THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 3rd March 1938.

The House met in the Assembly Building, Chepauk, at three of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. MR. B. SAMBAMURTI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

[a]* 232 *Q.* [Postponed.]

Forest grievances of the ryots of the Jalanthra estate.

* 233 *Q.*—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any detailed report from the Estate Collector, Vizianagram, was received by the Government about the administration of Forest Laws in Jalanthra estate, now under the Court of Wards;

(*b*) whether that report will be placed on the table for information;

(*c*) if not, whether the report admits the fact that the tenants were enjoying free grazing rights from time immemorial and that only this year after the Court of Wards assumed administration these rights have been interfered with;

(*d*) the number of prosecutions filed since the date of enforcing these forest laws in respect of grazing, the sentence or compounding fees collected in each case and the compounding fees collected by the estate out of court;

(*e*) whether the Government are aware of the representations made by the ryots to the Forest Superintendent of the estate about the corrupt practices prevailing and demanding transfer of the Forest Ranger and a thorough enquiry about their grievances; and

(*f*) whether, in view of the long established rights that were enjoyed by the tenants, the Government will consider the desirability of granting free grazing rights in the estate and order the withdrawal of pending prosecutions against them?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—"(*a*) *to* (*d*) *&* (*f*) The Government are awaiting the report called for with reference to unstarred question No. 10 asked by the hon. Member at the meeting of the Assembly on 31st August 1937.

"(*e*) The Government have no information and have called for a report."

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[a] Vide page 174 infra.

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"May I know who is responsible for the delay, whether it is the Estate Collector or the Court of Wards?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am not able to understand what is meant by delay."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The supplementary question was about the delay."

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I request the hon. Member to repeat the question?"

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, who is responsible for the delay? Is it the Estate Collector or the Court of Wards?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"I have submitted that we are awaiting the report and there is no question of any delay here."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know how many more months they would take to forward the information?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"It is not a question of months. They will take just the time required to collect the information. The question is a fairly long one seeking information on a number of details."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know whether any reminders were sent to the Board of Revenue?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"The hon. Member may presume that such reminders are sent in due course."

Action taken by the Government on the resolutions of the Jalanthra Estate Ryots' Conference of 1937.

*234 *Q.*—P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the proceedings of the Jalanthra Estate Ryots' Conference held on the 16th August 1937 were received by the Government; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take on these resolutions passed at the said Conference?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—"(*a*) A copy of the proceedings of the Conference held on 14th August 1937 was received.

"(*b*) The proceedings were transferred to the Court of Wards for disposal."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know what the proceedings are about?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"The hon. Member has not perhaps followed the question. The proceedings are of the Jalanthra Estate Ryots' Conference referred to in the original question."

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MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"May I know what action was taken in the matter?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"Those who sent the proceedings to the Government might have received some order from the Court of Wards."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"No orders have yet been received; will the Government therefore see that some action is taken on those resolutions?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"If no order has been received, it means that the Court of Wards is still considering the matter."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"How many more months will the Court of Wards take to obtain the required information to answer this question?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"Since much information is asked for, the Court of Wards may take as much time as is necessary."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to consider the resolutions of conferences and committees and take steps upon them?"

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—"If resolutions are forwarded to the Government, it is only right that the Government should take such steps as are necessary."

Supply of electricity to Calicut and other places in Malabar from Pykara.

*235 *Q.*—MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the result of the survey for supplying electricity for Calicut and other places in Malabar from Pykara by Meppadi-Vayitri route was;

(*b*) whether the Government have investigated the feasibility of conveying power by Nilambur-Manjeri route or Palghat-Shoranur route; if not, why not; and

(*c*) whether the Government have at any time made investigations for Hydro-electric schemes at Vayitri or Mannarghaut; if so, what the result was; and if not, whether they will consider the desirability of making such investigations?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) The construction of a transmission line from Pykara to Meppadi branching north to Manantoddy, Tellicherry and Cannanore and south to Calicut is considered feasible.

"(*b*) No, because the route referred to in the answer to clause (*a*) is considered to be feasible.

"(*c*) Two independent hydro-electric schemes for Malabar, namely, the Thalipuzha scheme near Vayitri and the Cholatipuzha scheme were investigated and found to be not economical."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"May I know whether it is merely the shortness of the line from Meppadi to Tellicherry through Manantoddy or considerations of future economic benefit that have made the Government adopt the line they have taken up?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"If the hon. Member looks at the map, he will find that the lines suggested by the hon. Member are not shorter than the proposed line; and they are therefore not economical lines; even from a geographical point of view the Pykara-Meppadi line is preferable to any of the other two lines suggested by the hon. Member."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"I have just looked into the map and also know the topography of the place very well and that is why I have put down the question."

