright, he also stated that he did not want to take over these undertakings on the ground of nationalization of industry. So, I respectfully submit that that socialistic principle, or if you might call it Bolshevik principle, is certainly not the ground but if we were to apply the principle of that type, would electricity be the one thing on which we ought to work? Would it not be proper for this Government to borrow two crores of rupees and try to buy land in this Province which, on account of uneconomic holdings and inundation, is not bringing proper return which on account of lack of capital and want of scientific research and application is not bringing its proper yield? That would be the direction in which the attempts at nationalization of private property or socialism should take place and not with respect to supply of electricity which would not have been supplied if the private undertakings had not come into existence. Therefore, that reason is out of date. Before, therefore, this Government or any Government lays down such a categorical policy of taking over the private electrical undertakings, it is up to that Government to justify that policy on some intelligible and understandable grounds. I say that none of these grounds have been given. What is the ground? Why do they want to take over electric supply companies when they have twenty or thirty other utilities which exist in this Province? Why don't they take them over? Therefore, I submit that none of the grounds exist. Supposing they want to take over, how can they take over. Under section 7 of the Electricity Act it will be incumbent upon the Government before the requisition to make the payment in full not only of the fair market value of such lands, buildings, works, materials and plant at the time of purchase but also a sum not exceeding twenty per cent on that value as may be specified in the license on account of compulsory purchase. Therefore, before they can acquire the Lahore Electric Supply Company or the Gujranwala Electric Supply Company or the Jullundur Electric Supply Company, the Government will have to pay the price—not what these companies spent originally but its price—the fair market value—at the time of purchase.

Minister for Public Works : Yes.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I remind my learned friend of what has been talked on the floor of the House, and of what he should be aware, that the value of the electric plants, electric requisites, poles and all

that constitutes the assets of the electric supply company, is now three-fold on account of the War. Is it or is it not so? My honourable friends wish to take over the Lahore Electric Supply Company, let us assume, these days? Would any private owner of property, intending to invest his capital, choose this time of all the times for purchasing an undertaking whose price he will have to pay at twice or thrice its value? Is that the policy the Government is committing itself to? Would the Honourable Minister be prepared to invest a small portion of his big estate on paying twice the price on a thing which in ordinary times could be had for much less? They should think over this matter. Supposing they do not acquire this company. What would happen? What would happen would be that this company would have renewed the contract. Ex-hypothesi the company is not profiteering. Ex-hypothesi the company is doing very well to itself and is doing very well to its constituents. Heavens would not fall if this company were not to raise crores of rupees from the tax-payer in paying double or treble the price. What I was submitting was that at this time and for several years to come—because the prices do not come to the normal level immediately the war comes to an end—let them continue. At this time the Government will have to pay twice or thrice the value. Is the Government justified in doing so? Assuming that the Government had enough money, assuming that the Government could spare few crores of rupees, now the question is, how should this money be invested. The Government has not got any money in its pocket. It has to raise by taxation, it has to come from the pockets of the poor ryot and poor artisan. But supposing, somehow or other, it did raise that money and it was in possession of six crores of rupees. Would anybody call this Government a wise Government in not spending that money on people's needs. If there is one subject which is an eye sore to our friends in the eastern districts, it is this that this Government has done nothing to supply irrigation to the south-eastern districts of the Province. The Bhakra Dam Scheme is lying on the anvil and will continue to lie on the anvil after this Government has ceased to exist. If by hook or crook they have got two crores, here is a very profitable place of investment and here is a very beneficent sphere of their activity. Why should they spend money on that? If they are not particularly enamoured of people living in south-eastern districts, although I must confess that the Government has done a great deal in giving famine relief to that part of the country, are not there other pressing demands of the Government itself? During the last year if one thing has been emphasised on the Government from all quarters of the House, from its own side, from the opposition, from friends and foes, it is that this Government should take steps towards the industrialization of this Province. Supposing you had two crores of rupees and the option to you was to purchase the electric supply companies which ex-hypothesi are not profiteering and which are doing good service, that is, replace a good service by a clearly good service and spend that money in encouraging the national industries of this Province. Why should two crores of portion thereof be not spent in setting up weaving and leather industries and metal industries and so on and so forth? This question has got nothing to do with electricity at all. It is one of the fundamental policies of the Government. This is really a matter which falls within the scope of industry and working of electricity is connected with the Hydro-Electric Department. What I was submitting was that

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

supposing the tax-payers of this Province would be duped or coerced, as it is, by some of these urban measures, into putting into their coffers two crores of rupees, is this the best method in which the Government can utilise those two crores of rupees? I put to the Honourable Premier, who has certainly interest of the Province at heart, whether he would, if two crores were given to him, spend this amount in embarking on commercial ventures or would he spend in adding some beneficent activities like the setting up of industries in this Province? You cannot purchase an electrical undertaking until you pay money at the counter. The money must be in your hands. Instead of spending it in this manner it should be spent on the beneficent activities on which our Honourable Minister speaks so loudly. They are in a way laying down the basis of a policy which will cripple the finances of this Province and would not enable them to run any beneficent activities. My respectful contention, therefore, is that this is not the best use of money that the Government can put forward. Sir, I wish to ask the Government as to what is their real motive. Is it their motive that we should tax people and after having raised money by taxation we should enter into commerce and by that commerce make more money? After all if they take over the electric supply company of Gujranwala or the company at Okara, of which I happen to be a director or of a small place of which I also happen to be a director, if they take over the electric company at Sargodha with which I am also connected, what good will they be doing. Sargodha, Gujranwala and Jullundur receive no more beneficent activity than they are already receiving. What I am submitting is that money being there, what justification is there that they should not spend money for the proper purposes, so many of which I have enumerated and some I will suggest readily. That is why I ask their motive. (*An honourable member*: sinister). My honourable friend from the other side says that the motive is sinister. Far be it from me to attribute to the Honourable Minister or to the Cabinet any sinister motive in this matter. But let us analyse as reasonable men as to what is the real reason. The real reason is the desire of the Heads of Departments, the real reason is the desire of the average member of the party constituting the Government to provide more jobs for his own men, the desire of the Heads of Departments conscious or subconscious to be in a position to have more patronage. I do not attribute that any member of the House would plunge the finances of the province into jeopardy consciously on the mere chance of getting an employment for one of his nominees. These factors work subconsciously and I, while trying to give the best interpretation to this desire of the Government have not been able to find out any other motive except this that they think, here is the Gujranwala electric company and here is the Sargodha electric company and we will in the course of time have power to supply. But they do not know at what cost. Therefore if this is not the real moving factor, I fail to see what other factor there is. Therefore, Sir, I will ask the Government to rise above the mentality of an average member who wants jobs and the Heads of the Departments who want patronage. It has been said that most of the electric concerns, which are running in this province properly, are run by Hindus. Is it an eye-sore to the Government? If that element is at all entering into the consideration of the Government

in taking decision on this matter, I would respectfully ask the Cabinet to rise above communalism in their own interest because in their attempt to injure the Hindus they may be mortgaging beyond redemption the finances of this province. Let not this consideration enter into their mind. Let them explain as to what is their motive in these exceptional times of stringency and of war that they should embark on a policy of that type. These are my reasons against the first part of the statement of objects and reasons where the Government says that it intends to embark on these electric companies. Let me put before my honourable friends the example of Calcutta. You will remember that the work in Calcutta was set up long ago and it has run successfully and it has paid good profits. Has anybody thought of putting an end to its activities at the end of the term? Why has it not occurred to the Bengal Government, whether the old Government or the present Government. Why has it not been done in Bombay and in other places. Why should this thing be thought of in this province? Because this company is flourishing and the first class company is an eye-sore to this Government and therefore it should be put an end to. Here is the Hydro-Electric Department. The Government is running this department. But they are not running it properly. Their distribution is working at a loss. These electric companies, big or small, are doing fairly well. Certain amount of criticism has been levelled against the Hydro-Electric Department. It has been argued that you should set up your house in order instead of plunging others. It reminds me of a proverb which one has read in Urdu that a monkey while in a rainy and stormy day was feeling cold and miserable, a small bird in his nest seeing the pitiable plight of the monkey said, 'Look here, God has given you hands, arms, eyes, strength and intelligence, why cannot you put up a house for yourself. Look at me I am a small bird, I have built a comfortable and cosy nest and in time of rain I and my children can stay here.' Now the reply of the monkey was that he put his hand into the nest and plunged it. Friends and foes say that your management of the Hydro-Electric Department is a sham. The Honourable Minister for Finance, Sir Chhotu Ram, Sayed Amjad Ali Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lall and all stalwarts of the Government spoke and what is the reply. The reply is, 'No, we know that we cannot manage our house but we will plunge yours'. So I say

سیکھ واکو دیجئے جاگو سیکھ

سیکھ نہ دیجئے باندرا جو بٹے کا گھر تھائے

I do not say that this has really been the motive. But I say that this is certainly a matter over which the Government ought to devote some attention. Has it not been emphasized over and over again that an expert committee should be set up? Why does the Government fight shy. If the Government is not even prepared to do that, why should the people accuse us of uncharitable acts if we give this proverb of a monkey and a *bia*. So my respectful prayer to the House is that they should insist that their responsible Minister will not commit them to any financial undertaking on which the succeeding generation would depend and that it should not be possible for the succeeding generation or the succeeding Minister to say that it is a bad legacy from the Sikander Ministry or from Khizar's Government.

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

Before they embark upon such a measure they should take the same precautions which they would have taken if they were managing their own property and as if this undertaking was not on behalf of the tax-payer but was being done for their own estate. If they fail to do so, then I say that this will be a neglect, a neglect of the kind which is inexcusable. I happen to be a director of two electric companies of Okara and another small place. I am also connected with other electric companies. As I have said I have worked month after month in companies with expert heads of the electric supply companies and the North-Western Railway on three enquiries and examined hundreds of witnesses on expert matters. I claim to have some experience of electrical undertakings in this province and still I speak with diffidence. I would not take a step of that type without putting it before experts. What justification is there for the Honourable Minister for Public Works not to take a step of that kind. You know the fate of the directors of companies who embark on hazardous adventures. You are aware of the proceedings under the Indian Companies Act. Unfortunately this Government is immune from apprehension of any kind. but the bar of public opinion is there, and therefore my duty here is not to give expression to my views but to utter a note of warning that this province should not so light-heartedly commit itself to an undertaking which might ultimately affect the finances of the province for all time. Coming to the second aspect of the matter, which to me is rather important, what do you find. The Minister for Public Works read out from the Statement of Objects and Reasons and said that he had discovered that his department had been negligent and made a mistake in not giving the proper notice under the contract which the Government had entered into between themselves and private individual. The Statement of Objects and Reasons said that certain doubts have been raised as to the legality of that notice, which means that the Government is not satisfied as to the legality of the notice. If the notice is legal, the courts are open to adjudicate on it. What I submit is a principle of fundamental importance and it is this that according to the principle of the sanctity of contract the Government may interfere as an aggrieved party to the contract between an individual and the Government but when the Government of the day chooses to enter into a contract with a subject and the Government makes a fault, it is one of the recognized principles of jurisprudence that Government does not invoke the power of legislation to improve its status as a contracting party. What has happened. The Honourable Minister mentioned it as a justification for the act. There is a contract between the Government as one party and the electric supply company as another party, and the condition of the contract is that if the Government wishes to take it over it will give two years' notice. If the notice is not given the contract is automatically renewed. Now the Government finds that it has not given the usual notice. Therefore, instead of behaving as an ordinary litigant, it wants to modify the contract in its own favour with retrospective effect. I ask my honourable friend would that be justified anywhere. It is not something unforeseen happening. It is not some calamity or any emergency: it is a mistake of his department. Have you sacked that man before you penalize the other party: have you punished the guilty subordinate and have you punished yourself for that mistake for which you

want to invoke the legislation to rectify the contract between yourself and your own subject to the detriment of the subject. On what principle of jurisprudence you can justify it. As a matter of fact no person would like to enter into a contract with the Government if he thinks that heads you win and tails the other party loses. This is what it is. Certain stipulations are laid on the other contracting party and if it fulfils them all right, and if it does not the Government could not terminate the contract before its expiry. Certain obligations are laid on the government which does not want to fulfil them, or if it finds that it is not sure as to the legality of the step it says all right, it does not break them and therefore it brings forward the Bill. I ask the Premier to point out any general principles which apply to a contract between the Government and its own subject and on what principle is it done? Again, my honourable friend the Minister for Public Works very light-heartedly said what are we doing: we are only reducing the period of notice from two to one year. Is it possible for an electric supply company, which has run for 20 years, invested its capital and the capital is very large, to wind up its affairs so soon. The Government says in the Statement of Objects and reasons that they cannot say 4, 5 or 6 years beforehand as to whether they will be able to take it over a running concern lock, stock and barrel. What I say is that no other province has undertaken to reduce this period from two to one year and why this province has taken the lead, and what reason is there for breaking the contract. If they wanted to reduce the period of notice on any general principle, they should say we want to reduce the period since our notice to the company is illegal. If that is the reason to reduce the period in the case of the Lahore Electric Supply Company I ask why impose such conditions on the other electric supply companies which you want to impose against the Lahore Supply Company. Therefore, what I want to submit is that the proposed legislation is only to enable the Government to take over the Lahore Electric Supply Company. If this is an individual act under the pretence and for the purpose of public service, it is not a fair piece of legislation and is a wanton attack on the constitutional rights of the public. If this really is a Bill which is promulgated in the public interest, and the question of the Lahore Electric Company is only an incident, it is the duty of the Government to publish it for eliciting public opinion on the very important question of the details of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 31st October, 1941.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): I have got up not to make a long speech but simply to endorse the views expressed by my honourable friend Mr. Mukand Lal Puri. He has given many reasons and I would not waste the time of the House by repeating them. Personally I have no doubt that the Government would be running a very great risk if it launches upon a wholesale scheme of acquiring private concerns. The finances of this province are not very elastic in spite of the many efforts made to augment them and I think that to enter upon commercial schemes of this nature which involves a certain amount of speculative element would be dangerous for the Government particularly when they have not got a band of men on whose business acumen they

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.] can rely. There are about forty electric supply companies in this province and if Government were to acquire even half of them it would require probably a crore or more than a crore of rupees; and then the management of the concerns will have to be left to inexperienced people. Further, recruitment would be made on all sorts of principles which do not appeal to businessmen. You are aware that businessmen look purely to competency and qualifications of the person whom they intend to employ. But the Government has to be guided by various considerations. I do not want to discuss them here; they may be good and they may be objectionable. I will not go into their merits. I am only pointing out the difficulties from a business point of view. If the object of the Bill is to augment the supply from the Hydro-Electric Department, then I suggest another method and that is this. In the case of companies whose licences expire, the Government should not purchase the assets, but should enter into a contract with them for the supply of energy to the Hydro-Electric Department wherever there are hydro-electric lines or sub-stations and so on. I would not recommend this course for places which are beyond the reach of the hydro-electric equipment. Supposing the Government want to electrify Lahore, they can avoid investing a crore or two crores of rupees so far as the Lahore Electric Company is concerned. I did not include this when I said that the Government may have to spend a crore of rupees on acquiring even half the number of electric companies in the province. If the Lahore Electric Supply Company is to be acquired perhaps the investment would be about three crores of rupees and if these three crores have to be borrowed, it would mean a very heavy burden in the form of interest on the revenues of the province. Are these zamindar gentlemen prepared to undertake the borrowing of so much amount for the electrification of a town or for the maintenance of supply of electricity in towns? I have heard them complaining that the towns enjoy all sorts of amenities while the zamindars pay for them. Now supposing three crores of rupees are borrowed. Who is going to pay the interest? The zamindars will have to bear the burden mostly. Let me warn them that they would not get one single unit of electricity to plough their lands or to draw their water if they are outside the range of the hydro-electric wires. Some gentlemen sitting on these benches have got a hazy idea about the supply of electricity and I would like to take this opportunity to clear their minds on this point, because they are never tired of saying that no electricity has been supplied for agricultural purposes. I tell them that it is simply impossible to supply electricity for agricultural purposes on any considerable scale and that it is only those lands which lie within the range of the hydro-electric lines that can have the benefit of electricity. Otherwise, supposing some zamindars of the Jhelum district or the Rawalpindi district or say even of Rohtak or Hissar district make a complaint, 'Oh, well, we have spent 8 crores of money of this province, but we have received no electricity', their complaint would be absolutely unjustified though it may arise from the bottom of their hearts. Because by the very nature of things no electricity from the mandi scheme can be supplied to them for agricultural purposes. Therefore they may rest assured that even if all these complaints were thrust upon Government the agriculturists will not get that amount of electricity which they hope

or wish for. We also wish that agriculture should be helped as much as possible with electricity. But unless there is a Grid system all over the province, it is not possible for any Minister or any Chief Engineer or anybody else to supply electricity to isolated wells lying round about the country, one here, another there and a third at a distance of about five hundred yards and a fourth at a distance of one thousand yards from the sub-station. Some of these gentlemen think, 'Look here, these lines of electricity are passing just near our wells; why can we not tap them and get electricity like water?' It is easy to dig a canal, put up pipe lines and bring water to your fields. But that is not the case with electricity. Because these mains are high tension wires and it is impossible to tap them for every field or even for a whole village or town. They have to come down from 11,000 volts to 400 volts or 220 volts before electricity can be put in a usable form and for that purpose lakhs of rupees will be required to put up sub-stations and transformers and so on which is impossible for any Government to do with the best of intentions in every village and for every farm. Therefore they should not labour under the misapprehension and should not support this Bill of the Government in the belief and hope that if these electric companies are acquired by Government electricity would become so cheap that it would come to every farm and to every hamlet in the province. That is an absolutely erroneous idea. I may assure them that it is not due to any lack of sympathy either on the part of this Government or of its predecessor, but it is absolutely impossible in the very nature of things. The best thing that this Government can do at present is to supply electricity from the Hydro-Electric Department to places which lie within the range of these hydro-electric mains and wires and for that purpose they can enter into contracts with the electric supply companies which are situated within the range of the Hydro-Electric Department. For instance, take the case of Lahore. It lies within the range of the Uhl scheme and, therefore, electricity can be supplied to Lahore from the Mandi scheme provided there is sufficient current.

Just now we are told that instead of 36,000 kilowatts there are only 16,000 kilowatts, and all these kilowatts have probably already been taken up or are nearly loaded up, so that very little electricity remains. If it is intended to augment the income of the Hydro-Electric Department and to reduce this loss then the most economic thing for Government to do is not to acquire the Lahore Electric Supply Company but to enter into an agreement with them. I hope Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal will excuse me when I say this. I do not know whether my suggestion would appeal to him at all, but speaking in the interest of the Government I would say that they should not acquire this concern because it would cost them crores of rupees. Let them make an estimate of the profits that the Lahore Electric Supply Company is making. Let them make an estimate of the cost of producing each unit. Supposing the result of the investigation is that the cost of production of each unit is six pies. We say, all right, you make six pies profit. You supply us current at twelve pies and we shall distribute it. We shall take the risk. I must say here again that even in that case Government would be running a great risk, because private concerns are more economical—as Sir Chhotu Ram admitted in his speech—than the Government concerns, but still the next best thing or the less dangerous

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

thing that they can do is this, that instead of taking over the whole thing, they enter into a contract and say : supply us at twelve pies per unit as bulk supply at this point, we shall take so many killowats, say 5,000 or 10,000 killowats at this point, and the area of supply of the Lahore Electric Supply Company will terminate at such and such a place. We shall pay so much for the poles and other things as rent and if electricity is now being supplied at 4 annas per unit, the balance of the profit will go to Government and it will add to the income of the Hydro-Electric Department without imposing any burden on the Government in the form of capital expenditure and without imposing any burden on the tax-payer so far as the payment of interest on loan which will have to be raised for the purpose is concerned. This is one method which the Government may adopt with advantage. I do not say that this is not attended with risk. It is. But it is less risky than the acquisition wholesale of the whole concern, not only of one but of various other concerns. This is so far as the policy enunciated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is concerned.

Mr. Puri was troubling himself in vain in asking does the Government mean a Minister or the Cabinet. It does mean Government as a whole. One Minister can never bring forward a Bill unless it has been approved by the whole Cabinet, whether under the present system or under the old system. The Bill is the Bill of the Government and all the Ministers consider it from every point of view. You should take it for granted that before a Bill is placed in the House it has the *imprimatur* of the whole Government.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Does it mean that every Minister has read it ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : They are expected to read it, but it is not absolutely necessary that every Minister should have read it. The responsibility is his all the same. If he takes that responsibility without reading it, it is his look out. The members cannot have any objection.

There is another point, and that is involved in the most material clause of the Bill. That is cutting down the period of two years to one year. The reason given is that one year is quite enough for the purpose of winding up a business. Those who have any knowledge of the companies or have been following the course of liquidation of some companies would know that there is hardly a company whose affairs have been wound up in one year. As members know there are banks which went into liquidation some years ago but their affairs are still pending. There are several companies whose affairs are still pending. The Peoples Bank went into liquidation many years ago and some of the property belonging to the company is still being managed by the liquidators who are trying to dispose it of. In any case it takes some time before a company is finally wound up. One year is not sufficient in all cases and therefore one thing that I would say in connection with this is that it is absolutely wrong to say that one year's notice would be sufficient.

The second thing that I would say with all respect, is that it is something most preposterous and unworthy of any Government and most unworthy of even a private individual, unless he gives preference to physical force

against equity and justice. I enter into an agreement with my friend. I say, I have let this house to you. I will give you three months' notice before I ask you to quit. Then I say, now I have changed my mind or I was not able to give you notice for three months which I should have given on the 1st of May of such and such a year. My mistake, but you must all the same leave my house. He says, look at this lease deed. It says that three months' notice must be given. It is your fault, why are you troubling me? I say,

یہا مانس ۲ تے نکل جا نہیں تے سیدھی طرحان کڈانگا

Get out or I shall kick you out. (*An honourable member*: Shame.) Shame or no shame, it is the most naked iniquity I should say the most high-handed thing for any private individual to do, not to speak of an organized Government except perhaps some Government, if it could be called a Government, in the centre of the deserts of Africa. What is Government going to do? Here is the case of the Lahore Electric Supply Company. Under the terms of the lease they have to give two years' notice. Some how Government have failed to give notice at the proper time. They discover their mistake. They say, what does it matter? What is Sohan Lal? He can be strangled with one hand. Bring forward a Bill and cut down the period from two years and give it retrospective effect. That is what is happening. I say it with all respect, it is sheer high-handedness, nothing but the use of physical force. Absolute (*interruption*.) Absolute wickedness, I thought you said wickedness, perhaps that would be more appropriate. What right have they to go back upon that agreement? Simply because they can have the measure passed? What do they lose if the Electric Supply Company is acquired after another year? Is the sky going to fall or is the earth going to shrivel up? What is the Government going to lose if Raj Bahadur Sohan Lal is chairman for another year? Government would lose much more in its prestige, than it would gain by acquiring the Lahore Electric Supply Company after giving one year's notice. This would amount to a dirty trick. They solemnly enter into a contract, they make a mistake and then they say, we shall change the lease and get our point. People would laugh at such a thing and some people would cry out shame over a measure like this. I ask, would Malik Sahib do such a thing in his private capacity and will he be able to show his face afterwards in the district? Supposing he gives his land to his tenant and says you keep it for five years. After four years he says, I have got a favourite of mine and I have to give this land to him. The tenant says, here is the contract and according to it you cannot turn me out for another year. Malik Sahib says, if you do not go out, I will send four or five men who will untie your cattle, and grab your agricultural implements and destroy your crops, etc. Malik Sahib can do it because he has the power. He has, I believe, 500 or 600 horses and guns at his disposal. He has an army of his own. But if he does so, will he be able to show his face to people who have any sense of justice or fairness left in them? He will be looked upon as a gangster, as a tyrant. (*An honourable member*: Then shame upon such landlords.) Yes, I am ashamed of such landlords. I have no regard for them if they break their contracts in such a shameless manner.

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

If a landlord, whether he is a landlord of a house or a piece of agricultural land, would be ashamed to do such a thing, has the Government become so devoid of decency or shame that it is going to take advantage of physical force which consist of a majority of members which chance has placed in their hands and get behind their own contracts by means of this dirty trick, underhand trick of legislation? I am really very very sorry if they are serious about this matter. It is still time. They may reduce two years to one year in this Bill though I disapprove of it, but if they do it and go behind the contract which the Government has solemnly entered into, if they break any contract by means of this legislation, they will fall much lower in my estimation than they have already done. They would go right down to Nadir which is supposed to be geographically the lowest place in this Universe and they will find it very hot there. I hope they will try to escape from that heat.

Mr. Speaker : The original motion as well as the motion which Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri has given notice of and the motion¹ which Mian Nurullah has given notice of, will be discussed together.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I also object to the principles underlying this Bill (*Interruption*) wholeheartedly and this is about the first Bill in which I wholeheartedly differ from the Unionist party because it is a matter of principle which would do no good to anybody. The question whether the Lahore Electric Supply Company should be taken over or not by the Government is a question which should be decided on merits when the time comes. If this Government is convinced that it will be in the interests of the finances of the province to take it over, they are welcome to take it over. I am not holding a brief on behalf of the Lahore Electric Supply Company. In fact, when I was serving on the Electricity Advisory Board of the Punjab Government and the question of rates of the Lahore Electric Supply Company was raised, Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri and myself were for reducing the rates in spite of the opposition from the company, both legal and otherwise. In spite of all that we pressed for reduction because we felt that reduction would be both in the interests of the public and the interests of the company. I personally brought in the case of Calcutta knowing that Calcutta company was about the biggest company in India where the rates were the cheapest and yet the company was flourishing very well and better than any other company. Similarly I thought that the Lahore Electric Company would also flourish well if the rates were reduced. I told them that I could prove from facts and figures that if they reduced their rates their profits would increase. They would be benefited and the public would also be benefited. Their capital then stood, I think, at 110 lakhs and the profit they made was about 19 lakhs. When the rates were reduced from annas 6 to annas 4, in spite of the reduction, the profit after a couple of years when they expected to go down or remain stationary, actually went up to 25 lakhs. So whether you are going to take the Lahore company or not, the question is quite different. If on merits you consider, just as I considered then, that it is for the benefit of the province to take over that company, then do take it by all means.

¹That the Bill be referred to a select committee.

but not in the way that you are doing here. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons you say that certain doubts have arisen about the date on which the notice was actually served on the licensee. I say if that is your efficiency and if that is going to be the standard of your efficiency, then better not take it, the province might lose. If you do raise your standard of efficiency, the standard of efficiency of your legal advisers, the standard of efficiency of your administration and then find that it will be profitable to the province to take over the concern, then you may take it. If you are convinced on merits that it will be advantageous to do so, you may do so. But you should not act in this manner saying that we have some doubts about our notice and, therefore, we are bringing in a measure like this by the back door and would like to nit all other companies in future by giving it a retrospective effect. It is a bad principle and nobody, much less the members of this honourable House, should be a party to it.

Sir, again referring to the first paragraph of the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, I should say that it is not for you or this Government to bind all future Governments to take up all the companies when the licences expire. Leave the matter to those Governments and if those Governments think that it is in the interests of the province to take over a certain company, let them do so. Why should you bind the future Governments? Why act ahead for 20 or 30 years? There are companies which came into existence only 5 or 10 years ago and they are just starting to make profits and you are trying by this means to grab such companies. Then you say you will not take companies which do not make profit. So you will be putting a premium on inefficiency, just like yourself. You will not be encouraging any one to make any profit or if anybody makes profit, he will not show it lest his concern should be taken over by the Government. Nobody will say that he is making a profit, though he is actually making a profit. You will thus lower the morale of the people. Just to avoid the company being taken over by the Government they will say that they are not making any profit, though they may be giving dividends. This is a bad principle. Do not bind the future Governments. Why force them to take over the electric supply companies when their licences expire? (*Minister of Public Works*: Who is binding?) You are. Again, Sir, you do not know the A. B. C. of business. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons you say that one year's notice is enough. I put it to you, Sir, imagine a concern of the dimensions and magnitude such as the Lahore Electric Supply Company or any other big company winding up in one year's time. We know of some concerns going into liquidation and I was a shareholder of some concerns which went into liquidation and they are still after me and asking me to pay money. They want that 100 per cent should be paid. I paid Rs. 19,000 and still they want me to pay another Rs. 6,000. The thing is going on for a long time. These things take a long time and one year is too small for winding up a business.

I am astonished to see that you still feel that it could be done. It is impossible. No company worth the name can possibly wind up in a year's time. Therefore two years was the proper time and if you want to punish the Lahore people and want to make a law for Lahore, make it by all means for Lahore, but do not penalize others. It is because they are trying to penalize others without

4 p. m.

[Mian Mohd. Nurullah.]

any fault of theirs and in this case for the faults of their own officers that I protest. You are going to penalize others for no fault of theirs. I think this is one of the measures in which I am cent per cent opposed. In the end therefore I have to request the Government that if they are not prepared to accept the circulation motion which they think might only delay, I beg to move—

That the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Speaker : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the object of the Bill now under consideration of the House, is that the period of notice for taking over the business of an electric supply company by the Government may be reduced from two years to one year. Apart from the reduction of the period of notice it also implies that our acquiescence is being sought to use the Hydro-Electric Scheme for the benefit of the urban people. Now, Sir, the Hydro-Electric Scheme which was completed at a cost of ten or twelve crores of rupees, every single pie of which has come out of the pockets of the zamindars, is sought to be used for the benefit of the urban population to the detriment of the rural people. After having spent a stupendous sum of twelve crores of good money of the zamindars, the Government has not been able to make improvements in the scheme, which is running at a loss. There are numerous privately-owned electric supply companies which are carrying on their work most efficiently and profitably.

If I remember aright, some time ago it was given out by the Government that they intended to supply energy from the Hydro-Electric Scheme to the Ludhiana Ferozepore link. This means that if this scheme is carried all the villages on both sides of the Ludhiana-Ferozepore Road will be supplied with electric energy for irrigation, light and other purposes. I would, therefore, request the Government to carefully consider this proposition.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is not relevant.

Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh : It is very imperative that before electric energy is supplied to the urban areas it should be made available to the zamindars, so that their lot may be improved by a development in industries and the methods of agriculture, thus bringing about an increase in their purchasing power. As it vitally concerns the interests of the zamindars, I would urge upon the Government to refer this Bill to a select committee as has been suggested by the mover of the amendment as well as the honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. If, however, the Government wants to take over the business of the electric supply concerns they should do so, but in that case the energy generated by the Hydro-Electric Scheme should be mainly utilized for the benefit of the zamindars.

With these words, I support the amendment for referring the Bill to a select committee.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, there are at the present moment two motions under discussion. The one is for the circulation of the Bill which has been moved by Rai Bahadur Lala

Sohan Lal and the other is Mian Muhammad Nurullah's motion for referring it to a select committee. I am not in favour of the former motion which seeks the circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion. The second motion is better for the reason that the Bill relates to a private dispute between a public body and the Government with which it had entered into an agreement and the public at large is neither concerned with nor competent to judge, the question. The facts of the case are that under a particular contract the Government had entrusted a work to this company for a fixed period and it was stipulated that if the Government after the expiry of the said period would like to take over their business, two years' notice would be given. But now the Government for certain reasons wants to reduce that period to one year. I will not repeat the arguments advanced by other honourable members and would only submit that apart from the question of the sanctity of a contract the importance of matter also lies in the fact that large sums of money have been invested by the people in this company. We must allow the people concerned the agreed period of time, if not more, to look to their interest and sell or buy their shares, according to their own judgment about the dark or better prospects of the concern when it goes in new hands. It is practically impossible for a concern of some magnitude to wind up its business in the short span of a year. Judging the question from yet another angle, I am sure the Government will be faced with the question of finding money to pay for it, even after the expiry of the stipulated period. The house is aware of the fact that whenever they are asked to invest money in industries the Government with ample justification plead their inability to do so on account of lack of funds. Wherefrom the money will come in this case? They will have to borrow money to the tune of two or three crores of rupees. If, on the other hand, the Government has so much ready, it remains to be settled whether that money should be spent on the acquisition of these concerns or should better be utilized for some other purposes. For this purpose also its reference to a select committee as has been moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah is the only proper course. Moreover, this matter does not concern a particular class, but relates to an agreement and a legal binding. If Government have some money and want to invest it somewhere, let the committee go through the whole question. If the committee decides that it would be better invested by taking over the business of these undertakings, then of course the Government may take their possession. Again, the reference of this Bill to a select committee is also advisable if the Government want to prove the necessity of revoking their agreement with the company concerned. Personally, I have misgivings regarding the ability of the Government to run these concerns successfully as has been shown by the most inefficient handling of the Hydro-Electric Scheme by the officers of the Government. I am sure the Government as proprietor of the company will fail to run this company and a good privately-owned concern will go to dogs.

We must not pass any measure in haste like this. It is a laudable proposal and I agree to it that the Bill at this stage be referred to a select committee which should submit its report after thrashing this matter fully and thoroughly. We the members of this House must always deem it our duty to make such suggestions to the Government by adopting which the

[L. Sita Ram.] public money may be saved. They may accept them or not it is their outlook.

With these few words, Sir, I lend my support to the motion now before the House.

Minister for Public Works. (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana): I was surprised to find that the honourable members have been trying to put meanings into a simple Bill which are not there. The Bill only amends the period of two years' notice to that of one year. No hardship is involved as far as I can see. Until the year 1910 the period of notice for exercising option to purchase was one year. That worked all right and there was no difficulty.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri: There was no electric supply company then.

Minister: This was a Central Act and it was in existence all over India. We had foreign companies in those days. They represented that the period of notice might be extended to two years. It was done. But we find now that most of the companies belong to this country and it is not like a company in liquidation that they must wind up all their concern in a period of one year. The period of one year is only in respect of notice of election to purchase and it is not on all fours with winding up of private estates as have been argued by the members opposite. Monopoly is given to a concern for a limited period only. It is renewable for a further period, that is, it can go on for a further period of ten or twenty years if the Government does not exercise the right of purchase on behalf of the public. The company is all the time aware that a particular licence which they have taken out is going to terminate after that period. So it is not like going to somebody's house or acquiring an estate. It is a licence given for a particular period and it is to terminate at the end of that period and the only notice that the Government is required to give is about the option to purchase, otherwise they would get another lease of life. There is no hardship involved. And then what is more, the law on the subject provides that 20 per cent over and above the price of the concern is to be given to the company for compulsory acquisition. Even compensation for this expected dislocation is provided in the law because the company gets twenty per cent over and above the market value of the undertaking and with this amount paid I do not think there is going to be any hardship. The second point that Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri tried to make out was that there was an inconsistency regarding a question of policy. There is no such inconsistency. The decision of the present Punjab Government has been put forward in paragraph 1 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons but we have not bound any future Government as Mian Muhammad Nurullah would like us to believe. We cannot bind any Government and this is the decision of the present Government. It is binding on the present Government only and the other Government may like to adopt that policy or may not like to do so. They would have perfect liberty in the matter. All that we have said is that when circumstances are favourable and energy is available from the Hydro-Electric Scheme and we also find that it is a paying proposition, the Government

intends buying out such concerns. There would be no two opinions on the subject that Hydro-Electric Scheme was launched by the Government of the time with the consent of the House. It is there. We are generating ample supplies and those supplies have got to be sold to the public. It was suggested that we might do so by selling bulk supply. The main profit, as I happened to emphasise during the general discussion of the Budget, comes to Government from the actual retail sales and, therefore, we cannot leave retail sales to any company when we buy the whole undertaking. Leaving aside the question whether the Government manages such concern better than a private concern or not, gone are the days when it could be contended that because a private concern can manage a utility service better, therefore, the Government should, in public interest, give up the management of these affairs and hand them over to private concern. Does anybody believe that our revenues should be farmed out as they used to be at one time? Would they like all railways to be run by private concerns? I dare say that some of the private companies are better run than the State railways. It may be that here and there State control is not as it should be. I do not contend that point at all but as a policy it is too late in the day to say that the Government should farm out its administration. It has got to be managed by the State and if one party does not manage it well, the constitutional remedy is there and another party can take it over. I do not think anybody can say that we should hand it over public utility services to private people as they can run it better or can make more profit and they should, therefore, be in charge of these schemes. I would point out that there is no wholesale acquisition involved as Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang who, I am sorry to find is absent and is not in his seat, tried to make out. Some honourable members asked as to what will happen to the plant. The idea is that if we buy the Lahore Electric Supply Company we will buy the plant also, and there will be no special strain on the Hydro-Electric Supply because this plant will be available until it is shifted elsewhere. There is consequently neither hardship nor usurpation involved nor are we damaging private concerns in any way. Licences are given by the Government in public interest and when they are terminated, we have the right to take those concerns over if it is in public interest. That is what we intend doing.

Coming to the last point made out that we are trying to go back on a contract, nothing of the sort is intended. If we did not exercise this right of purchase, the Lahore Electric Supply Company would get another lease for twenty years. There is no breach of contract.

Minister for Education : God forbid !

Minister for Public Works : We have nowhere admitted that the notice given was not valid or it has not been duly served but some doubts have been expressed. Licence was given for a particular period. We have exercised our right of notice to purchase. Validating Acts are known all over the world. These are enacted for the sake of correcting a technical flaw if any. There is no going back on the contract as was said by some of the honourable members. We are sticking to the agreement that we had arrived at with the Lahore Electric Supply Company and one of the terms of the licence was that the local body concerned will have the first

[Minister for Public Works.]

right if the local body fails to exercise the right then the local Government will have the right to purchase. The local body in this case was asked but it did not like to exercise its rights of purchase and the Government has, therefore, given the notice. If there is some flaw, as we hear from some quarters, we are trying to place that beyond the pale of doubt. The original provision with regard to one year's notice is being revived in case of all the companies. If there was no hardship then there will be no hardship involved now. Something was said as to the validity of the notice. It is a matter to be gone into by the law courts and I would not like to go into question. If I say anything on the subject, it might be damaging for A or B and I have no intention of going into the merits of the case. For my purpose the notice was duly given and if there is a technical flaw, it is being set right. What we are concerned with is that the public should not in a matter of this importance be defrauded and that is why the Validating Act is necessary. This cannot be termed as going back on a contract. It is trying to prevent public interest suffering and such Validating Acts where there is a technical flaw, due to unforeseen reasons, are justified. The rest is a question of merit which should be left for law courts. Many Validating Acts have been passed and this will be one of them. I would say that the House should have no hesitation in amending the Bill which only means reversion to the old state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 31st October, 1941.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clauses 1 to 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Public Works : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Electricity (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Premier has said that a Bill amending the Marketing Act is coming to-morrow and that it will be circulated in the morning.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2-30 p. m. on Friday, 25th April, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 25th April, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMRADE DANIAL LATIFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

***7710. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state the general state of health of Comrade Danial Latifi, Bar.-at-Law, at present detained in the Lahore Central Jail ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh) : Prisoner Danial Latifi's health is good from every point of view at the present moment.

MR. RAJBANS KRISHNA.

***7711. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Rajbans Krishna, a student of 6th year class of Forman Christian College, Lahore, who was arrested in the fourth week of June, 1940, is at present being detained in Lahore Central Jail ;
- (b) if so, the law under which he has been detained and the period for which he is to remain under detention ;
- (c) his general state of health ?

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

(b) (i) Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939 ;

(ii) this depends on future circumstances ;

(c) Quite satisfactory.

MR. MAZHAR ALI.

***7712. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mazhar Ali, President, Punjab Students' Federation, has been arrested and is kept in Lahore Central Jail ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (b) the law under which he has been detained and the period for which he has been detained ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) and (b) He was detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order, but he has recently been released.

**GRANT OF LAND IN NILI BAR COLONY ON INFERIOR LAND
TENANCY TERMS.**

***7749. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to allot in the near future some land on inferior land tenancy terms in Nili Bar Colony ;

(b) if so, the extent of the area which is proposed to be thus allotted and when it will be allotted ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : I regret that reply to the question is not yet ready.

**SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE OFFICES OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS
AND COMMISSIONERS.**

***7750. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Superintendents of the offices of the Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners in the province ;

(b) the number of those among them who retired since 1937 and of those who were recruited since 1937 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) 34.

(b) Retired since 1937	8
Recruited since 1937	14

**HANDCUFFING OF DR. GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA AND PANDIT NEKI
RAM SHARMA.**

***7788. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, late leader of the Opposition, Punjab Assembly, now in Lahore Central Jail, and Pandit Neki Ram Sharma of Hissar, were taken under the custody of the police from Lahore to Hissar on the 29th March, 1941, with handcuffs on ;

(b) if so, whether he is prepared to state the reasons therefor in view of the assurance given by Honourable Finance Minister on the subject of handcuffing of political detenus ?

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

(b) The officer commanding the police escort considered that the prisoners came under the category referred to in Police Rule 26-22 (e) and (f). The question of the handcuffing of satyagrahi convicts is under consideration and it is hoped that orders will be issued shortly. Orders have already issued that Dr. Gopi Chand, who is a satyagrahi security prisoner, should not be handcuffed.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Will the Government lay down a general policy that the satyagrahi prisoners will not be handcuffed ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not possible for me to discuss matters of policy in answer to a question.

Sardar Moola Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly let me know if some action will be taken against those officers who in contravention of the orders of the Finance Minister handcuffed Pandit Neki Ram Sharma and Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and took them from Lahore to Hissar in that condition ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The officers concerned acted according to the rules, and the instructions that satyagrahi security prisoners of the status of Dr. Gopi Chand should not be handcuffed were issued later.

Sardar Moola Singh : Is it a fact that Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and Pandit Neki Ram Sharma were handcuffed from Lahore to Hissar and their handcuffs were not removed even at the time of their taking meals ?

Minister for Public Works : This does not arise out of this question and if a fresh notice is given it will be looked into.

INDUSTRIAL LOAN.

***7791. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many private individuals applied for industrial loan from the Sialkot district this year under the State Aid to Industries Act and how many of them have been granted loans with the names of the persons granted such loans and also the amount of loans granted in each case ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh) : Eleven applications were received during the period, of which the under-mentioned loans were sanctioned :—

	Rs.
1. The Universal Rubber Factory, Sialkot	10,000
2. Messrs. Sultan Ahmad and Brothers, Sialkot.	5,000
3. Chaudhri Mahbub Ahmad of village Kotli Bhutta (Sialkot district).	500

The Universal Rubber Factory, Sialkot, has however declined to take the loan.

RIVAZ GARDENS.

***7789. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- whether there are any Government residential quarters in Lahore known as "Rivaz Gardens" for allotment to the clerical staff of different departments under the Punjab Government ;
- whether it is a fact that these bungalows are allotted only to Europeans and Anglo-Indians ;
- whether it is a fact that no Indian of any grade of service, however high it may be, in the ministerial service is eligible for allotment of any of these bungalows in the "Rivaz Gardens" ;

[M. Abdul Rab.]

(d) if the answer to (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for this racial distinction and preferential treatment meted out to the Europeans and Anglo-Indians in the matter ;

(e) percentage of rent charged from the occupants of these quarters as compared with the percentage charged from Indians living in Chauburji Estate ?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The cottages on the Rivaz Gardens Estate were constructed for European and Anglo-Indian Clerks of the Punjab Government Offices, in Lahore, and have ever since been in demand by them, while the demands of the Indian Clerks have been catered for through the provision of a separate Estate, known as Chauburji Gardens Estate, Lahore.

(e) Ten per cent of the pay or standard rent, whichever is less, is charged both from the occupants of the Chauburji Gardens Estate and the Rivaz Gardens Estate.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is not racial discrimination being maintained by the Government in allotting different classes of quarters to Europeans and Indians ?

Minister for Public Works : There is no question of discrimination. Different quarters were built for different categories and classes of Government employees.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is it not a fact that the Rivaz Gardens quarters are not allotted to any Indian howsoever highly paid he may be in the ministerial staff of the Punjab Government ?

Minister : I have said that two different types of quarters were built for two different categories of Government employees.

Mian Abdul Rab : Are these two different categories distinguished on the basis of racial discrimination ? That is why separate type of quarters are allotted to Indians and separate type to Europeans and Anglo-Indians ?

Minister : My reply is clear enough.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : May I know if it is a legacy from the previous Government and whether they are not prepared to remove it ?

Minister : There is no question of legacy. These quarters were built by the last Government and we are now allotting them according to the practice on the subject.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister the percentage of the rent charged from Indians occupying quarters in the Chauburji Gardens Estate and the percentage charged from Europeans and Anglo-Indians for the bungalows in the Rivaz Gardens Estate ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This refers to part (e) of the reply which I will read out : it says—

- (e) 10 per cent of the pay or standard rent, whichever is less, is charged both from the occupants of the Chauburji Gardens Estate and the Rivaz Gardens Estate.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the honourable member whether in view of the fact that provincial autonomy is working in the real sense of the word in the province, the Government will be prepared to do away with this racial discrimination and allow in future Indian clerks to occupy quarters in the Rivaz Gardens Estate ?

Minister : There is no question of provincial autonomy. Whenever an opportunity arises the matter will be considered. I have said there are two different types of quarters for different classes of Government employees.

Mian Abdul Rab : In view of the fact that the percentage of rent charged from those occupying Chauburji Estate quarters and those occupying Rivaz Gardens Estate quarters is the same, why should not the Rivaz Gardens Estate quarters be allotted to Indians and those of the Chauburji Gardens Estate to Europeans and Anglo-Indians ?

Minister : There are two types of quarters to suit different people : they were built during the last regime, and according to the practice they are allotted to different categories of Government employees. There is no question of racial discrimination.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether Government will be prepared to reconsider the question of allotting these quarters to Indians ?

Minister : It will be considered according to the rules on the subject.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether it is not a fact that the only rule is that a person entitled to the Rivaz Gardens quarters should be a European or an Anglo-Indian and is that not the basic principle on which allotment is made ?

Minister : I cannot say offhand what the rules are, but if notice is given I will be glad to furnish the information. As I have said different categories of people are entitled to different types of quarters. This has been the practice in the past and it is continuing. If and when an opportunity arises for a change, the Government will consider the matter.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know from the Honourable Minister whether it is a fact that the quarters in the Rivaz Gardens are much bigger, better situated, have big lawns attached to them, are more commodious and are just like bungalows as compared with the quarters in the Chauburji Estate which have no such facilities ?

Minister : The honourable member is giving information. If he wants any information about these quarters and gives notice I will ascertain and the necessary information will be supplied to him.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is it not a fact that the quarters in the Rivaz Gardens allotted to Europeans and Anglo-Indians are better than the quarters of the Indians in the Chauburji Estate and is it not on account of their being better that they are allotted to Europeans and Anglo-Indians only ?

Mr. E. Few : Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that on account of the revision in rates of salary since 1931 quarters are now built with less accommodation so as to give a fair return on capital to the Government for such buildings?

Minister : This does not arise out of the main question. Now if the honourable member wants any further information a fresh notice should be given and the information will be supplied. There is no question of any discrimination. Ten per cent is the rent charged in every case.

Chaudhri Ram Sarup : In case of there being some difference between the quarters called the Rivaz Gardens and the quarters called the Chauburji Estate, can they be allotted to all members of the clerical staff indiscriminately?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise.

Mian Abdul Rab : Is it a fact that never so far has a quarter in the Rivaz Gardens been allotted to an Indian?

Minister : That is also a new question. If the honourable member gives notice of a fresh question, it will be answered. I have already stated that there are two different types of quarters meant for two different categories of clerks. The rent charges in both cases is 10 per cent of their salary.

DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

***7792. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Jullundur, by its resolution No. 34, dated the 25th February, 1941, has given notices to schools hitherto getting grant-in-aid from the said board for the last so many years, that their grant-in-aid for the year 1941-42 will be reduced by 50 per cent and that from 1st March, 1942, no grant-in-aid will be given to them; if so, the reasons which have led the District Board to arrive at this decision;

(b) whether he is aware that the decision arrived at by the District Board is contrary to the provisions of the Education Code; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes. In order to provide adequate money for other beneficent departments;

(b) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE FACILITIES.

***7776. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the total provision that has been made in the next year's budget for the extension of maternity and child welfare facilities and the share of such provision which has been allotted to the Kangra district?

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye : *First part.*—If next year refers to 1941-42 then a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been provided in the budget.

Second part.—No allotment has yet been made to the Kangra district. The grant is distributed proportionately among the Punjab Centres and it takes the form of such percentage of the pay of health visitor in each centre as the number of health visitors and total amount available for distribution renders possible. The grant will be distributed among districts as usual and it will come approximately to 25 per cent of the expenditure incurred by the Kangra centre in the previous year on the salary of health visitor employed.

VETERINARY HOSPITALS.

***7775. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the places where the 4 new veterinary hospitals, provision for which has been made in the Budget for 1941-42, will be opened ;
- (b) whether any of these hospitals will be located in the Kangra district ;
- (c) whether he is aware of the fact that there is great need of expanding veterinary facilities in this district ;
- (d) the steps which Government have so far taken to redress the grievances of the people of Kangra in this respect ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) The places where these hospitals are to be opened are under consideration.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) A proposal is under the consideration of Government for the opening of two outlying veterinary dispensaries at Manali and Katrain in the Kangra district under the Special Development Programme during the current financial year.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RECRUITMENT TO VETERINARY SERVICES.

1434. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of persons recruited up-to-date, communitywise, in all branches of veterinary services, including the clerical establishment, since 1st April, 1937 ;
- (b) whether, during this period, any Muslim officers in the Veterinary Department have been superseded to give accelerated promotion to non-Muslims in the gazetted ranks in this department, the position of the person superseded and also of those who have been allowed to supersede in the seniority list ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

RECRUITMENT TO CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

1435. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of persons recruited so far, communitywise, in all branches of Co-operative Societies Department, including the clerical establishment, since 1st April, 1937 ;
- (b) how many Muslims have been superseded in order to promote the non-Muslims in the gazetted and non-gazetted posts, and the position of the persons superseded in the seniority lists ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : A statement is laid on the table.

(a) (1) Provincial Service of Co-operative Societies, Class I..	<i>Nil.</i>
(2) Provincial Service of Co-operative Societies, Class II	<i>Nil.</i>
(3) Punjab Co-operative Subordinate Service—	
(i) Inspectors, general line—	
Muslims	9
Hindus	6
Sikhs	5
(ii) Inspectors, Consolidation of Holdings ..	<i>Nil.</i>
(iii) Sub-Inspectors, Consolidation of Holdings—	
Muslims	75
Hindus	48
Sikhs	67
(4) Cho Reclamation Sub-Inspectors—	
Muslims	6
Hindus	1
Sikhs	9
(5) Better Living Sub-Inspectors—	
Muslims	6
Hindus	1
Sikhs	3
(6) Industrial Sub-Inspectors—	
Muslims	9
Hindus	2
Sikhs	3
Scheduled caste	1
(7) Clerical staff—	
Muslims	32
Hindus	27
Sikhs	18
Scheduled caste	1

NOTE.—The above figures do not include the vacancies filled in by promotion.

(b) Promotions are made strictly on merit irrespective of class and communal considerations. No Muslim was superseded merely in order to promote a non-Muslim.

RECRUITMENT TO VARIOUS BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT CATTLE
FARM, HISSAR.

1436. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number of persons recruited so far, communitywise, in all grades of services whether superior or inferior or menial under the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, since the time the Farm came into existence ?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh) : I beg to introduce the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill. I also beg to move—

That the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : I rise to a point of order that this Bill should not be discussed under rule 84 to-day, but before I formally make my point of order, I will, with your permission, make a few observations.