MR. SPEAKER:—"What is the question? Perhaps the hon. Member is merely making a statement."

The Gundlakamma River Project.

* 236 *Q.*—MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage the *Gundlakamma river project* (Guntur district) now is;

(*b*) whether it will be included in this year's budget;

(*c*) whether the reservoir will be constructed at *Tangirala* or Jammalamadaga;

(*d*) what the area in acres that the *Gundlakamma scheme* is likely to irrigate is; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that *Tangirala* is on a much higher level than *Jammalamadaga* and that a reservoir at the former place will irrigate more villages and more directly than a reservoir constructed at *Jammalamadaga*?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) Gaugings of the river at Tangirala and Jammalamadaga are being conducted and the results are expected to be available by the end of 1937–38. The Agricultural department is examining the nature of the soil. The result of this examination is also awaited.

"(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*c*) The proposal is to construct the reservoir at Tangirala.

"(*d*) It is estimated that under a dry scheme about 74,000 acres in the second crop season every year and 16,000 acres in the first crop season once in two years can be irrigated. Under a wet scheme it is estimated that the area irrigated will be about 20,000 acres. The question whether the scheme will be a dry or wet one will be decided only after the results of the investigation are known.

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" (*e*) The proposal is to construct the reservoir at Tangirala with an anicut at Jammalamadaga lower down the river. The supply from the reservoir will be let down the river to be picked up by a channel system at the anicut at the latter place."

[a] * 237 *Q*. [Postponed.]

Primary education of boys and girls of school-going age in the Presidency.

* 238 *Q*.—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) the percentage of boys and girls of the school-going age that were reading in primary schools during last year; and

(*b*) whether there is any scheme laid down by the Government to provide for the increasing percentage in coming years?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (*a*) The information asked for is not available. The hon. Member is, however, referred to statement 31 on page 38 of Part I of Volume II of the report on Public Instruction for 1935–36 which gives figures of boys and girls in elementary schools classified according to age.

" (*b*) Yes. The new policy in regard to elementary education as laid down in the Press Communiqué published on pages 653–655 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 8th December 1936, is specially designed to this end."

Proposal to start a factory for the manufacture of bone-meal and other artificial manures.

* 239 *Q*.—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether the Government propose to start any factory for the manufacture of bone-meal and other artificial manures for the use of the agriculturists of this Presidency?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" The question of starting a factory for the production of artificial manure, especially Calcium Nitrate at Mettur, is under investigation by the Director of Industries. The feasibility of restarting experiments by means of the bone disintegrating unit by which the bone resources of the Province can be pooled and bone-meal made available to the local agriculturists is under examination by the Directors of Industries and Agriculture."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether bone is being sent from this place to Pondicherry and sent back from there to Madras and whether we pay any extra charges therefor? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Yes, Sir. It has come to my notice that bone sent from here is received back here after payment of some extra charges."

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[a] Vide page 174 infra.

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR:—" May I know whether the Government intend giving financial help to any private agency engaged in this business? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" No such application has come to the Government so far."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know whether it could not be manufactured locally without sending it to Pondicherry and getting it back thereafter after the payment of duties? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" It is not done by the Government but by private agencies."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether private firms will be given encouragement so as to help local manufacture? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" If there is a request, the Government will consider the question."

Removal of the toddy shop in Dharapadavedu village, Gudiyattam taluk.

* 240 *Q.*—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any mahazar from the residents of Dharapadavedu village in Gudiyattam taluk, requesting the removal of the local toddy shop to some other place was received by him; and

(*b*) if so, what steps have been taken for the removal of the said toddy shop to a less objectionable locality?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The petition was transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal. The location of toddy shops is decided by the Collector after obtaining the advice of the local excise advisory committee."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether petitions sent from other quarters also would be considered like that? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Certainly all petitions that come to Government would receive consideration."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether Government would consider them if complaints are made from all quarters of the Presidency? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" I do not think that that question arises now."

Quantity of silk produced in Kollegal taluk of the Coimbatore district.

* 241 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the quantity of silk produced in Kollegal taluk of the Coimbatore district?

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THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" On account of the various means adopted by the silk reelers of Kollegal taluk for the disposal of their silk and the reluctance of the reelers and merchants to reveal the volume of their business or the addresses of the customers the total quantity of silk produced in the Kollegal taluk cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy. The quantity of raw silk exported through the out-agency of Kollegal which is the only source of accurate information, during the last three years is furnished below:—

	LB.
1934–35	138,999
1935–36	127,979
1936–37	137,241 "

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know whether there is any further scope of improving production? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I am sorry I cannot answer that question off-hand. If my hon. Friend puts down another question I shall try to answer it."

Representation for the formation of a Provincial Harijan Uplift Advisory Board.

* 242 *Q.*—MR. G. VENKANNA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation for the formation of a Provincial Harijan Uplift Advisory Board for the co-ordination of Harijan work in the Presidency; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, when the Government received the representation?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) A representation on the subject was received in August 1937."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Government propose to form provincial boards or district boards? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Both questions are under the immediate consideration of the Government."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know how long the Government will take to consider this question? "

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" Not very long, Sir."

Protest against holding the half-yearly inspection of buses in Malabar at Calicut, the headquarters of the Inspector of Motor Vehicles.

* 243 *Q.*—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Motor Vehicles, Malabar, used to order the bus-owners at the time of half-yearly inspection of buses, to produce their buses at his headquarters at Calicut; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of instructing the Inspector of Motor Vehicles, Malabar, to issue monthly tour programmes mentioning the places he may be visiting and when and thus prevent considerable inconvenience and loss to the bus-owners and the travelling public?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*b*) The question does not arise."

Alleged minimum limit for the levy of fines for offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, in the Nellore district.

* 244 *Q.*—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Nellore has circularized to the subordinate magistrates under his jurisdiction that in all cases under Motor Vehicles Act an offender should be fined to a minimum of rupees fifty?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"A circular was issued by the District Magistrate, Nellore, to the effect that the punishments which some sub-magistrates were awarding to lorry-owners and drivers who were convicted for plying lorries without the prescribed licences, were not at all deterrent and that a fine of Rs. 50 in each case was considered to be appropriate. It was left to the discretion of the sub-magistrates to impose lesser fines if the circumstances warranted such a course."

MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister under what law or authority has the District Magistrate derived these powers of subordinate legislation?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is not a power of subordinate legislation. Under section 17 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Criminal Rules of Practice, the District Magistrate can issue instructions to subordinate magistrates."

MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the District Magistrate can prescribe the amount of fine to be levied in particular cases?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"He cannot and he has not done it in this case."

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Prosecution against M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Sambasiva Chettiyar, Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram, for not returning the municipal records, after his term of office ceased.

* 245 *Q.*—MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in 1932 the Government ordered a prosecution against Rao Bahadur C. Sambasiva Chettiyar, Chairman, Municipal Council, Conjeeveram, for not returning the municipal records to the municipal office after his term of chairmanship was over, in spite of repeated requests and reminders; and

(*b*) whether an enquiry was held in connexion with the same on 25th June 1936 and, if so, what the outcome of the enquiry was?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*b*) No enquiry was held in connexion with prosecution; but the Personal Assistant to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards conducted an enquiry on 25th June 1936 on the alleged missing of records; no action was taken as it was reported that no accurate information was available of the specific records missing."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—"May I know whether the list of missing records was not submitted to the Inspector of Local Boards?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"There was no accurate information for the holding of an enquiry."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say whether enquiries were made from a number of people about this?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It may be, but it relates to the missing of records in May 1936."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—"May I know whether the Inspector of Municipal Councils submitted any report of the enquiry and, if so, whether he will be pleased to place the report on the table of the House?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I shall try and see."

Levy of tax on agricultural incomes by the Panchayat Board of Madhavaram, West Godavari district.

* 246 *Q.*—MR. K. VENKATAPPAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Panchayat Board of Madhavaram in the West Godavari district is levying tax on agricultural incomes?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The panchayat board was levying profession tax on agricultural income. The board has been asked to discontinue the levy of the tax on such income."

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of ordering a refund of the amounts already collected?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No."

Admissibility of travelling allowance to village officials attending the jamabandi at the taluk headquarters.

*247 *Q.*—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that subscriptions are generally raised in our Province by the village munsifs and karnams from the pattadars in villages for meeting the expenses of jamabandi at the headquarters;

(*b*) if so, how the Government propose to put an end to such a practice; and

(*c*) whether the village officials will be paid their daily batta and travelling allowances when attending to the jamabandi duty at the headquarters of the taluk?