As everybody knows there is a trade deadlock in the whole of the province. The situation all over the province is very grave. At the instance of Raja Narendra Nath, my friend Lala Bihari Lal Channana and I met the Premier on the 23rd of April and discussed this measure very freely and frankly for a period of about three hours. Each side was very keen to find ways and means for an honourable settlement. Each side gave expression to its views frankly and freely. We put the grievances of the trade before the Premier as best as we could. In certain cases he conceded to our demands and in others he expressed his inability to do so. The discussion was very frank and led to an understanding of the situation by both sides. Yesterday also some negotiations went on, though not directly. The result of that was that the Premier agreed to concede to further demands of the traders and it looked to me at least that there was just a chance that a compromise between the Government and the traders will be arrived at. So far as the traders are concerned, I should like to make it quite clear that they look at this deadlock from a purely commercial point of view. There are no political motives behind it. They would not continue the deadlock a minute longer than is necessary and I for one had hoped that with a little

[S. Santokh Singh.]

more of mutual understanding on both sides this deadlock might come to an end. But my surprise knew no bounds when I read in the Government Gazette Extraordinary yesterday a penal clause, clause 3. That changed the whole situation. This clause as it stands is a direct threat, is a coercion upon trade, which, I should make it quite clear, the trade will not be able to accept. Under the threat of this clause, I think no settlement will be possible for which both sides are very keen and very anxious. Government naturally cannot afford to see this deadlock being continued indefinitely and as I have said the traders on their part will not carry it on a minute longer than is necessary. Under those circumstances I appeal to the Premier openly that he may be pleased not to insist upon the retention of this clause. He should agree to the deletion of it, so that the atmosphere that was created by the negotiations that went on for about two days and the result of which will be revealed by the Premier himself in the course of his speech should be allowed to continue and this clause should not be insisted upon. It should be deleted. If I have an assurance from the Honourable Premier, I will have no objection to the other parts of the Bill being proceeded with to-day. But if that assurance will not be forthcoming, it will be my duty to oppose this Bill as best as I can and take all constitutional steps that my friends of this side of the House can take—with a view to delay its passage. I would appeal to the Premier that he should not insist upon this clause and that he will take up the consideration of the other parts of the Bill and in the meantime, I think that a way might be found to arrive at a compromise. On my part I will convene a meeting of the standing committee for the next Sunday, and by then I shall be in a position to know the views of the traders. It is the standing committee alone which is competent to decide this matter, but I feel sure that with the necessary goodwill on both sides a formula will be found acceptable to all, so that in the interest of the province this deadlock may be put an end to.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : I do not propose to go into the merits of the various points referred to by my honourable friend in this case. He has taken exception I suppose to the clause debarring the grant of licences to people if they do not apply within the prescribed period. I believe, he is referring to clause 3 of the new Bill. If his objection were merely on technical grounds, I would suggest to my honourable friend that we might proceed with the Bill itself and leave this clause over till Monday and give an opportunity to him of discussing it with his friends. So far as Government is concerned, this clause has been provided in view of the particular contingency which has arisen as a result of the action of certain traders. I do not think that the whole community of traders is behind him, but I say that a large number of traders having started this agitation, it is to meet that particular contingency that this clause has been put in, to safeguard the interests of other people who constitute 99 per cent of the population of this province. But if I get an assurance after he has consulted his friends on the announcement which I am going to make to-day that this contingency will not arise, it will not be necessary for me to take that power. That power is necessary only in order to meet the special contingency. At any rate so far as the discussion of the Bill is concerned, I would suggest that my honourable friend might

proceed with the Bill as it stands now. We will leave that clause over till Monday, and in the meantime discuss the other clauses of the Bill.

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das : Will you delete that clause later on ?

Premier : If I am given an assurance that it will not be necessary and that circumstances will not arise for its use, then I will consider it. May I now proceed with the merits of the Bill ?

Sardar Santokh Singh : I have no objection if under the circumstances the Bill is proceeded with and the consideration of this clause postponed.

Premier : I am intervening at this early stage in this debate in order to make clear the position of Government, and in order to dispel any misunderstandings or doubts with regard to the position of Government which may have arisen during the last few weeks on account of press propaganda, and also on account of certain misstatements of facts made on the platform and in the press. I am constrained to say that I have been sorely disappointed to find that a concerted — I would not use the word 'conspiracy' — but, a concerted effort to bolster up an agitation which on the face of it, apart from being unconstitutional, was unwarranted as I hope I will be able to show presently, has been given prominence; and to my regret I have to inform the House that the other side of the picture, in spite of the fact that certain meetings were held and a report of them was sent to the press, was not published. I have received telegrams from both sides. I have received telegrams stating that there was complete *hartal* and I have received telegrams also from other people to say that attempts are being made to coerce people into *hartaIs* and that unless I interfered there was grave danger of a breach of peace. Therefore it was necessary for me to instruct the people who came in contact with me and also officials to see that nothing untoward happened and to try their best to see that this agitation should not take a turn which might prove detrimental not only economically and commercially, but also from the physical point of view, to any of the parties concerned. My honourable friends must remember that this agitation, if it proceeds any further, is likely to create not only a great deal of bad blood but also a serious situation in the province. For instance, if the *hartal* were genuine and *bona fide*, that is to say, if the people who observed this *hartal* kept to the spirit and letter of the *hartal* and did not do any business at all behind closed doors and half open doors, then the position would have been different. But as it is, it is the poor consumer that is affected and not the rich man. I thought there was *hartal* in Lahore yesterday, and I deliberately sent a man round to buy certain things and he went and bought them. On the other hand, I find that the poor people who had not the same resources at their disposal or who had not the same energy and also the same hardihood to go about and find which shops were closed and which were half open, could not get anything. My own agent, Master Kala Ram, could not get a bottle of lemonade to quench his thirst. I asked, 'why did you not try by the backdoor?' No, he said, the *hartal* was complete. I dare say he was correct so far as he was concerned. But if I wanted a bottle of lemonade I could have got it. That is the position.

[Premier.]

I concede that they have made a gesture, but I only want to draw your attention to the seriousness of this gesture because if they want to make it complete then the inevitable result must be that it must hit the poor consumer hard. It does not hit the big zamindar who can hold his stock back, but the small producer who constitutes the bulk of the population of this province. Now if he finds that he has been thwarted by this action of a certain section of the commercial community, not thwarted by any law which is meant to purify the market practices in various mandis and which is intended to see that the dishonest culprit is penalised, then naturally there will be resentment amongst that class and amongst the consumers and I am certain they constitute 90 per cent of the population of this province. Now my friends must realise that if that 90 per cent of the population take to the same weapons which the other people are trying to use, what will be the result? The result will be bitterness. These people try to get the food they want. The other side must try to get the money which they want and what will be the result? If they also decide to flout the law of the land and take the law into their own hands, there would be a situation which my honourable friends can well imagine. I would not put it in words. Then I would be blamed for trouble in the province. I will do everything possible to see that nothing serious happens. I have already taken precautions and I will continue to take all precautions. But it may be difficult to prevent sudden outbursts in one part of the province; difficult though the position already is, my friends are still playing with fire in a gun powder magazine. I appeal to them, and appeal most emphatically, to keep that aspect of the question before them prominently because if there is bloodshed it would be on their heads, I accept no responsibility for it. But on the other hand, if there are any genuine grievances of the traders, the Ministers concerned have repeatedly stated, as I too have stated, that Government, as a constitutional and democratic Government must always be, are prepared to do what is in their power to remove legitimate grievances put forward constitutionally. There are ways to come forward. But if my honourable friends

3 p. m.

think that they can brow beat me, or that they can coerce me or my Government by *hartals* and things like that, they are welcome to these conclusions, and to their ideas, and they can follow the will of the wisp which they are trying to follow, but I can assure them that they will not be able to coerce me, because I am not alone, but behind me there are 90 per cent of the people of the province whom I represent and in whose interests I proposed this legislation. If to-day we are to be brow beaten so as to allow a section of the community to flout the law of the land, would it be possible for me to resist a similar pressure by that 90 per cent of the population if they were to flout the law of the land? Do my friends think that it will be possible for me to resist them if I do not resist these people now? How can I possibly resist them? This aspect has been overlooked. Because I happened to postpone the application of the Act, apparently it was taken as a sign of weakness. It was nothing of the kind, it was merely an attempt to see that the machinery was perfect and that there was no undue hardship to anybody. But naturally in those moments of enthusiasm

on a public platform when a movement is started, we do not look at such facts or analyse them but we are carried away by the wave of enthusiasm and we say all kinds of things and do all kinds of acts which we rue later on. The main reason why we postponed this Act was that the machinery was not complete. We thought it would be unfair to penalize any body because of the faulty nature of that machinery or because of the absence of that machinery. Government therefore decided that the actual operation of this Act should be postponed till September 1st. But I saw it published in the papers with my own eyes that Government has gone down on its knees, has climbed down, and that if they proceeded and insisted on their demands then Government will have to lie down before the *beoparis*. This is the spirit in which this action of Government was interpreted. Our idea was that we should meet their genuine grievances, we also wanted to perfect the machinery, but they started gloating over it and considered it as a victory. If they want to draw these conclusions, they are welcome to do so, but it was not on account of any weakness, but only for these two reasons that Government postponed the enforcement of this Act. Now with regard to the Act itself. I do not know what the grievances of the various people are, but I saw the other day that some people in Dera Ghazi Khan also protested, or at least it was alleged that they protested, and a telegram was sent to me. I was very much amused because apparently the people there had not read the Act. The Act does not apply to them and yet the Press gloated over a complete *hartal* in Dera Ghazi Khan and said no work was done, all shops were closed, and yet the Act does not apply to them nor is there any intention of applying it to Dera Ghazi Khan. Similarly Kangra district.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Human sympathy.

Premier : Human sympathy for the Amritsar people in Kangra district !

Sardar Santokh Singh : Why not ?

Premier : Now let us see what is the main object of this Marketing Bill. As we all know, and as I hope the Press also knows, it is meant to eradicate malpractices in the various markets. These malpractices, which are well-known, have been ventilated on the floor of this House not on one occasion, but on dozens of occasions. The object of the Bill is to control these malpractices by a machinery which will be set up by the people themselves. There will be the representatives of the growers and on the other side there will be representatives of the dealers and also of the people who are consumers. I admit that the trading classes naturally object to a majority of growers on the boards. They can very reasonably object to it, but at the same time may I ask them since the object of this Act is to remove malpractices, whether they can possibly expect that the people who are responsible for these malpractices will remove these malpractices if they are in a majority ? The answer cannot but be an emphatic "no". Therefore it was necessary to constitute committees in such a way that the complexion of the committees should be such that these malpractices should be eradicated and eradicated in the shortest possible time. We also decided to include in the committees an experienced official so that he should see that no abuse was allowed and that he should be able

[Premier.]

to explain to people on both sides what was suitable and what was just. If any genuine grievances or any abuse of power by any body concerned should be brought to the notice of Government, I can give an undertaking now that Government would be prepared to remove those grievances and eradicate those abuses. But even before that fact was started, even before the committees were constituted, they started the agitation which according to the Persian proverb

آب نہ دیدم موزہ کشیدم

I would appeal to my honourable friends to look on this Act as a beneficial Act, not only to the growers but also to the business and trading people, because even between a trader and a trader you want honesty and straightforward dealing, and this Act was intended to remove all malpractices and all the nefarious methods of cheating a person, whether he be a trader or a grower. Naturally the sympathy of every honest man, whether he be a trader or dealer or broker or grower or a weighman, should be for the Act. But what do we find? We find that one section or one party concerned with the working of this Act has raised a hue and cry. I would not take an uncharitable view, but those people who take an uncharitable view will naturally say that these people are raising the hue and cry because they will not be allowed to do those things which are not above board and which they were doing before, and which it is intended to stop by means of this Act. This is what a person who takes an uncharitable view may say. I do not take that uncharitable view, because I know that there is a large majority of businessmen who are honest and who do not indulge in these malpractices; but at the same time nobody can deny that there are businessmen who are not honest and who use all kinds of malpractices to defraud the ignorant cultivators and consumers. It was with that object in view that Government decided on the chain of legislation of which this is only a link. Only the other day after the agitation had been started, this House passed almost unanimously and without any opposition, the Weights and Measures Bill which is a necessary corollary to this Bill, because you want pacca, proper honest straightforward measures and I do not see why my honourable friends should raise a hue and cry against the marketing Bill. Let us analyse. Let us take the constitution of the committees. Suppose my honourable friend's objection is that they will abuse their powers. Now let us analyse what are the functions of these committees? What will they do? It was suggested that they will show partisan spirit or that they may abuse their power to grant licences. That can easily be met. There is no difficulty about it. So far as Government are concerned, we have already decided that so far as the obtaining of licences is concerned, it should be automatic. You go and pay your fees whatever they are, just as you go to the post office and pay your fees and get your licences. So far as dealers are concerned, the marketing committees will have nothing to do with their licensing. It is the collector or the officer specially appointed who will do this and it is proposed to make a rule that the grant of a licence will be automatic. You go and pay your fee, whatever it may be, and you get your licence. There would be no hitch or obstruction in the way of your obtaining a licence. Therefore, so far as

the question of issue of licences is concerned, this grievance of theirs is removed. Another grievance was brought to my notice. I feel that it is a legitimate grievance, though a far-fetched one, but since they brought it to my notice, I mention it here. They said that this committee would sit as judges on a dispute between the various parties concerned and they said that they did not object to their adjudicating between a grower and dealer because there might be some doubts whether the grower might be cheated or defrauded and so on, but why should this committee be an arbitrary adjudicator between dealers and dealers or between traders and traders. Was that the point?

Sardar Santokh Singh : Yes.

Premier : We could meet it by the rules. I have ordered that it should be made clear in the rules that where there is a dispute between a trader and a trader, the committee should have nothing to do with it and should let the traders use any agency that they want for the settlement thereof. We do not want to interfere or meddle in their dispute. What we want is to see that they do not, in any way, commit any act which may be detrimental to the people with whom they deal, but disputes between dealers and dealers, between traders and traders would be excluded from the purview of the committee. What else then remains? The committee will have the power to sue or be sued against. Does my honourable friend see any objection to that? (*Laughter.*)

Sardar Santokh Singh : Who said that? There are many other things that we mentioned.

Premier : If he sees any objection, I am prepared to look into it also. I will see that the rules under this Act are properly carried out with regard to weights and measures. We will appoint one or two employees to see that everything goes on satisfactorily. The committee cannot abuse the powers given and if there is any abuse of power, there will be enough time for my honourable friend to bring that to my notice and if it is a legitimate and genuine grievance, I can give him an assurance again that I would be the first person to see that it is remedied. As I said you cry yourself hoarse about what *might* happen. It reminds me of the old story of the stronger of the two boys sitting on the weaker and belabouring him and crying. When somebody asked him why he was crying, the stronger boy said that when the boy beneath got away from under him, he would beat him — the stronger boy — and that was the reason why he was crying. So I appeal to my honourable friends not to have apprehensions with regard to the working of this Act, especially when the powers of the committees are very limited; and that is one of the important aspects on which they wanted an assurance. Amendment of the rules has already been ordered so that they need have no grievance on those points. Again, the question of fees was mentioned. Let me point out to my honourable friend that when this Act — the Marketing Act itself — was introduced, it was made quite clear on the floor of the House by the Minister in charge that it was not meant to be a fiscal legislation at all, and that it was merely a regulating legislation. We do not want it to be a fiscal measure at all and I assure you that it is not a fiscal measure. As you will see in the rules and the Act itself, it is laid down that the committee has to discharge its

[Premier.]

functions and for the purpose of discharging those functions it will have to spend money and where are you to get that money from? You can get it by levying a small fee and, therefore, I have reduced that maximum in the rules. The amount of four annas that was given in the rules has straight-away been reduced by me to one anna. I have said that that should be the maximum and the committee should not be able to levy more than one anna. But beyond that we will make clear in the rules that the committee shall have the power to vary the rate of this levy on different commodities. It would not be fair for them to levy two pice per maund on wheat and two pice per maund on cotton as well, because one commodity is worth ten rupees per maund and the other may be worth three rupees per maund and, therefore, the committee shall have the power to regulate those fees on any commodity, if they consider that the amount is sufficient for getting on with their purpose, or put a very nominal fee, say one pie, if need be. I am quite clear in my mind that in most mandis — really flourishing mandis — it would not be necessary to put more than three pice on one commodity to get a sufficient amount to meet the expenses required by the committee and other contingent charges. Therefore, even the maximum of one anna will not, I hope, be levied. As a matter of fact it has already been laid down in the rules that when the by-laws are made by the committees, they will require the approval of Government. That means that it will be possible for Government to secure uniformity. For instance, if they impose six pies in Lyallpur, it will be six pies in the next-door mandi as well, or, where there are two competing mandis, the rate will be uniform so as not in any way to affect adversely the trade in the mandis. We have got powers in the rules to adjust all these details and we will surely do so. Another point raised by my honourable friend opposite during the course of our discussion was that if this measure is not a fiscal measure, why should the fee be a recurring fee on each transaction. That was the point raised by my honourable friend and I assure him that that was not the intention. The rules were not clear on the point and we will make them clear, that the fee should be levied on one transaction only. That means that on a subsequent transaction no fees will be levied. I have mentioned all the points which need amendment in the rules or which have been amended under the instructions of Government. If there is any other point of which my honourable friend may like to remind me now, I will be prepared to give him the answer. But there was one main objection by those people who deal in forwards and have to do forward transactions, that is, future. I made it quite clear long ago that those transactions will not be covered by the definition here, because unless and until goods change hands, according to my opinion which has subsequently been endorsed by our legal advisers, it does not constitute a sale. It only constitutes a contract for a sale, until such time as the goods actually change hands and, therefore, those future and forward transactions will not be affected. It is only when in a transaction goods change hands that the fee will be levied, but since we have now amended the rules to ensure that the fee shall be levied only on initial transactions further amendment seems to be unnecessary. But, anyhow, there was a demand and we have met that demand and we have made it quite clear in the rules. Are there

any other points which my honourable friend wants elucidated with regard to the Marketing Act? The points which were raised by him have been met by me *seriatim*. With regard to the penal clause, my honourable friend misunderstands, and I should like to make it clear to him again that this clause is meant to meet the contingency threatened by his community. I must have some weapon to safeguard the interests of those who do not flout the law. Those people who take it into their head deliberately to flout the law must also suffer its consequences. Those people who do not flout the law, those honest people who are prepared to obey the law, abide by the law, must have preference. Moreover, I might tell him that I have received suggestions and applications from certain quarters that new people might come forward and start business. Nobody can stop them even now. They can come, but the point is that in the initial stage, just as in the case of industry and commerce also, you want an initial footing and once you secure the initial footing, then of course you can carry on, but you want some protection until you get the initial footing, and I feel these people may need some kind of protection from Government. I could not alter or omit this clause in case those people, of their own free will, after we had met practically all the demands which were thought to be reasonable, still continue to adopt an attitude which is unreasonable; in that case, I must protect those people who come forward to support the law and to see that this Act is carried into effect.

Therefore, I have put this clause in the Bill that those people, who deliberately and consciously do not apply within the prescribed limit, must be penalised and kept out of business in favour of other people who at this stage come forward to meet the requirements of those 90 per cent to whom I have referred just now, and also to support the law of the land; they must be given protection and they will get protection. As a matter of fact, it is provided to give protection for 3 years to those who may be willing to enter trade. But as I have already said, if I am given an assurance that this contingency is not likely to arise, I am prepared to consider the question of deleting this clause. I do not want to be harsh on anybody. But my honourable friend realises my position as the custodian of the interests of every section of the province and I must look to the province as a whole and not to one community. Certain things were put forward which were not reasonable. I know where the shoe pinches. If there are any genuine grievances, they can rely on me, and I will try to remove them. Here we have already removed them. But in spite of what I have said, they still persist in their attitude, not from commercial or economic motives, but from other motives; if they persist even now, one can safely assume that it is not the commercial motive or the genuine economic motive, but some other motive. It is my duty to see that these pseudo motives do not bring any trouble in the province and also to see that those people, who come forward to help the Government, should get protection. But, as I have said, if this contingency does not arise and if they give me that assurance, then I will consider whether it is necessary to retain that weapon in our armoury or not. I believe that the business people, shrewd as they are, thought of that type of agitation merely to torpedo the Marketing Act. There could be no reasonable grievances beyond those 4 or 5 which my honourable friend has put forward. They thought that

[Premier.]

we may bring in other legislation also, and as soon as the notification had appeared that the Sales Tax will also come into force, they started that agitation in order to rope in the retailer and the small trader so as to get more heat and strength. It is a very clever, a tactically clever move. But I am glad that it has got nothing to do with the Marketing Act at all. The Sales Tax was discussed threadbare on the floor of the House. We had given reasons. One of the points raised by a member of the deputation that came to see me was whether we could not impose that tax at one stage. I reminded him—and my honourable friend opposite will bear me out that we discussed that point threadbare—that the reason why we diffused that tax at various stages was that there should be minimum burden on the consumer. I also pointed out to him that if we had decided to impose the tax at one stage the incidence would have been much higher as is in Bengal and other places. We have put a small incidence. In Bengal it is about 10 or 15 times higher. Therefore we have diffused the tax at various stages so that it may not press heavily on any one class of dealers in the hope that the whole of it may not be passed on to the consumer; we have used this device which we consider would be more equitable and less burdensome. He evidently thought that it was not a reasonable device. But apart from the considerations, which I have mentioned—commercial and other—there is yet another consideration, namely that there is considerable difference of opinion with regard to the stage at which the tax should be imposed. As I said in this House when this particular tax was under consideration, Government cannot accept the position that the tax should be imposed at a particular stage, suggested by a particular class of dealer. For instance, we must protect our industries. Supposing we put a tax on at the manufacture stage, then we might be doing damage to our own industrial concerns, which we cannot possibly allow. Therefore, the tax must start at a stage which will not place our industries at a disadvantage as compared with other provinces. We have, as you are aware, already exempted several articles in the Act itself. If on examination we find there are other commodities which need exemption at any stage, or altogether, we will give exemption. But as I have said, there may be a difference of opinion between the various parties concerned in regard to the stage at which the tax should be imposed. The retailer will say, "Impose it on the wholesale dealer". The wholesaler will say, "No, impose it on the retailer", and the middleman will say, "Impose it on both but leave me out." So in view of all these considerations we have spread it out and instead of putting on four annas at one place we have imposed a small amount at various stages. Even so the incidence will be much less than in other provinces. I hope that this will eventually prove to be in the interest of both the traders and the consumers. I think this is a strong reason for adopting this device. Our Act is not on the same lines as the Bengal Act. As I have said, there is nothing in this Act which has a bearing on the present Bill, and I do not see that it is germane to the discussion on the Marketing Act. There is one other point with regard to the sales tax which I would like to make clear and that is that although that Act and the Urban Property Act have come into force from the 1st of April, it does not mean that the tax will be levied with effect from that date. These Acts had to come into force for the simple

reason that unless they were brought into force, it would not have been possible to set up the necessary machinery. It would require about six months to get the machinery going and to make the requisite survey. But we propose to levy only half the tax during this year. I will read out the relevant extract from the press *communiqué* which has already issued. It reads :—

During the current financial year (1941-42) the Punjab Government propose to collect only one half of the taxes that would normally be payable in a full year under the Punjab Immovable Property Tax Act and the Punjab General Sales Tax Act. This one half of a full year's taxation will be collected during the second half of this financial year.

That is, after 1st October—

Notifications have been issued bringing the two Acts into force with effect from April 1, 1941. This was done to give the staff the necessary powers to complete the preliminary assessment of the taxes. It is further announced...

This will be of interest to my honourable friends from Lahore and Amritsar who are interested in the Urban Property Tax—

It is further announced that Government propose to fix 5 per cent per annum of the annual value of property as the amount payable under the Immovable Property Tax Act. This means that the amount to be levied during this financial year will be 2½ per cent of the annual value, exclusive of the surcharge for war purposes leviable at half the rate of the substantive tax.

I hope that this will make the position clear.

As regards the Sales Tax, the rules are still under consideration and I can give an assurance to the House that we will see to it that they are so framed as not to cause any real hardship to anybody concerned. There is one important aspect of the problem, which will have to be kept in view in framing the rules and it is this; in some cases people whose turn over exceeds Rs. 5,000 and who are liable to the tax, might find it difficult to keep elaborate account books. Therefore we will try to ensure that the forms prescribed for them are made as simple as possible in order to avoid any undue hardship to these small traders.

I have said all I had to say in regard to these bills and I do not think that there is anything further which I need say. I should, however, before I conclude my speech, like to make once more an appeal to my honourable friends opposite. Having regard to the delicacy of the times, and the difficult and critical period through which we are passing, we should all do our best to see that the tranquillity of this province is not disturbed in any way. Certain unfortunate events have taken place in some other provinces and, I am thankful to Providence that we have hitherto escaped from such untoward incidents in spite of the bitter atmosphere which has been engendered in the province during the past 2 or 3 months. I assure you that I pray every morning and every evening that God may spare us from any such calamity (*applause*). I wish to draw the attention of my honourable friends to the very critical situation in the West. As I said on a previous occasion if we do not wish to be realistic nothing will make us realise the dangers which we may have to face. In the continuous round of garden parties, dinners, dances and other parties we are apt to forget that there is a serious menace looming over the horizon in the West, and that it is coming nearer and nearer. I happen to be in a better position than my honourable friends to know, that the war clouds are getting nearer and nearer, and I am afraid the rapidity with which things are moving

[Premier.]

might bring the danger much closer within the next few weeks. If, God forbid, that happens, each one of us will have to be ready to meet it, and each one of us whether he be a trader, a shopkeeper or a zamindar, or, whether he belongs to the martial or non-martial classes, or the enlisted or non-enlisted classes, every one of us will have to turn a soldier if we want to save ourselves and our kith and kin. Individually we may not be able to do much, but united we will be strong enough to withstand any foe. Our forces are now well equipped with modern weapons and we are sufficiently strong to keep out of our amity even the strongest enemy, provided there is will and faith behind our strength. So far as the Punjab is concerned, I am confident that both will and faith are there; the will which enabled our troops to conquer in weeks Abyssinia, Eritrea which the Italians took years to conquer. That same will and faith were responsible for our victory in the Western Desert. Our troops are going there again and I am confident that faith and courage which sustained them in the past will help them to reconquer Libya. (*Hear, hear.*) I most earnestly appeal to my honourable friends to bury the hatchet and do everything in their power to bring about amity and mutual confidence so that if our province or country is threatened we should be ready to meet the threat as a united people — solid and unbreakable like a steel wall. We should be one, so that if Dr. Gokul Chand is in danger it should be my duty to save him first and similarly, Dr. Gokul Chand should see that if anything happens to me the safety of my people should come first even before his own safety (*applause*). It is that spirit that I want my honourable friend to create in the villages, in towns, in cities, in clubs and colleges, in the homes and everywhere. There are perceptible indications in certain quarters of a defeatist mentality; they say:

آج پنجاب ازمی خراب ہیں انگریزوں کو شکست دے دی ہے

Such pessimism or foreboding do no good to any one. They are unworthy of a true Punjabi. And let us not forget that it is not only the *Angrez* who is in danger; India is equally in danger. It is a prize for which any invader would pay any price. If, Heaven forbid, the British lose, they will also become slaves, but that can be no consolation to us. We would be the worst sufferers. Our slavery would be much worse than that of the white races. The atrocities and tyranny in Poland, Holland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Yugoslavia, Norway and other countries of which you read in the papers — and the full magnitude and virulence of which will be known only when the history of this war is compiled, will be nothing as compared to what we may have to face. Let us not bury our heads in sand in face of this great crisis. The war is spreading with great rapidity, and the situation is worsening daily. I am afraid my honourable friends opposite have not yet fully grasped the seriousness of the situation. I entreat them to be realistic and be prepared for every contingency that may arise — not in months but in weeks. I earnestly hope that my appeal will not go unheeded. I also appeal to the vernacular press once again that instead of trying to vie with each other in publishing sensational and often misleading headlines, for the sake of momentary petty financial gain, they should try to educate public opinion by adhering to a sane and

public spirited comments and eschewing exaggerated and doubtful accounts from dubious sources. We must see to it that the Punjab continues to be a strong and unassailable bulwark of India. I do hope that my honourable friends opposite — this side of the House is already fully alive to its responsibility — will also realise the potency of the menace to which I have alluded and pay heed to my warning, and contribute to the strength and solidarity of the Punjab which I am confident stand like a rock against any aggressor, however powerful, whether he tries to invade India from the East or from the West.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I am afraid that some of the remarks made by the Premier with regard to the traders, were to say the least, uncharitable. I wish they were not made at all. I do want to say that the traders have not done overact of any sort. The traders are particular to see that if they are forced to close the doors of their shops and resort to *hartals* those *hartals* must be peaceful. Those who direct the agitation have issued strict instructions not to take out any processions and not to raise any slogans. If they are forced to keep their doors closed they must do so as peacefully as they can possibly do. So far as the traders are concerned I can assure all concerned that they have not flouted the law, and they have not the least intention to flout the law and that the agitation, if they are forced to carry it on, will be kept strictly within constitutional limits. I need not join issue with the Premier that the *hartals* have not been spontaneous and that people were coerced to close their shops. My reports are as many as that of the Premier, and my information is, that the *hartal* was entirely spontaneous and nobody was coerced into it.

Premier : I did not want to mention it but since my honourable friend said that the *hartals* were spontaneous I merely refer him to an incident which happened at Amritsar last night.

Sardar Santokh Singh : It was really unfortunate and regrettable. I was saying that so far as traders are concerned they do not want to make any political capital out of the present *hartals*. None of the traders has so far said that by the postponement of the Act the Government have shown weakness. I challenge the Premier to say if any of the responsible trader has said directly or indirectly anything to the effect that the postponement of the Market Act was the weakness of the Government. We have not said anything of the kind (*Interruptions*). No responsible trader has said so and I repeat it on the floor of the House, that we do not attribute the postponement of this Act, to any weakness on the part of the Government.

The Honourable Premier has however failed to appreciate the position. I should like him to look at the thing from the traders' point of view. Their view point is that if the dealers have been compelled to close their shops it was simply because they could not carry on business under this Act. Let me remind the House that this Government has not been able to appreciate the situation in its proper perspective. We are all aware what reply the Honourable Minister in charge gave on the floor of the House only three days back, I mean on the 22nd April, when asked whether the Government has now found that the Act was not workable. He said no.

[S. Santokh Singh.]

only that the Act was positively workable but that it was working satisfactorily. I am repeating his exact words. He said that the Act was working satisfactorily. If this is the position of the Government that the Act without having been enforced anywhere in the province is working satisfactorily, will the trade not be within its rights to assert that this Government is not only entirely out of touch with the situation in the province, but that it also refuses to understand the view point of the trader? Did not the Honourable Minister know that there was so much agitation in the province with regard to this Act that the people felt compelled to close their shops not merely for a day but for a number of days without transacting any business whatsoever? The Honourable Premier was pleased to say that he was able to buy yesterday all that he needed. May be that he bought his requirements through his influence as Premier. But other people did not and could not buy anything. The *hartal*, I am told, was so complete that there was no precedent for it. Some merchants came to me and wanted me to go round the bazaars to see for myself how complete the *hartal* was. But I did not agree to their request lest this move on my part be misunderstood. So I preferred to remain indoors to going out. I can assure the honourable members and the Government that traders feel that this Act is unworkable, and if any proof was necessary that has been provided by the Government itself, because the Government itself had had to concede several of the demands of the traders. I know that the Government is strong enough and if they want to pass any laws however unfair, unreasonable, and invidious they may be, they are able to do so with the majority at their command in this House. I have got no illusions about that. I know perfectly well that if the Government want to deprive the traders of their licence not only for three years as proposed in this Bill but even for thirty years, this legislature constituted as it is will pass that measure. I could have raised technical objections and delayed the passage of the Bill. But what is all that worth? The Government has got the necessary strength to do what it likes and it has been doing so. To-day the Honourable Premier says on the floor of the House that a fee of one pie will be quite sufficient to meet the expenses of some of the marketing committees. If that was so, if the Government appreciated the position, why did it fix the maximum at four annas and created all sorts of misgivings in the minds of the people? He also admitted in the course of our private talks that the tax would fall on the grower. In these circumstances is it the fault of the trader if he entertained all these misgivings? This Government included paper transactions and 'futures' transactions also within the purview of the Marketing Act. They fixed a fee for these transactions also and they have found it only now that with this fee the "futures" trade of the province could not go on and that this province will not only be able to compete with other provinces but will have to close altogether this business. I did explain in the course of my statement to the papers that the Amritsar Exchange had worked out, that in the way the Government have decided to levy a fee, a fee of even three pies per maund will mean a payment of a sum of Rs. 20,000 daily by this exchange alone although its total income is not more than Rs. 273 per day. It is under those circumstances that the Government has felt compelled to abandon this idea. I do not attribute it to their weakness. I

attribute it to the fact that sense has at last dawned on them. These things were brought home to the Government in the course of discussions on the Bill. Amendments were moved that exchanges commonly known as chambers be exempted from the operations of this Act but nobody listened to our warnings with the result that the Act is now found absolutely unworkable. It cannot be said that traders have closed their shops for the sake of mere fun. They lose lakhs of rupees by closing their shops and they are shrewd enough not to undergo any loss if they could possibly avoid it. If under this Marketing Act they have not been able to work, I make bold to say that the fault was not of the traders, but of the rotten manner in which the rules under the Act have been framed. No thought appears to have been bestowed upon the real situation as it existed in the province at the time of framing the rules. The rules were bodily copied—I challenge anybody to disprove it—from some other legislatures regardless of the conditions prevailing in this province. If the result is as bad as we all see it to be, the fault is of the Government and the Government alone, which left this matter into the hands of persons who knew not the A B C of trade. That has been our misfortune. If better sense had prevailed earlier, the present situation would not have been brought about.

The Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that this agitation of traders has been directed against big zamindars. I say in all seriousness and with all consciousness, that this agitation is not directed against anybody, not even against the Government. We have taken the suffering upon ourselves in the hope that we shall by this means be able to awaken the Government which is in slumber at the moment in order that they may hear our genuine and real complaints. I have said already that the discussions we had with the Honourable Premier were very frank and free. He explained his position and we expressed our grievances. The result was that there was some understanding on both sides and I do hope and pray that as a result of that understanding some means may be found to bring about an honourable settlement on both sides. I have made it clear that we traders do not want to make any political capital out of this agitation. We are not concerned with victory or defeat. We do believe that the only course open to us was in closing our shops and this we have done. There is nothing unconstitutional in this. We wanted to bring our complaints to the ears of the head of the Government in the hope that he will see that justice is done to all sections of the people. He was pleased to say that 90 per cent of the people are behind him. If he does not want to redress our grievances only for the reason that they concern only 10 per cent of the population, it will indeed be an evil day for the Punjab.

His fears to which he has given public expression that the situation will become frightful if 90 per cent of the people carried on an agitation in the same way as we 10 per cent are doing, cannot stand a moment's test. It is not the intensity of agitation, but the genuineness of the grievances that have to count most in such matters.

Let me however point out that we non-zamindars are not 10 per cent in this province but 45 per cent. Only 55 per cent are zamindars. And our complaint is that this Government in all its legislations has been caring only for the supposed interests of one community to the detriment of the other.

Premier : I said that 90 per cent people constitute either the growers or the consumers as against 10 per cent traders. That was my point, not that there were 10 per cent non-zamindars and 90 per cent zamindars.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I might I think make it quite clear that our business relations with the zamindars, big or small, are very satisfactory, and I do hope they will continue to be as satisfactory as they have been hitherto. Our Government does not know, does not perhaps realise that the arhti is a man of the zamindar, he is not the man of the trader, he is not the man of the buyer, he is the man of the grower. For the sake of his zamindar clients he makes strikes in the mandis and he looks exclusively to their interests. Differences have many a time arisen between kacha arhtis and buyers in several mandis and matters came to a deadlock for weeks together simply because the "kacha" arhti struck to certain matters in the interests of the zamindars and which the trader was not prepared to yield to. This, Sir, was the situation in this province before the advent of this Government. This Government in season and out of season has been giving extensive publicity to a quotation, from one of the reports that out of retail sale of Re. 1, the zamindar gets only Re. 0-9-6 and the remaining Re. 0-6-6 go to the middlemen. This point has been made clear many a time by me on the floor of this House and also outside and I take this opportunity of repeating it once again that this quotation from a marketing committee publication refers to Lyallpur wheat when sold in Bombay and Calcutta, and in this case, out of Re. 0-6-6 which are said to be devoured by middlemen, Re. 0-5-9 go to the Railway in the shape of railway freight. The share of the commission agent in it is not more than 3 pies to 4½ pies, and I make bold to challenge anybody to prove that it is otherwise. I speak with the fullest sense of responsibility and I say that the arhti does not get more than 3 to 4½ pies by way of his commission, and I again throw an open challenge to the Ministers if they can prove that the arhti is taking more than the amount I have stated.

I wish the Honourable Premier had not referred to bloodshed. If any such thing happens, I tell him plainly and in all seriousness that the responsibility will be on the head of this Government which has enacted all this invidious legislation and created discontent in the province on a scale hitherto unknown. I am quite at one with the Premier that we should make every possible effort for war, but if this Government really wanted to give practical effect to what they so often profess, they should not have enforced this obnoxious measure at least during the continuance of the war. They should have postponed it till after the war, so that everybody could have a sigh of relief and put his best efforts in the prosecution of the war. If on the one hand you enforce all these laws to the detriment of one particular community without even any corresponding benefit to the other, you have absolutely no right to complain that the traders are not giving their whole-hearted support in the war as they ought to have done. I agree with the Premier that our best efforts should be concentrated on giving the best possible assistance to the British Government in this hour of their greatest trial because I am one of those who believe that without them the business community will be nowhere, and I make no secret of that opinion.

Coming to the market committees, the Honourable Premier explained to us his difficulties but I should not make any reply in this respect, because

the matter of the constitution of the committees is coming both in the shape of legislation, also by way of amendments that I have given notice of, and I had better reserve my comments till then.

One thing that I must say, however, is that an official is not the person to advise us traders on matters of trade. An official by temperament, by knowledge, is a person who should be kept as far away from trade as possible. Even the Ministers, with the best of intentions, cannot help us much as they have not the knowledge, they have not the necessary insight into trade, and I venture to say that some of the difficulties with which we are faced to day are simply the result of their ignorance in these matters.

As to the sales tax, I understand the Honourable Premier to mean that the Act will actually come into force on the 1st October.

Premier : The Act is already in force but the tax will be charged in October.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The Act, so far as the recovery of the tax is concerned, will come into force from the 1st October and that sales made before the 1st of October will not be liable to the sales tax. That is how I understand the situation.

Premier : Let me make the position clear. The tax will be levied on actual turnover, and according to the rules made under the Act will be calculated on the turnover during a specified period on previous transactions. The tax if so desired will be calculated on the turnover of previous six months so that instead of realising the tax for the whole twelve months we will realise the tax after the 1st of October based on six months turnover and not for twelve months.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The amount of sales will be taken for the whole year and it will be divided by two. That means that it will be on sales which are made on and after the 1st October. Anyhow this is satisfactory.

Premier : On transactions made after the 1st October. What I said is this. The tax which we realize during the present year has to be based on turnover of the previous year according to the rules. How can you realise a tax from the 1st October with regard to these six months? It is to be a tax on previous six months, but instead of taking the turnover for twelve months we will only take the turnover for six months, that is half the tax will be realised, viz., from 1st April, 1941 to 31st March, 1942, instead of the full amount as you say divided by two.

Sardar Santokh Singh : As I understand it the payment will have to be made on the 31st March, 1942, for six months and not for the full year, on sales affected from the 1st of April, 1941 to 31st March, 1942, but the amount imposed as tax will not be for the whole year but for half the year.

This is satisfactory so far as it goes and I hope that we would be able to convince the Premier about the unjustifiability of the sales tax in the way that it has been levied. We shall be able, and not before long, to convince him that in the way this tax is being levied it is harmful to the interests of industry and trade of the province and the moment we do so convince him, I believe he will do his best to do justice to the traders in this matter also. In these circumstances

4 p. m.

[S. Santokh Singh.]

I do hope that now that some of our principal demands have been accepted in regard to the Markets Act, ways and means will be found to bring about an honourable settlement between the trading community and the Government and this at not a very distant date. I repeat that I will be calling a meeting of the standing committee on the 27th of this month and let me hope that the Almighty may help us in taking right decisions, so that the peace and prosperity of the province may be maintained by each side contributing what is expected of it. (*Applause*).

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural): Sir, with due respect to the Markets Act, it is a matter which should be dealt with by the traders and those who deal in trade and I endorse the remarks of Sardar Santokh Singh. This is not a matter for the politician and therefore some of us have deliberately kept back from this agitation not because we had no sympathy with it but because we knew that the traders had undertaken to undergo sacrifices and it is only those people who have to undergo sacrifices should come to a right conclusion on the subject and those people who had not to undergo any sacrifice should not advise them in matters which primarily concern them.

Now one thing has appeared from the whole discussion and that is the genuine desire of the Honourable Premier and members sitting on this side of the House to do nothing which would interfere with the internal security of this province at this critical juncture, at this time of danger in the west and at this time of danger in the country itself. I heartily endorse every word which has been spoken on both sides on the point. But, Sir, an equal responsibility on this matter rests upon the Government. In all countries such times are treated as times of truce for political controversy and all kinds of contentious matters which are not necessary for any emergency are laid aside. Now what are the two Acts which have been the source of so much trouble in this province? One is the Markets Act. With regard to this Act, the Honourable Premier has been pleased to say that it is not a fiscal measure, that it is not intended to bring in any revenue to the Government, so that it is an Act which is not an immediate necessity. If our markets have worked successfully and, if the question is impartially examined, not at all to the detriment of the grower, it will be observed that there is no emergency there. What harm would be done if the Markets Act, amended or unamended, is allowed to come into force on a date six months after the termination of the war, on a date to be fixed by the provincial Government? Government itself, having passed it last year, has not been able to enforce it, not because of any demand from us, not because of any weakness in it, not because of any threat from this side—we were only too ready to concede it—but because the Government was not able to set up the machinery to carry it out. So it has postponed it from April to September. Would not the Government be doing an act conducive to the peace and tranquillity of the province and setting at rest any agitation which may rightly or wrongly be launched in the province, if they postpone its enactment till the period of the war and bring it into force six months after the termination of the war?

Now with regard to the sales tax, I take it, it is not a matter of policy. It has merely been designed to raise a certain amount of revenue. It is not the policy of the Government that the traders should be taxed or the sales should be taxed. The sales tax, I take it, has been simply introduced in order to raise a certain amount of money. Now, I wish to engage the attention of the Honourable Premier or of some member of the Government with a most respectful and humble suggestion of mine with regard to this sales tax. With respect to this tax, the Government should realise that the agitation is not against what they want to achieve. What they want to achieve is a definite amount of money to be raised from taxing the sales. I for one, if the Government needed that money, will allow it to be raised because the money is needed, whether you raise it from urban property or from rural property or by taxing electricity. The money has to be raised and it must be raised. But the most unfortunate circumstances, the thing which appears most galling and almost disgraces the shop-keeper is the manner in which this Government or some of those who happen to occupy responsible positions in this Government, wish to work this Act. Now what is your object? Assuming you want to raise 5 lakhs—I do not know what the Government wishes to raise. Nobody has yet taken anybody into confidence and said what they expected this tax would yield. Is it 5 lakhs or 10 lakhs or 20 lakhs? May I ask the Honourable Premier if he would let us know—as I wish to make a suggestion which might lead to end the controversy on the subject—a suggestion which I hope would be acceptable to the traders, at any rate it will certainly take away the sting in the Act—what is the amount which the Government wishes to raise by the sales tax? May I have that information?

Premier : As a matter of fact I think that point was made quite clear when the Bill was under discussion. We have got no reliable data on that point. If we had that data I would have pointed out what the pitch of the tax would be. If after the first year's complete working we come to the conclusion that the rate can be lowered we can reduce it, or raise it if it is considered that the incidence was low. Therefore the first year's working will give us more accurate data. At present there are no data. I would be satisfied with an additional 4½ crores to meet the immediate needs of the province. But it may not be equitable to bring this additional 4½ crores from traders alone. We may have to explore other avenues and devise other means.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I only want that information. Can he say whether it would yield 50 lakhs or 2½ crores?

Premier : Our estimate is based on the data given by the Deputy Commissioners, but their data were not reliable to my mind, and therefore we will have to wait. But I might endorse what my honourable friend is saying. I know perfectly well that if the thing is equitably spread out every body will be prepared to pay. Take the case of income-tax. They have with one jump put 33 per cent more and nobody has made any hue and cry and I am sure my honourable friend is correct that nobody will refuse any tax if it is equitably spread.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Sales tax in its essence judged by any principle is a tax which is not a good tax, which is not good for

[R. B. Mukand Lal Puri.]

any country, which has never been imposed except in the case of emergency and even in England they have imposed it during this war only.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : What about America ?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : If the Honourable Premier is really anxious that there should be peace and contentment in this province, he should lay aside all contentious measures. Does he want to take the opportunity afforded by the war to change the entire basis of taxation ? I respectfully ask, is it right for you to bring forward this legislation in the time of a crisis by which you wish to raise 6 crores of rupees and not for the war nor for running the administration ?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : For himself. (*Laughter*).

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : But for reasons undisclosed. What I was pointing out was that it is not the amount of tax but it is the spirit underlying that taxation which is the cause of all this. While the sales tax was under discussion I pointed out that the lowest assessee will have to pay a tax of Rs. 7½ per annum. Now in order to realise Rs. 7½ per annum from an assessee, the Sales Tax Act and the rules framed under it require that the assessee should keep accounts which he in 90 per cent cases cannot keep without spending Rs. 100 or so. How far is it reasonable that in order that this Government may be able to realize Rs. 7½ per annum from an assessee, it should compel him to undergo a further loss of Rs. 100 per annum ? How can he keep a clerk for less than Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per mensem ?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Are we discussing the Sales Tax Act or the Marketing Act ?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : We are discussing both. The Premier made reference to both of these. I was pointing out that the difficulty did not arise so much from the taxation itself. If taxation is the chief object, you can ask every shop-keeper to pay Rs. 7½ and take a licence. There will be no trouble, no agitation and very likely the Government will get all the money that it wants. But the spirit underlying the whole taxation is that these shop-keepers should be put to the maximum amount of annoyance that it is possible. They would not see that the rules be framed in consultation with persons who know something of trade. Has it or has it not occurred to Sir Chhotu Ram who is responsible for this legislation that a person will have to pay Rs. 100 at any rate only to pay a taxation of Rs. 7½ ? Why does he not have the sting out of the agitation by saying that people whose outturn is less than Rs. 50,000 will pay a uniform flat rate of Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 according as they may be graded by the inspectors ? This will bring in plenty of money, but it will take away the sting of the thing. If the object of the Government is that a certain amount of money should be realized they should have entrusted the framing of the rules and the working of the Act to people who understand something about these transactions and who are sympathetic towards traders and shop-keepers, but if that is entrusted to people who delight in hitting the shop-keeper rightly or wrongly you will certainly land yourself in straits from which you will find it difficult to extricate yourself. I wish to give warning on that point. If you

want to raise taxation it is possible for you to do so without disturbing the Punjab so much. But it appears to me that some of the people who have influence with the Government wish to punish the shop-keepers and they think that this time of the crisis, this time of war, is the best. That mentality has to be extirpated, has to be laid aside, if the valuable advice which has been given by the Honourable Premier is to be acceptable to the province. I am second to none in wishing that there is tranquility, that there is internal security and that this time of trouble abroad and trouble at home is not allowed to disturb the peace and tranquility of the province, but that can only be done if there is give and take on both sides. If those who are responsible for the Government proceed in a vindictive spirit, then even a worm might turn and it is exactly the case, the poor shop-keeper who has been hit for the last 20 years has said, I have a right to exist, let me exist honourably. I therefore would appeal to the Government that in framing the rules and in setting up the machinery which they have to employ in the working of the Act, they should employ people who are sympathetic towards these people and who do not want to be vindictive.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) : The Honourable Premier is in the habit of closing his speeches by making a reference to the serious condition in which the world is placed to-day. I shall begin my remarks by making a reference to the serious crisis through which the world is passing. We are all aware that the world is passing through a great catastrophe. I entirely agree with the Premier that the clouds of war are hovering near our doors and as he said he has more information on the subject than we outsiders have, that makes the position still more alarming. The position of the world and of our country and of our province may be even worse, more critical than appears on the face of it. While making a reference to this condition of the world he made an appeal to the trading classes to be more careful that they did not do anything which might disturb the peace of the province. I entirely agree with him, but I cannot help saying that it is not the fault of the poor traders that they have been obliged to take this step. You must be aware that *harkats* are a very ancient institution. It is not the innovation of Sardar Santokh Singh or of any other trader in this province. This was recognized to be a legitimate method of ventilation of grievance by the people since the time of Vikramaditya and perhaps even before the time of Vikramaditya. I think if we were to search the leaves of Mahabharata or the Ramayana, we might find reference to this method of ventilation of grievances. There was in fact some trouble in Ayodhya in the time of Rama and a method similar to this was adopted to give expression to the grievances which people felt over a particular question. Therefore it cannot be said that the traders of the Punjab have adopted an extraordinary course or that they have broken or in any way attempted to break the law.