MR. T. VISWANATHAM (Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam:—"(*a*) The Government are not aware that the facts are as stated.

"(*b*) The question does not arise.

"(*c*) A jamabandi allowance of Rs. 2 is now paid only to one village menial of a ryotwari village who accompanies the karnam and headman to the taluk headquarters in connexion with jamabandi, provided that the village does not lie within a radius of five miles of the taluk headquarters. No batta or travelling allowance is paid to village headmen and karnams for attending jamabandi."

Extension of the flood bank of the Bahuda river, Ichchapur taluk.

*248 *Q.*—MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the report said to have been called for in answer to clause (*a*) of unstarred Question No. 12 answered on 31st August 1937 with regard to the extension of the flood bank of the Bahuda river, Ichchapur taluk, has been received and what action the Government propose to take thereon?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"The report has been received and the Government have included a provision of Rs. 10,000 for the work in the next year's budget."

Fall in the number of aided elementary schools in the Nellore district.

*249 *Q.*—MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the number of aided elementary schools in the Nellore district during the year 1936–37 was;

(*b*) what the number of the same during the year 1937–38 is;

(*c*) what the reasons are for the fall, if any;

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(*d*) whether there is any rule in force according to which all elementary schools whose average attendance is less than twenty should not be paid any grant;

(*e*) whether there is any rule in force that untrained teachers should not be paid any grant this year; and

(*f*) whether the Government have considered the question whether there is an adequate number of trained teachers for employment in the existing schools?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (*a*) one thousand two hundred and ninety.

" (*b*) Accurate figures are not yet available for the year 1937–38, but there has been a fall in numbers.

" (*c*) Owing to the closure of inefficient and uneconomic schools.

" (*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*e*) There is no such rule.

" (*f*) The question is engaging attention."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask whether the enforcement of the rule of minimum attendance will not result in the closing down of a large number of schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" It may, Sir, but I think in the interests of education it is necessary."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" Will not then many villages go without any school at all? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" If there is keenness for education, there will be attendance and schools will not then be closed."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know what measures the Government propose to take for the education of the children who will be sent out by the closing down of these schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" They will be able to attend the neighbouring schools if they wish to."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether the Government have enquired whether the distance which the children will have to go will not be more than half a mile from their homes? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" The Government have come to this conclusion after looking into every fact adduced by the hon. Member."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that even in England untrained teachers are being allowed to teach in schools? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am not aware of the practice that obtains in England."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that a number of applicants for admission to the training schools are refused admission for want of accommodation? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The accommodation available is distributed among the applicants and those who, in the opinion of the District Educational Officer, will benefit by such training are always given preference."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I ask what steps the Government are going to take to see that all eligible applicants are admitted?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"That is a matter of money and until we find more money I am afraid we shall have to continue as at present."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will permit untrained teachers to teach in schools until he gets more money to have them trained?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"If the hon. Member had followed the answer given to the question already put, he would have found that there is no rule that untrained teachers should not be employed."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to find out and tell the House the number of children who have been sent out of schools on account of this policy?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am afraid, Sir, it is a matter of accounting and if the hon. Member chooses to put down a specific question, I shall try to get the information if it is available."

MR. V. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, how it will be uneconomic to give grants to schools having only twenty students, if a system is followed whereby grants will be given according to the number of students that attend?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"For the simple reason that Government have found after investigation that single teacher schools do not come up to our expectations in the matter of removal of illiteracy. If there are only twenty pupils in four standards and only one teacher is employed, I am sure that the hon. Member will agree that it is not possible to impart education on right lines."

Proposal to increase the percentage of Indian boys in St. Michael's European High School, Cannanore.

* 250. *Q.*—MR. P. MADHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Headmaster of St. Michael's European High School, Cannanore, has requested the Government to sanction an increase in the percentage of Indian boys in the school in view of the fact that European boys are lacking and therefore many Indian boys had to be shut out in order to keep up the proportion of one-third Indian boys as against two-thirds European boys; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken on the same?

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) The Government have amended the Code of Regulations for European schools to the effect that in cases of special difficulty, the Inspector of European Schools may permit the admission of non-Europeans in European schools to the limit of 40 per cent of the strength of the school provided that no further admission should be made as vacancies occur till the sanctioned percentage of 33-1/3 is reached."