As was pointed out, they have brought suffering on themselves and I cannot help admiring the traders of this province that in order to protect their rights they have shown a spirit of self-sacrifice which is unique so far as the history of this province is concerned. They had decided to take this step two years ago but as the Government had postponed the enforcement of this measure indefinitely, they then decided not to do anything until this Act was brought into force. Now that it was decided by the Government

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

to enforce this Act on the 15th of April, 1941, they had no alternative but to take this step. Whether this Act was justified or not is amply shown by the conduct of the Government itself. Only two or three days before the great conference was held at Amritsar, the Honourable Minister, now in charge of Revenue, was reported to have made a speech at Naraingarh and in that speech he is reported to have said that the banias were raising a hue and cry without any justification whatsoever and that their hue and cry was absolutely unnecessary and unjustified. Notice was taken of this by a leading paper of Lahore—I do not mind referring to that paper—the *Civil and Military Gazette* which commented on this speech of the Honourable Minister and pointed out that this speech was not calculated to throw oil on troubled waters but was in fact calculated to add fuel to the fire. The way in which the Government has been treating the poor traders of this province, a weak community physically speaking, a weak community so far as its numbers are concerned, a weak community so far as its political power is concerned, is well-known. They have been most ill-treated by the Government of this province. Their sentiments have been trodden over rough shod by the Government. The Government has proceeded to enact measure after measure to encroach upon their rights and to hamper their business. After all this they have decided to adopt an emphatic though absolutely legal course to give a visible expression to their legitimate grievances and they cannot be blamed for that. Then again, there was something in the speech of the Honourable Premier in which there was a sort of threat that the zamindars would be offended over this. I want to tell my zamindar friends that they should not be carried away by such expressions or by any propaganda that might be made against the shop-keepers to excite their sentiments against them or to incite them to any kind of violence against poor shop-keepers either living in the villages or in towns. The traders have been pointing out from the very beginning that this Act and some of the other Acts also, as time would show, were not going to benefit the zamindars. They pointed out that this four anna tax would fall upon the zamindar and the zamindar did not stand to gain anything by the imposition of such a heavy fee per maund on the produce that they were going to bring to the markets. This was going to fall, as has now been admitted by the Honourable Premier and as stated by Sardar Santokh Singh, upon the zamindars so that this agitation which the traders raised was not merely for the protection of their own interests but also for the protection of the interests of their own clients. Just as clients are dear to their pleaders, so are the zamindars dear to the traders because they make their living through the zamindars and if the zamindar suffers and is ruined, then my submission is that they realise that they themselves will be ruined.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Fazal Ali Khan : Question.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : The allegation that six and-a-half annas was taken out of every rupee, out of the produce worth every rupee that was brought by the zamindar to the markets, is entirely wrong and absolutely baseless. It had no other effect except creating excitement and resentment in the minds of the zamindars. The Honourable Minister of Revenue went about telling the zamindars, "Look at these banias living in

the markets, they take away six and-a-half annas out of every rupee for which you give your produce to them in the markets". It was an unmitigated misstatement which had no other object whatsoever and could have no other object whatsoever, except to create an artificial agitation and resentment against the poor banias who are carrying on business in the markets. Happily, the zamindars of this province are not so simple as to swallow everything which is said even by the Honourable Minister who poses as their guardian angel and as their protector. They themselves know that such a statement could not be correct and Sardar Santokh Singh pointed out that it was a very small amount in fact which the arhtis took from their customers when they sold their produce in the markets. My object in referring to this is to show that the agitation which the traders have been carrying on, and in order to give an edge and point to which they have struck business, was entirely justified and they cannot be blamed for this. If there is any blame, it lies with the Government. Even after that—the speech to which I referred—the Honourable Minister came out with a reply and again there was a reply by the *Civil and Military Gazette* which pointed out that in one breath the Honourable Minister said that the agitation was utterly useless and unjustified and unnecessary and in the same breath the Honourable Minister said that the Government was thinking of making some amendments in the rules and also in the Act so that it was indirectly admitted, as pointed out by that paper, that the agitation being carried on by the traders was absolutely justified. To-day the Honourable Premier and his Government have yielded at so many points. They had been brought to their notice before but they went on heedless of other people's views. Intoxicated with their strength, they paid no attention whatsoever to the advice which was given to them. They would not circulate any bills, they would not consult anyone likely to be affected by these bills and they went on at breakneck speed as if there was a great emergency for passing such measures by the Government, so that if any blame attaches to anybody, it attaches entirely to the Government which allowed one of its members to ride rough shod, at breakneck speed on an unknown road. And now he sees the result of his hasty legislation. There is such a hue and cry in the Province over which he feels so indignant. The banias, *ex-hypothesi*, are intelligent people, and the Honourable Minister is never tired of saying that they are *paise ke pir* and they would not like to lose a penny. By the course they have adopted they stand to lose millions and millions if the losses that they would suffer by striking were all to be calculated. Why are they doing this? Not for the pleasure of it. I want to make it clear, and the Honourable Minister must have noticed, all the members of the Government must have noticed, that this time the agitation was carried on purely by the banias, by the traders and there was nothing of political motives in it and there was no hand of any politician in this agitation whatsoever. The grievance was genuine and the enthusiasm was absolutely spontaneous, it was not inspired by anyone. They realised their own difficulties and it was a realisation of their own difficulties and their dangers that brought them together and compelled them to take the step that they have taken. Therefore, they cannot blame any politician whatsoever or any professional agitator as they may call some people or anybody who might have any grievance against any member of the Government at all. It was

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

entirely their own business, absolutely administered by themselves without the intervention of anyone from outside. That the Government must have seen. This shows that their grievance is genuine and if anybody, any member of the Government or agent of the Government or any irresponsible person, seeks to take advantage of this situation to create unrest in the province or to create prejudice against trading classes in this province or against the entire class of non-agriculturists in this province, I think he would be committing a great sin and he would be responsible before man and God if anything untoward happens in this province.

Barring that most unfortunate incident in Amritsar, which we all deplore, the whole course of this agitation so far has been absolutely peaceful and the Honourable Premier himself admitted that if it were not for his influence even he would not have been able to get a glass of lemonade. The poor people or people without any political influence or official influence could not purchase anything at all. The *hartal* was so complete and the fact, which is very significant, that Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians all combined in observing the *hartal* yesterday shows that the grievance is universal and it is not confined to any one particular community or one particular class. Moreover, I am informed that even intelligent zamindars have taken part in this agitation because they know that they stand to lose unless the defects in this Act are removed. I am glad that the Honourable Premier has succeeded in persuading his Government in bringing about the amendments which he has proposed. I do not know whether the leaders of the Beopari community would be entirely satisfied with these amendments or not, but there is no doubt that so far as the amendments go they are a distinct improvement upon the Act as it stands. We have also received an assurance from the Honourable Premier that there would be necessary modification in the rules which would remove those grievances which appear to the Honourable Premier to be genuine. All this shows that the agitation carried on by the traders was perfectly justified and was perfectly genuine. I, in fact, got up to say one particular thing, which has also been said by Mr. Puri, and it is this that if the situation in the world is really so serious as the Honourable Premier thinks—and I think he is right in thinking that the situation is serious—he would be well advised in postponing the operation of some of these measures. That would bring about a calm and cool atmosphere in the province which is so much needed and the bitterness which these measures have created in fairly important and fairly large sections of the Punjabis would at least disappear for the time being. It is of paramount importance that we should all work together and like brethren should combine all our resources and all our forces to meet a common enemy and keep him out of our country. But I may submit with regret that with a large section of the population aggrieved in the manner as it is, it is impossible to bring about that atmosphere which is so necessary for making war effort successful in this province. I have heard people saying—and I do not mind repeating it here, though it is very regrettable, whether this Government loots us or another Government comes to loot us, it does not matter. If we are kicked, what does it matter whether this party kicks us or another party kicks us? Why has this feeling been created? Because a real cause for offence has been given to those people by the laws which have

been enacted by this Government and if the solicitude of the Honourable Premier is genuine and also shared by his colleagues I think even now it is time that they should cry halt and say, 'All right, we shall bury the hatchet'. The Premier himself used this phrase, 'bury the hatchet'. Let the hatchet be buried. Traders are flourishing no hatchet in the air, none whatsoever. They are incapable of holding a hatchet or of holding anything except the pen. The hatchet has been held over their heads by the Government. If the Honourable Premier was sincere in what he said, he should bury the hatchet, because the hatchet has been displayed and used by his Government and not by poor traders, who are absolutely incapable of using any such lethal weapon. So I appeal to him in his own words to bury the hatchet and that hatchet can be buried for the time being at least by postponement of these measures. People of the frontier are supposed to be not very peaceful. But when they have to meet a common enemy they literally bury the hatchet. There is a custom among the frontier tribes, as I have heard, that if they are attacked by a common enemy or when they have to face the British forces on the frontier, they close their feuds. They take a piece of cloth and put something in it and tie a knot and take a big stone and put it under it for the time being and both parties agree that until they have disposed of the common enemy or the common enemy has left them they would not do any act of hostility against each other. When they get rid of that common enemy or the enemy retires, then they say, 'All right, let us now go to that stone and pick up our feud again'. They pick up that piece of cloth and then hostilities begin again. You may also close the hostility against the trading classes for the time being, and when you have dealt with the common enemy and the common enemy has been disposed of and the danger is no longer there, you can take it out from under the stone. You can take out these laws from the almirah and then say, 'Now let us enforce them'. Then it would be less dangerous to enforce these laws than it is at present.

Complaints are sometimes made that the trading classes have not made as much contribution towards the war fund as they were expected to do. I have spoken to the people and they deny this. They say that it is entirely untrue because the trading classes have contributed large amounts towards the war fund. But if they have not contributed as much as they were expected to do or as the Government expected them to do they urge they are not to blame. How can they make large contributions towards the war fund when every day a new law is passed by this Government, taxing them for this thing, taxing them for that thing, and hampering this business of theirs and that business of theirs? What is left with them for contribution? The debts due to them have been wiped out, their business has come to a standstill, their lands have been taken away from them in one form or another, their factories have been controlled, their property has been taxed, their sales have been taxed and there are more threats of taking 6 crores out of them, and yet they are being asked to make large contributions towards the war fund. Where can they bring that money from? The other day an honourable member said that crores of rupees were lying buried in this province. I do not know of anyone who has got anything buried in his house. I have not got an anna in my house buried underground and I think this is the case with other people also. It is a myth, it is a fib to suppose that these trading classes are rich and that they have got any amount

[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang.]

of money which they can give to Sir Chhotu Ram and also to the Government for waging war against the enemy. If they want that these traders should do even something more than they have already done, then I think they should relieve them of the burden which they are imposing upon them by means of this legislation. As a person cannot fight successfully on more fronts than one, so the poor traders also cannot make payments on more sides than one. I know, as a matter of certainty, that they have contributed lakhs and lakhs and lakhs towards the war fund. But the cry against them is that they should give more, not that others have given more than they have done. They would have given more if whatever they possessed had not been taken away from them in one form or another. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to bury the hatchet and postpone these Acts until the war is over and we are in a position to breathe more peacefully than we are doing at present.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazal Ali Khan, (Gujrat East Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no intention to speak on this subject but the remarks made by my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang have prompted me to make a categorical reply. He was pleased to point out that the zamindars were no longer happy over the enactment of the Marketing Act because they did not stand to gain anything from it. I would like to make it clear that the observations made by the honourable Doctor are absolutely wrong and there is not a vestige of truth in them. I believe that this Act is in the best interests of the zamindars.

Mr. Speaker: What is the honourable member discussing?

Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazal Ali Khan: The Marketing Act.

Mr. Speaker: What is before the House is whether the Bill which has been introduced by the Government should be taken into consideration.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazal Ali Khan: Exactly. My honourable friend over there while referring to this amending measure remarked that the zamindars had no liking either for this Bill or for its amendments; they rather considered it detrimental to their cause. I have stood up to refute those remarks as they are not the least based on truth. The honourable members would be surprised to know that this time he very magnanimously called the zamindars as intelligent and wise people. But if you only peruse the debates that took place over different measures put forward by the Government in the recent past, you would find that he was very meticulous not to lose any opportunity for denouncing the zamindars and dubbing them as gullibles. Now he waxes eloquent that the zamindars would no longer allow themselves to be befooled by the Honourable Premier or the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram, because they have grown wise. Thank God, a change has come over his mentality. But it is difficult to find out whether the views held by him previously were wrong or the present ones are correct.

Then referring to the *hartal*, he said that it was a grand success. I beg to differ with him on this point. I can definitely say from my own experience that the business on that day did not come to a standstill. As a matter of fact five of us were present at Lahore on that particular date.

We had brought nothing except ghee from Gujrat but we were in a position to purchase all articles of food without experiencing any inconvenience. The fact of the matter is that the doors of the shops were partly open and partly shut and the sale of commodities was going on. In other words the business of sale and purchase was being regularly done. But how could the venerable Doctor realise this state of affairs? He simply went through the bazar while sitting cosily in a car and pontifically pronounced the opinion that the hartal was complete in every respect. He also said that the shopkeepers were not compelled to observe hartal, as it was a spontaneous act on their part. I may point out that in this he is guilty of making a wrong statement. I have a personal knowledge about the affairs at Qila Gujjar Singh. There the Committee of the traders coerced the shopkeepers to close their shops. At certain places some sharp altercations took place between the parties and the latter refused to comply with the request of the former. But thank God things went well. No untoward incident took place and the matter was amicably settled. Besides, I was also present at Gujrat on the day of hartal. The people there told me in so many words that they were prepared to open their shops but the damned traders coerced them to suspend business. Anyhow, my object in placing these facts before the House is to show that the zamindars kept aloof from this movement. They have adopted this attitude because they consider the present Government as their own Government and they are not prepared to do anything which may bring disrepute to them or give rise to the suspicion that they are opposed to this Act. Then I fail to understand why they should be against this beneficial measure. They have a number of complaints about the working of the mandis. For instance, just imagine the plight of a zamindar when he brings his produce in the market. The bargain is struck between him and the arhti through a certain middleman. But just see the mischief played by the arhti and his associates. He puts forward certain excuses and says that the produce would be weighed the next day. If he wants the weighment done the very day, he will have to accept the price less by one anna per maund. The result is that the zamindar being in a pressing need of money, willy nilly accepts this position and is made to suffer the loss for nothing. But my honourable friend Dr. Narang blurted out that the zamindars were with the traders and they unanimously opposed this Act. Obviously there is not an iota of truth in this statement.

Kindly just imagine the hardships and the difficulties after undergoing which the zamindar gets his produce. He has to work in the biting cold of winter and the scorching heat of the red-hot sun of the summer. But what is the treatment which is meted out to him in the mandis? I need not dilate upon it. It is a matter of common knowledge to the honourable members of the House. In view of this, how can the zamindars oppose this useful Act? I just quote my own experience in this connection. I brought wool for sale from Gujrat to Lahore. The Shaikh, who was my arhti, at first put aside one seer for every maund of wool without assigning any reason for having done so. I may also point out that generally the wool brought by me, has been fetching a price ranging from Rs. 45 to Rs. 60 per maund. I ask when these arhtis realise an amount of Rs. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ per maund beforehand from the seller, why should they feel the pinch in paying a tax even at the rate of eight annas per maund?

[K. B. Nawab Fazl Ali Khan.]

Then, Sir, as the Hindu arhtis deduct a certain percentage of money paid to the zamindars in the name of 'dharm arth', similarly that Shaikh, too, had opened an account in his ledger for payment of a certain amount to a certain mosque. Now there are a hundred and one mosques in Lahore. None can say which mosque was the recipient of the so called contributions made by this arhti. When the servant handed over to me the account, I asked him that he ought to have enquired of the arhti the name of the mosque in the name of which I was being made to pay and he should have ascertained whether the amount deducted would really go to that mosque. The people working in the mandis loot the innocent zamindars in other ways also. For instance, a person comes and he takes away three or four seers of grain from the heap of the produce. On enquiry he is found to be a sweeper. Then another person comes; he also carries away his share. It is told that he is a chaukidar and he must get his due from the zamindar. So on and so forth. In view of these hard facts who would like this loot? The Act aims at eradication of these mal-practices prevailing in the markets. Then, can any body, with a grain of sense in him, give credence to the statement of Dr. Narang that the zamindars consider it detrimental to their interests? I think it does not lie in the mouth of my honourable friend to say things which are not borne out by facts. This attitude on his part indicates that he simply gives vent to his wrathful feelings. And it is an open secret that in every speech he makes, he opposes Government tooth and nail and abuses them bitterly. He does not spare the zamindars even and dubs them as devoid of common sense. But today he has changed his opinion and has begun to consider them sensible because, according to him, the zamindars are grieved at the passage of this Act. I would like to make it clear to the venerable Doctor that the zamindar now fully understands his tactics and would not allow himself to be duped by his sugar-coated words. I may tell him that the zamindar is a practical man. He believes in action, and is not in the habit of making noise unnecessarily. What he wants is the elimination of the agency known as the middleman. He does not care whether the Act or its amendments are stringent or not. The uppermost desire in him is to get rid of the heavy yoke of the middleman. He wants to lead a peaceful life.

Again, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang remarked that nobody provoked the shopkeepers or the arhtis to adopt this bellicose attitude. I ask him to tell me in fairness why he went to Pindi Baha-ud-Din time and again and what did he tell the arhtis there?

I am grateful to my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang for having opened our eyes. We zamindars have now come to know who is our friend and who is our enemy. In fact we have come to our senses. We will never forget this lesson which the traders and the champions of their cause have taught us. The learned Dr. Sahib deserves our thanks for having made it plain to us that he and his community of traders are out to ruin us somehow or other. Henceforward we will remain on our guard and make our own arrangements for the disposal of our agricultural produce. We will not depend on traders and commission agents of the markets. I am confident that the zamindars can now well distinguish between a friend and a foe.

Besides, it goes without saying that the Government lends a ready ear to the agitators. But I may assure the House that the zamindars who are making sacrifices on the battle ground are also capable of defending their rights here in the province. If the traders can organise protest meetings and *hartals*, the zamindars too can do so, and let it be noted, with a double effect and vigour. The loyal and faithful zamindars are sending their sons to fight on the various fronts of the present deadly war of Europe. Our attention and energies are directed towards that life and death struggle which the Empire is waging against a ruthless enemy. But here in the province our own brethren are harassing us by refusing to purchase our produce. Well, if they continue to do so, we will find out ways and means to sell our produce and get proper price for the same. We will remember those who have betrayed us at this critical juncture. We will also refuse to sell our produce to our enemies who have refused to purchase it from us to-day. They have hitherto been making huge profits by purchasing our produce. We will let them feel now that if we choose they cannot make those profits. We have come to know what their true intentions are with regard to us, and how they are going to harm us. The speeches of my honourable friend Dr. Sahib have roused us from the deep slumber, and we will now keep awake.

After all what is it that they are agitating against? All that the Government did was to pass legislation in order to check the malpractices of the commission agents of the markets. It was sought to stop the traders from using wrong balances and false weights and measures. The Government wanted to save the zamindars from the undue and illegitimate cuts which the commission agents used to impose on the zamindars at the time of purchasing their agricultural produce. I may point out by way of example that recently I sent 600 maunds of *kapas* to the mandi and was astonished when I learnt that it was 16 maunds less than 600 maunds. Obviously some false weights may have been used. I challenge the Dr. Sahib to say if the people in the market do not loot the zamindars. There may not be any place for honesty in the politics. I am sorry for that. But if Dr. Sahib says that all the commission agents are honest and that they do not loot the zamindars, I will be satisfied. I may also mention in this connection that whereas we are behind no one in demanding independence for our country, but so long as the state of affairs are such we would like to have the British here to keep the balance even between the contending parties. I make no secret of this wish and prayer. The presence of the British is undoubtedly in the interest of this country itself.

Adverting to the motion itself, I may point out that the zamindars were already thinking of making their own arrangement for disposing of their agricultural produce by opening co-operative shops in the markets. Now the traders' strike has opened our eyes and necessitated a concerted action on our part. We will certainly tell the traders what it means to non-co-operate with the zamindars. A day will come when they will come to us and we will refuse to sell our produce to them even as they have refused to purchase our produce to-day.

Sir, with this brief reply which the speeches of the opposite party called forth, I conclude my speech.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar (Gurdaspur East, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I only wish to say a word or two. It is known to all of us that the traders are carrying on an agitation in order to browbeat the Government and the Government is accepting their demands. If we go a little deep in the matter we will come to know that the traders are bent on provoking the zamindars. May be there are some mistakes in the Bill against which they are carrying on an agitation. But the way in which these mistakes are sought to be corrected is not to the good of the country at all. The challenge which the traders have thrown open to the zamindars will not produce any good result. The zamindars have no fear. Let the shopkeepers take care of their own shops. If the trouble starts in Majha it would be

5 p. m.

exceedingly difficult for you to suppress it. What is the use of talking in such a strain? After all there is nothing strange in the Agricultural Produce Markets Act. It is only a reform measure. A zamindar goes to a market and enquires the market rates for wheat. He is told that the price of wheat is Rs. 2-8-0 per maund. He then goes to his village and brings all his wheat in bullock carts to the market. On his arrival in the market he is told that the price of wheat has gone down from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 2-4-0. Under the circumstances the poor man finds it too inconvenient and costly to take back all his wheat to his village. He is thus forced to sell it at Rs. 2-4-0 per maund. The purpose of this Act is to stop all such evil practices. At the time of the passage of this Act members of the opposition were present in the House. They ought to have protested against the passage of this measure at that time. But at that time they kept quiet. But now they have started agitating against it. They know that the war is being fought at present and that it is the most opportune time to force the Government into acceptance of their demands. Moreover, they have started agitating against this Act at a time when the zamindars are most in need of money. Let me inform them that if they persist in harassing the zamindars in this way it is very possible that the zamindars may also retaliate. Instead of selling their grain in the grain markets they would send it to the banks. Everywhere in the province there are banks. This will not only result in a loss to the traders but will also stop their business for good. Moreover, if the traders failed to get the licence within the time fixed for this purpose they will not be able to get it for another three years.

All that is going on at present is in reality due to a mistake committed by the Britishers. They entrusted most of the trade of the country into the hands of the Hindus. If other communities had also been encouraged so far as trade is concerned the present deplorable circumstances would never have appeared. As at present all the trade of the country is under their control, they are in a position to hold out such threats. They can close their shops and they can also observe *hartal*. But such acts will lead to very undesirable results. They ought to stop this agitation in view of the undesirable results to which it may lead. We have always stood by you. It is possible that in the near future some such circumstances may appear as may force them to look up to us again for help. We will help them if such circumstances appear. You ought to persuade the shopkeepers to resume business. Your as well as our benefit lies in that. With these words I resume my seat.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that better sense has prevailed after all and the Government have brought in this amending Bill. At the time when the original Bill, which is now on the statute book, was moved, we did our best to make the Government realise that it was an impracticable piece of legislation and that it would greatly harm the trade of the Province but the Government turned a deaf ear to all that we emphasised. I remember that many an amendment was moved to the various clauses of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, but they were all rejected by the party in power. Some of the honourable members of this side also moved a motion recommending it to the Government to circulate it for eliciting public opinion thereon. But it was also turned down by the Government. Had the Government listened to reason at that time, they would not have been put to this humiliation and loss of prestige.

We advised them to postpone the passage of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act for only two months to enable the public to express their views regarding it, but they did not listen to us and rushed it through in all haste. Now they are of their own accord postponing its enforcement for six months. Well, better late than never. Again, I may warn the Government that this amending Bill still contains some provisions which are not only harmful for the traders of the province but also for the agriculturists. When the agriculturists will realise how those provisions affect them equally adversely with the traders they will protest against it and then the Government will have to re-amend it further. I am glad that Government has accepted to amend this Act, but I must say that the amendments which the Government wants to carry out at present do not completely satisfy the demands of the traders, and the Government shall be compelled to improve upon it still further.

The Honourable Premier remarked that the *hartal* was not observed completely. This is absolutely wrong. The *hartal* was observed by all shopkeepers, irrespective of religion or community bars. Even the Congress has never prevailed upon the people to observe as complete a *hartal* as has been observed in the Punjab by the commercial classes, and I congratulate the traders and shopkeepers, both big and small, for this unique success of theirs.

Now supposing for argument's sake that some shops remained opened, this will, in no way, be a slur on the fair name of the traders. Arn't there black sheep in every society? Again, we have to judge things by their spirit. Can the Government make bold to deny that the traders and shopkeepers have genuine grievances? *Hartal* is the only constitutional method open to them to protest against an undesirable piece of legislature and never has the *hartal* been more complete in the past.

It is possible that one, two or five per cent of the traders might have disagreed to observe *hartal*. I can also admit, as has been stated by the Honourable Premier that he was able to purchase lemonade bottles. But my view is that he should have been thankful to the shopkeepers for their courtesy and consideration shown to as big a personality as the Honourable Premier is, than to doubt their honesty. He might have got aerated waters but that does not mean that the public did not observe *hartal* completely

[Lala Sita Ram.]

or that the traders were not willing to suspend their business. I for one think that it was a genuine *hartal* and the trading classes did so with the ostensible object of placing their grievances before the Government. So far as Lahore is concerned, I can safely assert and assert without any fear of contradiction that in every part of the city, in the Anarkali Bazaar, on the Mall Road and in fact everywhere in the city complete *hartal* was observed. Traders of all communities whether they were Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs or Christians had all joined hands to make it a success. In fact it was in every respect, a complete, spontaneous and unprecedented *hartal*. From this the honourable members should not conclude that the traders were coerced to suspend their business. As a matter of fact public feels and rightly so that all these Acts which have been enacted by this Government are not based on sound principles of taxation and in regard to this matter we have more than once voiced our feelings on the floor of this House as well. Let the Government understand it once for all that the present agitation is not only an outward show but it is coming right from the hearts of the people. I am confident that when these Acts are actually enforced Government would be again face to face with further difficulties. I will congratulate them if they realize them beforehand and bring forward suitable amendments to remove those lacunæ in the Acts. Let me remind you that almost all the amendments that are being considered now were tabled by us when the Acts referred to above were being considered by this House. If you look up into the debates of those days you will find all of them on the record. Now judge yourself whether we were right in urging those amendments or not? I am sure that after some time Government would have to bring forward other amending clauses in order to remove other defects of these faulty Acts. Anyhow I am glad that Government have now admitted that there are certain lacunæ in the Markets Acts. "Better late than never", says the old adage. Now the Government have realized the necessity of meeting the representatives of the traders. That is a very good thing. Let me tell you, Sir, that when these Acts (the Markets Act, Sales Tax Act, etc., etc.) were under consideration of this House, we had also urged upon the Government the desirability of discussing these matters with the representatives of the traders. But they spurned our proposal. Now they consulted the President and various members of the Beopari Mandal. But the fact remains that this is the first success and the first moral victory of the opposition that circumstances have compelled the Government to do what the opposition had asked them, time and again, to do.

Now, to the two or three points to which reference has been made by the Honourable Premier and some other honourable members. The first is oft repeated appeal with regard to war effort. I admit that at present the situation is grave and nobody irrespective of the fact whether he is an agriculturist or a non-agriculturist can deny or shut his eyes to the fact that he is in danger. It is therefore the duty of every individual to realize the gravity of the situation and not to do anything which may harm the best interests of this country. But the question is that the Government themselves should be the first to give proper lead to the people in this matter. Let them set up an example themselves. For that reason it is their duty at the present juncture, to keep their ideas of taking revenge

from the non-agriculturists for the time being suppressed. At present they should concentrate their full energies on the successful prosecution of the war. Their only cry should be to further the cause of unity and good will in the province. They should see that all the communities agriculturists, non-agriculturists, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians should live at peace. After the war is over they can bring forward their measures by which they want to benefit the rural classes. But for the time being they should sink all their differences for the sake of the bigger cause. If this practical step had been taken, the appeal of the Honourable Premier would have made some effect on the public. But it is a matter of great regret that not a single measure is introduced in this House in which class-war is not preached and from which it does not follow that Government are bent upon extirpating the trading classes, non-agriculturists and the urbanites. This is the spirit which is at present the guiding principle of the Minister in power. My honourable friends may be right in making such laws by which they want to afford relief to the people of their own classes, but at the same time it is their duty to see that nothing should be done which should create bad blood between two sections of the public and especially at this critical juncture.

The second point which I want to urge is that at the time of framing the rules, if Government behave dispassionately and honestly, everything will be all right. There are hundred and one better ways by which they can help their agriculturist brothers, without doing any harm to the traders, but the trouble is that at present the feelings of the Government are to take revenge or somehow or other to harm the best interests of the one class of persons only. When this is their object, how can they expect us to take all these things lying down? The Government want to impose taxes on the middle-men in the market. But that cannot be done. After all no trader pays any taxes from his own pocket. The only thing which he does is to shift that burden on to the consumers. In my humble opinion taxes fall either on the growers or on the consumers. For instance when a grower finds that the prices of his produce are such as can favourably compete with the prices of similar imported goods, he lets the tax be transferred on to the consumers. For he thinks that his goods can be sold at a cheaper rate as compared to the imported goods even if a tax is imposed on them. Naturally enough he shifts the burden of the tax on the consumers by selling at a little enhanced rate. On the contrary if the grower thinks that by enhancing the prices of his goods on account of the imposition of any new tax, his goods will not be able to compete favourably in prices with those imported from other countries or neighbouring provinces, in that case he will have to bear the burden of the tax on his own shoulders. Thus you see that taxes fall on the growers or on the consumers. My friends while imposing new taxes have very conveniently ignored these economic principles. (*Minister for Revenue*: What pinches my honourable friend?) It is only the affected who can feel the pinch. What I want is that those who feel the pinch should be protected from unnecessary trouble and vexation. By making a holiday per week obligatory under the Trade Employees Act, my honourable friends over there, in the intoxication of their majority, have even forgotten their own death. The shops remain closed and necessities of burial and cremation cannot be had on those closed days (*Minister*

[Lala Sita Ram.]

for Revenue: I will not die before twenty years.) He should remember that everybody has to die one day, and it is immaterial whether my friends over there die after ten or twenty years. But they must die. My blunt question is: who will give them a decent burial or cremation on a holiday. The shopkeepers are forbidden to sell anything on a holiday to anybody no matter who he be. (*Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri Fazl Ali*: Will capitalists also die or not?) Yes, the Nawabs too. Death knows no distinctions. The poor and the rich, the big and the small must die.

Our ministers are intoxicated with their power, because they know that even if they die on a closed day there would be no difficulty in getting cloth for their shrouds and making other arrangements for giving them a decent burial.

Minister for Public Works: We do not propose to die on such a day (*laughter*).

Lala Sita Ram: Anyhow, I earnestly pray to God that the day on which the Honourable Minister Sir Chhotu Ram dies may be a closed day, so that he should be borne to the cremation ground in state of nature, unshrouded and unadorned. And then this will serve as an eye opener for the rest and may demonstrate to them the hardship that it is causing to the people in respect of their daily necessities. In framing these stringent rules they have not followed reason, but their only guiding light has been the passion for rejecting the proposals of the opposition, however reasonable and just they might have been. If they do want to ruin a particular class they should do so in a manner which may not have a boomerang effect on themselves.

It is a matter of gratification that the Government have now realized the advisability of amending the Agricultural Produce Markets Act which was to have come into force on the 15th of April. I congratulate the Honourable Premier for having consultations with the representatives of the traders and making an effort to remove the deadlock that had been caused in the business circles of the province and which was based on genuine grievances on the part of the traders. I am confident that the Government would in conjunction with traders arrive at a solution which would prove beneficial for the whole of the province. It is my belief that this is a matter which concerns every one in this province, and the Government must themselves have come to realize that an Act which was intended to injure the traders has had unpleasant repercussions on the zamindars as well.

Though it does not fully meet our demands, yet I am glad that this amending Bill has been introduced.

With these words I welcome the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*): Sir, I do not intend to discuss the various points raised by the other side in connection with the amending Bill that is now under discussion. My Honourable colleague, Sardar Dasaunha Singh, is in charge of the Bill and he will deal with those points if he thinks that any reply is called for. But two honourable members, Sardar Santokh Singh and Dr.

Sir Gokul Chand Narang, have said certain things relating to my activities outside the House, which require an answer, and it is for this purpose that I have intervened in the debate.

Both of them have alleged that I have been going about the province declaring that when a grower takes his agricultural produce to a Mandi he gets for it no more than 9½ annas in the rupee and the remaining 6½ annas are grabbed by the *arhtis*. To prove that this accusation is absolutely baseless I have only to refer you to the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Agricultural Produce Markets Bill wherein it was clearly stated that if a consumer purchases from a retail seller wheat worth one rupee the grower gets only 9½ annas out of it. In saying this I made it absolutely clear that the remaining 6½ annas were not grabbed by the *arhtis* but covered transport charges and certain payments for various services rendered in the markets as well as for alleged charitable purposes. These services include services rendered by brokers, weighmen, measurers, etc. Various people rendered various services and got their remunerations for them. Thus all that I said was that while the consumer paid 16 annas for wheat the grower got no more than 9½ annas out of it. If my honourable friends have any doubt on this point let them read the report of the Wheat Marketing Committee wherein it is stated in the clearest possible terms that the zamindar gets only 9½ annas out of 16 annas paid to the retailer by the consumer. I made it clear not only in the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill but also in the course of my speeches on the floor of the House that the amount of 6½ annas was not pocketed by the *arhtis* alone, but it was shared with them by a number of other functionaries and also included transport charges.

That is exactly what I said here and what I have repeated whenever and wherever I have made a speech in connection with this measure. I am really surprised to see my honourable friends Sardar Santokh Singh and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang misquote my words. Neither of them has yet reached the age where one's memory begins to fail him, but their allegations show that either their memories have become defective or else they are purposely putting in my mouth things which I have never uttered.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I ask whether it is not a fact that the quotations given by the Honourable Minister refer to the case of Lyallpur wheat sold at Calcutta?

Minister : What I have said has nothing to do with Calcutta. I was referring to what happens in the Punjab.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I want to point out that out of 6½ annas in the rupee that does not go to the pocket of the producer 5½ annas go to the Railway in the shape of Railway freight and that this question refers only to Lyallpur wheat when sold in Calcutta.

Minister : I have already stated that I was referring to the markets in this Province and the quotation does not relate to Calcutta.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I can show you this even now and I accuse you of deliberately misleading people by saying what you say.

Minister : That is absolutely wrong. There is no question of misleading anybody. The Committee to whose report I have referred was

[Minister for Revenue.]

presided over not by Chhotu Ram or one of his friends but by a gentleman of your own class. It was that Committee that gave us these facts.

Malik Barkat Ali : May I ask where the remaining $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas go? Will the Honourable Minister kindly explain this point in some detail?

Minister for Revenue : There is a long chain of middlemen between the grower and the consumer which pockets these $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas. It includes *arkhi*, brokers, cartmen, weighmen and many others.

Anyway, Sir, I made no reference to the Lyallpur wheat sold at Calcutta. The reference was to the state of affairs at Lyallpur, Amritsar and other markets in our own province and I stated that even in these markets towns the grower gets only $9\frac{1}{2}$ annas out of a rupee paid by the consumer for agricultural produce. In the case of Punjab wheat sold at Calcutta, the producer must be getting, appreciably less than $9\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the rupee.

Sardar Santokh Singh : It is a very important point concerning the welfare of the province. I say that people are deliberately being misled. Let the report be read. I challenge the figures. I have in mind the same report, as the Honourable Minister has.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member can correct the Honourable Minister by quoting his authority.

Malik Barkat Ali : Let the Honourable Minister give us the details as to how much out of $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas goes to each link of the chain mentioned by him. That will remove all misunderstandings.

Minister : I cannot be expected to account for every pie offhand. Those who are interested in the matter should spend some time and labour and they will know the whole truth.

Lala Sita Ram : May I ask a question? (*Interruption.*)

Minister : Please disallow him. I am not giving way.

Mr. Speaker : No interruption please.

Minister : Sir, I was submitting that $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas out of a rupee paid by the consumer fail to reach the pocket of the grower and are absorbed by the various agents who intervene. This amount does not include the loss sustained by the producer on account of some other malpractices going on in our markets. If we include that loss the producer gets even less than $9\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the rupee. The Banking Enquiry Committee has summarised the results obtained by a special enquiry. These results show that as many as 49 per cent of the weights and 69 per cent of the scales examined were defective. Let me make it clear that the said enquiry was not conducted by Chhotu Ram or Pohop Singh. Nor was this report submitted by a Jat, an Arain or an Awan. On the contrary, it was the result of an enquiry conducted by Lala Lajpat Rai Davar, M.A., who is probably an Arora of the Jhang or Multan district. Again, these results are not based on an enquiry conducted in one Mandi alone. So far as I remember some 28 or 29 places between Rawalpindi and Gurgaon were visited and six or seven thousand weights and seven or eight thousand scales were tested. It was further reported that some of the shopkeepers

kept two sets of scales and weights, one for buying and the other for selling. Now if all these things are taken into account you can very well imagine to what extent the poor and simple zamindar is being fleeced.

Then, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang was pleased to remark that in my speech at Naraingarh I said that the *bantias* were carrying on a futile and baseless agitation. He also stated that his allegation was based on the report of my speech in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, the correctness of which must according to him, be accepted without demur. My submission is that you cannot form a correct estimate of my speech on a few sentences taken at random from a long speech and divorced from the context. I spoke there for nearly two hours and the report in the newspapers gave only a very incomplete and misleading version of my speech. Let me give you the gist of my speech. I said that this agitation would prove harmful both to the traders and zamindars, but the former stood to lose more than the latter. I also wanted to know as to whether the trader had taken the trouble to consider for how long they could carry on this agitation. The only trouble to the zamindars will be that they may not be able to sell their produce for sometime or that they may be compelled to sell it at slightly cheaper rates to meet the expenses of say a marriage. They may also have some difficulty in paying land revenue and other Government dues if their produce was not sold in time. But how long can the traders, who declare that they will neither buy nor sell agricultural produce, suspend their business and go on without food? Zamindars have wheat, milk, butter and butter milk. So there is no danger of their being starved. But what about the poor people who have to buy their food everyday and also about those rich people who do not store any provisions in their houses for fear of rats and purchase their requirements from day to day. For how long can they pull on without such vital necessities of life?

Besides that I declared that the Government were prepared, they are even now prepared and will always be prepared to effect such necessary amendments in the rules as were consistent with the basic principles of this legislation. The intention of the Government to remove legitimate grievances of the traders was clear from the fact that I had already issued instructions for the amendment of two of the rules framed under the Markets Act. I also made it quite clear in my speech at Naraingarh that the Government were ready to consider sympathetically any other reasonable suggestions from whatever quarter they were offered. In short I explained to the people that the object of this measure was nothing else than that the zamindars should be protected against the malpractices to which they were subjected in the Mandis, that they should get reasonable prices for their produce and that they should not be defrauded in the matter of weights and rates, and further that there was not the least intention to inflict unnecessary hardship on anybody. The Government did not want to place any restriction on the traders which was not necessary for safeguarding the interests of zamindars.

This is what I said at Naraingarh, as well as at Rohtak and other places. But when my friends quote my Naraingarh speech they rely on the reports of irresponsible half-penny, two-penny individuals who pose as reporters. They pick up one sentence from here and another from there

[Minister for Revenue.]

out of a lengthy speech and send a thoroughly incorrect and at best, a misleading report to the newspapers. Anyway, Sir, I have given you in brief, the gist of what I said at that meeting and have been saying at other places. I did not say anything very different. If there is any difference at all, it is that here in this House I have expressed my views in a little stronger language than I used at those meetings. (Cheers.)

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasandha Singh): Sir, I would like at the very outset to clear a misapprehension that has been created on account of some misunderstanding with regard to the replies that I gave to the supplementary questions concerning this Act. Sardar Santokh Singh put the supplementary question, 'Has the Government realised by now that this Act is absolutely unworkable', and my reply was 'The Act is positively workable'. I did not say that the Act is working. I simply said that the Act is workable. Then the second supplementary question was, 'Has the Government made necessary arrangements for the zamindars to get better prices for his produce', and my reply was, 'the Government will make perfect arrangements for all these things.' Then Mian Muhammad Nurullah put another supplementary question, 'when will the Government make this arrangement because the wheat is on hand', and my reply was, 'the necessity has not yet arisen. When the necessity arises the honourable member will see that the Government will make every possible arrangement in its minutest details'. Then Mian Nurullah put another supplementary question, 'is the Honourable Minister aware that in Mandis crops have been returned to villages. Does not the necessity arise?' And my reply was, 'the Government has no such information'. Then again, another supplementary question was put by the same honourable member, 'may I know whether the Government is prepared to give facilities for the realisation of land revenue after the crops are sold' and my reply was, 'when the necessity arises, the Government will do every thing for the benefit of poor peasants'. These are the replies to supplementary questions which were given by me and none of these replies shows that I anywhere said that the Act is actually being worked. Now, the original Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act was, in fact, not to hamper trade, not to injure any honest trader or businessman, but to remove malpractices and to put a stop to the device adopted by dishonest traders to injure poor peasants. It was our duty to protect poor peasants. It was our duty to see that if a poor ignorant peasant goes with his produce to the market place, he should get full value of his produce. It has been said by some honourable members on the other side that all these legislative measures have been enacted to injure the interests of the trading classes. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand grew eloquent over it. I say with all the emphasis at my command that so far as this Government is concerned our policy is common. The policy is laid down by our Honourable Leader. I am glad that Sardar Santokh Singh, in whom I see an honourable opponent and a

reasonable opponent, has recognised to-day and has given it out openly in this House that the Honourable Premier is always ready to listen to you and to consider your grievances and to think over them sympathetically and to try to remove those grievances as far as it is possible. We are all one so far as our policy goes. The policy laid down by our Honourable Leader is followed implicitly by each and every one of us. I would also like to say here one word concerning the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram. He himself is strong enough to meet the attacks of any number of opponents. *(Hear, hear from the Treasury Benches.)* But I would humbly say one thing. I have heard him speak a dozen times and I have heard him speak when he gives out his mind to the people when he says things which he feels because he never says anything which he does not positively mean. He always frankly speaks out his mind. I have never heard a word from his lips which may be taken to mean anything against the honest trader or the honest businessman. *(Hear, hear from the Treasury Benches.)* If he is hard upon anybody, he is hard upon the dishonest trader and dishonest businessman. *(An honourable member: What about dishonest zamindars?)* He is a friend of the poor zamindar but he is not an enemy of the honest trader or honest businessman or honest non-agriculturist. *(An honourable member: Ask him.)* That is my conviction and I need not ask him any such question.

Sardar Santokh Singh: May I, through you, ask one question? How many speeches of Sir Chhotu Ram have you heard and where?

Minister for Development: I have heard him speak more than a dozen times on very important questions where he must have said all that he had to say.

Sardar Santokh Singh: Where?

Minister: At various places in Ludhiana district, at Lyallpur where he delivered a very lengthy speech and at several other places. Therefore, I can submit emphatically that so far as the object underlying the original Act is concerned it is absolutely unexceptionable. No reasonable exception can be taken to it and no reasonable objection can be raised against it. Then the second thing is why we have brought this amending measure before the House. So far as this is concerned my first submission is that this is not the result of this so-called agitation. Lala Sita Ram is quite welcome to look upon it as a victory. But my own submission is that there is no question of victory or defeat. Lala Sita Ram has failed to understand the purpose of this amending Bill. Now, Sardar Santokh Singh and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang have admitted openly that the Honourable Premier met them, heard them patiently and discussed things with them frankly and gave an indication that their grievances will be considered very sympathetically. Now, the real thing is that after the Act was passed and after the rules were framed, the very same gentlemen, who are now so eloquent over this thing and who are now speaking in an injured way in a way saying that they are an injured party, they never said a word as regards the rules. The objection is now being taken against the rules. But when the rules were framed, when the rules were published and when they were laid on the table of the Assembly, no objection was raised. Even Sardar Santokh Singh and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang slept over it.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I point out one thing. Let him consult his files and he will find my objections.

Minister for Development : My file is very brief. It is almost blank. (*Laughter*).

Sardar Santokh Singh : I sent in objections against the rules comprising 8 or 9 pages.

Premier : I may be wrong but my submission is that no objection was received at all within the period during which it should have been received. Moreover we have got in the Act itself a provision that rules must be laid on the table of the House a month before the session of the Assembly so that members who wish to suggest any modifications could table a motion. You will see Sir that no such motion was made. The machinery through which objections can be brought to the notice of the Government is there but it was not availed of. The rules were published in the Gazette and no objection was received during the prescribed period nor was any motion made in the House. How could the Government imagine that there was any grievances. If my honourable friend had sent any objection I would have treated it as I am treating it now.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I sent a letter of 8 pages putting down my objections.

Premier : After the date.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Before the date. Whether they are considered by the Ministry or not I cannot say. I can send a copy of the letter which I wrote. If I did not make a motion here it was because I thought that—

Premier : I am afraid my information is—

Sardar Santokh Singh : I can send a copy of the letter.

Premier : No objection was received within time from any honourable member.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I do not know whether I sent it by registered post but I can send a copy of the letter to the Premier.

Minister for Development : May I draw the attention of the honourable member to Rule 27 (3) (b) which says—

All such rules shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly for one month previous to the next session thereof and shall, subject to the provisions of section 21 of the Punjab General Clauses Act, be liable to be rescinded or modified by a motion of the said Assembly tabled at the next session.

Even if my honourable friend did send a letter to the Premier or to the Minister in charge, even then he is guilty of remissness of duty. Now my submission is that if the case were referred to a fair arbitrator and if the blame were to be apportioned my honourable friend shall be declared to be guilty and we will be cleared of all blame.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I confess my guilt.

Minister for Development : I would like to bring it to the notice of my honourable friend Lala Sita Ram that this being the case it is not a question of victory or defeat. It is not a thing to be taken so lightly.

It is a serious thing. In such a case the honourable member should have appreciated the attitude of the government.

Lala Sita Ram : That is what I did.

Minister for Development : The honourable member should not, under these circumstances when the negligence is his own, gloat over on account of such imaginary victory. Really speaking, when a certain legislative measure is enacted, it is the duty of every government to see whether it would work without causing any unnecessary hardship to any party. So far as the question of rules is concerned, the rules were enacted. Nobody brought to our notice that the rules would act harshly or hardly on any party, but the government gave thought to it, considered it carefully and came to the conclusion, as the statement of objects and reasons shows, that certain rules might act harshly on certain parties, and justice required that we should remove those hardships because those hardships were avoidable. So far as the principle of the bill is concerned the toning down of its provisions did not affect the principle we had in view : it concerned only the workable part of the Act. So far as the workable part is concerned we were prepared to tone it down and this would have been done by the honourable Premier and his colleagues even if there had been no such agitation. We would have done it simply for the sake of justice and fairplay, and so far as this agitation is concerned and so far as the coming in of this amendment after the agitation is concerned, it is a mere accident. Even without this agitation this amending Bill would have been before this honourable House (*hear, hear*). Now the honourable Premier has dealt fully with each and every aspect of the case before this House. I would simply draw your attention to a few facts only. Apart from the provisions of this amending Act you will be glad to know that we are contemplating to amend certain rules. Rule 19 runs thus :—

A market committee shall appoint a disputes sub-committee and all disputes arising within a market concerning the sale and purchase of agricultural produce between a buyer and a seller including disputes regarding the quality or weight of such produce, the price or rate to be paid, allowances for wrappings, dirt, or impurities or deductions for any cause, shall be appealable to such sub-committee by the party aggrieved.

So far as this rule is concerned we have decided to alter it with a view to exclude dispute between traders and traders from the jurisdiction of the disputes sub-committee.

That was what my honourable friend wanted, I believe even though I had never a talk about it in spite of the fact that I did meet him very often. I passed through Amritsar while going to Ludhiana and Sardar Santokh Singh being a friend of mine I wanted to see him so that he may not run away with the impression that I had a swollen head. I did not find him in his place there. I came back from Ludhiana and I again passed through Amritsar and I again made an effort to see him. But I could not find him. Perhaps he was afraid of meeting me, because he may have been under the impression that my meeting him may affect his leadership. (*Laughter*). I went a third time to Amritsar and I went to his House at night time. He was not there. I was told that he had gone to a friend of his. I did not want to return to Lahore disappointed. So I went to his friend's house. There a so I was told that he

6 p. m.

[Minister for Development.]

had gone to another friend of his. I went there too, but instead of finding Sardar Santokh Singh I found his two friends. With those two friends I again went to the house of Sardar Santokh Singh at 11-30 in the night. I met him there in the presence of his two friends. I had a talk with him as a friend but during the talk there was no mention of even a word about the Marketing Act. All the same, the next day when I came back to this Chamber one of the press reporters came running to me and asked me if I met Sardar Santokh Singh. I said, 'He is not my enemy and I have my public capacity as well as private capacity. I cannot simply because I have been elevated to this exalted office forget my friends. If I meet my friends I meet them with open arms and there is no harm in doing so'. Then he felt satisfied.

Now, this is perhaps too long a parenthesis ; but I think it is justifiable. So far as the intended amendments to these rules are concerned I think this will satisfy my honourable friend.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Can I have the wording of the amendment ?

Minister for Development : I do not want to commit myself so far as the wording is concerned. The wording is not yet ready. But this is the purport of the amendment. Next we want to amend rule 28. The object of the amendment is to allow sufficient time to purchasers to pay the prices. Now, objections had been raised to the fact that prices had to be paid within a certain number of hours. If desired I shall read out that portion of the rule. (*An honourable member :* That has already appeared in the Gazette). So far as the amendment is concerned it could not have appeared in the Gazette. The rule is yet to be amended and my friend is wrong in saying that it has appeared in the Gazette. This is only the intended amendment and my friend may have seen the purport of it having been given in the notification. The amended rule is not with me now nor could it have been published in the Gazette. The purport of the amendment is that with the agreement of the seller the payment may be postponed indefinitely. Then we intend to amend rule 29 and the object is, as the Honourable Premier made it clear to-day, to reduce the maximum of fee leviable by a market committee and to restrict its levy to the first transaction of sale only. This should go a long way to satisfy my honourable friend and his followers.

Mr. Speaker : Are not all these details unnecessary ?

Minister : They are necessary from the point of view of my honourable friend and his followers. This is exceedingly important from the point of view of those who are creating the agitation. Weighment or measurement as the case may be of agricultural produce intended for sale may be made by licensed weighmen or measurement in any business precincts anywhere within the market area. No particular place will be specified for the purpose which would act harshly on the weighmen. (*An honourable member :* What about levying of fee at one stage only ?) I have already said that it would be in the first stage only.

• Then so far as the provisions of this Act are concerned, clause 2 is formal, clause 3 need not unnecessarily frighten you. This is a provision which would be used very rarely, in fact I can even say that it may never be used

and it rests with you that it may never be used. That is the provision to which the strongest objection was taken by my honourable friend, but that is not a provision which is bound to be worked. It may not be put into operation at all.

So far as clause 4 is concerned, the amendment of section 8 should satisfy every reasonable trader or business man. Formerly the membership of committees was 8 or 18 in number, but now the number has been fixed at 9 or 16. And then previously there could have been one or two official members but now there will be only one. Both these changes are favourable to my friend's side. Then formerly the proportion of growers and licensees so far as membership was concerned was two to one, now the proportion will be five to three. That is another improvement.

Then there is another improvement. In both cases the panel of licensees is to be submitted by persons licensed as brokers, warehousemen and dealers, not by all the licensees. For example, these weighmen, measurers, surveyors will have no voice so far as the submission of panel is concerned. Weighmen, measurers, surveyors have no stake in the business. It is the businessmen, it is the dealers, the traders who have direct stake and even brokers and warehousemen have some sort of stake, but these people have no stake. You should pay some compliments to us for the care with which we have gone into the whole question.

Then clause 5. I have heard Sardar Santokh Singh often say that the Honourable Premier does not listen to him, that Sir Chhotu Ram does not listen to him. I have had to ask him more than once to kindly lend me his ears, but he does not do so. So far as clause 5 is concerned, it should not frighten you unnecessarily. It is a provision which may never be used, and then clause 5 which amends section 19 is again very important. It is exceedingly important. This is something which may lead astray critics. This is something which may put some of these pressmen on the wrong track. Calculating forward transactions or future transactions this is something which should have a very sound effect in pacifying the agitators, and it is all due to the interest which the Honourable Premier took in going carefully through all the grievances that were placed before him and he alone is responsible for this change. People may not think that because Sardar Santokh Singh is a friend of mine, and therefore this provision has been made. That may damage us both and you more than myself because so far as your leadership is concerned that is something uncertain and I would not say more than that.

So far as clause 6 is concerned, that is formal, and so far as clause 7 is concerned that is again a necessary provision. Believing as I do in your reasonableness and believing as I do in the conversion of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang to-day that he is exceedingly reasonable, and he too has admitted that the Honourable Premier is looking very sympathetically into the whole question, believing in the reasonableness on that side, I am sure that your influence would work in pacifying the agitators and in ending the deadlock if there is any. I do not think I need say anything more and with these words I will resume my seat. (*Loud and prolonged cheers*).

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker : The House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause. The question is—

That clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3.

Premier : I move—

That the consideration of clause 3 be postponed.

The motion was carried.

Clause 4.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I move—

That the proposed section 3 (2) be deleted.

Government has by this amendment reduced the number of official members from 2 to 1. But to my mind it is not necessary to have any official member at all. Officials have no knowledge, they do not know the A B C of trade and in all probability they will make these market committees a subordinate department to the revenue assistant or the deputy commissioner. The revenue assistant will have a certain amount of influence and he will be able to carry the members with him in matters in which neither he nor the members are well acquainted. I have not been able to understand the object of having an official on these committees. The officials cannot teach the traders in these matters and it is the experience of several years that is necessary to have real insight into matters of trade. I see therefore absolutely no necessity of having any official and my friends on the other side will not be doing any good to these market committees by insisting on having an official on them. I appeal to the good sense of the Premier not to insist on appointing an official on these committees. Let people learn even by their mistakes. In matters of trade you do not need the guidance of officials. There is nothing which the officials can do there. If these officers are allowed there they will make these committees mere matters of routine and red-tapism. They have their position and status which gives them certain amount of influence both upon zamindars as well as upon the abrtis and that influence cannot be always exercised in the best interests of trade. The interests of trade are peculiar. The sanctity of trade is something very different and whilst we may at times be able to bring our zamindar brethren within our fold by pointing out to them the dangers ahead, this official mentality cannot be easily changed. This will not lead to the betterment of the working of these committees and I for one really do not see the necessity of retaining any official element on these committees. With these words I move my amendment and I hope Government will accept it.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration amendment moved is—

That the proposed section 8 (2) be deleted.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) : As my honourable friend is aware, we have reduced the number of official members from 2 to 1. I personally do not see eye to eye with him on this particular question for the simple reason that it is all very well in theory to say that these committees should be allowed to learn from their mistakes. I dare say they will learn from their mistakes. But I think that in the larger interests, especially when you have got so many laymen, you must have some kind of link between the two sets of people who will see that the work will go on smoothly and that no unnecessary or undesirable practices creep into the working of the committee. Later on, when these committees start functioning and they have gathered experience, then it may perhaps be possible to withdraw the official element, and when that stage arrives and my honourable friend suggests their withdrawal, then I will consider it sympathetically. But in the beginning the official must be there, and at any rate in the initial stages he will be there to inform Government how the committees are working. His opinion will be unbiased and so more valuable than the opinions of the other parties. If my honourable friends want to substitute the word 'may' for the word 'shall' and give us discretion to remove them at any time, I will have no objection.

Sardar Santokh Singh : In view of what the Premier has said, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Premier : I beg to move :—

That in the proposed section 8 (2), line 1, for the word "shall", the word "may" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : I move :—

That in the proposed section 8 (3) (a) (i), line 1, for the word "five", the word "four" be substituted.

Premier : I may tell my honourable friend straightaway that in this matter I will not be able to meet him for reasons I have already explained to him. I think he should be content with what he has already got as a result of our discussion.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I had a talk with the Honourable Premier on this matter and I was not satisfied. I therefore move my amendment. My point is that the ahrtis and traders must have a small majority on these committees and not the growers. In the manner in which this clause is being amended by the Government, we get, I must concede, a little more representation than we had before. Where the licensees were 4 or 5 members before, they are now six. In the same manner their number is increased in the smaller committees also. But my submission is that the trade is carried on in the mandis. It is not carried on in the villages. The trader is more interested in the mandis than the grower and as things are, the interests of the growers are well protected by "kadim" ahrtis who are the men of growers and not the men of buyers. They are doing everything possible to protect the interests of the grower and the trade being

[S. Santokh Singh.]

within the cities or "mandis" and being the chief concern of the traders, I am justified in saying that they must have at least a bare majority on these committees, as embodied in my amendment, and this will be secured if the proportion between traders and growers is kept at 50 : 50. Then there will be one man from the weighmen who will be as much the grower's man as he will be of the trader. By no stretch of imagination a weighman can be called a man of the buyer or trader alone. Considering all these points, it will be quite appropriate if the licensees on the one hand and the growers on the other get 50 : 50 representation on the committees. I do not wish to shut my eyes to the fact that so far as the cancellation of the licences of the brokers, rolas and tolas is concerned, the Honourable Premier gave me an assurance yesterday that to deal with these matters, he would see that statutory sub-committees will be created on whom there would be a majority of traders. I hope that assurance holds good.

Premier : What I said was that the grant of licence will be made automatic on payment of the prescribed fee, so that nobody need be put to any trouble. In the case of a dealer I suggested that the licence should be given by a gazetted officer.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I am referring to the other proposal that in the case of cancellation of licences of brokers of tolas and rolas a special statutory sub-committee will be constituted and on that sub-committee there will be a majority of traders.

Premier : No, I am quite definite. There was no such proposal.

Sardar Santokh Singh : There was a definite understanding of creating two sub-committees, one with a majority of traders to settle disputes between traders.

Premier : Yes.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Another sub-committee was to be appointed, with a majority of traders to deal with the question of cancellation of the licences of tolas, brokers, rolas and others. We brought to his notice the difficulties of those people and he agreed with us. I am very definite on the point that two sub-committees were to be appointed. If so, what was the other sub-committee for?

Premier : Under the rules there can be several sub-committees. There can also be a sub-committee for the cancellation of licences of tolas. What I said was that we have decided that the tolas and others should be nominees of the dealers, and a provision is being made in the rules that the panel shall be submitted by the dealers.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I am not referring to the sub-committees under the rules. I am referring to our conversation that took place. If you do not remember it, I must leave it there. It is not very relevant to the issue that I was discussing. My point is that if a representation of 50 : 50 is given to the traders and growers, it will be appropriate. The rolas and tolas cannot always be expected to side with the traders alone. Once market committees come into being, once the work is begun, we must see that it runs smoothly, we must not try to create any difficulties, we must leave it to them to carry on their affairs as amicably as they possibly can.

Under these circumstances, I think it will be unjust on the part of the Government not to give the required representation which alone could satisfy the traders. My proposal is very modest, is very reasonable. I do not want anything more for the traders than what is really their due. As a matter of fact in cities and mandis where they carry on their trade, their representation should be much more than 50, but considering the constitution of this Government and considering all circumstances and with a view not to cause any offence to the zamindar members of this House, I think I am perfectly justified in asking for 50 : 50 representation for the traders and growers and I believe that if things are to proceed smoothly, if things are to go on with mutual consultation, with mutual pleasantness, it is necessary that no community should be made to feel that their interests are not properly protected, that they are in a perpetual minority. After all the trade is carried on in the cities and by a particular type of people known as traders and I do not see why they should not get their proper representation. If anything, I am erring on the side of leniency and I hope that ways and means will be found by the Government to accede to my most reasonable request and that traders and growers will be given equal representation, that is, 50 : 50, on these market committees. That is the essence of my amendment and with these remarks I move it.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in the proposed section 8 (3) (a) (i), line 1, for the word "five", the word "four" be substituted.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) : Mr. Speaker, I do not think any repetition is required to answer the points urged by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I just wish to invite his attention to one or two important facts relating to this clause. I beg to submit that there are at least three provinces in which market committees are functioning to-day. There is Madras, there is Bombay and there is the Central Provinces. In not one of these provinces have representatives of traders been given majority or equal representation on the market committees and I submit that this is a matter where the conditions of the Punjab are not such that we should make an exception in this case and arrangements different from other provinces should be made in this province. Secondly the functions of these market committees, after the statement of the Honourable Premier that they will have nothing to do with disputes between dealers and dealers, are such that most useful contribution would be made by the representatives of the growers.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Are the growers in a majority in the committees in other provinces ?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : The position in other provinces is that in two provinces the representation is not less than half but there is representation of panchayats, etc., and if you take the average of twelve, then there are four members and—

Sardar Santokh Singh : I am asking no more than is the case in other provinces.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : As the rules stand, not one of them has been given a majority or equality. Apart from that my honourable friend will find that the panel of the growers has to be proposed by the district

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

boards. You will find that in district boards we have joint electorates throughout the province and there—I can speak with some knowledge of the affairs of Amritsar District Board—we have representatives of growers and representatives of trading classes also in the district. As such if there are members representing the trading interests who are reasonable but represent certain section of the opinion of the district board, they must *prima facie* have representation. Apart from that I am one of those who believe that the setting up of these committees will create a condition in which the traders and growers will work for fairplay and justice. I would appeal to my friend the Leader of the Opposition to take it in the spirit in which the statement was made by the Honourable Premier. He should try to work in such a spirit that all of us may continue to have fair dealings with the growers. With these words I would appeal to my honourable friend not to press the amendment.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, when opposing the amendment of Sardar Santokh Singh has pointed out that in other provinces the representatives of the traders do not enjoy a majority. I asked him a question whether the growers enjoyed a majority. From what he said it appears that the growers are allowed a representation which shall not be less than half, which means that they may be in a majority but they shall not be less than half which means that they may also be only half. In other words a definite majority has not been given to them. I cannot see any reason why, if the Acts in force in other provinces are to be our model, a departure should be made from them in this respect? Then my honourable friend referred to the case of the district boards of the Punjab who are, under this Act, to return the panel of growers. That is what I understood him to say and he said that the district boards in this province are elected on joint electorates. That is quite correct but he has overlooked one very important point and that is this that in the district boards of the Punjab, the representatives of the trading classes do not constitute even one-tenth of the strength of the district boards. In most of the district boards there may not be more than one or two representatives of the trading classes, if any at all, and in no case does their representation exceed ten per cent. Even that is a very high figure. It may be two or three if not only one or if not only two, so that it cannot be said that the panel, that the district boards would return, would include any representatives of the traders. That is out of the question.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood: Ten per cent.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: He again overlooks one thing and that is this, that the district boards have to return a panel of growers. They cannot include traders. He is overlooking that fact. Even if there are twenty—out of fifty or out of twenty-five or thirty—twenty representatives of the trading classes, not one of them will be included in the panel because under this Act only the growers are to be nominated by the district board, so that that argument has absolutely no application to the case made out by him and I think the case that Sardar Santokh Singh is making on behalf of the traders is legitimate. If they cannot be given a high majority,

there is no reason why they should be placed in a minority. One argument was given by the Honourable Premier and that was that this law was being enacted in order to remove corruption from the markets and if the corrupt people, or people who are accused of corruption and whose corrupt methods are to be removed by this Act, are to be placed in a majority, then it would be impossible to remove corruption. This argument is based on an assumption. If we take it for granted that the traders in the markets are corrupt and dishonest people and the object of the Bill is simply to weed out corruption, then that argument might carry some force, but I am not prepared to accept that assumption and Sardar Santokh Singh himself would not be prepared to accept that assumption. I think that in view of the fact that the interests of both parties are the same, if they cannot be given a majority there is no reason why they should not be placed in the same position. I personally would have proposed that the number of representatives should be equal and there should be an official. I am not so shy of officials as my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh seems to be. It would have been more equitable and more conducive to good administration if the representatives of growers and the representatives of traders were equal in number and in the district headquarters the deputy commissioner was to be the chairman of these committees and in tehsil headquarters the tehsildar, for the time being, could be the chairman of the committees. He would have seen, in any case, that neither party takes undue advantage over the other and both parties being equal the official judgment might be relied upon to hold the balance even between the two. He could bring the unreasonable party to reason if there were any dispute between the parties, but in any case I think there is no reason why the representatives of the traders should be in a minority. They run big risk and have big stake because it is they who pay the money and purchase the produce which comes to the markets.

Premier : I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat the arguments I have already put forward. I never said that all business people were dishonest. Certainly not. I never said that. I made it quite clear that the great majority of businessmen are honourable people, but there are also businessmen who, it cannot be denied, resort to these malpractices. We want to remove these malpractices and my argument was that since the people who suffer from these malpractices would be the best people to control those malpractices, if they have an effective voice, and, therefore, that was the reason why we give them a majority, and I also pointed out that now that the functions of the committee had been limited to a very narrow scope, it was useless to try to argue on that point whether the growers have seven members instead of six and others have four instead of five. Let them work for a little while and when there is mutual confidence nobody would worry about number. If there is no mutual confidence and there is friction, then we can reconsider the matter. That is why I said that we must have an official umpire to see how these committees work, and that is why I insist that an official should be there in the initial stages to see that the committees carry on their work properly and in the spirit in which they should work.

[Premier.]

I hope my honourable friend will not press that point. I have already met him to the extent that I have reduced the number of the representatives of growers.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That in the proposed section 8 (3) (a) (i), line 1, for the word "five", the word "four" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) ; Sir, I beg to move—

That in the proposed section 8 (4), line 2, between the words "be" and "submitted", the words "selected as prescribed and" be inserted.

The clause with the amendment proposed will read as follows :—

A panel of the names of growers shall be selected as prescribed and submitted by the non-official members of the local District Board—

At present it is not clear as to how a panel will be selected by the district board nor any such power given to the Government in the rule-making clause to deal with this particular clause. The question whether it should be a single non-transferable vote has been decided with regard to panchayats or otherwise the matter has been adequately dealt with under the rules. Therefore, at this stage, all I submit is that the words "selected as prescribed and" may be inserted and the matter dealt with under the rules.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That in the proposed section 8 (4), line 2, between the words "be" and "submitted", the words "selected as prescribed and" be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The question is—

That clause 4 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 5.

Mr. Speaker: Clause 5.

Sardar Santokh Singh: Sir, I would not like to press my amendment because this matter has already been dealt with by the Government under the rules. I want to make one point clear and it is this that if at the time of entry of the produce into cities, mandis and notified market areas the fee has been paid, then it should not be charged a second time when the goods are bought or sold or actually delivered.

Premier: If my honourable friend means that when the produce enters into a market area, the fee should be levied only at one stage, then I agree with him. But I should like to make it clear that it does not mean that the produce which enters Lyallpur and pays a fee there and is then sent to Amritsar, that it should not pay a fee there. The first time it enters Amritsar, it will be liable to pay a fee there also. If this is his point I am at one with him.

Sardar Santokh Singh: I quite agree with the Honourable Premier.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 6.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 7.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

New clauses.

Premier : I suggest that the new clauses may be postponed to next day. They may be taken up on Monday.

The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, the 28th April, 1941.

1911

1911年1月1日
1911年1月1日
1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日



1911年1月1日

1911年1月1日

1911

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 28th April, 1941.

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE FOR DEPENDENTS OF COMRADE FAZAL ELAHI QURBAN.

***7706. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Comrade Fazal Elahi Qurban, applied for allowance for his dependents ; if so, the action that the Government has taken on the applications ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that he is not allowed to have morning and evening walks and is kept in the lock-up for 24 hours ; if so, why ;
- (c) when the Government intends to send him to jail ; if not, the reasons for the same ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Yes, the provisions of the law under which he is detained do not enjoin the grant of any allowances to dependents ;

(b) No, he was allowed daily exercise whenever the Station House Officer was present to supervise it. He has since been transferred to the Fort and is given daily exercise there.

(c) This matter is under consideration.

HANDCUFFING OF DR. GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA AND PANDIT NEKI RAM SHARMA.

***7800. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Abdul Aziz, Sub-Inspector of Police, was deputed to take Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, the former Leader of the Opposition of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, and Pandit Neki Ram Sharma, a well-known Congress leader, to Hissar to appear as witness in the Hissar District Court in connection with Professor Rajindar Nigam's case on the 29th March, 1941 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these gentlemen were handcuffed on both hands at 5-30 p.m. on the 29th March, 1941, and that the handcuffs were removed on the 30th March, at 6-30 a. m. ;

[S. Moola Singh.]

- (c) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Inspector in question unnecessarily threatened these gentlemen that he has been instructed to call some gazetted police official to his aid in case they did not allow him to handcuff them ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the said Sub-Inspector also threatened the Press photographer of the *Tribune* with arrest if he photographed the persons in his custody at Lahore Cantonment Railway Station on the 1st April, 1941, when they were brought back to Lahore Central Jail from Hissar ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the said Sub-Inspector threatened the relatives and friends of these gentlemen in Hissar with arrest if they attempted to come near them ;
- (f) if the replies to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same and the action that the Government intend taking in the matter ?

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

(b) Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and Pandit Neki Ram Sharma were in fact handcuffed on both hands throughout their journey from the Lahore Central Jail to Hissar on 29th March, 1941, except at meal times when the handcuffs were removed from one hand to enable them to take their meals as required by the provision of Police Rule 26·22 (e) and (f).

The question of the handcuffing of satyagrahi convicts has been under consideration and special orders have been issued. Orders that Dr. Gopi Chand who is a satyagrahi security prisoner should not be handcuffed in future were passed previously.

(c) No threats were used by the Sub-Inspector for the prisoners did not object to being handcuffed.

(d) No. tests were used by the Sub-Inspector to the photographer who appeared at the Lahore Cantonment Railway Station on the 1st April, 1941. He was not allowed to take photos of the prisoners, and was politely requested to remain at a distance.

(e) Enquiries made from the Sub-Inspector show that there were several persons at Hissar Railway Station who wished to communicate with the prisoners and it was very difficult to differentiate between the relatives of the prisoners and others. No threats were used but in refusing these persons access to the prisoners the Sub-Inspector merely performed his duty.

(f) Does not arise.

ACTS OF HIGH-HANDEDNESS BY LAHORE DISTRICT OFFICERS COMMITTED IN VILLAGE KATLUHI KALAN.

***7803. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Sardar Thakar Singh, son of Sardar Ganga Singh and other 192 villagers of village Katluhi Kalan, district Lahore, have sent a complaint to the Punjab Government on the 27th March, 1941, against certain acts of high-handedness committed on 23rd March, 1941, by the District

Officers including Mr. Henderson, Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, Sardar Indar Singh, Tahsildar, Kasur, Chaudhri Muhammad Yakub, Naib-Tahsildar, Kasur, Excise Sub-Inspector, Kasur, Sardar Hukum Singh, Sub-Inspector, Police, Kasur, Chaudhri Allah Ditta, Zaildar, Kesargarh and Sub-Inspector, Lulliani and other police officers ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that about 24 houses in the said village were searched by these officers ; if so, was anything objectionable recovered by these searches ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that faces of Fauja Singh, Tilak Singh, Gundu and Narinjan Singh were blackened and then they were compelled to march in the village streets under the police escort ;
- (d) if the replies to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same and the action taken or intended to be taken by the Government in the matter, and if no action has been taken or is intended to be taken, the reason therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh) :

(a) No.

(b) In pursuance of the general excise policy of putting down illicit distillation and suppressing the evil of drinking of illicit liquor prevalent among a certain section of villagers an excise raid was carried out in village Katluhi. As a result of the raid three cases under the Punjab Excise Act and three cases under the Arms Act were discovered. The raid was conducted by the local excise and police staffs. Incidentally the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildar visited the village later in the morning to collect the outstanding land revenue.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

DAMAGE DUE TO HAILSTORM.

***7793. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the wheat and fodder crops of Chaks 437, 421, 423, 425, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 497-E. B. of Nili Bar Colony were totally damaged due to hailstorms that visited this area on the eve of the 27th March, 1941 ;

(b) if so, what steps, if any, the Government has taken to help the sufferers, if no such steps have been taken, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Extensive damage was done in Chak Nos. 501, 503, 505, 507 and 497-E.B., but with the exception of 218 acres in Chak No. 421-E.B., there was no damage in the remaining chaks.

(b) After a preliminary inspection by the Colonization Officer, Nili Bar, field inspection was made by Joint Mahal and canal staff and kharaba granted according to the rules.

, GENERAL ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

***7790. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether Government intends to hold general elections to the District Board, Jullundur, if so, when ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : Yes, in February, 1942 ; unless there is a further postponement of general elections of local bodies on account of the war.

Mian Abdul Rab : May I know whether Government intend to give further extension to the District Board beyond 1942 ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have said that it depends on the condition of war.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLOSURE OF SIRHIND CANAL, ABOHAR BRANCH.

Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware that owing to the Sirhind Canal Abohar Branch having been closed at this time of the year, the people living in this part of the country are experiencing great hardships for want of drinking water for themselves and their cattle ; if so, what steps he proposes to take to redress this grievance of these people ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : A short closure of Sirhind Canal was found absolutely essential for thorough examination of the canal works under water, as the same could not be examined during the last three years on account of constant keen demand and unfavourable weather conditions.

April is the most suitable time for Canal closure, as, the zamindars being busy in harvesting, demand is slack and there is least chance of damage to standing crops.

Sirhind Canal was closed on 14th April, and will be re-opened on 26th and, if possible, earlier. No reports have been received from zamindars on Abohar Branch complaining against this closure. In view of the fact that Abohar Branch had full supply from 15th of March to 29th of March, last month, this short closure should not cause any inconvenience to the public of the *ilaga* who have had ample opportunity to fill their village tanks.

Pir Akbar Ali : Is the Parliamentary Secretary not aware of the fact that there has been great hardship in this harvesting season ? Drinking water has not been available to the people as well as to the cattle and several cattle have died.

Parliamentary Secretary : Did the honourable member say several people have died ?

Pir Akbar Ali : Several cattle have died of mouth and foot diseases ; there was no water in several villages.

Parliamentary Secretary : So far as dying of cattle is concerned I would like to have notice. No complaints have been received from the people of the area.

Pir Akbar Ali : People want drinking water for themselves and for their cattle; this fact was mentioned in the question and yet the Parliamentary Secretary wants fresh notice.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated in my reply that no complaints have been received.

Pir Akbar Ali : By whom?

Parliamentary Secretary : By the Government.

Pir Akbar Ali : I represent a part of the country and I tell you that there has been great hardship.

Parliamentary Secretary : I am thankful to the honourable member for giving the information. I have stated that no report has been received from the zamindars and no complaint has been received against this closure.

Pir Akbar Ali : I submit that there is no village in the Abohar *ilaga* which has not complained.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that so far as closure is concerned there has not been any complaint. Will the honourable member please state which is the proper time for closure?

Pir Akbar Ali : Not at least this time when harvesting is going on and people are thrashing the grain. It might be June.

Parliamentary Secretary : What time is more appropriate for closure?

Pir Akbar Ali : June. April is the harvesting season.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The Parliamentary Secretary has replied that no complaint had been received by the Government. If so, may I ask him if the statement of a prominent member of the Unionist Party, no less than Pir Sahib, saying that owing to the closure of Sirhind Canal the people living in that *ilaga* are experiencing great hardships and their cattle are dying for want of drinking water, is not enough for the Government to take necessary action?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Honourable Minister for Revenue is considering whether it will be possible for the Government to give notice to the people concerned regarding the closure of the canal before it is actually closed. If it is possible to do so, I assure the honourable member that before every closure of the canal a notice will be given to the people of that *ilaga*.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I am afraid the cattle of that area will die before the Honourable Minister decides one way or the other.

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the canal must have been re-opened on the 26th. To-day is the 28th.

Chaudhri Sumer Singh : Let us first know whether Pir Sahib is an agriculturist.

SCHEME TO BENEFIT THE AREA DAMAGED BY KHEWRA SALT MINES.

Raja Muhammad Sarfraz Khan : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a grant of Rs. 50,000 was given by the Government of India to the Punjab Government to be spent on some scheme to benefit the area damaged by Khewra Salt Mines; if so, what were the conditions of the grant;
- (b) whether the Government have decided to spend the money on some beneficial works, and if so, the nature of the work or schemes on which that money is proposed to be spent, and if Government have not so far decided then the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram : The replies to (a) and (b) are as follows:—

In 1934, the Honourable Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Member of the Council of State, brought up the question of the deterioration caused by the Salt Range to land situated to the south of these hills in the Pind Dadan Khan tahsil. As an outcome of the debate, the Government of India in 1940-41 placed at the disposal of the Punjab Government a special grant to be devoted to improving the conditions of the area in question, the amount being paid for damage done by the salt-charged affluent from the Khewra Salt Mines.

For some years, the Punjab Government have been aware of the poor condition of this area. From time to time, proposals have been put forward to undertake some kind of relief work in this area or some kind of public work which would improve the lot of the people. Investigations have been made to see whether hill torrents could be trained, so as to avoid erosion in the plains and to prevent salt-laden water spreading over the plains and causing further deterioration. It was realized that any scheme of sufficient magnitude to do any good would cost several lakhs of rupees. The resources of the province were not sufficient to consider undertaking any such unproductive scheme. However, when the Government of India made this offer of Rs. 50,000, the question arose of what scheme on which to spend this money. Obviously, Rs. 50,000 spent on a scheme that required several lakhs of rupees would produce no results of material value. It was not, therefore, a question of distributing this grant equitably so that all zamindars in the area should benefit, but a matter of finding a scheme on which the grant could be spent to such advantage that some of the zamindars, at least, would receive material benefit. The only possible scheme on which the money could be utilized was the resuscitation of the old Municipal Canal, now known as the Pind Dadan Khan Canal. This canal had been neglected for some years, but in its earlier days it utilized about 40 cusecs of water and irrigated an area of about 3,200 acres annually. Work has, therefore, been started to put it in good working order again. It should commence irrigation during the present kharif. At the moment, about half the work is completed and the remainder of the work is in hand. There have been certain delays over land acquisition owing to opposition from certain interested parties, but it is expected that these difficulties will be overcome very shortly.

When the scheme of resuscitating the old Municipal Canal was examined it was realized that with the same river levels a much bigger inundation canal could be constructed if it were possible to withdraw more water from the river. The Punjab Government are pleased to say that recently Sind Government have been approached in this matter and the latter have agreed to more water being withdrawn from the Jhelum River to feed his canal. It is now proposed to withdraw 190 cusecs from the river which should irrigate about 20,000 acres annually, including the area irrigated by the old Municipal Canal. Action is being taken at the moment to obtain additional funds for the work, the extra expenditure involved being about Rs. 1 lakh.

The smaller scheme which merely resuscitated the old Municipal Canal will irrigate an area in the vicinity of Pind Dadan Khan because the Government of India gave this grant to benefit the area directly affected by the Khewra Salt Mines. Zamindars in the upper reaches of the Canal would have derived very small benefit from it as the canal levels would not have been high enough to have commanded the area.

With the larger scheme which is to utilize 190 cusecs it will be possible to take in a very much larger area to the east of the Pind Dadan Khan town resulting in zamindars living between Jethipur and Hattar being given increased irrigation facilities.

ADJOURNMENT.

Premier : I wish to point out that, if we finish the business on to-day's agenda, I shall make a motion at the end of the business to-day, that the House may be adjourned *sine die*.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

New clauses.

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

That leave be given to move that after clause 1, the following new clause be added:—

"2. This Act shall come into operation on a day not less than six months after the termination of the war, which may be fixed by the Punjab Government."

Mr. Speaker : Which Act does the honourable member mean?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The Act that is being amended now—the Marketing Act, the principal Act.

Mr. Speaker : Not the amending Bill?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The principal Act as amended by the amending Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The principal Act is already in force.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Along with the amendments now being made.

Mr. Speaker : It is already in force and as regards amendments they also, if passed, will come into force.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : The Act has been postponed till the 1st of September.

Mr. Speaker : How can it be postponed? It is already in force. Who could postpone it?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : Government.

Mr. Speaker : May I ask the Premier whether the principal Act is in force?

Premier : It is in force. It came into force automatically.

Dr. Sir Gohul Chand Narang : The practical enforcement has been postponed.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : May I submit that the amendment is in order? The new clause only purports to postpone to a date six months after the War what has actually been postponed to 1st September by Government.

Mr. Speaker : Which Act?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Act.

Mr. Speaker : That is not an Act yet. It is only a Bill.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Therefore what is asked to be postponed is the previous Act as amended by this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : By the word "Act" which Act does the honourable member mean?

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The new Act as it will stand after amendment. When the Act is amended by subsequent legislation not the old Act but the new Act as amended.

Mr. Speaker : But the desired postponement of the operation of the principal Act cannot be done by this amendment.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I am not asking for the postponement of the principal Act alone. I am asking for the postponement of the operation of the Act as amended.

Mr. Speaker : The Act as amended is not under consideration. Just now the House is considering only the amending Bill.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I am not asking for the postponement of the operation of the old Act. Now that the legislature has amended the old Act, I say that the Act as amended shall not come into operation.

Mr. Speaker : We are not concerned at present with the original Act, whether amended or unamended. We are concerned at this stage only with the Amending Bill.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Are we not concerned with the Act as amended by the Bill?

Mr. Speaker : Not at this stage.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : These are not new clauses. These are amendments of the existing sections of the old Act.

Mr. Speaker : But those amendments cannot be moved in the course of consideration of the Amending Bill now before the House and a new Bill for introducing those amendments shall have to be brought forward either by honourable member or by the Government.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I do not see why a legislature is prevented from laying down that what they had done during the session—

Mr. Speaker : It is not prevented from laying down anything. But the amendments must be confined to the Amending Bill which is now before the House. Just now the principal Act is not before the House.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Government certainly is not going to enforce the original Act without these amendments. Therefore if you think that it is not possible to postpone the Act till after the war let my clause be taken as postponement of this portion of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker : That will make the whole thing absurd for the simple reason that this Bill may come into force, say four years hence, while the principal Act is already in force.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Where is the harm? Is it not possible that a legislature should lay down that what they are laying down shall not be enforced now but shall be enforced four years hence? I do not see any absurdity in it. How can you prevent a member from asking a legislature to endorse an opinion that what the legislature is passing to-day should come into force four years hence?

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is right. But I can direct and insist that every member who wants to amend a Bill must follow the procedure laid down for the purpose. He cannot rise and move amendments to a section or clause which is not under discussion.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : Is there anything to prevent me or this House from laying down that what they are proposing to-day shall not come into operation four years hence?

Mr. Speaker : I have ruled that the honourable member's motion is out of order. But if he insists on moving it, he may ask the leave of the House to move it:

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : I beg to move—

That leave be given to move that after clause 1, the following new clause be added:—

"2. This Act shall come into operation on a day not less than 6 months after the termination of the War, which may be fixed by the Punjab Government.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That leave be given to move that after clause 1, the following new clause be added:—

"2. This Acts shall come into operation on a day not less than 6 months after the termination of the War, which may be fixed by the Punjab Government.

Premier : I think my honourable friend considers the Government supernatural if he thinks it can fix the duration of the War. My honourable friend says: "Six months after the termination of the War which may be fixed by the Punjab Government". I am afraid we cannot do it.

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri : The date on which it should come into operation should be fixed by the Punjab Government.

Mr. Speaker : The question is:—

That the leave asked for be granted.

The motion was lost.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Sir, the amendment¹ standing in my name is not a new clause, to my mind. It is a substitution of one word for another.

Mr. Speaker : This is an amendment to a section of the principal Act which is not within the scope of the amending Bill.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I only want to change one word for another.

Minister for Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : It can be done by a notification.

Sardar Santokh Singh : If you give an assurance to that effect, then it is all right.

Premier : If you want to include paddy it will be included.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Rice is not an agricultural produce. Paddy is an agricultural produce, so the market committees have to control paddy and not rice. It is in the interests of the Government also.

Premier : Why not control both?

Sardar Santokh Singh : You cannot control raw produce and also the manufactured product. That is not your intention.

(At this stage the Honourable Minister for Development got up in his seat.)

Mr. Speaker : There is no motion before the House on which the Minister may speak. Sardar Santokh Singh's amendment has been held to be out of order because it is an amendment to the principal Act and not to the amending Bill which alone is under consideration.

Clause 3 will be taken later on.

The next amendment² also is out of order because it is an amendment of the principal Act and not of the amending Bill. The new clause proposed which is to be inserted should not go beyond the scope of the amending Bill; but should be relevant either to the whole Bill or any of its clause or clauses. If it is not so, it is out of order and I shall be glad if the honourable member satisfies me that the new clauses, he proposes to move, are relevant to a clause or clauses of the amending Bill.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Have you held the motion out of order?

Mr. Speaker : Yes and the motion in the name of Mir Maqbool Mahmood³ is also out of order.

¹ That after clause 1, the following new clause be added—

2. In clause (a) of section 2 of the said Act, for the word "rice" the word "paddy" shall be substituted.

² That after clause 4, the following new clause be added—

5. Subsection (2) of section 9 of the said Act shall be deleted.

³ That after clause 7, the following new clause be added:—

8. For section 30 of the said Act the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"30. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to settle, decide, or deal with any question which is by this Act or the rules made thereunder required to be settled, decided or dealt with by Government or any person or authority acting in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act or the rules made thereunder."

Parliamentary Secretary (Ch. Tikka Ram): I beg to move—

That leave be given to move, that after clause 7, the following new clauses be added:—

“8. After part (a) of section 2 of the said Act the following new part shall be inserted, namely:—

(aa) ‘Dealer’ means any person who within the notified market area sets up, establishes or continues or allows to be continued any place for the purchase or sale of the agricultural produce notified under sub-section (1) of section 4, or purchases or sells such agricultural produce.”

Mr. Speaker: Question is whether the new clause is in order. To which sub-clause or part of the amending Bill does this new clause relate?

Parliamentary Secretary: The word “dealer” occurs in two places in sub-clause (4) and the word has not so far been defined either in the main Act or in this amending Bill. Therefore it is relevant.

Premier: The reason why this definition is necessary is that formerly we merely said of those who are licensed under sections 6 and 9 and if that were continued it would bring in the same difficulty which we wanted to avoid. That is, it would give electoral power to all the brokers, warehousemen and also to tollas and rollas and all those people who come in, and it is to confine the electorate merely to traders, brokers and warehousemen that it is necessary to define the word “dealer” otherwise you will get into the same rut out of which we wanted to extricate ourselves.

Mr. Speaker: The amendment is relevant.

Sardar Santokh Singh: You have disallowed other amendments because they were amendments to a principal Act and not to the Amending Bill. Does this not fall under the same category?

Mr. Speaker: I have been expressly stating that an amendment which is relevant to the amending Bill or any clause of the Bill is in order but any amendment which is not relevant to any clause or part of the amending Bill but is strictly speaking an amendment to the principal Act is out of order. The question is—

That leave be granted to move that after clause 7, the following new clause be added:—

“8. After part (a) of section 2 of the said Act the following new part shall be inserted, namely:—

(aa) ‘Dealer’ means any person who within the notified market area sets up, establishes or continues or allows to be continued any place for the purchase or sale of the agricultural produce notified under subsection (1) of section 4, or purchases or sells such agricultural produce.

The motion was carried.

Chaudhri Tika Ram: I beg to move—

That the new clause be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Santokh Singh: Will you explain what the words “allows to be continued any place” mean? Do you want to bring in the landlord also? Does the owner of the building also come in? Is that the scope of the amendment? I want to know from the Government as to what the phrase “or allows to be continued any place for the purchase or sale” means. Is it the intention that the landlord is also to be roped in?

Premier : If the landlord sets up a business in a mandi he should be roped in. Supposing I am a land-owner—

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He means owner of the shop or house or building.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The words are “ or allows to be continued any place for the purchase or sale of the agricultural produce ”. What I mean is that a certain owner of a shop has let out his shop to his tenant and his tenant begins there to purchase or sell agricultural commodity. Is the landlord, in this case, also to be roped in?

Premier : He will not be roped in.

Sardar Santokh Singh : This language is very defective.

Premier : It is you who are afraid, though this goes in your favour. It is really we who should be afraid. Supposing I am a big businessman and I set up business in every mandi. Do you mean to say that I should be excluded?

Sardar Santokh Singh : I am not questioning that.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : I think the Honourable Premier has not been able to follow Sardar Santokh Singh fully. Supposing there is a person living in England or for the matter of that in some other country. He owns some property in a market town. He has invested some money in buildings and those buildings are let out to *arhtis*. He does not set up any business. He has allowed the house to be used for this purpose. Setting up, etc., has been dealt with separately. If the Honourable Minister in charge would care to note, “ dealer ” means “ any person who within the notified market area sets up, establishes or continues, etc. ”. That refers to merchants, whether they are outside or in the mandis and these certainly Sardar Santokh Singh does not mean to exclude. That is all what the Honourable Premier said, but the trouble lies in the words which follow, viz., “ or allows to be continued any place for the purchase or sale of the agricultural produce ”. Now the question is whether the owner of the shop who has no concern with the business whatsoever will not be roped in, if these words are allowed to stand as they are in the amendment, because he is the owner of the House. It may be said that he is allowing his house or his shop to be used for the purposes of business although the law does not allow this. He has no interest in the business whatsoever, he gets his ten, fifteen or twenty rupees—whatever it may be—as the rent of this place where the business is continued. Now, the words “ allowing it to be continued ” will certainly bring in the owner. That is the question of Sardar Santokh Singh. I may not get up again to speak, therefore I might explain that if that is the intention, this amendment should not be allowed if those words are to be retained in it, but I hope that that is not the intention of the Government and there was only a misunderstanding. The person they had in mind was only the person who was carrying on the business whether he was present or not. A gentleman might have large business in a market while he may be carrying on some other occupation elsewhere. He may be a Government servant and may have put on somebody else to carry on the business on his behalf though not his name and so on. Him they would not allow. To that I am sure Sardar Santokh Singh has no objection.

Sardar Santokh Singh : No.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Nor has anybody else any objection on this side. The objection comes in when the landlord, that is, the owner of the property is sought to be brought in. If that is the intention, then it would not be acceptable to this side of the House.

Premier : That is not the intention.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Then make it clear.

Premier : The honourable member has not seen the other Act. Please see subsection (2) of section 4. What power are you giving here? Really the power of vote, but if you see subsection (2) of section 4, you will find that the Government has taken power to exempt, and it was to meet that difficulty that that power has been taken. I made it quite clear that Government do not want to rope in the owner of the House who has merely let his house for business purposes but do want to rope in warehousemen who deal with that kind of commodity and keep stocks in store. My honourable friend agrees not to exclude them, but if a man is a landlord and merely lets out his House or premises to somebody else for doing that business, he would not be roped in and we will see that in the rules he is exempted.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I, through you, ask the Hon'ble Premier to define warehousemen?

Premier : That is already included in the Act.

Sardar Santokh Singh : They are not defined.

Premier : 'Warehousemen' means people who stock certain commodities in houses which are in their possession.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Do you mean labourers?

Premier : Kothawalas. Is the position clear now?

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the new clause be adopted.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in the proposed subsection (3) (b), line 3, after the word "section", the words "not being an order of Government" be inserted.

The purpose of this amendment is clear. Under the original Act the licence can be cancelled by the local Government or by a gazetted officer. We are now providing that a person aggrieved by such an order can appeal to the Commissioner. My amendment seeks to make it clear that the right of appeal to the Commissioner shall be exercisable only in those cases where such order has been passed by a gazetted officer and not in those cases where the order has been passed by the local Government, because in those cases where the order has been passed by the local Government obviously it would be against the ideas of decorum or administrative efficiency to have an appeal to the Commissioner. That is the purpose of this amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in the proposed sub-section (3) (b), line 3, after the word "section", the words "not being an order of Government" be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Premier : The other day while the consideration of clause 3 was postponed, I said that if I am given an assurance that
 1 p.m. a certain contingency is not likely to arise, I will not press the clause. My honourable friend over there promised to meet his friends and let the House know what the position was.

Sardar Santokh Singh : You have probably read the decision of the traders which is contained in a cutting from the *Tribune* which I have in my hand.

Premier : I have not received any communication from my honourable friend.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I have got this cutting and what is reported therein is quite correct. Will the Premier define his position?

Premier : Let my honourable friend define *his* position and say whether the traders are likely to continue the deadlock or not.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Their decision is contained in the newspaper cutting.

Premier : I put a simple question. After I have met all the demands of my honourable friend, I want to know whether they intend to continue the deadlock or not.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The traders have taken decisions and they are contained in the cutting from the *Tribune*. I believe the Premier has read it. In the face of that, I want to know what is his position. Does he insist on the clause being retained or is he prepared to let that go?

Premier : I am not concerned with any cutting. I put a straight question to my honourable friend, whether, in view of the concessions which I made in response to the demands made by him and other members of the deputation, he now considers that it will be necessary for them to continue the deadlock or not. If they consider that it is not necessary to continue the deadlock I will not move the motion. If my honourable friend says that the traders still want to continue the deadlock I will consider the position.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The other day the Premier was pleased to say that no concession was made to the traders with reference to their demands and that whatever he had done he did of his own accord, and not as the result of the demands made by the traders. Has he changed his position now?

Premier : My policy has already been defined. I have met all the points raised by my honourable friend, every one of them. My honourable friend has met the standing committee and must know their position. I want to know whether they are satisfied that the demands put forward by their representative have been met by the Government and whether they want to continue the deadlock or not. If my honourable friend gives an assurance that they will not continue it, I will not press for the motion. If he thinks that they still want to continue the deadlock I will have to consider my position.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The decisions of the Standing Committee are already there and if the Premier wants me to read them out I have no objection to do that.

Mr. Speaker : Answer it one way or the other.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I do not say anything beyond that.

Premier : My position is that we should pass the clause, and that if an assurance is given that the contingency will not arise, then the clause will not be put into operation. (*Applause from Ministerial benches.*)

Sardar Santokh Singh : It is my duty to oppose this clause. I do so with all the emphasis that I can command. I should say that the Government are very much ill-advised in taking the step that they have done. It is a threat to coerce the entire trade of the province, and I am in a position to reiterate on behalf of the trade that the traders will not take this threat lying down. They will ruin themselves rather than accept a proposition that the business that their forefathers had built for them could be stopped at the sweet will of the Government by depriving them of their licences for three years and that those licences could only be had in given circumstances on payment of a penalty of Rs. 2,000. This is nothing but coercion through and through. I want to make it quite clear that the merchants are not going to submit themselves to this coercion. The merchants are quite reasonable. They have taken a very reasonable attitude over the whole affair. They have taken their decision and I will read them out, as they are reported in to-day's *Tribune*. These are—

Standing Committee of the Marketing Act Protest Committee having considered the situation arising out of the amendments made by the Government in the Marketing Act while expressing its satisfaction over those amendments in so far as they go is definitely of the opinion that so long as the threat of coercion as contained in clause 3 of the Amending Bill is not removed the Standing Committee cannot continue any further negotiations for a settlement of the dispute over the Marketing Act between the Government and the traders of the Punjab.

This is the first resolution and they have made the trader's position quite clear. They add that they will be satisfied if the following further demands are met. Those demands are not new. Those are the demands which were put by me and my friend Lala Behari Lal Channana before the Hon'ble Premier when we saw him in his room. What are those demands? They are, that section 6 (2) relating to the authority vested in a gazetted officer of the Crown for cancellation or suspension of licence of a dealer should be deleted. The standing committee is, however, prepared to accept the substitution of this section by a provision for a reasonable fine for any defaulter subject to a right of appeal to the district judge. This is not at all an unreasonable demand. The position is very clear. The cancellation of licence hangs like the democle's sword over the heads of traders. Government have not realised the situation. They have not cared to go into the feelings of the trading classes. I put the position before the Hon'ble Premier in our conversation with him. What the traders object to, is not the provision for punishing the defaulters. If anybody does not act strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Act the traders are not so unreasonable as to say that there should be no penalty, no punishment. What they object to, is that the penalty of cancellation of the licence is too much out of proportion to the requirements of the situation. I think Government ought to be satisfied with a penalty of fine subject to the provision that the penalty must be appealable against to the district judge. No impartial person can call this demand an unfair or unreasonable one. We

[S. Santokh Singh.]

traders only know the sanctity that we attach to our trade and calling. Outsiders could possibly have no grasp of the situation. We know exactly what we have been doing and the sanctity that we attach to our calling. This Government have not only not tried to go into our feelings, but I would respectfully submit that they have not even tried to understand the position. Look at the case of nine annas and six pies and six annas and six pies of which so much capital has been made not only on the floor of this House but outside also. Responsible ministers have been deliberately misleading the zamindars against the non-zamindars by saying that six annas six pies out of a rupee worth produce of the zamindars go into the pockets of middlemen. I want Sir Chhotu Ram to hear me because I am going to refute his argument. Will he kindly lend me his ears? If he does not, it will be his own fault. Only day before yesterday in this House certain references were made again by him with regard to the now well-known question of nine annas six pies and six annas six pies. I then put certain straight questions to my hon'ble friend Sir Chhotu Ram. I should like him to hear me now so that if he has got any misunderstanding in his mind that may be removed. I had put him a straight question whether the quotation that he had been giving not only here but also outside this House in remote villages and mandis—

Minister for Development : I rise on a point of order. The hon'ble member is absolutely irrelevant. Whatever he is now saying has nothing to do with clause 3 under consideration. He should confine himself to clause 3. He cannot refer to what Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram said the other day.

Mr. Speaker : I have ruled a number of times that no discussion held outside this House should be brought in. But despite my rulings such discussions have been brought in and mentioned in the course of speeches. I, therefore, do not see why Sardar Santokh Singh should not refer to them now, though strictly speaking he is not in order.

Minister for Development : My objection is based on the fact that my hon'ble friend is now opposing clause 3. He should confine his remarks to clause 3 alone. He cannot take notice of anything that was said by Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram.

Mr. Speaker : I have already ruled more than once that no verbal conversations should be brought in in debate because they may be contradicted and it is difficult to prove who is right. But when discussions have taken place about this clause and when Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, the Hon'ble Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have all touched this point, I do not see why it should be ruled out at this stage.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram only the other day in this House, leaving out what he said outside, asserted that only nine annas six pies go to the producer and that six annas six pies are devoured by middlemen. I put him a straight question whether the quotation he was giving did not relate to Lyallpur wheat when it was sold in Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta. He deliberately avoided answering the question and persisted in leaving matters in confusion. I shall now quote the authority in support of my contention. I am quoting from the Report on the Marketing of Wheat in the

Punjab by the Marketing Officer of the Punjab. He says at page 225 of the Report—

In the case of wheat booked from Lyallpur to Karachi the share of cultivator amounts to about 63 per cent in the price paid by the consumer there, while it is about 59 per cent, 57 per cent and 53 per cent in the case of wheat despatched to Bombay, Calcutta and United Kingdom, respectively. In other words a cultivator in Lyallpur received about Re. 0-12-9 out of each rupee paid by a consumer in Lahore and about Re. 0-10-0, Re. 0-9-6, Re. 0-9-0 and Re. 0-8-6 out of each rupee paid by a consumer at Karachi, Bombay, Calcutta and Liverpool, respectively.

This is the real state of affairs as disclosed by the Punjab Government in their own publication by the Marketing Officer of Lahore. In spite of this a responsible minister has been going about the villages at public expense and misleading the zamindars by telling them that the remaining six annas six pies go to the middlemen. Not only this. This matter was even referred to, in the aims and objects of the markets bill when introduced into this House. Now, I put it to Sir Chhotu Ram whether or not he has ever tried to appreciate the situation, whether he has ever gone into this Report and if he did go into this Report, what business he had to deliberately mislead the province and make the people believe that the six annas six pies were going into the pockets of middlemen and that the zamindars were being robbed by middlemen to the extent of six annas six pies. I have said on more than one occasion that out of these six annas six pies, five annas nine pies go to the railway by way of railway freight and that this Government has not done anything to bring about a reduction in it. If any proof were needed as to this statement of mine, this Report itself supplies it. This is what is said at page 224 of the Report. That the assembling charges—by assembling charges is meant charges that the seller has got to pay—that the assembling charges in the Lyallpur Mandi are only 7½ pies per maund and what do these 7½ pies include? It includes filling charges, weighing charges, commission, brokerage, charity and some other miscellaneous expenses. According to this Report the total charge comes to Rs. 2 for fifty maunds and according to strict arithmetical calculation it comes to not more than 7½ pies per maund. Now if the facts are really what I have described them to be, and I challenge anybody to prove it otherwise,—I would like to ask of the Ministry, where was at all the necessity for bringing in this markets regulation measure? Why should the Government mislead the zamindars that the middlemen were robbing them to the extent of six annas six pies out of every rupee of theirs? I hope that after this refutation of mine, Sir Chhotu Ram, brave as he is, will rise to the occasion and admit his mistake and make amends for it by declaring that he had all along been under a misapprehension, that he did not appreciate the real situation and that the middleman does not pocket six annas six pies out of every rupee that the consumer pays.

I think I need say no more on this point. My only regret is that instead of appreciating and understanding the situation from the point of view of the trader this Government go on their own way never consulting trade. If they had consulted the trade right in the beginning as the Hon'ble Premier has done now, I feel quite sure that the present deplorable position which, we all deplore, would never have occurred and things would not have come to the pass that they have come to. My opinion is that with good will on both sides it is not impossible even now

[S. Santokh Singh.]

to come to a compromise. Government have over and again been saying on the floor of the House that the bania, the much-hated bania has no self-respect and that the only thing he cares for is money. In that sense we are grateful to Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram who has awakened us from our slumbers. It is because of him that we organised ourselves. If he now understands the bania, he knows what he is up to and what he can and what he cannot do.

Mr. Speaker : Please speak to the motion.

Sardar Santokh Singh : I was saying that the Government even now is not properly advised. It still does not understand the situation. It still does not know or does not care to know what the feelings of the trade in this matter are. The traders have conceded the principle that if Government is out to protect the so-called rights of the zamindars as against the non-zamindars, the traders have nothing whatever to say. The decisions that they have taken in their yesterday's meeting conclusively point towards that. From the first they have admitted that the amendments that have been made in this House are useful in so far as they go. They have recapitulated three demands that remain unconceded and those, I would repeat, are no new demands. They are demands that I had put before the Premier when I had talks with him. There is nothing exaggerated about them and I would still think that the Government should try to meet them. They should go into their feelings. I have said it before and I say it again that for the trader it is an entirely commercial affair. There is no political stunt behind it. There is no question of victory or defeat.

The Hon'ble Premier said the other day that what he had done was not as a result of the demands that were put on behalf of the traders but that he had done it of his own accord. Whether he had done it at our request or whether he had done it of his own accord, it would have been graceful if he had said that he had conceded our demands.

Premier : I am afraid he is misquoting me. Some one else may have said that. Do not try to misquote me because that creates confusion.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Any way what I am concerned with is this that this is one of the demands of the traders. There is nothing exaggerated about it. They do not demand much. The question of licence is the sole and entire concern of the trader. The zamindar does not in any way come in. It is not for the zamindar to feel concerned or interested in the fact whether a licence is kept in force or is cancelled. It is not a question for him at all. He is not interested in the matter. He goes to the artisan in whom he has confidence. He does not go to the man in whom he has no confidence. The zamindar is not so ignorant as this Government considers him to be. The zamindar is quite clever. But that perhaps is not the point at issue. What I was saying is that the question of licence is the sole concern of the trader and the trader alone. Whether that licence remains in force or whether it is cancelled is not the concern of the zamindar. Whether the appeal goes to the Commissioner or whether it goes to the District Judge, that is not at all a concern of the zamindar. Even at the risk of repeating I say that the zamindar goes to the man in whom he has confidence, he does not go to him in whom he has no confidence. So that this matter should be considered from a detached point of view, from the point of view of the

trader and trader alone. The zamindar nowhere comes in. I would still expect of the Hon'ble Premier that he will realise the justice and the straightforwardness of this demand of the trader and try to meet it. After all the question of licence is the concern of the trader alone. Imagine the absurdity of the situation when at the very first offence even though it may be of a technical character, the trader's licence can be cancelled for a period of five months and for the second offence it can be cancelled for nine months. This Government probably thinks that the period alone counts. Let me tell them from the trader's point of view that the cancellation of a trader's licence even for a day is his death warrant. He cannot expect to get back the same business. He will lose not only his business, but will lose all his clientele also. And all that for a technical offence. After all the offences that one might commit under this Marketing Act will be technical. So that I appeal to the good sense of the Hon'ble Premier to consider this question from a detached point of view. The question of zamindars does not at all come in. He is not concerned. It is the question of the trader. And as I have explained, the cancellation of his licence even for a day sounds like a death warrant. The traders are not unreasonable. The traders do agree that if there is going to be an Act, there must be a penalty.

They agree to submit themselves to penalties, but what they do want is that the punishment should be converted into one of fine and those fines when once imposed should be appealable to the district judge. Is there anything extravagant in that demand? I repeat with all the emphasis at my command that there is nothing unreasonable in this, and I hope the Hon'ble Premier will give his attention to that and try to meet the trade in that respect.

The second demand of the traders is that the provision for submitting a panel of names from which Government wants to select members of the committee representing licencees, be omitted. The Act requires the licensee to submit a panel of names, two names for every vacancy that there is, and out of those two it is left to the discretion of the Government to select any one they like. I submit that in the case of election to the Council of State, in the case of election to the Central Assembly, in the case of election to this House, in the case of election to the municipalities and district boards, in the case of Gurdwara committees and in the case of hundreds of like institutions, nowhere such a provision exists. Everywhere it is left to the elector whomsoever he likes. May I ask, Sir, whether these committees are of greater importance than the Council of State, than the Central Assembly, than this august Assembly, than the municipalities and the district boards? Why have this condition of a panel? Why not leave it to the licensees to elect whomsoever they like. Under the present Act the big market committee is to consist of 16 members of which 6 are to go to the traders, one of which being further reserved for labourers, the traders being left with only 5 seats for which they are required to submit 10 names. Who are you. I submit with all respect, to select one out of every two men? After all it is the market committees that have got to carry on and not the Government and if it is to come to this that the Government is to control all our transactions, that the Government is to interfere in all matters of trade, we must say good bye to it. No wonder then that in

[S. Santokh Singh.]

such circumstances the traders and merchants of the entire province are voluntarily closing their business and in this attitude of theirs, they are perfectly justified.

All these three demands are very reasonable and are not extravagant. With good will on the part of the Government the whole thing can be managed even to-day. The whole deadlock can be resolved if only the Government have the heart to do it, but if in their false sense of prestige, the Government like their predecessors, the white bureaucracy say: 'We have no mind to go into the complaints of the traders and meet them', I would make bold to say that the fault will be theirs and theirs alone.

The fourth demand of the traders is that the brokers, tolas, etc., should not be required to take a licence. There is nothing extraordinary in that demand. These are very poor people and I am free to admit that some of the things that were told by the labourers yesterday—I have met many of them yesterday—I even did not know, though I have been connected with this trade for the last 35 years. I did not know till yesterday the difficulties that they explained to me and I feel quite sure that if I were to explain them to my honourable friend the Premier, he would concede the demands of the poor labourers. One of their difficulties is this. They are generally 4 or 5 headmen and they employ during the season temporary men, 20 or 30 or 40, to get the work done which all of a sudden falls upon them. How can we expect them to take out their licence when they work only temporarily for 2 or 3 months during the season? This is a real difficulty and I am not ashamed to admit that I even did not realise this difficulty till yesterday. I now pass it on to the Honourable Premier and I feel that he will agree as to the fairness of the demand and try to remove the complaint. The labourer is not permanently employed. He comes for two or three months during the season from the village and works. Some of them were even afraid to take a license because in that case they thought that they would lose the right of zamindarship. They say that they are statutory agriculturists and once they take the licence, they may lose that right. This may not be true but nevertheless it is their fear. You have got to remove that fear, imaginary though it be, of these ignorant people who think that if once they take out a licence, they will no longer be zamindars. Most of the people who do this work are zamindars. They are at least 60 to 70 per cent, if not more. They come from the villages and work only during the season, just for two or three months. They do the work and then go back leaving one or two persons behind. So this is a point which requires very sympathetic consideration.

I have now dwelt on all the four demands of the traders as reported in the press. There may be some honest difference of opinion in the case of the constitution of the market committees, one of the main demands of the traders, but with regard to the other demands there should be no difference of opinion and they should be readily conceded. The Government will lose nothing by conceding them. Once this is done, the deadlock will be resolved and everyone will be the better for it. But by their present attitude, by insisting upon the clause which unfortunately the honourable Premier insists upon even to-day, I should tell them that they will be adding fuel to the prevailing fire and will make the situation in the province still more deplorable. It is very necessary

therefore, that due consideration is given to the grievances of the traders. They have put forward their demands very clearly, and they must be met.

I now come to the constitution of the market committees. In this matter we are poles apart, I have had the privilege of discussing the position with the honourable Premier. He gave me his views and I gave him the views of the traders. Yesterday I put the whole case before the traders of the province. All of them were here from far and near mandis. I have put the Premier's point of view before them fairly and honestly. What the traders emphasise is that the trade in mandis is the chief concern of the traders. In that there can be no two opinions. The zamindar does come in, only so far as the sale of his goods is concerned. But he is not interested so much in the mandis as the trader is. Before the zamindar is allowed to run, he should be taught to walk, he should be taught to crawl. He should not from the very beginning have a majority on the market committees and what do the traders desire? They are satisfied if they get 50-50 representation. They support me in the amendment that I moved in this Assembly day before yesterday and which was unfortunately rejected. They will be satisfied, as a matter of compromise, to have 50-50 apart from the one seat that is to be given to the labourers, the rolas and the tolas. This demand has also not been acceded to. It is now for the Government to feel the pulse of the trade in this province and not try to coerce it. It is no time for coercion. That time has passed. They must try to meet the trade in a fair and equitable manner, in a good spirit which the honourable Premier was in, the day we saw him and I assure him that with goodwill on both sides the things are still capable of adjustment. He should not insist upon this clause. After all he has got such a large majority behind him. If he does stand in need of such a clause, later on there is nothing to stand in the way of calling a special session. He did it before. The question of expense need not come in, in a matter of such seriousness. I feel sure that if this Government were to show goodwill towards the traders, the traders will appreciate it, as they have done even yesterday in the resolutions that they have passed. Let me hope my appeal will not go in vain and that the Hon. Premier will see his way to deleting this clause from the present Bill. This clause will take us no where. It will not be a weakness on his part, but magnanimity of heart. We will appreciate it in its true light. The commercial people, the traders, as I have said many times, are not out for any victory or defeat. They want to have a fair and square deal and I hope that this fair and square deal will not be denied to them even at this late stage. Indeed the Government should have the best interests of the whole of the province at heart and once they do have that, I can assure them that the compromise cannot be far off. With these words, I again appeal to the honourable Premier to tackle this matter in his usual good manner and thus try to bring about a solution of the present deadlock in the province which we all so much deplore. (Hear, Hear).

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan):
Sir, I must confess that, when I opened my paper this morning, I was rather disagreeably surprised to find that the very thing, which some of

[Premier.]

my more discerning friends anticipated, had been done at the meeting of the traders yesterday. You will remember that on the previous day when we met in this House I explained to my colleagues here that a deputation, consisting of my friend S. Santokh Singh and a gentleman called L. Behari Lal Chanana, who said that he was in some iron or steel trade in Gujranwala, and my revered friend Raja Narendra Nath, came to see me. I gave them exactly the same assurance as I gave on the floor of the House, that so far as Government were concerned they will be willing not only to listen to any legitimate grievance brought to their notice, since it is the duty of Government to listen to the grievances of the people, but also to remove them if they were legitimate. It was in that spirit that we discussed the various points raised by my honourable friend and his two companions that day. Now, sir, as I explained the other day, practically every one of the grievances brought to my notice was met by me. There was only one demand, which I could not meet, and I explained to them the reason why it was impossible for me to meet it, because by doing so, we would be going back on the very principle of this Bill. That demand was with regard to the proportion of the various interests on the committees. I explained to them that since this was a regulating measure, it was not possible for me to meet that demand. I explained to the House that the powers of the committee had been restricted to the minimum possible. There would be no hardship done if we retained the proportions which had been laid down in the Bill, for the simple reason that there was a feeling, which I believe to be founded on fact, that a certain number of traders and dealers do resort to malpractices, do use false weights and measures, do indulge in unreasonable and unconscionable methods of trade which we want to eradicate, and therefore it is not only in the interests of the zamindars that we propose to remove these blots and blemishes on our commercial and trades people in the province, but also I submit, with all the emphasis that I can command, that it is in the interest of trade and commerce itself that we should remove these blemishes and blots (*hear, hear*). It was in that spirit that we examined the various suggestions put forward on behalf of the traders, and as I said, with the exception of the proportion of growers and dealers, everyone of the points raised by my honourable friends has been met by Government.

Sardar Santokh Singh : There is no new point, I can assure him.

Premier : Everyone of the points was met, and I went further and said that if any further grievances which we considered to be genuine and legitimate were brought to our notice, we would do our best to remove them, whether they were brought to our notice to-day, to-morrow, six months hence or a year hence, because it is the duty of every Government to see that if there is any unnecessary or unjustifiable rigour in any measure or rules it should be removed. We do not want to do any injustice to anybody whether he is a zamindar or a trader. Now, sir, when Government has met all those demands which were brought to our notice, and has further given an undertaking that any other legitimate grievance which is brought to our notice hereafter would be sympathetically considered and removed if possible, I must confess my surprise at the attitude taken up at the meeting of the standing committee or whatever it is called, over which my honourable friend opposite presided. I fully realise being a public man myself, that in a public

meeting leaders are apt sometimes to lose their balance and are carried away by their enthusiasm and heat engendered by the occasion, and say things which in calmer moments they would not say, but I was surprised that S. Santokh Singh (after the full discussion in this House) and after discussing with me in a cordial spirit the various points raised by him should have been a party to the resolution that they did pass. Why was it passed? It is in that petty grasping spirit which you find among people who in the face of unexpected success cannot contain themselves that they took the step. In their arrogance, in their truculence they forgot that Government had conceded all those reasonable demands but in spite of this fact their spokesmen have decided that the strike should continue. I was inclined to take a charitable view and attribute this decision to the sudden abnormal jump in the temperature to 114°, as the atmospheric heat combined with the heat engendered by speeches of prospective leaders may well have said things which warped the judgment of the audience. But what was my honourable friend opposite doing? Surely he should have got up and said that whatever the hot heads may say they, the responsible leaders of the movement, who had taken the responsibility of leading it will not be side-tracked and that since Government had been reasonable and had met their demands, they also must be reasonable. That would have been the proper and honourable course for him to take; it would have made it easier for him and me both to contrive negotiations. But unfortunately he and his friends on the contrary have adopted an arrogant and conceited attitude. They say that traders will not negotiate with the Government so long as this clause is there. I made it quite clear in my speech that this clause had been put in merely to meet a particular contingency and if I was given an assurance that that contingency was not likely to arise, I would not press it.

I do not know whether my honourable friend explained the position to the standing committee?

Sardar Santokh Singh : I did everything.

Premier : If you did, then your associates do not seem to be reasonable. If they believe in their arrogance that they can by this truculence coerce Government into conceding even unreasonable demands, which they may care to put forward, then they are living in a fools' paradise. If they think that they can by sheer recalcitration browbeat Government then let them live as I said, in a fools' paradise. My business, however, is not to brow beat anybody. My duty as a member of the Government and as custodian of the legitimate rights and interests of all classes and sections of the community in the province, is to be just. It is my duty to examine every reasonable proposal and to try to grasp the other man's point of view. I have done my best, as my honourable friend has himself admitted. He has brought up again the question of the constitution of the committees. I gave my reasons why it was not possible to concede that demand, and I must regretfully repeat that it is not possible for me to amend further the amended section in the Act (*cheers*). The other point raised by him was that licences are a nightmare to the traders, but traders in every country have to get licences, and yet they are alive and trade honestly and contentedly without any trouble. The trader in other countries is

[Premier.]

better off than the trader in this country. We are comparatively poorer; our trade is poor, our commerce is poor, our industries are even poorer, but we hope that one day, at no distant date, we will be on par with advanced countries (*applause*). In other countries trading classes have not the unsavoury reputation which unfortunately our trade and commerce have acquired, thanks to the nefarious pursuits of black sheep among them. There is however one country which produces cheap articles and in its attempt to outstrip others it resorted to all kinds of devious methods. I will not name that country. But those who are connected with trade or are interested in trade will bear me out that this particular country when it first started on mass production sent its agents with attractive samples, perfect in quality and reasonably priced. They procured large orders on the basis of these samples. When the consignments arrived the importers were shocked to find that in both quality and quantity the goods were anything but like the samples. For instance, instead of 60 sticks in a match box there were only 30 or 40; and in a packet of needles there were only 10 or 12 instead of 20 contained in the sample packet. It is not necessary for me to mention the name of that country as my honourable friends opposite will have no difficulty in identifying it. It has no longer the flourishing trade which it had in the beginning. That country knew perfectly well that it could not permanently establish a market for itself against other industrial countries, or against our indigenous industries and therefore, tried to do whatever it could to get the cream out of its first transaction by such methods. When such powerful countries cannot retain their trade connections by doubtful methods, how can our markets and trade flourish on tricky devices? Is it not our duty as honourable and self-respecting people to try to remove all those blemishes and blots from which our trade suffers? Why does my honourable friend opposite want to protect the black sheep, which means retaining all the odium which attaches to the trade merely because of those black sheep? Because of the malpractices committed perhaps by a few, others are also dubbed as dishonest people. Does my honourable friend want that element to be retained in our commerce and mandis? I am sure he does not; and I am sure no honest friend of commercial and trading classes in this province or elsewhere will countenance or favour any protest or agitation which has for its object the perpetuating of existing malpractices and which the Marketing Act seeks to remove. It is to purge our trade and commerce of these malpractices that we are undertaking regulation of our markets. We do not wish to be harsh on you, we do not want to be unfair or unjust to anybody. And, as I explained on several occasions, the Marketing Act is not a fiscal measure, and we will see that the fee levied is such that it does not press on anybody. It is meant only to provide sufficient finance for the market committees to carry on their functions. I am convinced that a small fee would be sufficient to meet the object for which it is being levied. I said on a previous occasion that licences will be procurable without any difficulty. It should be possible to arrange that they are obtainable on payment of the requisite fee, across the counter just as you buy a post card at a post office. Where does the hardship come in? When you admit that some kind of control of markets is necessary and you also admit that to control these markets some kind of licensing is neces-

sary, and when I have given an assurance that Government will make arrangements to enable a licensee to obtain his license without fuss or worry, where is the room for criticism? When my honourable friend opposite expressed an apprehension that there might be delay and trouble in obtaining licences I readily conceded that any doubt on this point should be removed and I promised to make it clear in the rules and by instructions that the procedure for grant of licenses to dealers, brokers, warehousemen and others should be almost automatic. As regards cancellation of licenses my honourable friend said that the traders are terrified at the mere idea that a license is liable to suspension or cancellation. An honest trader has no reason to be afraid of this provision; the provision can affect only those who resort to malpractices. If they are honest, why should they be afraid of it? I take out a licence for my gun every year, but I never worry whether it will be taken away from me or whether I may do something which will be resented and lead to its being taken away. Similarly, lawyers take out licences. They do it every year but it does not disturb their sleep. Then, why should traders worry? There is however one aspect of this question which I think deserves consideration. If my honourable friend opposite instead of talking to his neighbour will lend his ear to me, it will be of use to him and his friends. A suggestion was made by my honourable friend to-day on the floor of the House—not during our last talk—which I think deserves consideration, and that is, that in addition to the penalty of cancellation there should be an alternative penalty also—not that this penalty should be removed but that it should be retained as higher penalty for serious offences as a deterrent. As my honourable friend said there might be some technical offences. To that my answer is that if he reads the Bill carefully he will find that it is not necessary that the authority should invariably cancel the license. It is merely discretionary, and I can assure him that in minor matters it will not be enforced. The word “may” is used and not “shall”. Therefore, it is not obligatory that, for a minor offence or a minor lapse, the licensing authority should cancel the licence; I am prepared to consider the suggestion, that there should be an alternative penalty also in the shape of fine for minor offences, so as not to force the licensing authority to resort to the harsher penalty. I will consider whether we can meet him by making a provision in the rules and if we cannot, perhaps when we meet again I may be in a position after consulting my colleagues, to introduce an amending Bill in order to provide for an alternative penalty of fine in addition to cancellation. He can now go to his Committee and tell them that he has secured another concession. He also made a point that it will be hard on weighmen and measurers to insist on a license in this case. I admit that restrictions are irksome, specially when some control, however light and unobjectionable is imposed after a spell of unrestricted license. We are not, however, introducing anything novel or objectionable. Every country and province where there are trade and marketing regulations have a similar provision in their enactments.

So far as the question of fee is concerned we have made provision for the imposition of a small fee. Here it is about 1/10 of what they have to pay in Madras. But if it is found by experience that even the scale now proposed presses heavily

[Premier.]

on any class dealers or labourers we will always be prepared to revise it and where necessary reduce it. We have no intention of doing anything which might adversely affect trade or dealers or others.

Then my honourable friend referred to temporary employees who may be employed during the busy season and asked whether it would not be an unnecessary hardship for them to take out licences. I assure my honourable friend that if such temporary employees so desire, we will arrange to issue temporary permits to them for a week, ten days or a month as is done in the case of labour employed by seasonal factories. There should be no difficulty in making a provision in the rules that where temporary additional employees require a licence for a short period during the harvesting season they should be given a temporary permit on payment of a small fee. I think these are points which can easily be referred through the proper channel to the Honourable Minister concerned. But, as I have said, if the object of the resolution passed by his committee yesterday was only to get these several points clarified, then it will not be necessary for me to press this clause; I have already told my honourable friend that if that was their object, I would not press this clause, because an undertaking from him to the effect that they will not persist in their present unreasonable attitude would be sufficient to justify its withdrawal. But if that is not their intention, then I must tell my honourable friend that it is my duty in the interest of the province as a whole to see that this clause is pressed and carried. But I can give him the further assurance that even if this clause is carried Government have not the slightest intention of enforcing it unless we are forced to the conclusion that the class he represents has been stampeded for reasons other than those which my honourable friend has mentioned, into creating a deadlock, or creating a situation in the province which makes it necessary for Government to give some kind of security and protection to those people who may be prepared to meet it, or who may come forward to replace those who decide to flout the law of the land. That is the position; and I hope there is no misapprehension now in the mind of my honourable friend opposite. I will not insist on pressing this clause if he can give an unequivocal assurance that the contingency I have mentioned is not likely to arise; he should get up now and give that assurance and I will withdraw the clause. But if he is not in a position to give that assurance then I am afraid I must press the clause and ask the House to pass it. But as I have said even, if it is passed it will not be put into operation unless we are forced to do so.

Before I sit down allow me to say a few words about one or two other points mentioned in the debate. I was asked to receive a deputation and was glad to see the deputation consisting of my honourable friend opposite, my revered friend Raja Sahib and one other gentleman. He will bear me out that all the points put forward by them were sympathetically considered and I promised to accept all the legitimate demands. If there was any misapprehension, I hope I have been able to remove it to-day. During the course of his speech, in referring to clause 3, my honourable friend said that this threat of coercion would make the position worse. I made it clear the other day and again to-day that there was no intention on the part of Government to have recourse to threats or coercion,

this clause is meant merely to provide a safeguard against the contingency which I have described and which if it arose would necessitate action to meet it. Government must act when necessary to discharge its duty and it must have the necessary power for the purpose. That is why I have suggested to him that if he can give the assurance I have asked for, it would not be necessary for me to press that clause. I trust he will agree with me that this was not the impression of the meeting over which he presided. I do not find in the report of that meeting that it was so described by my honourable friend or any other speaker. On the contrary I find that there was a great deal of loose and tall talk, including threats to Government by people who should have known better. (*Sardar Santokh Singh*: It was a private meeting.) My honourable friend should know that people do divulge sometimes what happens in private meetings. I am now talking of the public meeting. If my honourable friend will see the press report he will find that my information is correct. It is unfortunate that in their pettiness and arrogance they have decided to continue the deadlock. It may be the heat of the moment, or it may be the abnormally high temperature, which we are experiencing for the last few days, a temperature unprecedented for Lahore in the month of April, which might be responsible for these effusions. The arrogant and unreasonable attitude taken up by the meeting yesterday amounts to nothing less than a threat to the established Government of the province; and this in spite of the fact that I had met every one of the points brought to my notice by my honourable friend opposite. I agree with him that negotiations will be of no use if they are accompanied by threats and carried out in an atmosphere surcharged with suspicion and mistrust. It is impossible for the Government to negotiate under those conditions. They must first give up the bullying and threatening attitude. I can, however, assure my honourable friend that if later on in working the Act or the rules made thereunder, we find that any of the rules or provisions of the Act are unnecessary or in practice prove to be harsh, we will not hesitate to amend them. I believe I have now dealt with all the points raised by my honourable friend or other honourable members during the course of the debate or otherwise. I repeat once again that so far as we are concerned, no coercion or threat is intended. As I have said, it is the duty of the Government to listen to legitimate grievances from whatever quarter, whatever section or community they may emanate, and try to redress them if they are legitimate and genuine. But I must also point out to my honourable friend that Government will not be browbeaten by any threats or spurious agitation, for the simple reason that if I allow the Government to be browbeaten today by one section or class of people, then the other class which is numerically far stronger than the trading class, may also do the same and try to flout the law of the land; and then respect for law and order will disappear and the administration will become a farce. No Government worth the name can allow matters to come to such a pass. Government cannot and will not allow any individual or body, however powerful and rich they may be, to create disorder or disobey the law.

If my honourable friend and his associates persist in their present unreasonable attitude, then all I can say is that they do not want fair

[Premier.]

dealing and fair play. They do not want truth and honesty to prevail. I am sure my honourable friend opposite will not do anything to justify such a charge. Moreover let me tell them that the course which some short-sighted leaders of the trading classes have suggested to the traders constitutes a challenge to the growers, a challenge to the consumer, a challenge to the law of the land, and above all a challenge to the representatives of the people of this august House. It is a challenge to democracy, a challenge to the will of the people of the Punjab who have returned us to this House to represent them and to watch over and safeguard their rights and interests. Let my honourable friend opposite and his co-workers outside take heed from this warning. If in spite of it they still persist in their recalcitrant and arrogant attitude and decide to throw the gauntlet, then Government must perforce take up the challenge in the interest of the province as a whole (*hear, hear from the Treasury Benches*) and to see that honesty, justice and fair-play are not besmirched or tarnished by their blind selfishness, and that their challenge to law and order does not disturb the peace and tranquillity of the province. If as a result of their insensate and swollen-headed attitude the peace and tranquillity of the province is threatened, drastic action will be taken and the responsibility will be that of my honourable friend and his colleagues (*cheers*). This is the final warning which I want to give them. If, in spite of it, they decide to continue the unreasonable agitation then they alone will be responsible for the consequences.

I also wish to make an appeal to my colleagues on these benches; if the deadlock continues it would mean a certain amount of hardship to the smaller grower and it is the duty of every one of us to mitigate his difficulties. I will try to do what I can. (*Hear, hear from the Treasury Benches.*) Government, however, cannot do much so far as the consumers are concerned. They may be put to a great deal of trouble. It should be explained to them that their troubles are not due to any action on the part of Government but are solely due to the grasping and selfish attitude of the traders, but that we will do our best to help them also. Again, it is your duty to go to your constituencies and explain the position to the people and try and remove any difficulties which may arise for them as a result of the action of misguided traders.

Zamindars should open their own shops and sell 'ata' and wheat at cost price. Affluent zamindars and big landholders should arrange to purchase the produce of the small growers at Karachi prices and thus help in tiding over this emergency. On behalf of Government I assure all those people who may come forward in the present exigency to open shops that we will be prepared to give them every reasonable lawful protection (*hear, hear*) and I would like to make it quite clear to those people, who want to continue in business, in spite of the recalcitrant and truculent attitude taken up by a particular section of the trading community, that Government will give the fullest protection against coercion and will not allow or countenance any threats or highhandedness against law-abiding and peaceful shopkeepers or citizens. Unfortunately there was a deplorable incident recently at Amritsar; if there is a repetition of any such incident anywhere I will hold the leaders of the movement responsible for it. (*applause.*)

Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I had no intention to take part in the debate at this stage, but my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh asked me which side I am going to vote and as a legislator it is my duty to clear my position. Clause 3 is the most contentious clause in this amending bill and if things got worse in the province it would be due to this clause and nothing else. When I read the newspapers I thought that the controversy was practically settled, but this clause is going to stand in the way and this is a clause which . . . (*pandemonium*) . . . In this democratic institution honourable members cannot stop any member from having his say. If it is my responsibility I should take it, if it is the responsibility of Sardar Santokh Singh he should take it and if the responsibility is going to be that of the Premier he should take it.

Premier: He will take it.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: I must have my say: nobody can stop me from saying all that I want to say. (*Interruptions.*) Mr. Speaker, I seek your protection that I should be allowed to have my say.

(*At this stage the Hon'ble Premier stood up.*)

If the Premier requests me to give way I will do so. (*Interruptions.*)

Premier: My honourable friend should state facts. He said that this clause is the bone of contention. If my honourable friend reads today's proceedings he will see that it is not the case. I made it quite clear that I did not intend to press the clause, yet my honourable friend has the audacity to say that I am pressing this contentious clause. This is not a fact. I did not want to press the clause: all I asked for was an assurance that the contingency which would make it necessary to put that clause into operation was not likely to arise.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: I must have my say in this House. I am ashamed of the democracy working like this in the Punjab. If they do not allow me to speak outside I can understand it but I must be allowed (*interruptions*) to speak here. I am a constitutionalist, and under the constitution have a right to have my say. If I am not allowed to have my say in this House it would be very bad (*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, if you will kindly keep the House in order I will proceed.

Mr. Speaker: No interruptions please. The honourable member should make his speech calmly so that it may be heard and followed.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: This is a question of fixing the responsibility. Whether an honourable member is sitting on those benches or on these benches, he is free to vote and we must be allowed to express our viewpoint freely. Since the war began and since the situation grew from bad to worse, I have been working and co-operating with the Government and have held the view that nothing should be done which should stop their efforts or embarrass them. I have differed with them in principle often but have been supporting them as well. I criticise the Government simply to improve things. If I am going to oppose this clause I am doing so because continuance of the deadlock is harmful to zamindars as well. I therefore want to have some say in the matter. This is a question of the greatest importance. In the first instance it was the duty of the Government to take stock of all the things, just as the honourable Premier the other day was pleased

[M. Mohd. Nurullah.]

to make an appeal and I was to some extent convinced of the appeal that we should not do anything in this House or even by legislation, or outside that will endanger the safety of the province. Therefore after hearing both sides today I wanted to say now the safety of the province could be preserved. As was pointed out by the Premier we should be more cautious and pacify the opposition where the traders were concerned. The Government, holding a huge majority, should not make it a question of prestige. I think it is in the interest of both that they should join together and find out a solution. Sir, that is my first submission. If they ask me who is responsible, I am going to answer it. So far as I am concerned I speak as an independent member who has the interest of the zamindars in view. I am a zamindar, whether I am a big zamindar or a petty zamindar that is a different thing. I am concerned mostly with the sale of my produce. If anything stands in the way of the sale of my produce I must suffer: it does not matter who stops me from selling my produce. The main question for me is that I get full price for the produce which I have grown in the last six months. Looking from that point of view, the deadlock, whether it is due to the prestige of the Government or due to the prestige of the traders does not matter at all. It is bound to be injurious, nay ruinous for some zamindars. I must point out to you that certain traders although they feel so much and are doing so much to safeguard their interests are carrying on transactions with the result that a needy zamindar is suffering a great loss. Allow me to read from a cutting from the daily paper 'Ahsan' which says:—

”ہم نے یہ دیکھ کر ہر روزی ہے کہ ایک طرف وہاں ہزاروں نے
دیکھ لاک شہر کو رکھا ہے کہ وہ اس وقت تک دکانیں اور مزدیاں نہیں
کھولیں گے اور نہ کوئی جنس دور رس ہو سکے گی۔ وہ دے کے لگے تیار ہو گئے۔ جب
تک حکومت پنجاب مارکیٹنگ بل کو منسوخ نہیں کرے گی اور دوسری طرف
یہہ حالت ہے کہ یہی برپا رہے زمینداروں سے فراڈ سسٹم قائم کر دیا اور
اس سسٹم کے تحت خرید رہے ہیں۔ آج ۲۴ اپریل ۱۹۴۱ء صبح ساڑھے چار بجے
کا واقعہ ہے کہ نوم مونس رامان مل اٹن چوٹ کٹڑہ ماری سڈھ متصل کچہ
دیل سڈھ لے کر پیدیا بیس گڈے گڈم دور روپے فی ٹن سے حساب سے خرید
کی ہے اور آرڈر دیا ہے کہ جس قدر گڈم اور مٹے موجود ہیں لیکر چلے آؤ
ہم خود لے کر تیار ہیں اس قسم کے واقعات امرتسر کے دس سے بیویاروں کی
طرف سے بھی روایت ہو رہے ہیں اور وہ دھڑا دھڑال خرید رہے ہیں۔“

My main concern is the produce and what the zamindar is going to get for it. I am not concerned with the deadlock; I am not concerned with prestige on both sides. I ask the Government whether they have made any proper arrangements for buying the produce of zamindars, for giving him a proper price, whether they have made any proper arrangements by which the zamindar's produce will be sold as usual. The other day when I put a question to the Honourable

Minister in charge, he replied in the usual evasive way of the Government. But here you see that everything is belied and the poor zamindar is suffering very great loss. After having brought the produce to the market for sale, he has to take it back to his village. If this is the state of affairs, what is to happen to the zamindars? After waiting for six months for the crops to mature the poor zamindar is not able to sell his crops and get cash in order to repay the loan he has taken from his neighbour or from the sahukar. He is unable to pay his land revenue.

Mr. Speaker : Will the honourable member please confine his speech to the clause under consideration?

Mian Muhammad Nurullah : I am just pointing out the difficulties that stand in their way due to this clause. I am convinced that this clause is going to cause deadlock. It is likely to be cause of deadlock and if the deadlock does continue, where will the zamindars be? I want to safeguard the interests of zamindars and nothing else. If this clause is passed, the result will be deadlock and the zamindar will not be able to sell his produce and in order to get cash he will either have to sell or mortgage his land or run into further debt or commit suicide as it happened with a candidate for the F. A. examination recently. If I cannot sell my produce, I cannot pay the land revenue and the Government will at once send its police officers to realise the land revenue as is being done in certain cases. Arrears of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 I am told are being realised by the help of policy agency and people are maltreated. Is the Government prepared to help the zamindar in case the deadlock continues either as a result of the fault of the traders or of the Government. In this connection I should like to bring you face to face with facts which I have got in my hand from another cutting. It says—

بندوبست کی سنگمہ آرائی کے خلاف اجوت کے زمینداروں کا اجلاس

پہلے ہر قرار پایہ کہ حالات حافہ ہستنداروں کی کیفیت ہم
پہنچانے کے ائمہ ست ارکان پر شتمل ایہ کمیٹی کی تشکیل کی جائے
جو تجارتی اصول پر این منظم کرنے میں اُنکی رہنمائی کرے۔

In the district of my honourable friend Nawab Fazl Ali. What do they say in the end? They condemn the attitude of the sahukar, but what do they say in the end? I shall read it out—

The last sentence reads—

اور امداد دہمی کے طریقہ پر زمینداروں کی دوکانیں اور آرمے کی
دکانیں بولنے کا بددوبست ہے اور ایسا نظام کرے کہ زمینداروں سے مالوہ
قدمی نے عوض جنس کی صورت میں لیا جائے۔

This is the main point I want to lay emphasis on. If the Government is prepared to accept the crop in lieu of land revenue, then I will resume my seat and will not criticise the Government. You know that

[M. Mohd. Nurullah.]

some years ago owing to fall in prices the zamindars were not able to get enough money from the sale of their produce to pay land revenue and they had to sell their buffaloes and bullocks which are very dear to a zamindar and they had even to sell their daughters. Now, if the Government does not come to the help of the zamindar and extend facilities for the payment of land revenue they would be losing everything by having to sell their goods and lands. Government should be prepared either to receive land revenue in kind or postpone realisation of land revenue till deadlock is over or Government made satisfactory arrangements for disposal of our crops. It is said that the trade people are not well organised whereas the Government is well organised. It is therefore the duty of the Government to look ahead. When they passed the Bill a few years ago, owing to certain theoretical difficulties they could not enforce it. They had to frame rules in accordance with the law. Rules were accordingly made. Nobody raised any objection to them because the rules were not so bad as the Act itself. The traders thought that they would not swallow the bitter pill. Now, by this clause the Government is trying to force the traders to swallow not only the bitter pill but something worse. I think that from that point of view this clause is very unreasonable. It is possible for the Government to have this enacted into an Act, but it would not be in the interests of the province as a whole. It would not be in the interests of zamindars if the deadlock continues. Government being an organised body, being a body that can look ahead, it is the duty of the Government to find out a solution and to adopt measures by which the peace of the province could be kept up. I am afraid Government cannot see far ahead. There is bankruptcy of statesmanship. It has not been able to look ahead, it has practically no foresight, otherwise it would not have passed measures one after another and enforced them in these hard times. It must remember that we are passing through very critical times. It is trying its best to maintain law and order. I think it will be a sad affair if law and order becomes impossible to maintain. If this happens I would certainly hold the Government responsible and not the traders. I would appeal to traders also to be reasonable. Even if the Government with its majority at its back passes this measure, I would ask the traders to wait and see what the Government does next. If their other grievances are removed, as the Honourable Premier assured us, it is possible that this clause may remain a dead letter. So I must appeal to both sides, but I must blame the Government if it comes to that because ultimately they are in power and they can withhold any enactment. They need not press a bitter pill on those who do not want to swallow it, and they can act in time to save the situation.

I know the other day the Premier said that between dealers and dealers he would not mind if the Market Committee does not interfere. I object to that but say that anything should be accepted now simply to keep the peace in the province and to make the greatest effort to keep away the war. We would like this Government and the traders to come to amicable agreement. I think both sides should not stand on their prestige. They should act more wisely. False notions of prestige should be thrown off at this dangerous time. In the interest of peace I appeal to both sides to please deter from any action threatening the peace of the province and to bring about better relations.

Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) (Urdu): Sir, it has pained me to see that an unfortunate occurrence, i.e., the commercial deadlock is still continuing in the Punjab. The peaceful nature of the Honourable Premier and the speech of my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh led us to entertain the hope that this matter will be settled amicably between the Government and the traders. But it is a matter of great regret that today this evil has raised its head in the worst of forms. Everyone who has at heart the welfare of the province, every one who wants to see peace and tranquillity prevailing in the length and breadth of the province will certainly express his regret at yesterday's happenings. I may remind my friends that when the Marketing Act was being considered by this House all the principles involved in it were thoroughly discussed and it was only after mature consideration that that measure was placed on the statute book. It is a general rule that when Acts are passed they are enforced and if during the course of their enforcement any defects are discovered in their working it is the duty of the Government to remove them. But in the case of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act Government have gone a step farther. Before the said Act was actually enforced Government have deemed it advisable to remove some of its defects which had been brought to their notice by the representatives of the traders. The Government have not like the old Governments shelved this matter on the altar of their prestige. It has not even occurred to them that this step if taken would damage their prestige. On the contrary they thought that justice demanded that they should remove the legitimate grievances of the traders. In pursuance of that object the Honourable Premier has introduced this amending bill in which he has practically conceded all the demands of the traders. So far as the clause now before the House is concerned the Honourable Premier has explicitly pointed out that if the traders agreed to discontinue the commercial deadlock it would not be necessary for him to press it. Let me tell you, Sir, that this clause has nothing to do with the principles of the amending bill at all. Had it been of any importance at least mention should have been made of it at the time of the enactment of the original measure. That being the position we should consider dispassionately as to why this clause which has nothing to do with the principles of the Marketing Act at all is being inserted in the amending Bill. The reason for this is quite simple. If it is the duty of the Government to remove the legitimate grievances of any section of the public without heeding whether that harms their own prestige or not, along with it is also their duty to see that they are not browbeaten by any particular section of the public and thus set up a bad example for others which if followed by them would bring the machinery of the Government to a stand still. To-day also the Honourable Premier has categorically stated that if the leader of the Opposition, Sardar Santokh Singh, was prepared to give him an assurance that the deadlock of the markets would not be continued, in that case he would not press the clause now before the House. My submission is that no surety or security has been demanded from him. He was only asked as a responsible leader of the Opposition to say that he hoped that as the Government had practically conceded all the demands of the traders, therefore the commercial deadlock would not be continued. But he has not given even that much assurance. What is more, the Honourable

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

Premier has also agreed to consider the demands of the traders which were put forward only yesterday. Now Sir, every one whether he is an agriculturist or a trader who has an iota of justice in him will take the issue to be as follows. That after the enactment of the Agricultural Produce Markets Act the traders felt some grievances and their representatives submitted them before the Premier and the latter has removed them. Yesterday the meeting of the traders was again held and they added some new demands to their other demands. They have pointed out that whatever demands have been conceded that was good, and now the Government should accept their other demands as well. Now so far as their fresh demands are concerned the Honourable Premier has not rejected them. But what he has said was that he would consider them sympathetically and would be too glad to accept them if they happened to be legitimate ones. I ask, can any community or section of the people in the Punjab or in the whole of India expect that its demands which are urged in a public meeting on the evening of Sunday should be accepted by Government by Monday morning. The only thing which the sponsors of such demands can expect is that Government should give them an undertaking to consider them and nothing more. If after carefully considering them they find the demands of the traders to be just and fair, they would be prepared to amend the measure in their light. Now so far as the complaint of the traders in regard to majority given to the growers on the mandi committees is concerned the Honourable Premier has explained the attitude of the Government and has pointed out that his Government was not prepared to go any step further. After all why should he go one step further to meet this demand? What for should he concede that point as well, I ask whether the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act was passed as a result of the demand of the trading classes? Was this demand put forward by the mandiwalas that this measure should be enacted? Has not this Act been enacted to safeguard the interests of the growers and growers alone? Has not this Act been enacted to protect the growers or the poor zamindars from the malpractices and dishonest dealings of the mandiwalas so that they may be in a position to get good prices for their agricultural produce? If that is the object for which this measure has been enacted, in that case no fair-minded person can dare deny the growers a majority on the mandi committees. It will be only fair to give them a majority on the mandi committees for whose sole benefit this measure has been enacted. To put forward this demand on behalf of the traders that they should be given a majority or even equal seats on the mandi committees is I think merely an excuse to continue the commercial deadlock. Thus barring that matter upon which the Government, on principle, does not see eye to eye with the traders, all the other demands of the latter have been conceded. Furthermore the Honourable Premier has promised sympathetic consideration of the fresh demands that have now been put forward by the honourable leader of the Opposition. In view of all this it was rather painful for me to see Mian Muhammad Nurullah get up and say that this deadlock will continue because of clause 3 being included in the Bill. The fact is that if there had been no deadlock the necessity of this clause would never have arisen. The responsibility for the inclusion of this clause in the Bill rests entirely with those who are trying to continue this state of affairs. Had the Honourable Leader of the Opposition given an

assurance that efforts will be made to end this deadlock, I am positive that the clause would not have been insisted upon by the Government nor would it have found a place in this Bill. I am surprised to see that whereas on the one hand our honourable friends are threatening the zamindars—those on whose account my honourable friends have amassed fortunes worth lakhs of rupees—that they will not buy their produce, thus creating a situation in the Province which might prove very harmful to the zamindars even to the extent of ruining them, on the other hand they want to wrest the only power the Government has for preventing them from their fell designs against the poor zamindars. No Government, however, weak it might be, can accept such a ridiculous demand. It has caused me great surprise that my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah is so anxious on account of the zamindars. He is afraid that the zamindars will not be able to pay land revenue and in order to be able to do so they will have to sell their bullocks. Why is he so anxious? Is this the first occasion on which they have had to go to the extreme of selling their bullocks? They have often been stricken with hailstorm and have had to sell their bullocks in their dire need. The zamindars know how to suffer privations and hardships. All along they have suffered for others and if today they are called upon to make sacrifices for their own sake they will certainly do so. (*Applause.*) It is much better for them to suffer another month's hardship for getting rid of a system which has been their curse for thousands of years. I am confident that the zamindars will rise to the occasion and taking advantage of the golden opportunity which has been afforded to them by their Government will end a state of affairs which has been a source of great loss and hardship to them for the past thousand years. Now so far as the duty of the Government is concerned I am sure they will make use of the services of their high salaried officers in resolving this deadlock. Has not the Government the power to remove the deadlock? Are not they duty-bound to employ all their resources in maintaining their prestige? I can say without any fear of contradiction that if the Government turns its attention to this matter the deadlock will be removed in a week's time. (*Applause.*) It is a matter for regret that they have not so far given any attention to it. Our Premier being fair-minded and tender-hearted himself thinks that others will exhibit as much reasonableness as he is wont to exhibit. He does not want to injure any one and thinks that those responsible for the deadlock will end it of their own accord. Otherwise, as I have already submitted, if the Government takes strong action, there is no reason why the deadlock may not be removed within a week. Cannot the Government use its resources in setting the affairs of the Province aright? Have they not scores of able and efficient officers in their service? Are there no co-operative banks and societies? When everything exists, why should not the Government machinery be set in motion? My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah doubted whether the Government would accept wheat in lieu of land revenue. But why should they not accept it in kind? They have enough money in the State-coffers and would not mind receiving revenue in the form of agricultural produce. Again some of the sahlukars say that the Government do not know business and their co-operative banks too do not know anything about business. That is why many of their enterprises have proved a failure. I say,

[Baja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

what if they have? A loss of 10 or 20 lakhs is not a great sacrifice on the part of the Government. When they could spend 3 crores of rupees for the relief of the zamindars of one district alone could they not find one crore for the benefit of the zamindars all over the province?

Sir, in this time of crisis when the attention of the Government as well that of the rural areas is centred in their efforts for winning the war, any section of the population which wants to divert their attention from that work is an enemy of this province and its people. This is a very grave and critical period in the history of our country and it is very essential that all sections of the population make up their differences and give a proof of their patriotism by attending to the more important work of helping in the war.

Mr. Speaker : I have just received notice of the following amendment from the honourable Mir Maqbool Mahmood :

That in clause 3 (a) after the two provisos, the following further proviso shall be added:—

“ Provided further that the aforesaid provisos shall not come into force until notified by the Provincial Government in the Gazette.”

I allow him to move the amendment.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) (Urdu):

Sir, I am of the opinion that after the passage of clause 3, we have reached the stage when we should make a declaration of our policy and intentions with regard to the whole question in the clearest possible terms. We have to show to the public that even at a time when certain people are indulging in empty threats we, as a responsible party and a responsible Government, are prepared—not for the sake of any particular section of the population, nor yet for the benefit of the majority but in view of the welfare of the province as a whole—to meet the demands of justice and fairplay. (Hear, hear.) First of all let us find out from the debate held on the floor of this House the day before yesterday, as well as from the proceedings of the Standing Committee of the Traders' Conference as to what are the points of difference between the grower and the trader or between the Government and the traders. If these points are not such as would justify the disturbance of the peace of the province at this critical juncture I must say that any one who tries to disturb the atmosphere of the province will be answerable before God and man, and that future generations will condemn his activities as most nefarious and unpatriotic. Thus while we are prepared to meet the legitimate demands of all concerned it is also our duty to make it clear that the Government is ready to meet any situation created by such activities.

Now let us turn to these points. When the Honourable Leader of the Opposition stated his demands I tried to find out what were the provisions in the Punjab Act which did not exist in the laws passed by other provinces. I will draw your attention to a few points and then my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah will be able to realise how necessary clause 3 is and why the Government were justified in pressing for its passage. The Leader of the Opposition while explaining why the traders could not see their way to respond to the earnest appeal and magnanimous offer of the Honourable Premier, put forward four demands. His first demand was that offences, especially minor offences, should be punishable with a fine only and not with can-

cellation of the licence. It is to be regretted that he is not in his seat but I would draw the attention of all concerned to the fact that the provision for the power to cancel a licence is not a peculiarity of the Punjab Act. In Madras where this Act has now been in force for some years this power is given not only to the Government but to the Market Committee also. But here the Government has given this power to a gazetted officer instead of the Market Committee. Rule 30 made under the Madras Act provides that the Market Committee can cancel a licence permanently or temporarily. Not only that. In Madras an appeal against the order of the Market Committee can be preferred within one month to the Collector whose decision is to be final. On the other hand under the Punjab Act the order is to be passed by a responsible officer and the aggrieved party can appeal not only to the Commissioner but under Section 30 an appeal can be preferred to the Government also. This shows that this provision does not exist in the Punjab alone but has been in existence in other provinces for many years.

Sardar Lal Singh : May I put a question? Are we to understand that the power to cancel or suspend licences in the Madras Act is given to the Market Committee?

Mir M qbool Mahmood : Yes.

Sardar Lal Singh : But here you are giving it to gazetted officer. Do you still think that there is no difference?

Mir M qbool Mahmood : If my honourable friend had exercised a little patience he would have understood my point. I was submitting that while the Madras Act gives the power to cancel a licence to the Market Committee we have given it to a gazetted officer.

Sardar Lal Singh : And not to zamindars.

Mir M qbool Mahmood : I am coming to that and I hope that when it comes to the rights and powers of the zamindars, my honourable friend will vote with us.

Sardar Lal Singh : Certainly.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Anyway, Sir, I was submitting that whereas in Madras the Market Committee can cancel a licence here we have for the present given this power to a gazetted officer. Moreover, an appeal lies to the Commissioner as well as to the Government. I may also point out that in Madras, besides cancellation and suspension of the licence the penalties include a fine which amounts to Rs. 500 for the first offence and Rs. 100 for each day that it is continued. This shows that the declaration made by the Hon'ble Premier that for minor offences only a small fine will be imposed in the first instance and the licence will be cancelled only in the case of a wilful repetition of the offence or a serious offence should be acceptable to my honourable friends as a more lenient penalty than that provided under the Madras Act.

In the case of Bombay too both the Market Committee and the Government have, under Section 18, the power to cancel or suspend a licence. The fine in that province is Rs. 500 for the first offence and Rs. 100 a day for the period during which it is continued.

The second demand put forward by the honourable Leader of the

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

Opposition was that representatives of traders should be in a majority in the Market Committees. It is to be regretted that he did not bestow proper consideration on what I submitted the day before yesterday. Market Committees have been working for a good many years in three provinces of India and in none of them do the representatives of traders enjoy a majority. In Bombay and Central Provinces two representatives of growers with one representative of the district board constitute majority. In Madras, the growers have one representative more than that of the traders; in Bombay and C. P. the representatives of traders are 3 to 4 more than those of the traders. Moreover an amendment was made recently in the Madras Act whereby the Government may, besides the two nominated members which it could appoint under the original rules, nominate new members equal in number to the total of elected members returned to a Market Committee. But the Punjab Government will nominate only one out of 9 or 16 members of a Committee. Another point which must be mentioned in regard to Madras is that when a committee is constituted at any place for the first time all its members are nominated by the Government. In view of these facts the criticism levelled against the Punjab Government with regard to this question is either based on ignorance or, if the expression be not considered unparliamentary, due to sheer dishonesty.

Now take the case of the Bombay Province. Even there the representatives of the traders are not in a majority. Although the provision in the Act says that the representatives of growers shall not be less than 50 per cent of the total membership of a committee, yet if you look at the rules made under this Act the anxiety to give better representation to the growers and to safeguard their interests becomes quite obvious. It is provided in the rules that if the total membership of a committee constitutes an odd number an additional member will be deemed to have been added for determining the half share of the representatives of the growers. Moreover one member will be sent by the district board concerned. This one member added to the 50 per cent representation given to the growers will give them a clear majority. Again if the total number is odd, 50 per cent share of the representatives of growers will give them clear majority. Now in view of the fact that Market Committees in other provinces have been given the power to cancel or suspend licences and the representatives of traders on those committees do not constitute a majority may I ask my honourable friends how they can justify their demands? Why should they try to jeopardise peace and order in the province when the restrictions imposed in Punjab are far less than those imposed in the other Provinces?

Then take the third demand mentioned by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. It was that such people as surveyors, brokers, etc., should not be required to take out licences to carry on their avocations. I would submit that if my honourable friend takes the trouble of studying Rule 6 (vi) of the Bombay Act, Section 18, and rule 31 of the Madras Act and Section 6 of the C. P. Act he will find that surveyors, brokers and other people mentioned by him enjoy no such exemption in any one of these provinces. All of them have to take out licences if they want to carry on their work.

Not only this. But if licensees in those provinces go against the terms of their license the Marketing Committees have powers to suspend the licences for a certain period or for ever. Therefore if my honourable friends opposite consider dispassionately they would realise that the Punjab Government has done nothing new in this respect.

3 p.m.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Premier, on behalf of my friends sitting on this side of the House on the very wise and farsighted manner in which he has tried to meet the situation. He has declared that if the Sardar Sahib gave an assurance to him now that he and the people whom he represents would not disturb the peace and tranquillity of the province he would not enforce this clause. He further assured that this clause would not be put into operation unless contingency for it arose.

Then, my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition criticised the panel system and said that the selected representatives of the licensees should be appointed on the Market Committees and there should be no panel. Let me submit that this is not a fundamental point on which we cannot find a way out. It should not be impossible to evolve a convention under which ordinarily the first preferences in the panel should prevail. I do not think this point is much controversial. It is negotiable and we should not widen the gulf of difference on such trivial points. I think my honourable friends opposite seem to have conveniently forgotten that in Madras in the first instance all the members of Market Committees are nominated and I repeat that in other provinces where the Marketing Acts are working there is not even one case where the traders have got a majority on the Market Committee. I hope that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would give proof of that compromising attitude which is characteristic of the business people hailing from Amritsar. (*Hear, hear.*)

The next point to which I wish to make a reference is that the Leader of the Opposition and Mian Muhammad Nurrullah have said that they were afraid of the untoward consequences of the commercial deadlock and threatened the Government about its sinister consequences. Let me tell them that no Government is worth its salt which is not prepared to meet such challenges. And I must point out that one of the most characteristic traits in our esteemed Premier is that he always weighs the *pros* and *cons* of a matter before he speaks out. When he said that he could not give way to the unreasonable attitude of traders in regard to this clause, he meant that as custodian of the self-respect of the province he could not yield to the threats of the trading class whose reasonable demands had already been conceded. The Government had sufficient weapons in its armoury to cope with the situation. Let us hope that it will not be necessary to bring all those weapons into operation and that an honourable settlement consistent with the self-respect of all concerned could be arrived at. Unfortunately the chances of an honourable settlement seem to be spoiled by the present attitude of the trading class which, as the Honourable Premier has been pleased to remark, had thrown a challenge to truth, to honesty, to fairplay and to the will of the people. Let me here point out that the poor people who stand to suffer are already getting disgusted with the situation that has been

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

created. In this connection I would like to tell you that I have the privilege of representing a rural constituency and it was only this morning that some of my constituents came to me and said that they were prepared to meet the situation by opening shops and that they were prepared to fight out this economic battle with those who worked against their interests. They further told me that the zamindar was poor no doubt, but he was prepared to make any sacrifice for his honour and self-respect. (*Hear, hear.*) They would prove effective. But before such situation arises I wish that an honourable settlement worthy of this province should be made. I believe that the position of the Government is quite clear so far as this clause is concerned. The Honourable Premier has repeatedly announced on the floor of the House that the clause will not be enforced unless it becomes necessary and the Government is obliged to enforce it, and he has also asked that if an assurance is given to him to the effect that the commercial deadlock would not continue, he would not press this clause. But the traders have declared that they would not carry on any negotiations for a settlement till that clause is deleted from the Bill.

As a way out, Sir, I beg to move;

That in clause 3 (a) after the two provisos, the following further proviso shall be added —

“Provided further that the aforesaid provisos shall not come into force until notified by the Provincial Government in the Gazette”.

It provides that penal clause should not come into force unless notified by the provincial government in the Gazette. If there is no need of enforcing it there will be no notification. In case the trading classes continue in their obstinacy then the Government would be in a position to use this weapon with which it is now being armed, with the consent of this Assembly.

Now, Sir, before I sit down I would like to say a few words with regard to a matter which is no less important than the matter under discussion. You might have read a news published in headlines saying that Sir Girja Sanker Bajpai has come to Lahore to force the hands of the Punjab Government on behalf of Central Government to arrive at a settlement with the traders. I do not know why this distinguished guest has unnecessarily been dragged in this matter. It has also been stated in the press that the recent speech made by Sir Manohar Lal in Indian Chamber of Commerce had been the result of Sir Bajpai's pressure. I am authorised to contradict these news which have no foundation whatsoever, and I submit that neither the Central Government nor any other power from any quarter has interfered in the matter. Our Premier, Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, who carries the support of the people's representatives with him has broad enough shoulders to resist any unwarranted interference. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in clause 3 (a) after the two provisos, the following further proviso shall be added :—

“Provided further that the aforesaid provisos shall not come into force until notified by the provincial Government in the Gazette.”

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have risen to oppose clause 3 of this Bill. The Honourable Premier and the Government have agreed to amend the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act which was passed so recently. As a matter of fact when that Act was under consideration, the Opposition had agreed to the principle of the measure and had co-operated with the Government. But whereas we had agreed to the principle of the Act, we had not agreed to all the rigorous provisions of it. That is why we moved a number of amendments to remove some of its rigours and thereby improve the measure. At that time the Government would not listen to our voice of moderation. They remained adamant and did not accept our amendments. I am glad that now they have accepted all those amendments. But they have done so without any grace. They have done so under a pressure. There is no beauty in this attitude of the Government. When we appealed to their sense of fairness and justice, they did not listen. But now when the traders have presented a united front and observed Hartal throughout the province, they have yielded. It proves that the Government do not listen to the voice of reason and truth. They only yield to brute force. I am glad that the Government have admitted defeat. But if they had accepted these amendments when we were asking them to improve the Bill, the Government would have won the admiration of the Opposition and the public. But at that time the Government were intoxicated with the power of the safe majority that they had at their back. The commercial deadlock in the province has now made the Government to yield. Let the Zamindars take a leaf out of the history of this agitation and realise that the Government recognise the argument of force only and the zamindars should, therefore, speak the only language that the Government understand. My honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood has told us that several Hindu, Sikh and Muslim zamindars had come to him that if the Government allowed them they would fight with the traders. But I would like to submit that the zamindars have become wiser than before. They can now distinguish between a friend and a foe. The Government have been showing lip sympathy and have actually done nothing to alleviate their sufferings. As a matter of fact their conditions have not been ameliorated. They are still steeped in misery in spite of the big professions of sympathy of the Government. In reality the Government are very callous. Unless they are coerced, they do nothing to benefit any party. Why should the zamindars fight with the traders as my honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood has suggested? If the traders refuse to buy the wheat of the Zamindars, the latter will simply refuse to pay land revenue to the Government. They need not fight with the traders. If the Zamindars have no money, how will they be able to pay land revenue? That is where the shoe pinches. That is why the Government have yielded to the pressure of the traders. Let the zamindars also adopt a stern attitude, and their demands will be accepted by the Government. This callous Government will not otherwise be moved to afford any relief to the zamindars in abiana or land revenue.

I may incidentally point out the true worth of the so-called democratic party that is ruling this province. When the Premier wanted

[S. Lal Singh.]

the Unionist party to support him in passing the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, they readily voted with him. And now when the Honourable Premier has again asked them to amend that Act, the same democratic party has again obeyed him and carried out the will of their master. Is it democracy? I say so with due respect to the honourable members of the Unionist party. They obey the instructions of the Honourable Premier very faithfully.

Minister for Development: A point of order, Sir. The honourable member is absolutely irrelevant.

Mr. Speaker: Please speak to the motion.

Sardar Lal Singh: I am speaking to the motion, Sir. The penal clause should be removed from this Bill. I was in this connection discussing the attitude of the Government and its party towards its leaders. With these words, Sir, I oppose clause 3.

Minister for Development (The Honourable S. Dasaundha Singh): Sir, it is a matter of very great surprise and even regret to me that my honourable friend the honourable member from my own district should have assumed the attitude that he really did. So far as my honourable opponent Sardar Santokh Singh is concerned, his position is entirely different. If he were to assume the attitude that he did it is excusable for many reasons. When he speaks, it is not Sardar Santokh Singh that speaks: it is not the honourable member from the constituency that he represents that speaks. It is the new role of a leader of the trading community that he has recently assumed that he gives utterance to. Now so far as the assumption of this role and the assumption of this position is concerned, he can put forward many excuses. He is himself a great businessman and so far as the effect of this Act is concerned it may do lot of harm to him, and he has many such excuses and even reasonable excuses. So far as my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh is concerned he is neither a businessman nor does he represent a constituency which has anything to do with it. He is a representative of the jats and growers and yet for reasons, which he thinks are known to him, but which he has exposed in a bad manner, reasons which he thinks are concealed in his heart of hearts, are known to all of us, which have prompted him to assume the role of a representative of the businessmen rather than of the growers and he has allied himself with Sardar Santokh Singh not to do any good to the growers and not to do any good to the class that he represents.

Mr. Speaker: Please do not be personal.

Minister for Development: I am far from being personal. The honourable member has assumed this role to get cheap praise.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister said that he was not personal. Now he says that Sardar Lal Singh assumed this role to win cheap praise. So, he is clearly personal.

Minister for Development: Even if I am personal I am not personal in a bad way. In doing so I am exercising the legitimate right of debate. I will not use any unparliamentary language and I will not say the slightest thing which may affect his person.

Mr. Speaker: It is unparliamentary to be personal. (*Laughter*).

An honourable member : He has now forgotten the rule of relevancy.

Minister for Development : I am perfectly impersonal. Now the attitude that the Government has assumed, and the attitude that the Premier, our leader, has assumed, should have been appreciated by every reasonable member on the other side (*Hear, hear*). We have been exceedingly reasonable. Much before the agitation was commenced, and I am prepared to lay before you positive facts, that my respected predecessor took to listening to the grievances placed before him concerning the working of the Act, and he actually drafted the amendment of certain rules the harsh working of which had been brought to his notice by an honourable member who is now sitting on the other side. My predecessor showed great reasonableness and he showed that he wanted to do full justice to the other side and to the businessmen and even when the agitation was commenced even then we did not change our attitude because we did not want to proceed in a revengeful manner. We wanted to be absolutely fair and absolutely just even though there were reasons for provocation and even though the traders were behaving in a manner to which we could have taken reasonable exception. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :* For instance.) We did not lose our balance of mind and wanted to show the same fairness and justice which we wanted to do from the very commencement and then. Then deputations were received, grievances were listened with the utmost care and patience and those grievances considered in the best of spirits.

Mr. Speaker : That is repetition.

Minister for Development : I beg your pardon; and then the Premier arrived at a conclusion which should have given ample satisfaction to the other side and the amendments were based on those conclusions. Not only that the Act has been amended, but we have tried to give satisfaction and we have given in a way an undertaking openly in this House. My respected leader and myself have given this undertaking that such and such rules are going to be amended and the amendment of these rules is far-reaching. It should have given every satisfaction to the other side. More than that the honourable the Leader of the House gave a further undertaking. First of all he put a plain question to the Leader of the Opposition as to whether he could give an undertaking that this deadlock would be ended and it would not be repeated. In that case we would not have proceeded with this clause. When no positive answer came from the honourable opponent then the honourable Leader of my party gave a further undertaking that even if this clause is passed even then we will not act upon it as long as the other side does not go to the extreme limits. Further than that we have now brought forward another amendment, all this to pacify and satisfy you. And we are going to the fullest extent: we have left no stone unturned to give you satisfaction and to please you. I am going beyond my way to please my honourable friends. I do not want to be misunderstood by my honourable friends. So far as the principle underlying the Bill is concerned, Sardar Santokh Singh may be the best of friends, so far as I am concerned I will not yield an inch, but so far as the other aspect of the Bill is concerned, leaving aside the principle untouched I will yield to him to any extent that is

[Minister for Development.]

legitimate. Having said all this, and having given all these promises and undertakings, if my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh has still the hardihood to say that the other side is *taran marda* that they have plenty of power and that they need not yield to any threat and yet all the same with all these claims and contentions they are yielding, if that is the light in which my honourable friend looks upon this side of the House, I am simply sorry for it. He has not only misunderstood the thing for no fault of his own, but my submission is that he has deliberately tried to put other meanings to it and thus tried to please people who cannot be pleased by such like tricks. Jats are not simple people.

Sardar Lal Singh : This is the second time that the Honourable Minister has said that I am playing a roll to please the people. Will you, Mr. Speaker, please call the Honourable Minister to order? He should not repeat such nonsense in this House.

Minister for Development : Is that a point of order or a second speech. If it is a point of order, there is not a bit of sense in it. My submission is that you should have known better.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister will please address the Chair. He should not refer to an honourable member of the House in the second person.

Minister : My submission is that my honourable friend understands everything, he knows the significance of all that was said from this side, but he deliberately tries to put other meanings into it and he does so to show out to the poor peasants.

Mr. Speaker : The Honourable Minister is personal. I am not going to allow him to be so.

Minister : I will then give up that point. My submission is that so far as the other side is concerned we have tried our very best to accommodate them and to do all that we could fairly do for their sake, and if in spite of all this they do not appreciate it, it is not our fault, but theirs.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That in clause 3 (a) after the two provisos, the following further proviso be added—

“ Provided further that the aforesaid provisos shall not come into force until notified by the Provincial Government in the Gazette.”

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill.

Lala Sita Ram : I should like to speak on the clause as amended.

Mr. Speaker : Certainly.

Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to oppose clause 3 as amended by this House. I think the clause as it originally stood has not in any way been improved upon by the amendment of my honourable friend Mir Magbool Mahmood. It has on the contrary, made the matter worse than before. On Friday last when the amending Bill was introduced I expressed my delight that after all Government have admitted that there were some defects in the Marketing Act which needed to be removed and this was a great victory, moral as well as intellectual, of the Opposition that the Government

themselves are undoing their own wrongs. But the Honourable Minister S. Dasaunha Singh is not large-hearted enough to give us this credit and says that the amending Bill is not the result of the genuine agitation of the traders, but is introduced on Government's own initiative. If this is so, the Unionist Government is to be congratulated because by introducing this Bill they have shown that they are wiser than yesterday and they have discerned the defects of their last Act. On the other hand, the Honourable Premier has observed that he has tried his level best to end the commercial deadlock by conceding practically to all the demands of the traders in the proposed measure. Anyhow, whatever statement may be taken to be true the fact remains that Government have admitted at last that there were certain defects in the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act which they want to remove by sponsoring this measure. It makes little difference whether the amendments are made on their own initiative or on account of the commercial deadlock. So far it was all grace. But it gives me the surprise of my life at the same time to see that although Government was prepared to accept all the demands of the traders in order to end the commercial deadlock or as has been observed by the Honourable Premier, that he has practically conceded to all the demands of the traders, an assurance is being demanded from the Honourable Sardar Santokh Singh that he must give the Government an undertaking that the commercial deadlock would not be continued, and if he failed to give such an undertaking the penal clause shall never be removed. I think nothing can be more absurd than this. The Government themselves believe that the clause under consideration is meaningless and is of no value at all, still they are incorporating it in the measure now before the House as a protection against the continuance of the commercial deadlock. I think large-heartedness demanded that Government should have said that they had conceded all or a part of the demands of the traders and now they would leave the matter to the public to decide whether the traders were justified in continuing the dead-lock or not? Why should a good Government lack the courage of conviction. If their Act was and still is a perfect piece of legislation, they should have the boldness to face all opposition including the commercial deadlock. And if, on the other hand, they have now felt that the Act was faulty to a small or great extent, they should amend it, showing sportsmanlike spirit. Why this bargaining, which has marred the whole grace? When the Government throws a challenge to the effect that if the deadlock continues even after the amendments contained in the Bill have been made, the Government will take such and such step, it means that the Government is also of the opinion that there were still some defects in the Bill. Then, the amendment moved by my honourable friend Mir Magbool Mahmood has weakened the position of the Government still further. The proviso that the clause will not come into force automatically, but will begin to operate only when the Government has issued a notification to that effect shows that the Government wishes that it should serve them the purpose of the proverbial sword everhanging the heads of the traders. Instead of resorting to such tactics the Government should give a proof of its magnanimity by declaring that they have

[L. Sita Ram.]

done what they could to make the Act workable and now it is for the traders to extend a co-operating hand. The Government has an overwhelming majority at its back and if at any time such a provision is considered to be necessary it can get another amending Bill passed in a day. Then why should the Government lay itself open to the charge that it is spoiling all chances of an amicable settlement by its threatening attitude?

I may also point out that neither a fine nor any other punishment can be harsher than the one contained in clause 3 which lays down that any trader who fails to take out a licence by the 1st of September, 1941, will not be granted any licence for a period of 3 years or he may be fined up to the extent of a couple of thousands. My submission is that in this way, the Government is allowing the situation to deteriorate for no better reason than a false notion of prestige. Perhaps, it wants to be able to say that this clause brought the traders to their senses and the dead-lock came to an end. Such an attitude does not become a popular Government.

My honourable friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood has been pleased to refer to similar Acts in other provinces. I admit that such measures do exist in certain other provinces though in different forms, but can he point out a single clause of this nature in any one of them? Is it not strange that while the Government is effecting certain amendments in the Act on its own accord, it should at the same time indulge in such threats. It is deplorable, if not shameful. It was observed on the floor of this House as well as rumoured strongly outside that the Central Government was adversely affected by the passing of these Bills of the Punjab Government and that they had deputed some big official to see the Honourable Finance Minister, Sir Manohar Lal in this connection to ask him to advise his Government to repeal such unwise acts. Unless contradicted otherwise, we were compelled to believe in this possible conjecture. But at last the contradiction comes from Mir Maqbool Mahmood, saying that all this is utterly false. But my question is : Has the Honourable Minister of Finance given Mir Maqbool Mahmood the power-of-attorney to speak on his behalf. The Honourable Minister is sitting in the House. He should stand up and say what he has to say. Let him refute it, if he has the courage and truth to refute it, it is a matter of great sorrow to find that the illustrious Honourable Finance Minister lacks the courage of his convictions and is sitting quiet when such harmful and unsound measures are being passed under his very nose. The Honourable Minister who is a representative of non-agriculturists, should have explained his position in person and told us whether in his opinion it was the Government or the traders who were to blame in this matter. But he has not thought fit to utter a single word. He should have taken up cudgels on our behalf, but his attitude reminds me of a beautiful couplet:

باغبان نے آنچ میں حب اشیائے کرم سے

جن پہ تکتہ تہہ ہی پڑے ہوا دانی لے

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : May I ask whom the honourable member represents?

Lala Sita Ram : I represent the labourers and this class includes weighmen, rolas and other labourers working in the markets.

Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : A deputation of weighmen, rolas, etc., came to see me and declared that if shops were not opened they would be compelled to loot the markets. What has the honourable member to say to that?

Sardar Ajit Singh (South-west Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I want to make just a few submissions to the Honourable the Premier and the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill.

The Honourable Premier in the course of his speech remarked that this Amending Bill was being introduced in response to a demand from the public as well as for removing a few lacunæ that existed in the Marketing Act. It has also been contended from the Government side that in comparison with the Acts passed by the Madras, Bombay, and C. P. legislatures our Bill is far better. In view of these remarks I fail to understand why clause 3, which is a penal clause, has been included in the Bill. There does not appear to be any other reason in insisting upon the retention of this clause than a desire on the part of the Government to continue the deadlock. The fairness and magnanimity shown by the Government in bringing forward this measure has been set at naught by the inclusion of this clause. My submission is that the Government should delete the clause as they promised to do and try to make the Act, which was also supported by the Congress party, as useful as possible. If after that the deadlock continues its responsibility will entirely rest with the traders, but otherwise the Government will be held responsible for the deadlock.

With these words, I appeal to the Government to withdraw clause 3 of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The Assembly divided: Ayes 72, Noes 18.

AYES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.
Abdul Rab, Mian.
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.
Akbar Ali, Pir.
Allah Yar Khan, Daultana, Mian.
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.

Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qaderi, Khan Sahib Sayed.
Balwant Singh, Sardar.
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri, Sir.
Dasaundha Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.

Fateh Muhammad, Mian.
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.
 Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Few, Mr. E.
 Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Khawaja.
 Gopal Singh (American) Sardar.
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
 Haibat Khan Daba, Khan.
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.
 Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.
 Indar Singh, Sardar.
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.
 Khizar Hayat, Tiwana, The Honourable Malik.
 Kishan Das, Seth.
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Sir.
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.
 Mohar Singh, Rao.
 Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah, Sayed.
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.
 Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.

Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.
 Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmiani, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.
 Naunihal Singh Man, Lieutenant Sardar.
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Pohop Singh, Rao.
 Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
 Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.
 Roberts, Sir William.
 Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
 Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
 Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
 Tara Singh, Sardar.
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.

NOES.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
 Barkat Ali, Malik.
 Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.
 Girdhari Das, Mahant.
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Harnam Das, Lala.
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.
 Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.
 Lal Singh, Sardar.
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri.

Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.
 Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.
 Mula Singh, Sardar.
 Santokh Singh, Sardar.
 Sita Ram, Lala.
 Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister of Development (The Honourable Sardar Dasandha Singh): I beg to move—

That the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, as amended be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, as amended be passed.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): I have been watching the debate with very great care and interest and not only with great interest but also with great concern and a good deal of anxiety.

I was very pleased to find that the Government which had not yielded an inch when the original Bill was before the House had during the last few days realized the true position and had also realized that it had not acted wisely, though it might have acted strongly in not accepting the amendments which were moved by members on this side when the main Bill was under discussion. I was very pleased at the attitude which the Honourable Premier adopted in trying to concede as many points as appeared to him to be reasonable. I was, however, extremely sorry to find that where he had shown concessions on a number of points, he had taken away the value of those concessions by including an absolutely unnecessary amendment in the Bill. I might not have got up to speak at this moment, if it had not been for this clause 3 and I would have left the entire question to the Government and the *beoparis* who are concerned in the Bill primarily. But I thought that the position would be entirely misunderstood if we did not get up and oppose the Bill as it has been amended and did not say that the opposition is almost entirely or at least mainly directed against this clause. In punjabi they say *Dudh ditta par mengna pa ke* (a bad goat gives milk but fouls it with her dung). We are all Punjabis here, at least most of us and we can understand the significance of this Punjabi saying. The Government has yielded. Whether it has yielded out of its own sense of duty or because it felt that it was expedient at this moment to show some concessions to the public opinion, the fact is that it has somewhat yielded. It might be due to reasons adduced for the amendment of the Bill by members of the deputation which waited upon the Honourable Premier. Anyhow I expected that the matter would come to an end after the deputation of gentlemen for some of whom at least the Honourable Premier had some regard had explained the position. But when I received a copy of this amending Bill my surprise knew no bounds when I found that a Damocles sword was included in the present which the Premier had made to the *beoparis*. I know the reason that the Government have for including this amendment in the Bill. They think that after allowing a little concession, perhaps a little coercion would be needed. They might have acted on the principle of *darush-i o narmi baham dar binast*, that is, coercion and concession should go together.

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

riere narmi and *darushti* were combined, but unfortunately *darushti* exceeded the *narmi* that had been shown by the Government. I am perfectly sure that the state of affairs in the province so far as this agitation is concerned should have been different but for this clause. Sardar Santokh Singh who understands the present position more thoroughly than anyone else has pointed out that it was nothing but sprinkling salt on the wounds of the beoparis. The beoparis have just awakened from a stupor from which they had been suffering for a long time. So many insults had been heaped upon them. They were described as corrupt people, as people who are greedy, as shylocks, as *paise ke pir*, as those indulging in all sorts of dishonest tricks and resorting to *kani dandi* and false measures and false weights, that they had no self-respect, that they had no sense of honour in them that money was the only god that they worshipped. All these insults had been heaped upon them in this House, in largely attended meetings outside, in literature which was published under the patronage of the Government, in books, at least I know of one very important book dedicated to a minister in which all sorts of vile things, false things, absolutely exaggerated things have been said about the banias. The connotation of bania, according to the writer of that book and according to the zamindar speakers, has been one who is not a statutory agriculturist. Having all these insults heaped upon them during the last four years, they have just awakened to a sense of self-respect. They wanted to show that even a worm can turn, that even if they were worms, the insult heaped upon those poor little worms and the excesses shown against them have been so great that even those humble worms are obliged to turn. Just at this moment, in addition to the economic suffering to which they were exposed and to the economic inconvenience to which they should not have exposed them, the main thing which actuated their conduct was a sense of injured self-respect. They wanted to assert it but this clause has heaped a further insult upon them and has further injured their sense of self-respect. They are out now, as I can gather from the press reports and from the talks that some of them have had with me, to suffer any amount of loss, but they are not prepared to suffer this insult at the hands of this Government which has, during the last four years, spared no means whatsoever to insult them and to dishonour them and to lower them in the eyes of the public by lectures, by speeches, by pamphlets and by the laws which they have made. This is the exact position and I expected that after Sardar Santokh Singh had explained the position to the Honourable Premier he would certainly postpone at least the enactment of this clause. It was always open to the Government to bring forward another Bill to meet the situation if the situation in any way deteriorated. The Honourable Premier and his colleagues should have seen the reaction of the other amendments which they have made in the Act and in which they have conceded some of the demands of beoparis. They should have waited to see the effect and I assure you that if they had not included this amendment, it is very likely, though I cannot say with certainty, that the reaction of these amendments would have been different, but this clause has again combined them and stiffened

their opposition to this measure. After all they are also human beings. They have some status in society and they want to maintain it. They also want to assert their existence, otherwise I might tell you that all sorts of threats are being given to them. They know that by the deadlock that they have created or they threaten to create in the Province they would be the main sufferers. They know that and being businessmen they do not like in ordinary circumstances to suffer a monetary loss. They know that they are going to suffer a heavy monetary loss and yet they have taken this course. It means that they realize that there is something in this life more important than money and that something which is more important than money, namely, self-respect, they are out to maintain if their professions are genuine and if one can judge from their actions so far. Of course they realize that the path they have chosen is beset with great difficulties, great dangers and grave risks. Their leaders do not deserve to be leaders if they have not realised this. I am sure they have realised the dangers and the difficulties that lie ahead and they have explained all those dangers and difficulties and the risks involved in such a step to their followers. If those dangers and difficulties, those risks and those losses have all been realised by them and yet they are prepared to continue in that course, their grievances must be very genuine indeed and very deep. The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, in my short absence from the House, is reported to have moved an amendment that this clause would not be brought into force unless a notification to that effect is first published in the Government Gazette. I speak with all respect, but it is nothing short of ludicrous. What is the meaning of it? They have to issue a small notification of three lines in the Gazette that clause 3 is brought into force. Is that any consolation to the beoparis? Is that any satisfaction to them that they would be slaughtered after a notification of three lines is issued in the Gazette? Does it in any way take the case very far? It is absolutely the same and this amendment does not make the slightest difference. Lala Sita Ram pointed out that this amendment has made it worse. He might have had his reasons and he explained to them why this amendment has made it worse. But I will not go so far; it is not necessary to say that, but I say in all earnestness that that amendment is of no use to the beoparis. Nor is the assurance given by the Honourable Premier of any avail to them. What is the assurance which the Honourable Premier gave to them? He said, "I assure you that this clause will not be applied if the state of affairs is changed." In other words if all the beoparis give up this deadlock and they all agree to take out licences, he would not take any action under clause 3. Again, I speak with all respect, but what does it mean? If all the beoparis who want to carry on business in the markets take out licences and begin to work under the Act, where is the necessity of this clause 3? It is no concession to tell the people concerned, that if the circumstances do not require, no use will be made of clause 3. It is very good of him, no doubt, but it really does not take the case any further to say that he will not take action if the hartals are stopped, if the deadlock is resolved and if the beoparis,

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

who are just now recalcitrant and not prepared to take out licences, take out licences. Then this clause itself would become nugatory. It would become a dead letter because there would be no occasion for using it at all. Look at the clause. If a person fails to take out a licence before the 1st of September, he may be debarred from carrying on business in a market for three years.

Premier : He 'may be' debarred.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : Yes, he may be debarred for three years. The 'may be' applies to three years, but the debarring is there. It may be for a shorter period, it may be for full three years. There is no remedy against that.

Premier : He may not be debarred at all.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He may not be debarred at all? Then why enact it. Why do *gunah be lazzat* (گناه به لزازت) and give offence to a large number of people in this Province? There is some sort of enjoyment in a sin; whether it is eating too much or other kind of sin but why should a person commit the *gunah be lazzat* (گناه به لزازت)? If the Honourable Premier has at the back of his mind that in no case would a trader be debarred from carrying on his business if he does not take a licence before the 1st of September, then why give unnecessary offence, why keep the sword of Democles hanging upon them, why fling this threat into their teeth and simply excite them and incite them to say unpleasant things and take risky steps. I think the Honourable Premier has almost given away his case by saying that he may not be debarred at all. There are offences and there are punishments but all those punishments in the hands of wise and impartial jurists are in proportion to the gravity of the offences. If a person fails to take out a licence before the 1st of September, he is certainly not guilty of any offence which involves moral turpitude. He may feel aggrieved, he may feel insulted or he may have other circumstances which prevent him from taking a licence before the 1st of September. What is going to be his penalty? That he may be debarred from carrying on his business for three years and in case he applies after that, the Government may demand from him a sum of rupees two thousand before a licence is granted to him. It is most unheard of and most unprecedented. (An honourable member; No, No.) Even the advocates who are permitted to practise in the High Courts are allowed to take out the licence on payment of five hundred rupees as a consolidated sum once for all.

These licences have not to be renewed every year. They once pay Rs. 500 and as long as they live they are the registered advocates of the High Court and unless they commit an offence under the Legal Practitioners' Act, they can carry on their business right from the day of their enrolment up to the time they choose to carry on their practice. Here the licences are renewable every year, that is, if a person fails to renew his licence up to the 1st of September he may have to pay Rs. 2,000 to the Government. That is certainly not a fiscal measure nor is this intended to be a *quid pro quo* which the Government takes for paying all the expenses and for meeting the expenses of preparing the licence and such other matters. Certainly it is not so. It is on the face of it an extremely penal and punitive measure which

this amendment involves. The Honourable Premier and his colleagues would admit that there is not the slightest doubt about it. Look at it from whatever point of view, this amendment as embodied in clause 3 is the most undesirable one and even now it is not too late for the Government to withdraw it. I tell you that it requires strength no doubt to oppose the opposition, even if it is a small opposition, but it requires much greater strength to yield to the opposition. It requires much greater strength and unless the Government is wanting in that much greater strength it ought to show that strength and it should yield to the opposition on this point. My honourable friend reminds me that magnanimity in politics is the truest kind of wisdom. I have experience of 4 years and I would not waste your time or the time of the House in making unnecessary appeals. I know what the result of our appeals has been for the last 4 years. Nothing, but the fiery ordeal of experience would bring this Government to senses. It is not possible for any one of us to bring this Government to senses. They say that they will remain for 5,000 years. They may remain for 5,000 years. I say that nothing but fiery ordeal of experience will make them change their views. What has happened since the time the main Bill was passed. Up till now that Act has not even started operating and they found after a little reflection and after a little pointer given by the parties concerned that the Act was unworkable and then they forgot all their arguments which they advanced in support of that Bill when some amendments were put from this side of the House. I do not want to waste the time of the House in making appeals. I have thrown a hint and I would ask them not to go through another experiment. There is another saying also that it is only the unwise who learn by experience and wise people profit by past experience and by the experience of others. It is not necessary to try an experiment in one's own person. I would leave it there. Now this Government has got a grievance against poor *beoparis*. They say that *beoparis* have been threatening them. Some speaker said here that if the *beoparis* threaten, the zamindars say that they will fight them. I am sure that the gentleman who said that the zamindars have said that they would fight, must have put the 'fighting' into them. He must have suggested this thing. That is one of the possibilities which I want the *beoparis* to realise and against which I want most respectfully to warn the zamindar members of this House. The *beoparis* are not out for physical fight, they are not out for unconstitutional fight. It is the right of even a poor labourer in a factory to go on strike and refuse to work. It is his right. No one can force him to work or force him to open the shop. No one can force Malik Barkat Ali to appear in the Court or to continue his practice. If he has taken a case, it is his bounden duty to do it. But no one can compel him to take a case if he has reasons for not taking the case. If *beoparis* are now hesitating to start their business under the present circumstances they are not adopting any unconstitutional course. I realise that with a little hint from the Honourable Premier or any of the Ministers or a little hint from the leaders of the zamindars the law of

[28TH APRIL, 1941.]

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang] the land can be broken. I warn them that if they enter upon this campaign, they should realise that there may be agents in this province who may instigate them to break the law. They must be aware of this. If they are to continue this agitation they will have to take the greatest care and proceed with the greatest caution so as not to give the slightest excuse to anyone to break the law. The Honourable Premier said that if anything untoward happens he would catch hold to the leaders of the movement. (Premier: I would hold them responsible). Holding responsible does not mean a line in the note book that Sardar Santokh Singh is responsible for this thing. His saying that he would hold the leaders responsible means something more than the formation of an unexpressed opinion or expressed opinion recorded in some note book in the Secretariat. It means something more than that. I warn the leaders to realise the true meaning and full implication of the threat that the Honourable Premier has held out to them. If they have got the guts to stand the trials and sufferings which are implied in the statement made by the Honourable Premier they will have to take all that into consideration before they go on with the movement. I was saying that the *beoparis* are a peaceful class and when they carry on an agitation, they carry on that agitation on constitutional lines and they will, so far as they are concerned, never even dream of breaking the law. Their policy is at the worst one of passive resistance and nothing more. Passive resistance lies in this that they will not carry on their business which is perfectly constitutional. But of course they will have to consider all the consequences and all the sacrifices involved in this step. After all what are the demands of the poor *beoparis*? One demand is that the constitution of the committees may be changed, that is, they may be given some majority on those committees. If I understood Sardar Santokh Singh rightly, they have climbed down and they do not claim a majority for themselves but they say that they would be content if the growers are not given a majority. What is the justification for giving a majority to the growers? The Honourable Premier admitted that a large majority of the traders are honest — these are the words which he used on Friday and I distinctly noted them. This expression of opinion from the lips of a person of the Premier's position is significant. If a large majority of them are honest, it means only a small minority may be dishonest. Is it on account of that small minority which is suspected of dishonesty that the growers' majority is to be fastened upon them. This certainly on the face of it is not a reasonable excuse. If only a small number of people are dishonest and a large majority of them are honest, they can see and they will guarantee that that small majority of dishonest people, if there are any, are kept in check. It will be in their own interest that black sheep are turned out of their fold and stinking fish taken out of the tank so that trade and commerce in this province may be purified. They are more interested in the purification of their business than anybody else.

At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 11 noon on Tuesday, the 29th April, 1941.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 29th April, 1941.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 12-10 p.m. of the clock (there being no quorum at 12) Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DETENTION OF COMRADE FAZAL ELAH QURBAN.

***7780. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware that Begum Fazal Ellahi Qurban, sent a petition regarding Mr. Qurban's detention in Mozang Police Station since his arrest on the 25th October, 1940, to the Punjab Government on the 24th March, 1941; if so, what action has so far been taken or is intended to be taken on that petition?

Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):

Part I.—Yes.

Part II.—His detention in Mozang Police Station is not in any way illegal. He has, however, since been transferred to the Lahore Fort.

Sardar Ajit Singh: May I know the order under which Comrade Fazal Elahi Qurban, has been detained in the lock-up since his arrest?

Parliamentary Secretary: So far as this matter is concerned, a question has already been asked to this effect and if I recollect rightly it has also been replied to.

Sardar Ajit Singh: May I know whether a political prisoner can be detained in a lock-up of a police station?

Parliamentary Secretary: I want notice. As I have stated, no action was taken which is against law.

Mian Muhammad Nurullah: Do the Government intend to grant some allowance to his family?

Parliamentary Secretary: This has already been answered.

Sardar Moola Singh: May I take it that there is no accommodation in the Punjab jails and that is why Mr. Qurban has been detained in a police station?

Parliamentary Secretary: I submit that this question does not arise out of the main question.

REFUSAL OF POLICE TO ALLOW TAKING A SNAP-SHOT OF COMRADE
KARAM SINGH MANN.

***7784. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Photographer of the Tribune was not allowed by the police to take a snap-shot

[S. Moola Singh]

of Comrade Karam Singh Mann, Barrister, when he was produced in Lahore High Court with handcuffs on, on the 1st April, 1941 ;

- (b) if so, the reasons for the same, and the action that has been taken against the policemen responsible for this?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) Enquiries made from the Superintendent of Police Muzaffargarh, show that no press reporter or photographer approached the Assistant Sub-Inspector who produced Comrade Karam Singh Mann, in the Lahore High Court on 31st March, and 1st April, 1941, to take a photograph of the detainee.

- (b) Does not arise.

ABDUCTION OF A YOUNG DAUGHTER OF MOHINDER KAUR OF KRISHNA BAZAR, GAWALMANDI.

***7804. Sardar Moola Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the allegation that a fourteen year young girl of a poor widow Mohindar Kaur of Krishna Bazar, Gwalmandi, Lahore, has been abducted by one Shukuntla, a notorious woman, on 23rd March, 1941 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that when Mohindar Kaur went to Gwalmandi police station to lodge a report soon after the occurrence she was abused and insulted by the Sub-Inspector of Police in charge of Gwalmandi police station who also refused to register the case ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Mohindar Kaur approached Senior Superintendent, Police, Lahore, and complained to him against the behaviour of Sub-Inspector of Police, Gwalmandi police station, and requested him to get her daughter back from the custody of Shukuntala ; if so, the action taken in the matter?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) It is a fact that a 14 years old girl — the daughter of Mussammat Mohindar Kaur of Krishna Bazar, Gwalmandi — was abducted on the 23rd March, 1941, but so far there is no evidence in possession of the police to associate Mussammat Shakuntla with the abduction. One Hans Raj alias Bhila of Hoshiarpur has been arrested in the case.

(b) The allegations made by Mussammat Mohindar Kaur that she was abused and insulted and that the Station House Officer, Gwalmandi had refused to register the case are being investigated.

(c) Yes. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, ordered the registration of a case for abduction which is now under investigation.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG EXTRA ASSISTANT CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS.

1437. Mokhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number, community-wise, of the Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests recruited during the last 5 years;
- (b) whether any community is under-represented in this branch of service ; if so, whether and how it is intended to raise its proportion?

The Hon'ble Sardar Dasaundha Singh : (a) There was no direct recruitment, but 3 Muslims, 3 Hindus, and 4 Sikhs were promoted to the rank of Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests.

(b) *First Part* : Yes.

Second Part : Yes : the Muslim community. Future direct recruitment will be made strictly in accordance with the accepted formula of 50 per cent, Muslims, 20 per cent, Sikhs, 30 per cent Hindus and Others. Existing communal disproportions in the cadre will be made good in due course as incumbents belonging to the over-represented communities retire under the superannuation rule.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG EXCISE INSPECTORS.

1438. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani : Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number, community-wise, of the Excise Inspectors recruited during the last 5 years;
- (b) whether and how Government intend to raise the proportion of the community under-represented in this branch of service?

The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal : (a) Vacancies in the cadre of Excise Inspectors are filled by the promotion of Excise Sub-Inspectors I grade by seniority and selection, direct appointment of Excise Inspectors having been discontinued. No direct recruitment to the post of Excise Inspector has taken place, during the last five years.

(b) Recruitment to the Excise Department is made by appointment to the post of Excise Sub-Inspector, II grade, which is the normal entrance to the service. Government have issued orders that this recruitment shall, as in the case of all other departments, be according to the accepted ratio of 50 per cent Muslims, 30 per cent Hindus and others, and 20 per cent Sikhs. Consequently the proportions of the communities which are at present under-represented in the cadre of Excise Inspector will be automatically adjusted when the scheme for recruitment has worked for a sufficient number of years.

ALLOWANCE TO RECORD-KEEPER, GENERAL, IN THE SECRETARIAT.

1439. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is one post of Record-keeper, General, in each of the Secretariat offices ;

[Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani]

(b) whether they are in receipt of any allowance; if so, how much and the reasons for the grant of this allowance;

(c) how many Muslims and how many non-Muslims have so far been appointed to these posts since they have been created?

The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM.

1440. Lala Sita Ram: Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to give effect to the resolution regarding the establishment of an Industrial Muslim in the Punjab, passed in a meeting of the Assembly held on 23rd January, 1941?

The Honourable Sardar Dasaundha Singh: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

ADJOURNMENT.

Minister for Revenue: Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

This motion was carried.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang (West Lahore Division, General Rural): Sir, when the House rose yesterday I was discussing the *beopari's* demands regarding the constitution of marketing committees, and I was referring to the remarks which the Honourable Premier was pleased to make the other day that a large majority of the traders were honest and only a small minority of traders were dishonest. My object in referring to this statement of the Premier was that in the face of this statement it did not become necessary that the growers should have a majority of seats on these committees. If the position was reverse, namely, if the majority of traders were dishonest there would certainly be some point in giving a majority of the seats to the growers, but the mere fact that there are only a few black sheep in the fold of the *beoparis*, as there are in other folds, does not justify the placing of the *beoparis*, in a minority on these committees. It had been pointed out that the slogan which had been raised that the growers did not get more than 9½ annas in the rupee was really a misleading slogan. The other day when I was not present, I am told the Honourable Minister for Revenue, while replying to the debate was pleased to repudiate the statement attributed to him that the *artis* charged 6½ annas out of a rupee. If anybody said that certainly that might be attributable to some misunderstanding on that point. I have got the original Bill with me in which the Honourable Minister while giving the objects and reasons for the main Bill was pleased to quote this sentence from some report and I will read it out to you. He said—

Careful enquiries conducted under the guidance of the Marketing Adviser to the Government of India have brought to light startling facts, for instance, out of a rupee which the consumer pays for his wheat or rice the producer gets only 9½ annas. Similarly the grower of linseed gets about 60 per cent while the grower of tobacco in Guntur gets only about 44 per cent of the price paid for these commodities in the United Kingdom.

Minister for Revenue : What about the next paragraph of the Statement of Objects and Reasons?

Dr. Sir Cokul Chand Narang : The next is—

It is true that the producer cannot get the whole of the price paid by the consumer for the simple reason that cost of carriage and a fair return for the services of the middleman must necessarily be allowed for.

If the Honourable Minister asks me to read any other paragraph or sentence I am prepared to read it. This does not carry the case any further, because the mere reference to carriage and the dues of the middlemen did not remove the misunderstanding that 6½ annas are consumed by the middleman including the carriage. If the Minister had been less disingenuous he would have pointed out that this 9½ annas refers to what the grower in the Punjab gets after his produce has been exported from Lyallpur to Calcutta or Bombay. Then they would have drawn the right conclusion. I may tell you that only yesterday an honourable member of this House, whose name I shall not mention for obvious reasons, pointed out that he had been under the impression that 6½ annas were consumed by the *artis* in Lyallpur.

Minister for Revenue : No.

Dr. Sir Cokul Chand Narang : I take it that the Minister did not intend that this should be taken in that sense. Perhaps he did not act deliberately when he made this statement, but the fact remains that the statement was misleading.

It also remains that this statement must have been repeated times out of number in this province. I think it was on Friday when the Hon'ble Minister was replying to the debate that a question was put to him whether these 9½ annas did not include certain other items and whether it did not include the railway freight to Bombay from Lyallpur. He did not make any reply. He evaded the question and when I read a report of his speech, these were the words reported as having been said by him :

Main 'in swalon men nahin parna chahta.

These are the words reported in a vernacular newspaper when reporting this part of his speech. So that the fact remains that whatever has been said and preached about in this province and in this House about the mal-practices of the *artis* and *beoparis* is not exactly true, but in fact it is far from the truth. Sardar Santokh Singh has pointed out by quoting figures from that very report that 7½ pies is the total expenditure which a grower has to incur if he has to take his produce to mandi. If wheat is taken at Rs. 3 a maund, it would mean that 33 into 7½ pies would mean about a rupee or so, and if wheat sells at Rs. 2 a maund, it would be a little more for 100, Re. 1 per cent or Re. 1-4-0 per cent on a hundred rupees including charges of the *arti*, including the charges of the *chaukidar*, and the sweeper and *mashqi* who help the grower when he visits the market. It does not go beyond 7½ pies per maund. (*Interruption*). It has been stated by Government on whose report the hon'ble member has relied. I have no personal knowledge, but I can never believe that anywhere a grower loses 6½ annas out of Re. 1 which the consumer pays for his produce. These are facts and figures which Sardar Santokh Singh quoted on the floor of the House. I am only using them to show that the remark as regards dishonesty and corrupt practices is extremely

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

exaggerated, if not unfounded. Therefore there is no justification on that assumption that the *artis* is dishonest. There is no justification for placing the growers in a majority. The other day I made a suggestion on my own responsibility. The suggestion I made was that an equal number should be given to the growers and to the *beoparis*, and I was glad to find the following day in an article in the "Civil & Military Gazette" by their weekly writer, *Politicus* whose identity is in the dark — I do not know who he is — an identical suggestion, exactly what I had submitted on the floor of this House. He said that the growers and the *artis* should be given equal representation and an officer might be appointed to hold the balance even between the two parties. I do not see any reason why such a reasonable and equitable course should not even now be adopted by Government if by the adoption of it the deadlock can be resolved. I leave this question there, and I shall proceed to the next point.

The next demand of the *artis* is that the cancellation of their licences should not be left to an officer appointed by Government. This officer would in all probability be some Extra Assistant Commissioner or even a deputy commissioner. If it is a deputy commissioner, my submission is that in the first place the deputy commissioner has got already too much to do and more duties cannot be thrust on his shoulders, but even if it is a deputy commissioner, it means that the deputy commissioner holds the lives and the careers of all the *beoparis* in the hollow of his hand where he rules. Why should it be left to a mere extra assistant commissioner or even a higher officer to cancel the licences and why should they not be allowed to lodge an appeal before a civil court where one can go to secure justice instead of going to an executive officer? He is a representative of Government and cannot be expected to go against the policy or orders of the local Government. Such is their position.

I have spoken so many times on this question of matters being referred to judicial courts. I do not want to take the time of the House by repeating what has already been said so far on the floor of the House, but the impression is — and the Government have strengthened that impression — that the Government fight shy of judicial authorities, and that they do not want that any of their doings or the doings of any of their officers should be scrutinized by a civil court. I have said that many of the executive officers are no doubt competent and nothing can be said as a rule against their honesty any more than against the honesty of judicial officers, but by the very nature of things the scrutiny which a case can have in a court of law can certainly not be had before an executive officer who has so many duties to do in these troublous times. He has so many things to attend to, there is the war propaganda, there are communal questions, there may be riots here and riots there, there is recruiting and the raising of money for the war and so on, that keep them fully occupied, while judicial courts are free from all these encumbrances and these distractions and they can calmly and dispassionately go into these questions. I think on this point also the demand of the *beoparis* is very reasonable.

Then the other demand is that they should not be made to send a panel and that they should be allowed to hold an election. It is very reasonable. When the Bill was before the House we said all that we

had to say on this question, and I shall not take the time of the House by repeating those arguments here. It is too late in the day to say anything against the elective system because the whole system of Government now is based on election. Their request is that the *palledars* and others should not be required to take out licences. On this point there is a misunderstanding and the two representatives of Government who are sitting here would kindly note that there are no definitions of "warehouseman" and other people given in the main Act. Only the definition of "dealer" was introduced yesterday, but the other functionaries of markets have not been defined anywhere and only this morning a very big merchant told me in the course of a conversation that the impression at least in Lyallpur was that these *palledars* were to be treated as warehousemen. My impression is that they are only coolies or porters who take bags on their backs and store them inside. Why should they be made to take out licenses? This is the impression which prevails and I do think that these *palledars* can in any way be accused of any corrupt practices or any kind of dishonesty. In any case even if the Act does not apply to them, as I am sure it does not and it should not, this impression should be removed because I was told that whereas some *arhtis* showed some inclination for coming to an agreement, the *palledars* said that there could not be any *samjhota* unless they were exempted from taking out licences. It would be well to remove that impression which probably is a wrong impression. There is no necessity for forcing them to take out licences.

There is another important point which I want to bring to your notice. We urged that the operation of the Bill might be postponed. There was a regular amendment moved on this point by Mr. Puri, in which he urged that the operation of the Bill might be postponed till six months after the termination of the war. It was, however, urged that the Act was already in force. My submission is that that was an erroneous idea. The Act is not in force yet and if it is not in force, Government would lose nothing by postponing the operation of this most contentious and troublesome Act till after the termination of the war. There would be plenty of time and nothing is going to be lost during the period of the War. I know that at one time the Honourable Premier was very anxious that the Bill should be passed at once and when passed it should be applied at once, so that the *loot khasoot* which was going on in the markets should be stopped as early as possible. This remark was made by him some time in June or July, 1938, so far as I can recollect. Now more than 2 years or nearly 3 years have elapsed since then. If the Honourable Premier was really convinced that this *loot khasoot* was going on as he represented on the floor of this House, he would have certainly seen that the Act was enforced immediately as soon as the rules were drawn up. But the fact that it was delayed for two or three years shows that the apprehensions which were expressed then were really unfounded and that the remarks made on the floor of the House were really not based upon facts. Therefore I say that no one would lose anything by the postponement of the Act.

Now coming to the question whether the Act is in force, my submission is this, that so far as the main Act is concerned, there is no

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

provision in it which says expressly when this Act would come into force as is usually the case. Therefore, we have to gather from the other provisions of the Act when it is to be brought into force. If you will be pleased to look up section 3 of the Act you will find that this section lays down that "the Government may by notification declare their intention of exercising control over the purchase and sale of such agricultural produce and in such area as may be specified in the notification. Such notifications shall state that any objections or suggestions which may be received by the Government within a period to be specified in the notification, will be considered; provided that such period shall not be less than one month." This is the first step towards the operation of that Act, that the Government expresses its intention of applying it to a certain mandi. Then comes the second stage and that really is intended to bring the Act into operation and that second stage is described in section 4 (1) which reads as follows :

After the expiry of the period specified in the notification under section 3 and after considering such objections and suggestions as may be received before the expiry of the specified period, the Government may, by notification and in any other manner that may be prescribed, declare the area notified under section 3 or any portion thereof to be a notified market area for the purposes of this Act in respect of the agricultural produce notified under section 3 or any part thereof.

This is the second stage in the proceedings for bringing the Act into operation. Then there is the 3rd stage and that is subsection (2) which reads as follows :—

After the date of issue of such notification and from such later date as may be specified therein, no person unless exempted by rules framed under this Act shall, within the notified market area set up, establish or continue or allow to be continued any place for the purchase and sale of the agricultural produce so notified—

Now you see that certain notifications were issued expressing the intention of the Government to bring the Act into force in certain mandis. There are quite a number of notifications and the name of the district, the name of the tahsil and the name of the notified market area is given in each. For instance, take notification No. 353-D published in the *Government Gazette, Punjab*, dated January 31, 1941. It says :

In exercise of the power conferred by section 4 (1) of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act (V of 1939) and with reference to the Punjab Government notification No. 3174-D, dated 28th August, 1940—

that is, the notification expressing the intention of the Government:

the Mandi which is now being brought under the operation of the Act is the market area in the Rawalpindi district for purposes of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, V of 1939 in respect of the agricultural produce specified in the schedule. For the purposes of section 4 (2) of the said Act this notification shall come into force on the 15th April, 1941.

This is very important. This notification was to come into operation on the 15th of April, 1941. If you look at section 3 and section 4, subsections (1) and (2), you will understand the whole position. The notification which I have read out to you shows that section 4 (1) of the Act shall come into operation on the 15th of April, 1941. Then another notification was issued, notification No. 1760-A, dated 14th

April, 1941, just one day prior to the date on which the Act was to come into force and this notification says—

In exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (2) of section 4 of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act (V of 1939) and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to direct that in the notifications specified in the schedule hereto annexed, for the words and figures "15th April 1941" the words and figures "15th September, 1941" shall be substituted.

so that, the original notification would now read that the Act would come into operation in all these places to which all these 28 or 29 notifications relate, not on the 15th April, 1941, but on the 1st of September, 1941. To show that my interpretation is not incorrect, I would draw your attention to the *communiqué* which the Government itself was pleased to issue. That makes the position absolutely clear in spite of everything which was said to the contrary yesterday in this House. You will kindly listen to this *communiqué* issued by the Government which is published with notification No. 1760-D of the 14th April, 1941. Under different notifications the Punjab Government had fixed the 15th April, 1941, as the date for the coming into force of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939. This means that with effect from the 15th April, 1941, no trade in the commodities notified for different areas can be carried on except in compliance with the provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder. Before this Act can be enforced (again the word *enforced* is used), certain preliminaries had to be gone through, the most important being the constitution of the market committees for different notified market areas inasmuch as it is these market committees which have to issue licences to brokers, weighmen, measurers, surveyors and warehousemen and to frame by-laws for giving effect to the provisions of the law in other respect within their respective spheres of action. On account of their pre-occupation in connection with other important duties, however, district officers have not so far been able to submit to the Government their recommendations for membership of the proposed committees. They do not say that people were not prepared to come forward to work on the committees, Government feels that the time at the disposal of district officers was insufficient particularly in view of many other urgent calls on their time due to the war and other causes, the very thing which I said a few months ago. Government, however, realise that it will not be possible to have these committees set up for some time to come and that the framing of by-laws by them will require some further time. It has therefore—and this is very significant and makes the position absolutely clear—it has therefore decided to postpone the date for the *enforcement* of the Act from the 15th April, 1941, to the 1st of September, 1941. (*Interruption.*)

Under section 3 and section 4 (1) & (2) Government has been given the power to fix the date after which this Act would come into force and certain results would follow. It has not been said in the Act that it will come into force, but how is it to be brought into force has been mentioned and the date when it has to be brought into operation has to be determined by a notification by the Government. That is absolutely clear from the Act.

Mr. Speaker : In England when no date is fixed for the coming into operation of a Bill, the date on which His Majesty the King gives his assent to the Bill is the date on and from which it becomes law and probably the same practice is being followed here. If the local Government has to fix a date, it must be expressly empowered to do so.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : As a general proposition perhaps you are perfectly right. If there was nothing in the Act itself to say how it was to be brought into force, how it was to be brought into operation and when, then that proposition would hold good, but where certain provisions have been made in the Act, how it is to be brought into operation, then that general proposition does not apply. Supposing the Governor gave his assent on the 28th April, 1939, what came into operation? I say with absolute confidence that nothing came into operation. The Government might have had the satisfaction that the Act had been approved, but not one provision of the Act was in operation because section 4 stands in the way. If section 4 had not stood there, the proposition which has been enunciated by you from your throne would have been applicable. But section 4 takes it out of that general proposition. How is the Act to come into operation? The Act has to come into operation in this way. First the Government issues a notification saying we intend to apply the Act to such and such a place say Rawalpindi mandi.

Mr. Speaker : But is that power given?

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It is given in section 3. It is given expressly there. The Government may by notification declare and so on. I submit that there are three stages for bringing into operation the Act and the Governor's assent does not touch any one stage of it at all. It is absolutely ineffective. In fact it simply means that the Bill has become an Act and nothing more than that. It is now law and can be brought into operation. How and when it is to be brought into operation is left entirely to the Government under section 3 and section 4 and I was submitting there are three stages for it. The first stage is the expression of intention to warn people that they are going to apply this Act to a particular mandi; have the people any objections? If they have any objections, they should submit their objections to the Government within thirty days or within the period fixed under that notification which is not to be less than 30 days. After the period has expired and objections have come in and have been considered by the Government, the Government proceeds to take action under section 4. It issues a notification that objections have been considered and all that is necessary under the law has been done and the Act will operate in the mandi from such and such a date and that date is fixed as the 15th of April, 1941. As soon as this notification is issued, then all business comes to a stand still in the case of those persons who have not taken out licences. This is the third stage and with it the Act comes into force. It is thus that the Act comes into force, otherwise it does not come into force at all. Now under section 4 (1), the Government had fixed 15th April, 1941, as the date when it would be applied to particular mandis. The date had been given in a large number of notifications, one of which as a

sample, I have read out to you, I have others with me. On the 14th April, 1941, the Government issued another notification saying 1st of September, shall be substituted for 15th April, 1941. So that the Government declared that the Act was not to be enforced till the 1st of September, 1941. I have read out to you the notification of the Government itself in which the words "the Act was to come into force on the 15th April, 1941" were used. This shows that the Act did not automatically come into force with the assent of the Governor having been obtained for it. That position is absolutely clear and I think any one who has read this notification would certainly not disagree with me on this point. And if I am correct, and I say with confidence that I am correct, then my submission is that the Act has not yet been enforced and as it is an extremely contentious Act and has led to so much trouble in this province, it is still time for the Government to stay its hands (*hear, hear*), and to abstain from bringing this contentious measure into force and not raise the lid from this Pandora's box. They must agree with me and every peace-loving person must agree with me that if this Act is brought into force now, as it is intended to be done, on the 1st of September, 1941, there would be a great deal of trouble in this province. I have not the slightest doubt that the Premier is sincere in this at least that he does not want disturbances in this province, that he does not want his war effort to which he is so much devoted to be in any way hampered by any side issues that one party or another party might raise in this province. If he is sincere in this, my submission is that he can wait. He raised a point and said, "Oh, well to terminate the war is not in our power." That was perhaps only a light joke in which he wanted to indulge in a light-hearted manner. It was not the intention of Mr. Mukand Lal Puri's amendment that the Government should bring the war to a close, but that the Government should wait until the war was terminated. It should wait at least for six months before bringing the Act into force. They may bring into force the Act at any time they please after the expiry of 6 months after the termination of the war. And I earnestly submit that this would be the wisest thing for the Government to do. I know that Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, one of the Parliamentary Secretaries, made a sort of pugnacious statement on the floor of this House on Friday. He said at least something like this "What are these banias. The Government can set them right in a week." That is what is reported in the Press. I think he was underrating the powers of the Government when he made that remark. The Government has ample powers. I know that. The Government can set right the banias, not in a week, but in a day, by adopting the methods which Sir Michael O'Dwyer adopted in setting the Punjab right by introducing Martial Law here. We all know the consequences that followed it. There was agitation over the Rowlatt Act throughout the province, and in fact throughout the length and breadth of the whole country. And we all know how Sir Michael O'Dwyer put an end to that agitation. It is possible and it is very easy for this Government to put an end to this agitation. But it would require special remedies and special methods, which I am sure, the Government would not like to adopt. It was really a very ill-advised remark which was made by Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan that the Government could set right these banias in a week, knowing that the

[Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang.]

Government is very powerful and it can set banias right in a day. But the Honourable Premier and his colleagues would not like to adopt those methods to set the banias right in a day or in a week. Those drastic methods should not be adopted but other methods will have to be adopted. There are many other methods that are open to Government. The Government has all sorts of weapons in its armoury and these weapons can be used at any time it likes. But my submission is that all those weapons should not be brought out from their armoury. They should be reserved for some suitable time. When the object can be gained by merely postponing this Act, by conceding the demands of the poor *beoparies*, there can be no necessity for adopting any other method. As I have already pointed out, the *beoparies* are the mildest people on the face of the earth, particularly the *beoparies* in India and the *beoparies* of the Punjab are not an exception. They are the mildest people and they know that peace and the maintenance of law and order are essential for their prosperity, not only for their prosperity, but for their very existence. They know the dangers which can at once be brought into existence and they fully realize that. And I am sure the Premier, who is not entirely ignorant of the conditions of business and of the strength and weakness of the *beoparies* would hesitate to use extraordinary methods. This is so far as this Act is concerned.

Before I sit down, Sir, I would like to say a few words with regard to the other Act and I hope that the Honourable the new Minister would not spring up from his seat and say that I am becoming irrelevant, because the General Sales Tax Act is not under consideration. But he should understand that our object here is to find out means of putting an end to the situation that has arisen. That is our object. No one would like that this situation should continue even for a day, if it can be helped. And as these two Acts have become mixed up and inter-linked and as the agitation is being practically carried on against these two Acts on the same lines, the Government cannot entirely ignore the difficulties which have arisen from the General Sales Tax Act. I have my suspicion that even if the *artis* give up their agitation of which I am not sure, at least they have no intention to give up the agitation at present, the agitation against the other Act will continue. I am stating a hypothetical case. Even if all the demands of the *artis* are met, the situation in the Punjab, as it exists at present, is not likely to improve, unless something is done with respect to the General Sales Tax Act also. The number of *artis* in the province is small, but the number of shopkeepers is very large and no one can deny that this agitation is being carried on jointly by the *beoparies* and shopkeepers of all communities and classes. Therefore, even if the Market Act problem is solved satisfactorily, there is a danger and there is in fact every likelihood that the agitation so far as the shopkeepers are concerned, will continue in one form or another. I would, therefore, request the Government to tackle both these Acts together. Whether the other Act is or is not before us for amendment, I can say without any hesitation, that it would be necessary to amend that Act also in order to ease the situation that exists at present. The Government has got powers to make exemptions in certain cases. If the Honourable Finance Member assures us — I believe that the administration of that Act is in his hands — that he

would see that this Act would not be operated in a prejudicial manner, a statement on this point should be made just now on the floor of the House. If the Government is really inclined to make some concessions with respect to the General Sales Tax Act, then I think, they should announce them just now on the floor of the House; and I am sure, without committing anybody, which I have not the power to do, that there is every likelihood of the situation being eased. The general impression is that even the petty shopkeepers are going to be taxed.

Persons with a turnover of five thousand are also being taxed which means a turnover of about 12 of 13 rupees a day and if these people make a profit of one or two annas on a rupee it means that even those shopkeepers are being taxed whose income is not more than 30 or 40 rupees a month. The second difficulty is that they are required to keep accounts. Many shopkeepers know nothing at all and there are many who know only *landas* and they can just scribble a little for their own guidance and are entirely incapable of keeping accounts as the inspectors appointed under this Act would require them to do and they have not got the means of employing any clerks for this purpose. This is the difficulty which is being felt and as I have gauged the situation, it appears that there is more objection to the keeping of regular accounts than there is to the tax, though of course the poor people resent the tax also and would certainly urge their exemption from the payment of this tax, but the keeping of accounts is even more difficult for them than the payment of the tax. Then there are certain classes of people for whom it is absolutely impossible to satisfy the requirements of the Act. Take the poor *nanbais*, *halwais*, vegetable sellers, fruit sellers and such other people. Take *gujars* who sell milk. Probably they sell milk worth five thousand a year, but their ancestors have never kept accounts, and they are incapable of keeping any accounts whatsoever. Why should such people be brought in? Then again, the inspections, etc., are not only irksome, but may lead to trouble. There may be free fights on occasions if the inspectors do not show sufficient circumspection and caution and sufficient regard for the feelings of the people whose godowns, shops, etc., they go to inspect. These are some of their grievances and then the main grievance is this, and this is a still more important grievance, that whereas in Bombay the sales are taxed at one stage, in the Act here no stage is exempted and the same commodity has to pay tax over and over and over again. It may be ten times over. There is no justification of this rule. The only justification which has now been given is that the scale of tax here is low, while in Bombay, for instance it is one anna in the rupee. But the reply of the *beoparies* is this that in Bombay the tax is levied only on two articles; namely, motor spirit and cloth. As there are enormous profits in motor spirit, as all honourable members would know probably 300 per cent or 200 per cent profit is made by the oil companies, they can, therefore, afford to pay one anna per rupee as tax, but all sorts of people here, very few of them deal in motor spirit, have been roped in. Even poor shopkeepers who sell oil worth four annas a day, sugar worth three annas a day, *gur* worth two annas a day — they have probably a hundred commodities in the same shop which they sell worth one, two or three annas a day — are roped in. Such is the

[Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang.]

case with small shopkeepers in towns and elsewhere. They will find it absolutely impossible to keep accounts of one hundred items and, therefore, the Act, so far as their case is concerned, is practically unworkable and they are perfectly justified in agitating on this point. If the Hon'ble Premier realises that something should be done with regard to them, then I would suggest that immediate steps should be taken to give some sort of assurance to the *beoparis* that such and such exemptions would be made so far as the application of the Sales Tax is concerned. If these things are done, I feel and it is my hope—not any assurance for I have no *locus standi*, not any justification or authority for giving any assurance at all, but this is my personal feeling—that the situation would be immediately eased in this province if the Government comes out with a declaration on the lines that I have suggested. In the first place I would request that the operation of the Markets Act should be postponed and the operation of the other tax could also be postponed. If the Government has been carried on for eighty or ninety years without this Act, it can carry on the administration for a couple of years more. Who knows when the war may end but it is not going to last for ever. It may be two years, it may be three years, it may be much less, who knows? The Government is not going to loose very much by the postponement, but if the postponement does not appeal to the Government, then my submission is that the concessions which I have suggested and which the *beoparis* have suggested might be shown to them and then let us hope that the province would return to its normal conditions which every one of us would sincerely wish. (*Loud applause.*)

Raja Chazanfar Ali Khan : On a point of personal explanation. Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang said about me that in my speech yesterday, I said, “Banion ko do din men Government drust kar sakti hai”. I submit that this is entirely false. I never used the word ‘bania’ in my speech yesterday. I have never used it anywhere in any of my speeches and I never said that ‘Banion ko do din men Government drust kar sakti hai’, and what was correctly reported in the vernacular papers was that if the Government wants it can put off the deadlock in seven days’ time. Therefore, he is thoroughly misinformed and I would request him to withdraw those very uncharitable remarks. (Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang rose to speak.)

Mr. Speaker : No comments please.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur North-Muslim-Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to oppose this measure. Just at present this Bill will prove particularly prejudicial to the interests of both zamindars and traders. But before taking up this Bill I wish to point out that mis-apprehensions created by the speeches delivered from both sides have worsened the situation and that the Government is displaying undue obstinacy under these misapprehensions. I heard the speeches made by Sardar Santokh Singh and Lala Bihari Lal Chaurana in the meeting of the traders held outside Delhi Gate the day before yesterday. It was clear from those speeches that this agitation of the traders is not at all intended to threaten the Government or to challenge its authority. On the other hand they proved by stating their case in full detail that it was absolutely impossible

for them to carry on their business in the presence of this law. Lala Bihari Lal put the whole matter in a nutshell by saying that a horse that could not carry more than two maunds must needs give way if a load of four or five maunds is placed on its back. He said that the Government had thrown so much burden on their shoulders in the form of new laws that it was physically impossible for them to bear it. Yesterday, it was said on behalf of the Government that the traders had thrown a challenge to the Government. That is a wrong idea. The traders are not in a fighting mood. I may also point out that if this law is withdrawn it will not be a victory for the traders, but for the Government itself. The world war has entered a very serious phase and if on the top of it this agitation is started, the situation will become still worse. The crops are ready for harvesting and all the hopes of zamindars are naturally centered on these crops. Therefore this deadlock will affect them very seriously. The agricultural produce has to be marketed in the mandis and if business in the markets is suspended the zamindar will be faced with great difficulties and hardships. He will have to sell his produce at awfully cheap rates and thus sustain a great loss. I would, therefore, request the Government to postpone the enforcement of this measure for the duration of the war. (*An honourable member*: The honourable member is repeating arguments.) It is my duty to offer useful suggestions and it is up to you to accept or reject them.

Premier : This suggestion was offered by Dr. Narang too. He has said all these things and you need not repeat them.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Then, Sir, a good many other Bills were introduced besides this one and it was given out that they were for the good of the zamindars. But that was all tall talk. These Bills are not brought forward for the good of zamindars. On the other hand the underlying intention appears to be to bring everything under the control of the Government. Otherwise, it is clear that this measure will ruin the zamindars. It is very often declared that the people working in the markets fleece the zamindars. But that is not the case. If a zamindar wants money to meet any expenses while his crop is standing he goes to the *arti* and gets the required amount in advance. I may point out that I have never paid commission at a higher rate than 12 annas or a rupee to the *arti*. Thus the *arti* meets our requirements even before he receives our produce. The poor zamindar has lost all credit on account of the previous measures passed by the Government and now he will be deprived even of that help which he occasionally received from *artis*. This shows that instead of being a blessing to the zamindars this measure will do him a great harm. These are very critical times and such measures should not be enforced at this juncture. The object of all the laws so far made by this Government will become clear, from two parables. A clever man, like our present Ministry, entered into a contract with a king and obtained a monopoly for the sale of fuel-wood in return for a few thousand of rupees. It was stipulated in the contract that all the woodcutters were to bring their wood to that man and he was to supply the needs of consumers. Thus he purchased hundreds or thousands of maunds of wood at his own rates and the poor woodcutters were reduced to a pitiable plight. On the other hand he was in a position to

[Ch. Muhammad Khan.]
 sell his fuel wood to the consumers at whatever price he wanted to charge for it and in this way he earned lakhs of rupees in a very short period. One day fire broke out in his godown and reduced it to ashes. When an inquiry was held into the cause of fire it was found out that no person was responsible for it and the fire had been caused by the woeful burning sighs of the poor people whose helplessness he had exploited so ruthlessly. (*Laughter.*) It is not a matter for laughter. You should draw a moral from it and tremble with fear lest you should draw the wrath of Almighty God on your heads. The British considered themselves the masters of the seas, but the world has seen their ships burning in the mid-ocean.

Now I come to the second parable. A certain wise man told his clan that a very pernicious wind was going to blow very soon and anybody who did not take proper precautions would go mad and would be so overwhelmed with undesirable cravings as to lose all sense of difference between right and wrong. He exhorted them to go with him to a mountain and take refuge in some cave. His people did not listen to his advice and when the time for the blowing of that wind came he went to the cave along with a few persons who had accepted his wise counsel. After the wind was over he came back and found that all the people who had remained back had gone mad and when he tried to show them reason he was thrown in jails. Sir, a similar wind has blown in this province and all the Unionists have gone stark mad. Anybody who tries to reason with them is thrown behind prison bars. The time is such that whatever Government may be in power it should see that instead of agitation there is contentment and peace in the country. The crops of zamindars are ready for harvesting and such laws should not be enforced at this time.

Then as regards the assertion about 6½ annas in the rupee going to *Mandivalas*, I submit that it is based on miscalculation.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is repeating arguments advanced by the other speakers.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It has much force, coming as it does, from a zamindar. He is endorsing what Sardar Santokh Singh said.

Ch. Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan : Thus, this measure is harmful equally to the traders and zamindars. I assure you that even some members of the Unionist Party are complaining of this craze of continuous legislation. I do not want to mention any names but a good many of them express their entire dissatisfaction in private although they do not have the courage to express it openly because their carnal desires and greed would not let them do so. (*Laughter.*) By God I am telling you nothing but the truth.

These Bills which are being passed one after another have played havoc with the zamindars. Strictly speaking they have no time to heave a sigh of relief. My submission, therefore, is that the Government should consider this matter dispassionately and then they must obtain public opinion so far as this Bill is concerned. But the trouble is that they would not give ears to our submissions. Let me also remark that what Sir Chhotu Ram can say to-day, he cannot say to-morrow. He changes like the wind and what we have learnt by our ob-

servations is that whosoever got the title of Knighthood was sure to be doomed for ever. (*Laughter.*) Sir, the Hon'ble Ch. Sir Chhotu Ram could conveniently serve the nation without this title. It is an irony of fate that no sooner was he created a Knight than he began to sow seeds for dissensions among people of the province the result of which has come out in a most regrettable form. Even well-educated and refined people have now begun to discriminate between a bania and a zamindar while in reality we do not find any difference or distinction between the two. Let me ask him whether business is a bania's monopoly and a zamindar is debarred from starting a business if he is quite in a position to do so. No, this is not the case. I know many places where zamindars have started business. I, therefore, submit that the brunt of the Electricity Bill will fall mostly on poor zamindars who are doing business and unfortunately every one of them is illiterate. Now you may consider for yourself what a great difficulty they will have to face on the enforcement of this measure. I believe that the business spirit which has been created among zamindars will vanish away and this Bill will be held responsible for that. In this connection let me also point out that there is a village Madra in the district of Jullundur where it was decided to award Rs. 50 for whosoever was adjudged best in the matter of cleanliness. You would be surprised to know that the travelling allowance given to the officers who made tours in that ilaqa for making this award came to Rs. 1,500. Now, just imagine that for giving an award of Rs. 50 to the deserving zamindar the Government spent Rs. 1,500 on mere travelling allowance! What a wisdom! I think nobody on the face of the earth would say that by adopting such methods the Government would ever succeed in ameliorating the lot of poor peasantry of this province. Although it is being boasted from the housetop that the present Government is doing much for zamindars yet in reality it is shown on paper and practically no substantial work is done for them. What a fun it is that a zamindar earns six or seven pies per diem and his so-called well-wishers and sympathisers receive fat salaries and large amounts as travelling allowances at his expense! Do they call it justice? I would again submit that the Government would not be able to improve the condition of the peasantry of the province by the passage of this measure which goes dead against their interests and therefore with these few words I strongly oppose this Bill.

Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Mr. Speaker, as all of us are aware, certain amendments have already been made by the Government both in the Act and the rules under the Agricultural Produce Markets Act. These amendments are quite satisfactory in so far as they go. The traders are quite reasonable and they admit that fact in the resolutions which they passed at the meeting of the standing committee which took place in Lahore. I am of the opinion that but for that unfortunate clause 3 of the amending Bill, the position to-day would have been different from what we find it. The traders have put their demands in black and white before the Government, before the public, and before everybody who is concerned in the affair. These demands, I make it clear,

[S. Santokh Singh.]

are not new. They are the very same demands that I had put before the honourable Premier when I had talks with him with regard to this Bill. He was pleased to concede certain points, and there were some other points which he did not feel prepared to agree to. These demands, as I said yesterday, are quite reasonable. There is nothing exaggerated about them. I spoke at length with regard to these demands and tried to prove conclusively to this House that they were very reasonable and Government should have no difficulty in accepting them. Certain talks have again taken place after my yesterday's speech and as the result of those talks I am in a position to say that a situation has again been brought about when not only there is a possibility but a likelihood of the compromise being arrived at between the traders and the Government. I made an open appeal to the Premier on the floor of the House yesterday that he may be pleased not to insist on the retention of clause 3 in this amending Bill. I repeat that request again and assure him that if he agrees to the deletion of that clause, ways and means are likely to be found whereby a settlement of the dispute will not only be possible, but is most likely in the light of the discussions that have taken place to-day. I do hope that the response from the honourable Premier will be satisfactory, so that this deadlock, which is injurious to all the interests in the province may be ended as early as possible. I have unfortunately to refer to-day again to the speech made by the Premier yesterday. It was both conciliatory as well as coercive, but I am not replying to the coercive portion of it in the same language that the Premier thought fit to employ, because I do not want to spoil any chances of a settlement that may come in our way. I will, however, explain the position of the traders with regard to the hartals. I can say with all the emphasis that I can command that the traders are not doing any overt act. Their spokesmen are careful to impress at all the meetings, at all the places where they have an occasion to meet that the hartals must be absolutely peaceful, that there should be no processions, and that no slogans should be used by any one; and, Sir, if after that, by voluntarily closing our shops by way of protest against a legislative measure where we find that it is not possible for us to carry on our work we are committing any offence, I say on the floor of this House that we plead guilty and we are prepared to stand all consequences.

I will advisedly not make a long speech lest anything that I might say may spoil the chances of an honourable settlement for which both sides are very keen. I shall leave things at that, in the hope that the response from the Government will be quite satisfactory so that we can put our heads together and find out ways and means of bringing the present deadlock to an end.

I have just a word to say with regard to the Sales Tax Act. Certain proposals have been made on the floor of the House which I have no doubt the Government will give its best attention to. All that I need say is that the Government has already agreed to charge this tax for only one-half of the year, that is taking the sales of the whole year, they will divide it by two and charge the tax on one-half of the sales of the whole year. Instead of doing that I suggest that the Government may postpone the application of the Act till the 1st October. If the Government agrees to this I think by then most of

the present difficulties will have been solved. Government too will not be losers by bringing this Act into force from 1st October, because they will be able to raise as much money by accepting my suggestion as they contemplate to raise now. The only difference will be that the traders will be able to heave a sigh of relief during this period of six months and now that this portfolio has been transferred to the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, he may be expected to have more sympathy for the urban traders and here is just the possibility that both the Government and the traders will be able to put their heads together and find out ways and means for bringing about a satisfactory solution of this problem also. If this suggestion of mine is accepted, the traders, both petty and big, will have no immediate cause of complaint and in the meantime benefiting by the experience that we shall gain and realising the hardships and troubles of both petty and big shopkeepers there is every likelihood that some means may be found out for bringing about a satisfactory solution. I may repeat again that by accepting my suggestion the Government will not lose a *cowrie*. They will get the same amount of money as they expect at the present moment. The advantage of my suggestion is that in the interests of the province as a whole, both the Government and the traders will in the meantime be able to think about the present situation calmly and they will be able to give their time and attention of all the difficulties that may come to notice and reach a satisfactory solution of the difficulties.

The trouble about the Marketing Act was that attention was not paid to the realities of the situation. No heed was paid as to what the circumstances in the province were. Certain rules were taken from other provinces and bodily copied here without any regard to the situation in this province. If the Government had acted on the suggestions I had made then, much of the conflict would have been avoided. As I have already stated it is not a question of victory or defeat. Government has already announced that it will change this tax only for a period of six months. If my suggestion is accepted it will not be detrimental to the interests of the Government. It may pave the way for an honourable settlement and remove many of the misapprehensions and also avoid the deadlock which is threatening the whole province from the 1st of May next. I do hope the Honourable Premier will give his best attention to the suggestion that I have made and will take it in the same spirit in which I have made it. I have not used any extravagant language lest any chances of settlement should be spoiled and I hope the other side also will keep this in mind while making speeches on this subject.

Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat Khan): I will divide my speech into two parts. I will devote one part to the points raised by my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh, and the other to reply to the remarks made by my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and others. Sir Gokul Chand Narang opened his speech by making a charitable reference to Government contrary to his usual practice. I am grateful to him for the compliment he paid to Government by conceding that we had accepted certain reasonable demands. But knowing Dr. Narang as I do, I suspected that this

[Premier.]

departure from his usual mode of expression was meant to mark what was to follow. My surmise proved to be correct, because in the very next sentence he said that Government which would not yield an inch when all these points were brought to its notice in this House was brought to its senses by a threat of boycott and hartal. My answer to this unwarranted insinuation is that, after all Governments consist of human beings. And we on these benches are susceptible to threats, coercion and persuasion like any other human being. But, may I ask him whether any one of the points now raised, excepting the one relating to the constitution of marketing committees, was mentioned in the course of the discussion on the Marketing Bill? Or when the rules were framed and published, whether he or his friends took the trouble of filing their objections or bringing them to the notice of the Minister in charge or any other member of the Government? After all, it was for them to lodge objections in accordance with the prescribed procedure and if they had done so, we would have looked into them. It was only when these grievances were brought to my notice by Sardar Santokh Singh that I and my colleague, the Minister in charge came to know of them. And when they were brought to our notice, Government without hesitation conceded all his demands which did not affect the principle of the Act. We could not, however, agree to a further modification of the provisions relating to representation in the committees as that would have been contrary to the principle accepted by the House. I wish my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang had refrained from making a speech in his customary provocative vein, because his effusion is not likely to do anybody any good, not even the people whom he professes to represent. His speech was as usual flamboyant and highly provocative, and was obviously meant to incite the traders and encourage them to flout the law. He did not stop there but went on to make a most astounding and irresponsible remark which one would hardly expect from a man of his position and experience. It was most improper for him, an erstwhile member of Government, to say that the Ministers can by a mere hint start a riot. I believe it was merely wishful thinking on his part. He, perhaps wants riots in this province also. Having read the news about riots in Bombay, Ahmedabad and other places, he seems to be anxious to see similar untoward incidents happening here also so that he may be able to gloat over it and denounce the Government for not being able to preserve law and order. What a callous wish! He is prepared to cut his nose to spite the face. It ill-behoves a person of his standing to talk in invendous and to indulge in such loose and irresponsible insinuations which might lead to irresponsible mischief.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It was Mir Maqbool Mahmood who said that.

Premier : It was my honourable friend opposite who said it. This is what he said. I have got his exact words. "A hint from Ministers and leaders of the Unionist Party might start riots anywhere. They can get lawlessness started in every part of the province if they want it."

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It is a case of wishful thinking for the Premier. Remember that it was one of your men sitting behind

you, Mir Maqbul Mahmood, who said that the zamindars had come to him and said that they would fight. You are concealing one thing and only referring to my remark.

Premier : I am not concealing anything. The Ministry is here to keep law and order and those who egg people on to disturb the peace would be dealt with in accordance with the law of the land.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : It is only the fools and dishonest people who can egg them on. Fools and dishonest people will lead people to fight.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member is making a full fledged speech.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : He goes on making personal remarks.

Mr. Speaker : The honourable member can give an explanation later on. He himself made personal remarks.

Premier : Only fools and dishonest persons could live under such a delusion. Let me warn my honourable friend that no dishonest person or mischief-maker will be allowed to set fire to a haystack and then keep aloof at a safe distance. Mischief-mongers, whatever their status or motive, should be denounced and denounced publicly, in this House and outside.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : You will have the support of all honest people.

Premier : I hope my honourable friend will act up to his professions. He also remarked that by including clause 3 in the amending Bill Government had sprinkled salt on the wounds of the traders. If the traders have any wounds they can be attributed only to mal-practices which we are endeavouring to banish — they are self-inflicted wounds or wounds inflicted by their own friends and protagonists and not by Government.

He then went on to say that the trading classes have been insulted by this particular law. If that is the position, then the trading classes in the whole of India have been insulted. The traders in Bombay have been insulted, and the traders in the Central Provinces, in Bengal, in Madras have also been insulted. The traders in these provinces, according to my friend, are not self-respecting enough to feel the insult!

To answer Sardar Santokh Singh's speech, would, I think, merely mean a reiteration of what I said yesterday. I said on the floor of this House twice during the course of discussion that this Government was not only prepared to receive representations but that it was the duty of Government to do so, from whatever quarter they are received, and to redress any grievances brought to their notice. If they were genuine grievances, it was the duty of Government to try and remove them. I said that not once, but twice. If anybody cares to come to me or to the Minister concerned and put forward any grievances, they will receive careful and sympathetic consideration. That is what I said before. I also went further and said that Government has given instructions that the rules should be so framed as to avoid any genuine hardship. If there are any points to be discussed, I would welcome

[Premier.]

it if my honourable friend or anybody else would bring them either to me or to the Minister concerned. We would be prepared to do everything possible to remove any real disability or hardship by amending the rules, but I might as well state here frankly that apart from those matters, which we can rectify by amending the rules in order to avoid any avoidable hardship, we cannot go any further. If my honourable friend thinks that there is any chance of effecting a change in the principles of the Bill, then I am afraid he is doomed to disappointment. It may be that when the Act has been in force for a sufficient period we might find that certain commodities or articles need preferential treatment and should therefore be exempted from the operation of the sales tax. We may even find it necessary to exempt certain articles at one or more stages. Again, there may be certain products on which it may not be expedient or equitable to levy a tax except at the initial stage. All these matters can be dealt with under the law as enacted or in the rules. We have power to do that. The Minister concerned will be glad to receive and consider any suggestions within the limits I have specified, but so far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, it cannot be altered. The Act is already in force. My honourable friend said that it should be postponed. It came into force automatically on the day it received the assent of the Governor. We have already decided to postpone the actual enforcement of that part of the Act which relates to assessment till October. We cannot possibly postpone the whole Act, because there are several preliminary matters which have to be disposed of. For instance, we have to employ staff. We must get on with the preliminary survey, get forms printed, and do several other things before the taxation officers can start their work of estimating the value of turnover. It will take several months to do all that. We have already decided that the tax should be levied after the 1st October and only for six months during the current financial year. The postponement of the Act as a whole would mean the postponement of this preliminary work also which it will be necessary to undertake without undue delay.

Then with regard to the market committee, I would not go over the whole ground again. In his original representation my honourable friend made certain demands, and each and every one of them was conceded except the one for altering the proportion of growers and dealers on the market committees. I made it quite clear to my honourable friend when he came to see me in deputation with others that I was not in a position to concede this particular demand. The other demands were met, and he has himself admitted it in his speech. Then yesterday, as I have said before, to my surprise after the whole thing had been settled, they put forward several fresh demands. One of them was the same, a request for altering the representation of dealers in the committees. Another was for postponement of the whole Act until six months after the war, which of course, I could not possibly concede. As regards the suggestion that temporary weighmen — *tolas* — employed during the period of rush immediately after the harvesting should be exempted, I agreed to consider the possibility of issuing permits or temporary licences for a period not exceeding thirty days. Permanent people of course will have to be licensed permanently.

With regard to the alternative punishment, I think it should be possible and Government will be able to consider sympathetically the proposal that in addition to the confiscation of licence or suspension for 5 or 9 months there should also be an alternative punishment of fine, so that an offence may not necessarily involve the cancellation of the licence.

Sardar Santokh Singh : May I say that in these demands which we have put forward there is no fresh demand? We have not made any fresh demand. Only those demands which I made before the Honourable Premier have been repeated.

Premier : I have already said that Government had conceded all his original demands except one. Later he brought in fresh demands. Only one which had not been conceded was common and the other three were fresh.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Not one was fresh.

Premier : My honourable friend himself said yesterday in his speech that he was not aware of the difficulties regarding employment of temporary additional hands, such as weighmen, etc., during the rush season, when he saw me with the deputation.

Sardar Santokh Singh : The Premier will recollect that I pressed it before him that no licences should be necessary for *tolas* and *rolas*.

Premier : There is no licence for *rolas*.

Sardar Santokh Singh : There are for weighmen, surveyors, etc., who are required to take licenses.

Premier : There are licences for brokers, warehousemen, surveyors and weighmen. Only these people will be licensed. The others will not be licensed. There is no intention of licensing an ordinary labourer nor is there any such provision in the Act or the rules. There seems to be some misapprehension.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Is the weighman not being licensed?

Premier : He is.

Sardar Santokh Singh : Is that not labour?

Premier : *Tolas* will be licensed. It is intended to licence only those persons who are licensed in other provinces where Marketing Acts are in force. I may mention that the fees there are much higher than we have fixed here. For instance, the weighmen and the like have to pay Rs. 5 and brokers have to pay Rs. 20 in other provinces. I made my position quite clear with regard to all these points and nothing was left outstanding. Now my honourable friend has put forward another excuse for not redeeming his pledge. He said that introduction of clause 3 has made all the difference. If this clause had not been included, then the whole thing would have been settled. This is a clear confession that the matter was not considered on merits. When my honourable friend himself had admitted on the floor of this House that all the main demands had been conceded, why did he take up a different attitude outside?

I had told my honourable friend that this clause will not be pressed if I was given an assurance that the threat

[Premier.]

of hartal will be withdrawn, and as things stand now, the clause has been suspended. It has been suspended because it will not be operative unless we specially notify in the gazette. I cannot take it out altogether because my honourable friend may find it difficult to bring his own people round. He himself may be reasonable and some other persons may be reasonable. But there may be adventurers who wish to exploit the trader for their own ends. For instance, I was told that in the meeting yesterday a gentleman who had absolutely no concern with these measures, was largely responsible for encouraging others to continue the hartal simply because he had some personal grievance against Government. These things do happen, and are likely to happen again. My honourable friend's reasoning and arguments may be of no avail when he is dealing with unscrupulous people who are bent upon mischief. In any case I undertook that, if an assurance was forthcoming from the traders that they would withdraw the threat of a hartal, the clause would be withdrawn. But that assurance was not forthcoming; instead only a fresh threat appeared in the papers which was also mentioned by my honourable friend, though in a milder form. He must realise that in face of these facts it was impossible for me to withdraw that clause. All that I could do was to suspend it. If I had withdrawn it altogether and a contingency arose later, it would have necessitated convening a special session of this Assembly again which cannot be done at a moment's notice and would moreover cost the province several thousand rupees. Therefore I have adopted the only reasonable course and have suspended the clause so that it can be revived and used if and when an emergency arises. I repeat my assurance that if he gives me an undertaking to-day, to-morrow or even later that there is no likelihood of any such contingency arising, he can take it from me that that notification will never appear and that it will be as if the clauses did not exist in the Bill at all. On the other hand, if he is not able to persuade his followers to see reason, then I trust he will agree with me that I must have some weapon to deal with an emergency of the kind I have indicated and to ensure that those people who come forward to help the Government and the people of the province at this juncture, are duly protected. It was for this reason, as I clearly and frankly explained to him, that I included that clause. Further, if he cannot persuade his friends to remove the threat, and if the threat takes effect and there is chaos and turmoil in the province, then, if anything happens, the responsibility will lie entirely on those people who are egging on others to adopt this attitude. Such a contingency must also be met, from the economic point of view, and for that reason we must have powers to deal with it and to take every precaution we possibly can take under the circumstances. I have to-day received an offer from a well-known firm of businessmen who are prepared — though they say they are not very rich people — to invest about 20 to 30 lakhs in the grain business, and the question they ask is, 'suppose we take up this business and to-morrow you allow these people to come in who flouted the law, what will happen to us'. So, for that reason we must have some power to give protection, if necessary, to people who stake their all to help us. Surely people who are public spirited enough to take this risk in order to help us are entitled to ask for some guarantee that the risk will

be worth while and that they will not be put out of pocket on account of this public-spirited action of theirs. In these circumstances, I hope my honourable friend will agree with me that some such provision as this was necessary. The clause has now been suspended and it does not constitute a part of the Act, though it will become part of the Act if we issue the notification. That notification, however, will not be necessary if the followers of my honourable friend and his colleagues on the protest committee can be made to see reason and are reasonable,

2 P. M.

particularly in view of the fact that their main demand has been met and that there are no outstanding points on which we differ. But with regard to the Sales Tax, as I have said, the principle is there and it cannot be changed. So far as the rules are concerned, he or any body else is welcome to approach us and Government will be prepared to consider every suggestion on its merits. I would now deal with a remark made by Chaudhri Abdul Rahman Khan. I do not know whether it was spontaneous or whether it was inspired but it was a most objectionable and unwarranted aspersion against Unionist members of the House — I would say no more than to remind him of the saying

اپنے گویاں میں سے کہہ دے۔

May God forgive him and bring him to the right path.

In conclusion I may tell my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh once again that it is the earnest desire of the Government that this commercial deadlock should end. As a matter of fact we have gone a long way to meet the legitimate demands of the traders, and I hope he will discuss the matter with them and convince them of the good intentions of this Government. It is responsible people like Sardar Santokh Singh who can bring about a proper attitude in the matter. And if the traders still persist in their unreasonable attitude, my friend, I am sure, would not take sides with them but would co-operate with me.

Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The question is—

That the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill as amended be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned sine die.

INDEX.

Vol. XVII.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
A.		ADVANCE—	
ABDUCTION—		Supplementary Estimates <i>re</i> , not bearing interest ..	310
Question <i>re</i> , of daughter of Mohinder Kaur of Krishna Bazar, Gwalmandi ..	666	AGE LIMIT—	
ABDUL AZIZ, MIAN—		Question <i>re</i> , for entry into service for LL. B.'s ..	71
Bill, Urban Rent Restriction,—		AGRICULTURAL FARMS—	
Ejectment ..	383-84	Question <i>re</i> , in Lower Bari Doab Colony ..	438
Rules ..	391	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) BILL—	
Bill, Weight and Measures, Passage ..	463-65	Announcement <i>re</i> presentation and time for discussion of, ..	501
Budget motion <i>re</i> Superintendence of Medical Department ..	163-69	Consideration of, ..	559-609, 617-59.
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	406	Date of coming into force of, ..	617-19
ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN—		Definitions ..	621-23
Question <i>re</i> grant of parole to, of Ambala ..	81	Levy of Fees ..	608
ABDUL HAYE, THE HONOURABLE MIAN—		Licence, Grant, Cancellation or Suspension of, ..	623-64
Budget Motion <i>re</i> Superintendence of Medical Department ..	222-32	Market Committee, constitution of, ..	602-08
ABDUL RAB, MIAN—		Passing of, ..	659-64, 668-89.
Budget motion <i>re</i> Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	297-98	AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT—	
ABSCONDERS—		Question <i>re</i> Promotion to Higher Ranks in, ..	6
Question <i>re</i> , ..	69	AHLIAD—	
ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE—		Question <i>re</i> retrenchment of post of, in Gray Canals, Ferozepore ..	71
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr. and Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri ..	250	AJIT SINGH, SARDAR—	
ACREAGE RATE—		Adjournment motion <i>re</i> Motor vehicles stand at Rawalpindi ..	446
Question <i>re</i> , in Nili Bar Colony ..	437	Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment), Licence, Grant, cancellation or suspension of, ..	657
ACT—		Bill, Weights and Measures—	
Question <i>re</i> assistance under State Aid to Industries, ..	497	Penalty for sale by false weights ..	457
ADDITIONAL GRANTS—		Verification and Stamping ..	450
Question <i>re</i> , to District Boards for Primary education ..	440	AKBAR ALI, PIR—	
ADDITIONAL POLICE POST—		Budget motion <i>re</i> —	
Question <i>re</i> , at village Sur Singh ..	83	Industrial Policy ..	51-52, 53
ADJOURNMENT—		Superintendence of Medical Department ..	157-62
Of Assembly, ..	13, 367, 668.	ALI AKBAR, CHAUDHRI—	
ADJOURNMENT MOTION—		Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment), Motion for consideration, ..	588
<i>Re</i> Motor vehicles stand at Rawalpindi ..	446	ALLOWANCES—	
ADMINISTRATOR, LAHORE MUNICIPALITY—		Question <i>re</i> applications for, by detenus ..	70
Question <i>re</i> substantive pay of, ..	422	AMJAD ALI SHAH, SAYED—	
ADMISSION—		Bill, Urban Rent Restriction, application of Acts ..	373-74
Question <i>re</i> —		Budget motion <i>re</i> —	
Canvassing for, of students to Government College, Hoshiarpur ..	423	Industrial Policy ..	42-5
To Gakkhar Normal Training School ..	72	Superintendence of Medical Department ..	214-18
ADULT EDUCATION—		Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	329-31
Question <i>re</i> travelling allowance to officers for propaganda for, ..	313		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
APPEAL—		BUDGET MOTION—concl'd.	
Question re delay in disposal of, of ex-Secretary, District Board, Jullundur ..	421	re—concl'd.	
APPOINTMENTS—		Superintendence of Medical De- partment ..	136—76, 185—232.
Question re dismissals and, in the Industrial Branch of the Co- operative Department ..	233	Working of Hydro-Electric De- partment ..	250—98
APPROPRIATION AND FINANCE AC- COUNTS—		BUND—	
Auditor-General's report on, ..	315	Question re construction of a, on Beyen near village Nalsian in Nakodar tahsil ..	422
ARRESTS—		BURGLARY—	
Question re, in connection with Satyagraha Movement ..	77, 347	Question re cases of, in province..	350
ARTIFICIAL GREEN—			
Question re colourization of, ..	183	C.	
ASSISTANCE—		CANAL—	
Question re, under State-Aid to Industries Act ..	497	Question re—	
ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE—		Closure of Sirhind, Abohar Branch ..	614
Question re, ..	355	Damage to crops by closure of Lower Bari Doab, ..	365
Question re selection of, ..	308	Irrigation of Lands at Tail of Chari Minor, Western Jumna, ..	11
AUTHENTICATED EXPENDITURE—		CANDIDATES—	
Schedule of, ..	359—61	Question re, for tahsildarship in Ambala Division ..	78
		CANVASSING—	
B.		Question re, for admission of students to Government Col- lege, Hoshiarpur ..	423
BALDEV SINGH, SARDAR—		CARDING PLANT—	
Leave of absence, ..	135	Question re installation of, for wool ..	497
BARKAT ALL, MALIK—		CATTLE—	
Bill, Electricity (Emergency Pow- ers), circulation ..	520—23	Question re, census in Hissar dis- trict ..	303
Budget motion re—		CATTLE LIFTING—	
Superintendence of Medical De- partment ..	143—53	Question re—	
Working of Hydro-Electric De- partment ..	294—97	Branding of cattle for check- ing, ..	419
Reference to late Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan, Noon ..	66-7	Cases of, in province ..	360
BEYEN—		CENSOR—	
Question re construction of a bund on, near village Nalsian in Nakodar tahsil ..	422	Question re, of Assembly Dak of M. L. A's. detained in Deoli Camp ..	73
BEAGAT RAM CHODA, LALA—		CENSUS—	
Leave of absence, ..	86	Question re cattle, in Hissar dis- trict ..	303
BHIM SEN SACHAR, LALA—		CERTIFICATES—	
Leave of absence, ..	86	Question re special, granted to untrained teachers ..	184
BILL—		CHAIRMEN—	
See—		Procedure when no member of panel of chairmen available for occupying chair in temporary absence of Mr. Speaker ..	260
Agricultural Produce iMarkets (Amendment).		CHANAN SINGH, COMRADE—	
Electricity (Amendment).		Question re, ..	411
Electricity (Emergency Powers).		CHANAN SINGH, SARDAR—	
Indian Registration (Punjab Amendment).		Leave of absence, ..	13
Suppression of Indecent Adver- tisement.		Question re, ..	490
BRANDING OF CATTLE—		Question re, personal assistant to Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A... ..	437
Question re, for checking cattle lifting ..	419	CHARI MINOR—	
BUDGET MOTION—		Question re irrigation of lands at Tail of, Western Jumna Canal ..	11
Re—		CHARN SINGH KHARBANDI, SARDAR—	
Demonstration parties ..	13—19	Question re, of Lyallpur ..	496
Industrial Policy ..	19—64,		
..	87—132		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
CHAUKIDAR—		COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE—	
Question re, ..	5	Question re, to Government servants on removal from service ..	439
CHHAJJA SINGH, COMRADE—		COMPOSITORS—	
Question re, ..	411	Question re communal representation among, in Government Printing, Punjab ..	441
CHHOTU RAM, THE HONOURABLE CHAUDHRI SIR—		CONCESSIONS—	
Adjournment of the Assembly, ..	13	Question re, to sons of teachers ..	354
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment), Motion for consideration of, ..	592—96	CONFISCATION —	
Bill, Weights and Measures—		Question re, of revolver licence and shot gun licence of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A. ..	293
Fraudulent use of weights ..	453	CONGRESS COMMITTEE—	
Inspection of weights, etc. ..	451	Question re raid by police on office of the Punjab Provincial, Lahore ..	1
Introduced and referred to Select Committee ..	402	CONGRESS SATYAGRAH—	
Passage ..	469-70	Question re, near Amrit Electric Press, Gwalmandi, Lahore ..	412
Penalty for making false weights ..	454, 455	CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS—	
Penalty for possession of false weights, etc. ..	459, 462	Question re, in Jullundur district ..	413
Penalty for sale by false weights ..	457	CONSTABLES—	
Verification and stamping ..	450	Question re, Police, ..	357
Budget motion re—		CONSTITUENCIES ..	
Demonstration parties ..	18—19	Question re revision of, of District Board, Jullundur ..	350
Industrial policy ..	118—132	CONTRACT—	
CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS—		Question re, for repair of Sadar Bungalow of Grey Canals' office ..	181
Question re grant of extension in service to, ..	432	CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT—	
CHILD WELFARE—		Question re—	
Question re maternity and, facilities ..	556	Dismissal and appointments in Industrial Branch of, ..	233
CIVIC GUARDS—		Recruitment to, ..	558
Question re, ..	177	CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—	
CLERKS—		Question re communal representation among Inspectors, ..	358
Question re, in office of Law College, Lahore ..	86	CORRUPTION—	
CLOSURE—		Question re, and embezzlement of Government money by Deputy Superintendent of Jail Department, Hissar ..	82
Question re—		CROPS—	
Damage to crops by, of Lower Bari Doab Canal ..	365	Question re—	
Of Sirhind Canal, Abohar Branch ..	614	Damage to, by closure of Lower Bari Doab Canal ..	365
COLOURING—		Damage to, by hailstorm ..	79, 133, 300, 491.
Question re, of Vegetable Product ..	424		
COLOURIZATION—			
Question re, of artificial ghee ..	183		
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE JOURNAL—			
Question re, ..	349		
COMMISSION—			
Question re, received by Special Official Receiver ..	418		
COMMITTEE—			
Question re Hospital Visit, Jullundur district ..	73		
COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION—			
Question re—			
Among Inspectors, Co-operative Societies ..	358		
Fixing of, in services under District Boards ..	243		
In class I and class II posts in the Punjab Irrigation Research ..	241		
In services under Grey Canals Department ..	243		
In office of Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore ..	237		
		D.	
		DACQNTY—	
		Question re cases of, in province..	350
		DALIP SINGH, BHAI—	
		Question re posting of, in Punjab Veterinary College ..	428
		DALIP SINGH, CHAUDHRI—	
		Question re appointment of, in place of Mushtaq Rai in office of Director at Veterinary Services ..	428
		DAMAGE—	
		Question re, to crops by closure of Lower Bari Doab Canal ..	365
		DANIAL LATIFI, COMRADE—	
		Question re, Bar-at-Law ..	551

	PAGES.		PAGES.
DARBARI LAL, LALA—		DEV RAJ SETHI, MR.—	
Question re arrest and detention of, ..	415	Absence without leave ..	250.
DARSHAN LAL—		Leave of absence, ..	309.
Question re police investigations into murder of, ..	421	DEVELOPMENT—	
DASAUNDHA SINGH, THE HONOURABLE SARDAR—		DEVELOPMENT FUND—	
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment)—		Question re Special, ..	81
Licence, Grant, Cancellation or Suspension of, ..	652-64	DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES—	
Motion for consideration, ..	596-601	Question re Appointment of Chaudhri Dalip Singh in place of Mushtak Rai in office of, ..	428.
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	404	DRILL—	
DEAF—		Question re Mass, ..	86.
Question re Institution for, and dumb ..	349	DISMISSALS—	
DEATHS—		Question re. and appointments in the Industrial Branch of the Co-operative Department ..	323
Question re Remission of, advanced under State Aid to Industries Act ..	5	DISTURBANCES—	
DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD—		Question re Inquiry into Panchana, ..	10.
Question re removal of Member representing creditors on the, Karnal ..	5	DIVISIONAL PANCHAYAT OFFICERS—	
DECREES—		Question re, ..	353
Question re <i>Salisi</i> , ..	9	DISTRICT BOARD(S)—	
DEMAND FOR GRANT—		Question re—	
Electricity Schemes-Working expenses ..	250-98, 316-42.	Additional grants, for primary education ..	440
Industries ..	13-64, 87-132.	Fixing of communal representation in services under, ..	243.
Irrigation Works ..	343-44	Delay in disposal of appeal of Ex-Secretary of Jullundur, ..	421
Land Revenue ..	346	Jullundur ..	556
Medical ..	135-76, 185-232.	Revision of constituencies of, Jullundur ..	350
DEMONSTRATORS—		DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS—	
Question re Representation of Muslims among, ..	357	Question re—	
DEOLI CAMP—		Attock ..	76
Question re Censoring of Assembly Dak of M. L. A.'s detained in, ..	73	Inquiry into conduct of, Attock district ..	445
Question re—		Shifting of Headquarters of, Ballabgarh Sub-division ..	314
Condition of Health of M.L.A.'s imprisoned in, ..	1	DUMB—	
Grievances of Security Prisoners in, ..	4	Question re Institution for deaf and, ..	349.
Security Prisoners in, ..	3		
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER—		E.	
Question re communal representation in office of, Ferozepore ..	237	EDUCATION—	
DEPUTY INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS—		Question re Travelling Allowance to officers for propaganda for Adult, ..	313.
Question re change of designation of, ..	446	EJECTMENT—	
DEPUTY SPEAKER—		Question re notices of, against tenants at Hissar ..	134.
Election of, ..	447-48	ELECTRIC SCHEMES—	
DES RAJ CHADHA, B. A.—		Demand for grants ..	250-98.
Question re, ..	74	Question re Mandi Hydro, ..	440
DEFERUS—		ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL—	
Question re Application for allowances by, ..	70	Introduction ..	528.
		Consideration ..	528, 550
		Passage ..	550
		ELECTRICITY (EMERGENCY POWERS) BILL—	
		Introduction ..	470
		Circulation ..	501-28
		Reference to Select Committee ..	470-87, 528.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
EMBEZZLEMENT—		FORESTS—	
Question re corruption and, of Government money by Deputy Superintendent of Jail Department, Hissar ..	82	Question re communal representation among Extra Assistant Conservators of, ..	667
EXCISE INSPECTORS—		FORESTER—	
Question re communal representation among, ..	667	Question re Rapid promotions given to, in Forest Department ..	433
EXCISE SUB-INSPECTORS—		FOREST OFFICER—	
Question re ..	355	Question re Guzara, ..	429
EX-MILITARY MEN—		FOREST RANGERS—	
Question re preferential treatment to, in Government Services ..	77	Question re Promotion of Muslim, to Higher Ranks ..	242
EX-SECRETARY, DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR—		FUND—	
Question re delay in disposal of appeal of, ..	421	Question re—	
EXTRA ASSISTANT CONSERVATORS—		Guzara, ..	441
Question re communal representation among, of Forests ..	667	Unspent balances under special Development, ..	500
F.		G.	
FAQIR HUSSAIN KHAN, CHAUDHRI—		GAEKHAR NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL—	
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	408	Question re admission to, ..	72
FAMINE-STRIKEN DISTRICTS—		GANJI BAE—	
Question re areas sown in southern, of Punjab ..	133	Question re—	
FARMAN ALI KHAN, SUBEDAR-MAJOR, RAJA—		Acquisition of proprietary rights by tenants in, ..	79
Bill, Electricity (Emergency Powers), circulation ..	523-24	Sub-tenants in colony ..	491
Budget motion re—		GAUGE-READERS—	
Industrial Policy ..	28-30	Question re pay of, ..	439
Superintendence of Medical Department ..	155-57	GELLA RAM, CHAUDHRI—	
FATEH KHAN, KHAN SAHIB RAJA—		Question re supersession by, Personal Assistant to the Director, Veterinary Services ..	441
Budget motion re—		GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—	
Superintendence of Medical Department ..	163	Supplementary Estimates re, ..	310
Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	273-74	GHATANFAR ALI KHAN, RAJA—	
FAZAL ALI KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR NAWAB CHAUDHRI—		Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment), Licence, grant, cancellation or suspension of, ..	643-46
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) motion for consideration, ..	584-87	Budget motion re—	
FAZAL ELLAHI QURBAN, COMRADE—		Industrial Policy ..	30-34
Question re, ..	299	Superintendence of Medical Department ..	173-74
Question re—		Reference to the late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	407-08
Detention of, ..	665	GHULAM SAMAD, KHAN SAHIB KHAWAJA—	
Maintenance allowance for dependents of comrade, ..	611	Bill, Electricity (Emergency Powers), circulation ..	510-12
FEW, MR. E.—		Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—	
Bill, Urban Rent Restriction, application of Act ..	377	Definitions ..	369-70
Budget motion re Industrial policy ..	101-02	Extent, commencement and duration ..	368
FILM—		Budget motion re—	
Question re, entitled "Sehti Murad" ..	178, 179	Demonstration parties ..	13-14, 15-17, 19.
FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE—		Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	269-73
Question re supersessions in ..	248	GIRJA SINGH GIANI—	
FINES—		Question re, ..	2
Question re Imposition of, by Superintendent, Grey Canals, on his subordinates ..	180	GOKUL CHAND NARANG, DR. SIR—	
		Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment)—	
		Definitions ..	622, 623
		Market Committees, constitution of, ..	606-07

	PAGES.		PAGES.
GOKUL CHAND NARANG, DR. SIR—concl'd.		GRIEVANCES—	
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment)—concl'd.		Question re—	
Motion for consideration, ..	579—84	Security Prisoners in Deoli Camp ..	4
Passing of, ..	659—64, 668—78.	Of Sikhs and morcha at Sar-godha ..	304
Bill, Electricity (Amendment).		Of zamindars of Kahuta and Murree tahsils ..	431
Circulation ..	539—44	GUEST, MR. P. H.—	
Bill, Electricity (Emergency Powers), circulation ..	512—19	Budget motion re industrial policy ..	95—8.
Bill, Urban Rent Restriction, ejection ..	380-81	Reference to late Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon ..	67
Budget motion re—		GURBACHAN SINGH, SARDAR BAHADUR SARDAR—	
Industrial policy ..	112—18	Budget motion re working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	324—27
Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	288—93, 327-28	Deputy Speaker, election of, ..	448
GOPAL DAS, RAI BAHADUR LALA—		Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	407
Reference to late Nawab Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon ..	66	GURBAKSH SINGH, BABA—	
GOPI CHAND, BHARGAWA, DR.—		Question re, ..	411
Question re Handcuffing of, ..	552, 611	GUZARA FOREST OFFICER—	
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY—		Question re, ..	429
Motion re ..	446-47	GUZARA FUND—	
GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM—		Question re, ..	441
Question re Recruitment to various branches of, Hissar ..	559	H.	
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE—		HAILSTORM(S)—	
Question re canvassing for admission of students to, Hoshiarpur ..	423	Question re—	
GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL—		Damage due to, ..	613
Question re stopping teaching of Sanskrit in some classes in, for girls, Hoshiarpur ..	307	Damage to crops by, ..	79, 133, 300, 491.
GOVERNMENT METAL WORKS INSTITUTE—		HAILEY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE—	
Question re, at Ambala ..	80	Question re Muslims among Professors and students of, ..	236
GOVERNMENT SERVANTS—		HANDCUFFING—	
Question re compassionate allowance to, on removal from service ..	489	Question re—	
GOVERNMENT SERVICES—		Of Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargawa and Pandit Neki Ram Sharma ..	611
Question re preferential treatment to ex-military men in, ..	77	Of Dr. Sant Ram Seth, M. L. A. Of Satyagrahi prisoners on transfer from one jail to another ..	2
GRAM CROP—		HARRANS LAL, PANDIT—	183
Question re failure of, in Toba Tek Singh Tahsil ..	414	Question re arrest and detention of, ..	415
GRANT—		HARKISHAN SINGH, COMRADE—	
Question re, to Punjab Temperance Federation ..	81	Question re, ..	74
GRANT-IN-AID—		HARNAM SINGH, CAPTAIN SODHI—	
Question re, for new schools ..	71	Bill, Electricity (Amendment), Reference to Select Committee ..	546
GREY CANALS—		Budget motion re—	
Question re—		Industrial policy ..	27-8
Abolition of post of overseer, ..	182	Superintendence of Medical Department ..	207-208
Communal representation in services under, Department ..	243	HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT—	
Imposition of fines by Superintendent, on his subordinates ..	180	Budget motion re working of, ..	250—98
Retrenchment of post of Revenue Moharrir and Ahlmad, Ferozepore ..	71	HEADQUARTERS—	
Under representation of Muslims in higher posts in, Department ..	238	Question re shifting of, of District Inspector of Schools, Ballabgarh sub-division ..	314
GREY CANALS' OFFICE—		HEALTH—	
Question re contract for repair of Sadar Bungalow of, ..	181	Question re condition of, of M. L. A.'s imprisoned in Deoli Camp ..	1

PAGES.	PAGES.
HIGH-HANDEDNESS—	INSTITUTION—
Question re Acts of, by Lahore District Officers committed in village Kutlubi Kalan ..	Question re, for deaf and dumb ..
612	349
HONORARY MAGISTRATES—	INTEREST—
Question re, ..	Supplementary estimates re advances not bearing, ..
348	310
HONORARY NAIB-TAHSILDARS—	IRRIGATION—
Question re, in Rawalpindi ..	Question re, of lands at tail of Chari Minor, Western Jumna Canal ..
437	11
HONORARY SUB-JUDGES—	IRRIGATION WORKS—
Question re ..	Demand for grant ..
348	343-44
HOSPITALS—	J.
Question re, Visit Committee, Jullundur district ..	
73	
HOUSE-BREAKING—	JAGAT NARAIN, LALA—
Question re cases of, in the province ..	Question re arrest of, and other Satyagrahis in Gwalmandi, Lahore ..
350	435
HUNGERSTRIKE—	JAGJIT SINGH BEDI, TIKKA—
Question re, of Comrade Mangal Singh ..	Budget motion re Superintendence of Medical Department ..
415	209-12
I.	Reference to late Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon ..
INDIAN REGISTRATION (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL—	67
Introduction ..	JAGJIT SINGH MANN, SARDAR—
361	Budget motion re—
Consideration ..	Industrial policy ..
362	98-9
Passage ..	Superintendence of Medical Department ..
363	221, 222
INDUSTRIAL BRANCH—	Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..
Question re dismissals and appointments in, of Co-operative Department ..	294
233	JAIL DEPARTMENT—
INDUSTRIAL LOAN(S)—	Question re corruption and embezzlement of Government money by Deputy Superintendent of, Hissar ..
Question re, ..	82
553	JAIN COLLEGE—
Question re applications for, ..	Question re strike by students of, at Ambala ..
244	76
INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM—	JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—
Question re, ..	Question re staff in office of Registrar, ..
668	444
INDUSTRIAL POLICY—	JALAL-UD-DIN AMBER, CHAUDHRI—
Budget motion re, ..	Bill, Urban Rent Restriction, Passage ..
19-64, 87-132.	398-99
INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES—	Bill, Weights and Measures, Passage ..
Question re loans for, ..	466-67
235	Budget motion re—
INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDIES—	Industrial Policy ..
Question re ..	39-42
234, 247	Superintendence of Medical Department ..
INDUSTRIES—	218-20
Demands for grants ..	JOURNAL—
13-64, 87-132.	Question re Commercial Intelligence, ..
Question re—	349
Remission of debts advanced under State Aid to, Act ..	K.
5	
Scholarships for training in, ..	KANUNGOS—
301	Question re representation of scheduled castes among, ..
INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT—	71
Question re—	KARAM SINGH MANN, COMRADE—
Grant of scholarships by, ..	Question re refusal of Police to allow taking a snapshot of, ..
443	666
Transfer of portfolios of, to Hon'ble Minister for Finance ..	KARAM SINGH MANN, SARDAR—
436	Question re ..
INQUIRY—	489
Question re, into Punehana disturbances ..	KEREN AND HARRAR—
10	Capture of, resolution re ..
INQUIRY COMMITTEE—	314-15
Question re, Khaksars ..	
411	
INSPECTORS, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—	
Question re communal representation among, ..	
358	
INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS—	
Question re shifting of headquarters of district, Ballabgarh subdivision ..	
314	

PAGES.	PAGES.
KHAKSARS INQUIRY COMMITTEE—	LAND—concl'd.
Question re, .. 411	Question re—concl'd.
KHEWEA SALT MINES—	Grant of, in Nili Bar Colony on
Question re scheme to benefit area	inferior land tenancy terms 552
damaged by, .. 616	Grant of, to tenants in Attock
KHIZAB HAYAT TIWANA, THE	district .. 412
HONOURABLE MALIK—	LAND REVENUE—
Bill, Electricity (Amendment)—	Demand for Grant .. 348
Introduction .. 528	LAW COLLEGE—
Consideration .. 528-29	Question re Clerks in office of,
Circulation and reference to	Lahore .. 86
Select Committee .. 548-50	LL.B.'s.—
Passage .. 550	Question re age limit for entry
Bill, Electricity (Emergency	into service for, .. 71
Powers)—	LEAVE OF ABSENCE—
Circulation .. 524-27	Baldev Singh, Sardar .. 135
Introduction .. 470	Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala .. 86
Reference to Select Com-	Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala .. 86
mittee .. 470	Chanan Singh, Sardar .. 13
Bill, Indian Registration (Punjab	Dev Raj Sethi, Mr. .. 309
Amendment), Introduction and	Kishen Singh, Sardar .. 13
consideration .. 361-62	Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.. 309
Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—	Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Lt.
Application of Act .. 377	Col. Sardar Sir, .. 500
Consideration, motion re .. 363	Prem Singh, Mahant .. 86
Definitions .. 370, 371,	Sampuran Singh, Sardar .. 86
372, .. 372,	Satya Pal, Dr. .. 13
Ejectment .. 385-87	Shanno Devi, Shrimati .. 135
Extent, commencement and	Sundar Singh Majithia, Hon'ble
duration .. 368	Dr. Sir, .. 359
Increase of standard rent .. 390-91	LEGAL REMEMBRANCE—
Passage .. 392,	Question re appointments in office
399-401	of, .. 239, 249
Budget motion re working of	LICENCE—
Hydro-Electric Department .. 336-42	Question re confiscation of revol-
KISHAN SINGH, SARDAR—	ver, and shot gun of Mian Ifti-
Leave of absence, .. 13	khar-ud-Din, M.L.A. .. 233
KRISHNA GOPAL DUTT, CHAUDHRI—	LOANS—
Absence without leave .. 250	Question re, for industrial pur-
Leave of absence .. 309	poses .. 235, 244
L.	M.
LAHORE MUNICIPALITY—	MAGISTRATES—
Question re—	Question re Honorary, .. 348
Institution of cases in Law	MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE—
Courts by, .. 422	Question re, for dependents of
Substantive pay of Adminis-	Comrade Fazal Ilahi Qurban .. 611
trator, .. 422	MAJAWARS—
LAL SINGH, SARDAR—	Question re, .. 134
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets	MALIKANA—
(Amendment) Licence, Grant,	Question re concession in, in Nili
cancellation or suspension of, .. 651-52	Bar Colony and Rakh Pir Mahal
Bill, Indian Registration (Punjab	300
Amendment), consideration .. 362	MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—
Budget, motion re—	Question re, .. 440
Industrial Policy .. 53-6	MANGAL SINGH, COMRADE—
Superintendence of Medical De-	Question re hunger-strike of, .. 415
partment .. 136-43	MANOHAR LAL, THE HON'BLE SIR—
Reference to late Hon'ble Dr. Sir	Appropriation and Finance Ac-
Sundar Singh Majithia .. 408	counts .. 315
LAND—	Supplementary Estimates, 1940-41
Question re—	Supplementary statement of ex-
Acquisition of, for North-	penditure .. 316
Western Railway in village	MAQBOOL MAHMOOD, MIR—
Dandot, district Jhelum .. 180	Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets
	(Amendment)—
	Licence, grant, cancellation or
	suspension of, .. 623,
	646-50.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MAQBOOL MAHMOOD, MIR—concl'd.		MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN, SARDAR—	
Bill, Agricultural Produce Mar-		Bill, Punjab Urban Rent Restriction, consideration, ..	363
kets (Amendments)—concl'd.		Bill, Weights and Measures, Pas-	465-66
Market Committee, constitution	605-06,	sage ..	
of, ..	608.	MUHAMMAD HAYAT KHAN NOON,	
Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—		NAWAB SIR—	
Application of Act ..	376-77	References to late, ..	65-67
Definitions ..	369	MUHAMMAD IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN, MIAN,	
Ejectment ..	379-80,	M.L.A.—	
Passage ..	381-82,	Question re—	
Budget motion re working of	395-96	Confiscation of revolver licence	
Hydro-Electric Department ..	281-86	and shot gun of, ..	233
MASS DRILL—		Handcuffing of, ..	182
Question re, ..	86	Handcuffing of and others on	
MATERNITY—		their transfer from one jail	
Question re, and child welfare		to another ..	313
facilities ..	556	MUHAMMAD NAWAZ KHAN, LT.-COL.	
MAYO SCHOOL OF ARTS—		SAEDAB SIR—	
Question re retirement of Princi-		Leave of absence of, ..	500
pal, ..	350	MUHAMMAD NURULLAH, MIAN—	
MAZHAR ALI, MR.—		Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets	
Question re, ..	551	(Amendment)—	
MEDICAL—		Date of coming into force of, ..	617
Demand for Grant ..	135-76,	Licence, Grant, cancellation or	
	185-232.	suspension of, ..	639-42
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—		Bill, Electricity (Amendment),	
Budget motion re Superintendence		circulation, reference ..	544-46
of, ..	136-76,	Bill, Electricity (Emergency	
	185-232	Powers), circulation ..	486-87,
			501-08,
MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION—		Bill, Weights and Measures—	
Question re Punjabias, in Primary		Fraudulent use of weights ..	453
and Secondary Schools ..	357	Inspection of weights, etc. ..	451, 452
METAL WORKS INSTITUTE—		Making and selling of weights ..	452
Question re, at Ambala ..	80	Passage ..	467-69
MISCELLANEOUS—		Penalty for making false weights	454
Supplementary Estimates re ..	310	Penalty for possession of false	
M.L.A.'s—		weights ..	458, 460
Question re condition of health of		Penalty for sale by false weights	456
five, imprisoned in Deoli Camp	1	Penalty for using unverified	
MUHAMMAD ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN,		and unstamped weights, etc.	462-63
CHAUDHRI—		Budget motion re Superintendence	
Bill, Weights and Measures,		of Medical Department ..	207
Penalty for possession of false		Point of order re arrangement of	
weights, etc. ..	461	demands for grants for dis-	
Budget motion re—		cussion ..	135
Industrial Policy ..	56-62	Reference to late Sir Muhammad	
Superintendence of Medical De-		Hayat Khan Noon ..	66
partment ..	153-55	MUHAMMAD YUSUF KHAN, KHAN—	
MOHAR SINGH, CHAUDHRI—		Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—	
Oath of office ..	403	Application of Act ..	375
MOHINDER KAUR—		Ejectment ..	378-79
Question re abduction of daughter		Budget motion re—	
of, of Krishna Bazar, Gawal-		Industrial policy ..	111-12
mandi ..	666	Superintendence of Medical De-	
MOMY-UD-DIN LAL BADSHAH, SYED—		partment ..	194-97
Bill, Weights and Measures. Pen-		MUKAND LAL PURI, RAI BAHADUR,	
alty for sale by false weights ..	457-58	Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets	
MORCHA—		(Amendment)—	
Question re grievances of Sikhs		Date of coming into force of, ..	613, 619
and, at Sargodha ..	304	Motion for consideration of, ..	576-79
MUHAMMAD HASSAN KHAN GUR-		Passing of, ..	678-81
CHANI, KHAN BAHADUR SARDAR—		Bill, Electricity (Amendment),	
Budget motion re—		circulation ..	529-30
Demonstration parties ..	17, 18	Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—	
Industrial Policy ..	34-35	Ejectment ..	384-8

	PAGES.		PAGES.
MUKAND LAL PURI, RAI BAHADUR— — <i>concl'd.</i>		NILI BAR—	
Increase of standard rent ..	389-90	Question re	
Passage ..	392-95	Acquisition of proprietary rights by tenants in, ..	134
Bill, Weights and Measures—		Sub-tenants in, ..	491
Penalty for making false weights	454-55	NILI BAR COLONY—	
Penalty for possession of false weights, etc. ..	459-60	Question re grant of land in, on inferior land tenancy terms	552
Verification of stamping ..	449-50	NON-OFFICIAL VISITORS—	
Budget motion re, working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	328-29	Question re— ..	9
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE—		NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL—	
Question re, Bhiwani ..	76	Question re, Gakhar ..	72
MUNICIPALITY—		NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY—	
Question re institution of cases in Law Courts, by Lahore, ..	422	Question re Acquisition of land for, in village Dandot, district Jhelum ..	180
MUNSHI—		O.	
Question re, candidates for Zilladarship ..	10	OATH OF OFFICE—	
MURDER—		Mohar Singh, Chaudhri ..	403
Question re—		OFFICIAL RECEIVER—	
Cases of, in province ..	350	Question re—	
Police investigations into, of Darshan Lal, son of Arjan Dass Puri, of Gowalmandi, Rawalpindi ..	421	Appointment of Special, ..	415, 418
MUSEUM—		Commission, etc., received by special, ..	22
Question re industrial, ..	668	Special, ..	445
MUSHTAQ RAI—		OVERSEER—	
Question re appointment of Chaudhri Dalip Singh, in place of, in the office of Director of Veterinary Services ..	428	Question re abolition of post of, Grey Canals ..	182
MUSLIMS—		P.	
Question re,—		PARTAP SINGH, CHAUDHRI—	
Among professors and students of Hailey College of Commerce ..	236	Question re supersession by, in office of Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Am- bala ..	428
Representation of, among De- monstrators ..	357	PARTAP SINGH, SARDAR—	
Selection for the post of Zilladar from, in Ludhiana Division ..	182	Question re handcuffing of, ..	182
Under-representation of, in higher posts in Grey Canals Department ..	238	PATWARIS—	
MUZAFFAR KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR, NAWAB—		Question re representation of scheduled castes among, ..	71
Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—		PILGRIMS—	
Ejectment ..	378	Question re tax levied on, to Sakhi Sarwar in district Dera Ghazi Khan ..	419
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	405-06	PIR MUHAMMAD, KHAN SAHIB, CHAUDHRI—	
N.		Budget motion re, Industrial Policy ..	62-4
NATE-TAHSILDARS—		PLANT—	
Question re—		Question re installation of teasing and carding, for wool ..	497
And Zilladars ..	354	POHOF SINGH, RAO—	
Representation of Scheduled castes among Patwaris, Kanungos, and Tahsildars ..	71	Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—	
NAUNIHAL SINGH, LT. SARDAR—		Application of Act ..	373, 375-76.
Deputy Speaker Election of, ..	448	POINT OF ORDER—	
NEKI RAM SHARMA, PANDIT—		Re arrangement of demands for grants for discussion ..	135
Question re handcuffing of Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and, ..	552, 611	POLICE—	
		Question re—	
		Assistant Sub-Inspectors of, ..	355

	PAGES.		PAGES.
POLICE—<i>conold.</i>		PUNJAB IRRIGATION RESEARCH.—	
Question <i>re—conold.</i>		Question <i>re</i> communal representation in Classes I and II posts in, ..	241
Raid by, on office of Punjab Provincial Congress Committee at Bradlaugh Hall, Lahore ..	1	PUNJAB MARKETING ACT—	
Selection of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of, ..	308	Question <i>re</i> Traders' Conference—Decision to oppose, ..	433
POLICE INVESTIGATIONS—		PUNJAB TEMPERANCE FEDERATION—	
Question <i>re</i> , into the murder of Darshan Lal, son of Arjan Das Puri, of Gowalmandi, Rawalpindi ..	421	Question <i>re</i> grant to, ..	81
POLITICAL ABSCONDEES—		P. V. S.—	
Question <i>re</i> , ..	435	Question <i>re</i> result of Departmental examination for, Class II ..	81
PREM SINGH, MAHANT—			
Leave of absence ..	86	Q.	
PRIMARY EDUCATION—		QANUNGOS—	
Question <i>re</i> additional grants to District Boards for, ..	440	Question <i>re</i> representation of, in Jullundur district ..	444
PRIMARY SCHOOLS—			
Question <i>re</i> Secondary and, ..	309	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—	
PRINCIPAL MAYO SCHOOL OF ARTS—		ABDUL HAMID KHAN, SUFI—	
Question <i>re</i> retirement of, ..	350	Question <i>re—</i>	
PRISONERS—		Remission of debts advanced under State Aid to Industries Act ..	5
Question <i>re—</i>		Removal of member representing creditors on the Debt Conciliation Board, Karnal, ..	5
Grievances of, in district jail, Shahpur ..	416-17	ABDUL RAB, MIAN—	
Inconvenience to, in district jail, Shahpur ..	430	Question <i>re—</i>	
PRIVATE LAND—		Appointments in office of Legal Remembrancer, Punjab ..	239
Question <i>re</i> ownership of trees on Shamlat and, in Murree and Kahuta ..	429	Communal representation in Classes I and II posts in Punjab Irrigation Research Consolidation of Holdings in Jullundur district ..	241
PROMOTION—		Construction of bund on Beyen near village Nalsian in Nakodar tahsil ..	413
Question <i>re</i> , to higher ranks in Agriculture and Veterinary Departments ..	6	Delay in disposal of appeal of Ex-Secretary, District Board, Jullundur ..	422
PROPRIETARY RIGHTS—		District Board, Jullundur ..	421
Question <i>re—</i>		Divisional Panchayat Officers Hospitals Visit Committee, Jullundur District ..	556
Acquisition of, by tenants in Ganji Bar ..	79	Industrial loans ..	553
Acquisition of, by tenants in Nili Bar ..	134	Preferential treatment to ex-Military men in Government services ..	77
PROSECUTING DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS—		Representation of Muslims among Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors, inspectors and Deputy Superintendents of Police ..	443
Question <i>re</i> representation of Muslims among, Police ..	443	Representation of Qanungos in Jullundur district ..	444
PROSECUTING INSPECTORS—		Retirement of Principal, Mayo School of Arts ..	350
Question <i>re</i> representation of Muslims among, Police ..	443	Revision of constituencies of district board, Jullundur	350
PROSECUTING SUB-INSPECTORS—		Riwaz Gardens ..	553
Question <i>re</i> representation of Muslims among, Police ..	443		
URBAN RENT RESTRICTION BILL, PUNJAB—			
Consideration, motion <i>re</i> ..	363		
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—			
Supplementary Estimates <i>re</i> , (Buildings and Roads), Establishment ..	310		
PUNCHAYAT OFFICERS—			
Question <i>re</i> Divisional, ..	353		
PUNJABI—			
Question <i>re</i> , as medium of instruction in Primary and Secondary schools ..	357		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—
CONTINUED.

ABDUL RAHIM, CHAUDHRI—

Question re age limit for entry
into service for L.L.Bs. .. 71

AJIT SINGH, SARDAR—

Question re—

Absconders .. 69

Acquisition of proprietary
rights by tenants in
Ganji Bar .. 79

Acquisition of proprietary
rights by tenants in
Nili Bar .. 134

Acreage rate in Nili Bar
Colony .. 437

Agricultural farms in Lower
Bari Doab Colony .. 438

Applications for allowances
by detenus .. 70

Arrest and detention of
Pandit Harbans Lal, and
Lala Darbari Lal, Municipal
Commissioners of Nur-
mahal .. 415

Arrests in connection with
Satyagraha Movement .. 77

Babu Gurbakhsh Singh,
Comrade Chhajja Singh
and Comrade Chanan
Singh .. 411

Censoring of Assembly Dak
of M. L. A.'s detained in
Deoli Camp .. 73

Compassionate allowance to
Government servants on
removal from service .. 489

Communal representation
among compositors in
Government Printing,
Punjab .. 441

Comrade Harkishan Singh .. 74

Condition of health of
Comrade Ram Chandra,
B. A. (National), and others .. 69

Condition of Health of
five M. L. As. imprisoned
in Deoli Camp .. 1

Confiscation of revolver
licence and shot gun of
Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din,
M.L.A. .. 233

Congress Satyagraha near
Amrit Electric Press,
Gowalmandi, Lahore .. 412

Damage due to hailstorm .. 613

Des Raj Chaddha, B.A. .. 74

Grant of land in Nili Bar
Colony on inferior land
tenancy terms .. 552

Grant of parole to Khan
Abdul Ghaffar Khan of
Ambala .. 81

Handcuffing of Dr. Gopi
Chand Bhargava and
Pandit Neki Ram Sharma .. 552

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—
CONTINUED.

AJIT SINGH, SARDAR—concl'd.

Question re—concl'd.

Handcuffing of Dr. Sant
Ram, Seth, M. L. A. .. 2

Political Absconders .. 435

Raid by Police on the office
of Punjab Provincial
Congress Committee .. 1

Sardar Charan Singh Khar-
bandi of Lyallpur .. 496

Sub-tenants in Nili Bar
and Ganji Bar Colonies .. 491

Superintendents of offices of
Deputy Commissioners and
Commissioners .. 552

AKBAR ALI, PIR—

Question re closure of Sirhind
Canal, Abohar Branch .. 614

ALI AKBAR, CHAUDHRI—

Question re recruitment of
zamindars to services
under Government .. 242

ANJAD ALI SHAH SAYED—

Question re—

Abolition of post of overseer,
Grey Canals .. 182

Institution of cases by
Lahore Municipality in
Law courts .. 422

Retrenchment of post of
Revenue Moharrir and
Ahlmad, in Grey Canals,
Ferozapore .. 71

Selection for post of Zilla-
dar from Muslims in
Ludhiana district .. 182

Substantive pay of Adminis-
trator, Lahore Munici-
pality .. 422

BADE MOHY-UD-DIN QADRI, KHAN
SAHIB—

Question re Commercial Intel-
ligence Journal .. 349

BARKAT ALLI, MALIK—

Question re—

Colourization of artificial
ghee .. 183

Munshi candidates for Zilla-
darship .. 10

FAQIR CHAND, CHAUDHRI—

Question re Students on roll of
Punjab Veterinary College,
Lahore .. 10

GHULAM SAMAD, KHAN SAHIB
KHAWAJA—

Question re—

Applications for Industrial
loans .. 244

Appointment in office of Legal
Remembrancer, Punjab .. 249

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	PAGES.
GOPAL SAMAD, KHAN SAHIB, KHAWAJA—conold.	
Question re—	
Areas sown in famine-stricken southern districts of the Punjab ..	133
Candidates for tahsildar- ship in Ambala Division ..	78
Cattle census in Hissar dis- trict ..	303
Change of designation of Deputy Inspectors of Schools ..	446
Clerks in office of Law College, Lahore ..	86
Contract for repair of Sadar Bungalow of Grey Canals Office ..	181
Damage to crops by hail- storm in Rohtak district ..	133
Dismissals and appointments in Industrial Branch of Co-operative Department ..	233
Film entitled "Sehti Murad" Government Metal Works Institute at Ambala ..	179
Grant-in-aid for new schools Grant of scholarship by Indus- tries Department ..	80 71 443
Imposition of fines by Super- intendent, Grey Canals, on his subordinates ..	180
Industrie Subsidies ..	234, 247
Inquiry into conduct of District Inspector of Schools, Attock district ..	445
Loans for industrial pur- poses ..	235
Municipal Committee, Bhiwani ..	76
Muslims among Professors and students of Hailey College of Commerce ..	236
Non-official Visitors ..	9
Notices of ejectment against tenants at Hissar ..	134
Promotion to higher ranks in Agriculture and Vete- rinary Departments ..	6
<i>Salisi</i> decrees ..	9
Scholarships for training in industries ..	301
Strike by students of Jain College and Schools at Ambala ..	76
Under-representation of Muslims in higher posts in Grey Canals Department ..	238
GOKUL CHAND NARANG, DR. SIR—	
Question re—	
Majawars ..	134
Police investigations into the murder of Darshan Lal, son of Arjan Das Puri, of Gowalmandi, Rawalpindi ..	421

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS— CONTINUED.	PAGES.
GOPAL DAS, RAI BAHADUR LALA—	
Question re—	
Additional grants to district Boards for primary educa- tion ..	440
Assistance under State-Aid to Industries Act ..	497
Canvassing for admission of students to Government College, Hoshiarpur ..	423
Implementing recommenda- tions of Punjab Unemploy- ment Committee Report ..	424
Installation of teasing and carding plants for wool ..	497
Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme Maternity and Child Welfare Facilities ..	440 556
Sinking of wells for improve- ment of water supply in vil- lages ..	423
Transfer of portfolio of Indus- tries Department to Honour- able Minister for Finance ..	436
Unspent balances under Special Development Fund ..	500
Veterinary Hospitals ..	567
GUEST, MR. P. H.—	
Question re colouring of vege- table products ..	424
GURBACHAN SINGH, SARDAR BAH- DUR SARDAR—	
Question re grievances of Sikhs and Moreha at Sargodha ..	304
HARNAM SINGH, CAPTAIN SODHI—	
Question re—	
Cases of burglary, theft, house- breaking, cattle-lifting, da- coity, robbery and murder in the province ..	350
Communal representation in ser- vices under Grey Canals De- partment ..	243
Communal representation in office of Deputy Commission- er, Ferozepore ..	237
Fixing of communal representa- tion in services under the District Boards ..	243
Veterinary Dispensary at Sul- tan Khanwala, Ferozepore ..	234
JALAL-UD-DIN AMRER, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re Traders' conference decision to oppose Punjab Marketing Act ..	433
JUGAL KISHORE, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re representation of scheduled castes among Pat- waris, Kamungos, Naib-Tahsil- dars and Tahsildars ..	71
LAL SINGH, SARDAR—	
Question re—	
Damage to crops by hailstorm in Ludhiana district ..	300

PAGES.		PAGES.
	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—	
	CONTINUED.	
	LAL SINGH, SARDAR,—concl'd.	
	Question re—	
	Grant to Punjab Temperance	
	Federation ..	81
	Handcuffing of Mian Iftikhar-	
	ud-Din ..	182
	Handcuffing of Sardar Partap	
	Singh ..	182
	Handcuffing of Satyagrahi	
	prisoners on transfer from	
	one jail to another ..	183
	Maas drill ..	86
	Special Development Fund ..	81
	Special Official Receiver ..	445
	U.T.C. in the Government Col-	
	lege, Ludhiana ..	235
	MOHY-UD-DIN LAL BADSHAH,	
	SAYED—	
	Question re—	
	Damage to crops by closure of	
	Lower Bari Doab Canal ..	365
	District Inspector of Schools,	
	Attock ..	76
	Honorary Magistrates and Hono-	
	rary Sub-Judges ..	348
	MUHAMMAD ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN,	
	CHAUDHRI—	
	Question re—	
	Appointment of Chaudhri	
	Dalip Singh in place of Mush-	
	taq Rai in office of Director	
	tor of Veterinary Services ..	428
	Damage to crops by hailstorm	
	in certain villages in Jullun-	
	dur, Ludhiana and Hoshiar-	
	pur districts ..	491
	Damage to crops by hailstorm	
	in Hoshiapur and Ludhiana	
	districts ..	79
	Film entitled "Shti Murad" ..	178
	Holiday for Urs Hazrat Data	
	Ganj Bakhsh ..	436
	Pay of Gauge-Readers ..	439
	Posting of Bhai Dalip Singh in	
	Punjab Veterinary College ..	428
	Result of Departmental Ex-	
	amination for P. V. S., Class	
	II ..	81
	Supercession by Chaudhri Gella	
	Ram, Personal Assistant to	
	the Director, Veterinary Ser-	
	vices ..	441
	Supercession by Chaudhri Par-	
	tap Singh in the office of	
	the Superintendent, Civil Ve-	
	terinary Department, Ambala	
	Supercession by Chaudhri Ram	
	Singh and Randhir Singh,	
	Veterinary Assistants ..	498
	MUHAMMAD ATRAM KHAN, KHAN	
	BAHADUR RAJA—	
	Question re acquisition of land for	
	North Western Railway in	
	village Dandot, district Jhe-	
	lum ..	180
	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—	
	CONTINUED.	
	MUHAMMAD HASAN KHAN GUR-	
	CHANI, KHAN BAHADUR SARDAR—	
	Question re—	
	Branding of cattle for checking	
	cattle lifting ..	419
	Tax levied on the pilgrims to	
	Sakhi Sarwar in district Dera	
	Ghazi Khan ..	419
	MUHAMMAD NURULLAH, MIAN—	
	Question re failure of gram crop	
	in Toba Tek Singh Tehsil ..	414
	MUHAMMAD SARFRAZ KHAN, RAJA ..	
	Question re—	
	Khan Sadar Din Khan, Deputy	
	Inspector of Schools ..	236
	Scheme to benefit area damaged	
	by Khewra Salt mines ..	616
	MUHAMMAD SHAFI ALI KHAN, KHAN	
	SAHIB CHAUDHRI—	
	Question re concessions in Malik-	
	kana in Nili Bar Colony and	
	Rakh Pir Mahal ..	300
	MUHAMMAD WILAYAT HUSAIN,	
	MAKHDUMZADA HAJI SAYED—	
	Question re—	
	Allowance to Record Keeper,	
	General, in the Secretariat ..	667
	Communal representation	
	among Excise Inspectors ..	667
	Communal representation	
	among Extra Assistant Con-	
	servators of Forests ..	667
	Grant of extension in service to	
	Chief Conservator of Forests	
	Khaksars Inquiry Committee	
	Rapid promotions given to	
	Forester in Forest Depart-	
	ment ..	433
	Supersessions in Secretariat	
	office and in Financial Com-	
	missioners' office ..	248
	MUHAMMAD YASIN KHAN, CHAU-	
	DHRI—	
	Question re—	
	Grievances of zamindars of	
	Kahuta and Murree tahsils ..	431
	Guzara Forest Officer ..	429
	Guzara Fund ..	441
	Honorary Naib-Tahsildars in	
	Rawalpindi ..	437
	Ownership of trees on shamilat	
	and private land in Murree	
	and Kahuta ..	429
	MUHAMMAD YUSUF KHAN, KHAN—	
	Question re—	
	Chaukidars ..	5
	Civic Guards ..	177
	Trenches on both sides of rail-	
	way line near village Lodhran,	
	district Rawalpindi ..	420
	MUKAND LAL PURI, RAI BAHADUR—	
	Question re—	
	Assistant Sub-Inspectors of	
	Police ..	355
	Excise Sub-Inspectors ..	355

	PAGES.		PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—		QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—	
CONTINUED.		CONTINUED.	
MUKAND LAL PURI, RAI BARA-		RAM SARGU, CHAUDHRI—	
DUB—conold.		Question re—	
Question re—		Irrigation of lands at tail of	
Naib-Tahsildars and Zilladars..	354	Chari Minor, Western Jumna	
Police Constables ..	357	Canal ..	11
Selection of Assistant Sub-In-		Staff in office of Registrar, Joint	
spectors of Police ..	308	Stock Companies ..	444
Stopping teaching of Sanskrit		SAHIB DAD KHAN, KHAN SAHIB	
in some classes in Government		CHAUDHRI—	
High School for Girls, Ho-		Question re—	
shiarpur ..	307	Communal representation	
MULA SINGH SARDAR—		among Inspectors, Co-opera-	
Question re—		tive Societies ..	358
Abduction of daughter of Mo-		Corruption and embezzlement	
binder Kaur of Krishna		of Government money by De-	
Bazar, Gawalmandi ..	666	puty Superintendent of Jail	
Acts of highhandedness by		Department, Hissar ..	82
Lahore District Officers com-		Promotion of Muslim Forest	
mitted in village Katluhi		Rangers to higher ranks ..	242
Kalan ..	612	Recruitment to Co-operative	
Arrests in connection with		Department ..	558
Satyagrah movement ..	347	Recruitment to various bran-	
Arrest of Lala Jagat Narain		ches of Government Cattle	
and other Satyagrahis in		Farm, Hissar ..	559
Gawalmandi, Lahore ..	435	Recruitment to Veterinary Ser-	
Arrest of Sobha Ram of Chund		vices ..	557
Bharwara, Tahsil Jhang ..	347	Representation of Muslims	
Comrade Daniel Latifi, Bar-		among Demonstrators ..	357
risters-at-Law ..	551	SANTOKH SINGH, SARDAR—	
Comrade Fazal Elahi Qurban..	299	Question re—	
Detention of Comrade Fazal		Appointment of Special Official	
Elahi Qurban ..	665	Receiver ..	415
Grievances of prisoners in dis-		Giani Girja Singh ..	2
trict jail, Shahpur ..	410, 417	Institution for deaf and dumb	
Handcuffing of Dr. Gopi Chand		Security prisoners in Deoli	
Bhargava and Pandit Neki		Camp ..	3
Ram Sharma ..	611	SATYA PAL, DE.—	
Handcuffing of Mian Muham-		Question re—	
mad Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A.,		Additional Police Post at village	
and others on their transfer		Sur Singh ..	83
from one jail to another ..	313	Grievances of Security Prisoners	
Hunger-strike of Comrade Man-		in Deoli Camp ..	4
gal Singh ..	415	SITA RAM, LALA—	
Inconvenience to prisoners in		Question re Industrial Museum..	668
district jail, Shahpur ..	439	SUMER SINGH, CHAUDHRI—	
Maintenance allowance for		Question re—	
dependents of Comrade Fazal		Admission to Gekkar Nor-	
Elahi Qurban ..	611	mal Training School ..	72
Mr. Mazhar Ali ..	551	Appointment of Special Official	
Mr. Rajbans Krishna ..	551	Receiver ..	418
Professor Tilak Raj Chaddah		Award of High School scholar-	
Refusal of Police to allow taking		ships in Gurgaon district ..	184
a snap-shot of Comrade		Commission, etc., received by	
Karam Singh Mann ..	665	Special Official Receiver ..	418
Sardar Chanan Singh ..	490	Concession to sons of teachers..	354
Sardar Chanan Singh, person-		Inquiry into Punehana disturb-	
al assistant to Mian If-		ances ..	10
tikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A. ..	437	Shifting of Headquarters of Dis-	
Sardar Karam Singh Mann ..	489	trict Inspector of Schools,	
MUZAFFAR KHAN, KHAN BAHADUR		Ballabgarh Sub-division ..	314
NAWAB—		Special certificates granted to	
Question re grant of land to te-		untrained teachers ..	184
nants in Attock district ..	412	Stock Assistants ..	238
		Travelling allowances to officers	
		for propaganda for adult edu-	
		cation ..	313

	PAGES.		PAGES.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—		RESOLUTION—	
CONCLD.		Re: capture of Keren and Harrar	314-15
TARA SINGH, SARDAR—		RIASAT ALI, KHAN BAHADUR, CHAUDHRI—	
Question re—		Budget motion re Superintendence	
Punjabi as medium of instruction		of Medical Department ..	169-73
in Primary and Secondary		RIVAZ GERDENS—	
Schools ..	357	Question re,	553
Secondary and Primary Schools	309	ROBBERY—	
		Question re cases of, in the province	350
R.		ROBERTS, SIR WILLIAM—	
RAID—		Bill, Electricity (Emergency	
Question re, by Police on office of		Powers), — Circulation ..	508-09
Punjab Provincial Congress		Bill, Weights and Measures—	
Committee, Lahore ..	1	Fraudulent use of weights ..	452-53
RAILWAY—		Penalty for making false weights	453-54
Question re acquisition of land for		Budget motion re working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	287-88
North Western —, in village		Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar	
Dandot, District Jhelum ..	180	Singh Majithia ..	406-07
RAILWAY LINE—		RULING(S)—	
Question re trenches on both sides		Bill—	
of, near village Lodhran, district		Amendments must be confined	
Rawalpindi ..	420	to the amending Bill and not	
RAJBANS KRISHNA, MR.—		extend to the principal Act ..	619
Question re,	551	Debate—	
RAM CHANDRA, B.A., (NATIONAL)—		No discussion held outside the	
Question re condition of health of		House should be brought in,	626
Comrade, ..	69	Scope of, in the final reading	
RAM SARUP, CHAUDHRI—		stage of a Bill ..	467
Budget motion re—		DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—	
Industrial policy ..	99-101	When opposition does not select	
Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	332-34	any demand for discussion,	
RAM SINGH, CHAUDHRI—		they can be discussed in the	
Question re supersession by, Veterinary Assistant ..	498	order in which Leader of the	
RANDHIE SINGH—		House arranges them ..	135
Question re supersession by, Veterinary Assistant ..	498	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—	
RASHIDA LATIF BAJI, BEGUM—		Supplementary questions should	
Budget motion re—		seek elucidation of answer	
Industrial Policy ..	91-95	to a question. No supplementary	
Superintendence of Medical Department ..	188-93	question can arise	
RECEIVER—		out of an interim answer ..	236
Question re appointment of			
Special Official, ..	415, 418	S.	
RECORD KEEPER, GENERAL—		SADAR BUNGALOW—	
Question re allowance to, in the		Question re contract for the repair	
Secretariat ..	667	of, of Grey Canals' office ..	181
RECRUITMENT—		SADAR DIN KHAN, KHAN—	
Question re—		Question re, Deputy Inspector of	
To Co-operative Department ..	558	Schools ..	236
To various branches of Government		SADIQ HASSAN, SHAIKH—	
Cattle Farm, Hissar ..	559	Bill, Electricity (Emergency	
REFERENCES		Powers) Circulation ..	509-10
To late Nawab Sir Muhammad		Bill,—	
Hayat Khan Noon ..	65-67	Urban Rent Restriction—	
REGISTRAR, JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—		Passage ..	397-98
Question re staff in office of, ..	444	Bill, Weights and Measures—	
RETRENCHMENT—		Penalty for possession of false	
Question re, of post of Revenue		weights, etc. ..	460-61
Moharrir and Ahmud in Grey		Budget motion re—	
Canals, Ferozepore ..	71	Industrial Policy ..	87-91
REVENUE MOHARRIR—			
Question re retrenchment of post			
of, in Grey Canals, Ferozepore ..	71		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
SADIQ HASSAN, SHAIKH—concl.		SCHOOLS—	
Superintendence of Medical Department ..	174—76, 185—86.	Question re—	
SAKHI SARWAR—		Grant-in-aid for new, ..	71
Question re tax levied on pilgrims to, in district Dera Ghazi Khan ..	419	Punjabi as medium of instruction in Primary and Secondary ..	357
SALISI DECREES—		Secondary and primary, ..	309
Question re, ..	9	Strike by students of Jaja College and, at Ambala ..	76
SALT MINES—		SECONDARY SCHOOLS—	
Question re scheme to benefit the Area damaged by Khewra, ..	616	Question re, ..	309
SAMPURAN SINGH, SARDAR—		SECRETARIAT—	
Leave of absence ..	8	Question re—	
SANSKRIT—		Allowance to Record keeper, General in the ..	667
Question re stopping teaching of, in some classes in Government High School for girls, Hoshiarpur ..	307	Supersessions ..	248
SANTOKH SINGH, SARDAR—		SECURITY PRISONERS—	
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets—(Amendment) Definitions ..	621, 622, 623, 608	Question re grievances of, in Deoli Camp ..	4
Levy of fees ..	624, 625— 31.	SEETI MURAD—	
Licence, Grant, cancellation or suspension of, ..	602—05 559—60, 571—76, 681—83	Question re Film entitled, ..	178—179
Market Committee, constitution of ..	45—51	SELECTION—	
Motion for consideration of, ..	274—81	Question re, of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police ..	308
Passing of, ..	406	SHAH NAWAZ, MRS. J. A.—	
Budget motion re—		Budget motion re—	
Industrial Policy ..	315	Industrial policy ..	37—39
Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	2	Superintendence of Medical Department ..	197—207
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	183	Working of Hydro-Electric Department ..	321—24
Resolution re capture of Keren and Hartar ..	13	SHANNO DEVI, SHRIMATI—	
SANT RAM SETH DR.—		Leave of absence ..	135
Question re handcuffing of, M. L. A. ..	412	SHAMILAT—	
SATYAGRAHA—		Question re ownership of trees on, and private land in Muree and Kohuta ..	429
Question re congress, near Amrit Electric Press, Gawalmandi, Lahore ..	77, 347	SIRANLAR HYAT-KHAN, THE HON. OURABLE MAJOR SIR,—	
SATYAGRAHI MOVEMENT—		Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment—)	
Question re arrests in connection with, ..	183	Announcement re presentation and time for discussion of, ..	501
SATYAGRAHI PRISONERS—		Licence, Grant, cancellation or suspension of, ..	631—38
Question re handcuffing of, on transfer from one jail to another ..	13	Levy of fees ..	608
SATYA PAL, DR.		Market Committee, constitution of, ..	603, 607
Leave of absence ..	71	Motion for consideration of ..	560—71
SCHEDULED CASTES—		Passing of, ..	683—89
Question re representation of, among patwaris, kanungos, naib-tahsildars and tahsildars ..	194	Bill, Electricity (Emergency Powers)—	
SCHOLARSHIPS—		Circulation, motion re, ..	472
Question re—		Deputy speaker, Election of, ..	448
Award of high school, in Gurgaon district ..	301	Government business on Thursday, motion re, ..	446—47
For training in industries ..	443	Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia ..	403—04
Grant of, by Industries Department ..		Reference to late Nawab Sir Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon ..	65—66
		Resolution re capture of Keren and Hartar ..	314—16
		SLEHS—	
		Question re grievances of, and moreha at Sargodha ..	304

	PAGES.		PAGES.
SITA RAM, LALA—		SUBSIDIES—	
Bill, Agricultural Produce markets		Question re industrial, ..	247
(Amendment)—		SULTAN MAHMUD, HOTIANA, MIAN—	
Licence, Grant, Cancellation or		Budget motion re superintendence	
suspension of ..	654-56	of Medical Department ..	162-63
Motion for consideration ..	589-92	SUMER SINGH, CH.—	
Bill, Electricity (Amendment)—		Bill, Urban Rent Restriction—	
Reference to Select Committee	546-48	Application of Act ..	374
Circulation motion ..	484-86	Definitions ..	370, 371
Bill, Urban rent Restriction—		Budget motion re—	
Ejectment ..	383	Demonstration parties ..	17
Increase of standard rent ..	390	Industrial policy ..	35-37
Budget motion re—		Superintendence of Medical	
Industrial policy ..	19-27	Department ..	212-14
SOBHA RAM		SUNDAR SINGH MAJITHIA, HONOUR-	
Question re arrest of, of Chund		ABLE DR. SIR,—	
Bharwana, Tahsil Jhang ..	347	Leave of absence ..	359
SOHAN LAL, RAI BAHADUR LALA—		References to late, ..	403-09
Bill, Electricity (Emergency		SUPERINTENDENCE—	
Powers)—		Budget motion re, of Medical	
Circulation motion ..	471-84	Department ..	136-76,
Budget motion re—		185-232.	
Industrial policy ..	102-111	SUPERINTENDENTS—	
Working of Hydro-Electric		Question re, of offices of Deputy	
Department ..	250-69,	Commissioners and Commis-	
334-36.		sioners ..	552
Sitting of Assembly ..	367	SUPERINTENDENT, GREY CANALS—	
SOWN AREAS—		Question re imposition of fines	
Question re, in famine-stricken		by, on his subordinates ..	180
southern district of Punjab ..	133	SUPERSESSION(S)—	
SPEAKER, MR.		Question re—	
Procedure when no member of		By Chaudhri Ram Singh, and	
panel of Chairmen available to		Randhir Singh, Veterinary	
take the chair in the temporary		Assistants ..	498
absence of, ..	260	In Secretariat offices and in	
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sunder		Financial Commissioners'	
Singh Majithia ..	408	office ..	248
SECURITY PRISONERS—		SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES—	
Question re, in Deoli Camp ..	3	Advances not bearing interest ..	310
SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND—		General Administration ..	310
Question re, ..	81	Miscellaneous ..	310
Question re, unspent balances		Presentation of, for 1940-41 ..	135
under, ..	500	Public Works Department (Build-	
SPECIAL OFFICIAL RECEIVER—		ing and Roads) Establish ment..	310
Question re, ..	445	SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF	
Question re appointment of, ..	415, 418	EXPENDITURE—	
Question re commission, etc.,		Authenticated by Governor ..	316
received by, ..	418	SUPPRESSION OF INDECENT ADVER-	
STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT—		TISEMENT BILL—	
Question re—		Introduction ..	310
Assistance under, ..	497	Consideration ..	310
Remission of debts advanced		Passing of ..	311
under, ..	5	SURAJ MAL, RAI SAHIB CHAUDHRI	
STRIKE—		Budget motion re working of	
Question re, by students of Jain		Hydro-Electric Department ..	274
College and Schools at Ambala		T.	
Stock Assistants—		TAHSILDARS—	
Question re, ..	238	Question re representation of	
STUDENTS—		scheduled castes among, ..	71
Question re, on roll of Punjab		TAHSILDARSHIP—	
Veterinary College, Lahore ..	10	Question re candidates for, in	
SUB-TENANTS—		Ambala Division ..	78
Question re, in Nili Bar and Ganji		TAX—	
Bar Colonies ..	491	Question re, levied on pilgrims to	
SUB-INSPECTORS—		Sakhi Sarwar in district Dera	
Question re Excise, ..	355	Ghazi Khan ..	419
SUB-JUDGES—			
Question re Honorary, ..	343		

	PAGES.		PAGES.
TEACHERS—		V.	
Question re,			
Concessions to sons of, ..	354	VEGETABLE PRODUCT—	
Special certificates granted to		Question re Colouring of, ..	424
untrained, ..	184	VETERINARY COLLEGE—	
TEASING PLANT—		Question re students on roll	
Question re installation of, for		of, ..	10
wool ..	497	VETERINARY DEPARTMENT—	
TENANCY—		Question re—	
Question re grant of land in Nili		Promotion to higher ranks in,	6
Bar Colony on inferior land,		Supersession by Chaudhri	
terms ..	552	Partap Singh in the office of	
TENANTS—		the Superintendent, Ambala	428
Acquisition of proprietary rights		VETERINARY DISPENSARY—	
by, in Ganji Bar ..	79	Question re, at Sultan Khanwala,	
Acquisition of proprietary		Ferozepore ..	234
rights by, in Nili Bar ..	134	VETERINARY HOSPITALS—	
Grant of land to, in Attock		Question re, ..	557
district ..	412	VETERINARY SERVICES—	
Notices of ejectment against,		Question re recruitment to, ..	557
at Hissar ..	134	VISITORS—	
THEFT—		Question re non-official, of jails ..	9
Question re cases of, in the pro-			
vince ..	350	W.	
TIKKA RAM, CHAUDHRI—			
Bill, Agricultural Produce Markets		WATER SUPPLY—	
(Amendment)—		Question re sinking of wells for	
Definitions ..	621	improvement of, in villages ..	423
TILAK RAJ CHADDA—		WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL—	
Question re professor, ..	490	Consideration ..	448—70
TRADEES' CONFERENCE—		Introduction ..	402
Question re decision to oppose		Select Committee, reference to, ..	403
Punjab Marketing Act ..	433	Select Committee, Report of,	
TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE—		Presentation ..	448
Question re, to officers for pro-		Passage ..	470
paganda for adult education ..	313	WELLS—	
TREES—		Question re sinking of, for im-	
Question re ownership of, on		provement of water-supply in	
Shamilat and private land in		villages ..	423
Murree and Kahuta ..	429	WOOL—	
TRENCHES—		Question re installation of teas-	
Question re, on both sides of rail-		ing and carding plant for, ..	497
way line near village Lodhran,			
district Rawalpindi ..	420		
U.		Z.	
UJJAL SINGH, SARDAR BAHADAR			
SARDAR—		ZAMINDARS—	
Budget motion re working of		Question re—	
Hydro-Electric Department ..	316—21	Grievances of, of Kahuta and	
Deputy Speaker, Election of, ..	448	Murree tahsils ..	431
Reference to late Dr. Sir Sundar		Recruitment of, to services	
Singh Majithia ..	405	under Government ..	242
UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE		ZILLADARS—	
REPORT—		Question re, ..	354
Question re implementing re-		Question re—	
commendations of, ..	424	Selection for post of, from	
UNTRAINED TEACHERS—		Muslims in Ludhiana division	132
Question re special certificates		ZILLADARSHIP—	
granted to, ..	184	Question re Munshi candidates for	10
URBAN RENT RESTRICTION BILL—			
Consideration ..	368—401		
URS HAZRAT DATA GANJ BAKHSH—			
Question re holiday for, ..	436		
U. T. C.—			
Question re, in the Government			
College, Ludhiana ..	235		