Payment of compounding fees to forest panchayats.

* 251. *Q.*—MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only a small portion of the respective compounding fees is now given to each of the forest panchayats in this Presidency?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"An annual grant is made to each Panchayat equal to one half of the compounding fees and one half of the fines collected in respect of forest offences reported by the panchayat and relating to the area of which it is in charge."

MR. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of transferring the entire compounding fees to the respective panchayats in view of the financial stringency of these bodies?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"No Sir."

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"May I request you, Mr. Speaker, to allow the Hon. Minister to answer question No. 237?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Has the hon. Member been deputed by Mr. Laljan to put the question?"

MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"No, Sir, I am not."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member who gave notice of the question must have taken care to depute some other hon. Member to put the question if he happens to be absent. Otherwise the answer will be printed in the proceedings and there is no obligation on the part of the Hon. Minister to give an oral answer."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, the question casts a slur on one of the officers of Government who is being attacked. I should like to answer it now so that the matter may be cleared."

MR. SPEAKER:—"In that event, the Hon. Minister should have asked for the permission of the Chair to answer the question when it was called and when it was known that Mr. Laljan was absent and that he had not deputed any other hon. Member to put the question on his behalf. If the Hon. Minister had wanted to answer the question in the public interest, he could have answered it then and there with the permission of the Chair."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I ask for permission now, Sir, to answer the question in the public interest."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Yes."

Disciplinary action against the religious instructor in the Government Muhammadan Training School, Guntur, for taking part in party politics.

* 237 *Q.*—MR. S. M. LALJAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to State—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the religious instructor employed in the Government Muhammadan Training School, Guntur, presided at the Congress Muslim mass contact meeting held on 2nd November 1937 at Guntur;

(*b*) whether according to Government Servants' Conduct Rules Government servants are prohibited from taking part in party politics; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) be in the affirmative, what disciplinary action the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, has taken against the teacher concerned?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*c*) The question does not arise."

Strength, composition, etc., of the police force employed for traffic control in the Presidency.

* 232 *Q.*—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total strength of the police force employed for traffic control in each of the towns and cities in the Presidency;

(*b*) how many of them are sergeants and how many of them are of the lower ranks;

(*c*) the race or community to which each of the sergeants and constables belongs respectively; and

(*d*) the scale of pay drawn by each of the officers or constables that control traffic points in the cities and towns of the Presidency?

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (*a*), (*b*) & (*d*) The Government have called for the information.

" (*c*) It is only in Madras City and in Madura and Trichinopoly towns that the traffic branch has been separately organized; and even there officers and men in that branch are often transferred to the Crime or Law and Order Branches and vice versa. In other towns there is no separately organized Traffic Branch. Consequently it is not possible, even were it desirable, to gather and furnish information regarding the race or community of the Police officers employed only on traffic control."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1938-39—*cont.*

* MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget before us is on the whole one on which the Hon. the Premier may be congratulated, possessing as it does the supreme excellence of showing a surplus without the imposition of fresh taxation. So far as the coming year is concerned we have little to grumble about. But I would invite attention to the fact that two main factors have contributed to render this surplus budget possible. The first is the windfall of about Rs. 21 lakhs from income-tax under the Niemeyer Award . . . "

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Sir, I just want to say that it is dangerous to use the terminology of windfall for revenue which is ours and which should be ours for all time."

MR. E. H. M. BOWER:—" When I used the word windfall I meant that the particular amount involved was a windfall. I did not mean that the award itself was a windfall. The amount involved is Rs. 20·55 lakhs. Under the Niemeyer award the Provinces are entitled to certain sums of money which to some extent depend on railway receipts. The revenues of the State railways have been steadily falling within the past three months and if this fall continues the amount that we shall receive next year will be nothing like 20·55 lakhs. (An hon. Member: 'It may be more.') Sir, I said 'and if this fall continues.' I do not understand how the hon. Member can say that a fall will produce more. If the fall continues, the amount that we will receive will be nothing like Rs. 20·55 lakhs but a far lower figure. That is why I said that this year it is a windfall. We cannot bank on receiving it in its fullness next year.

" The second main cause for the surplus is the most extraordinary feature in the budget. It is the large total of receipts from excise revenue. The situation here is Gilbertian. An hon. Member yesterday referred to the motor-tax as the goose that lays the golden eggs. I think many people will hold that the excise revenue is entitled to this appellation. Now, the Government have openly declared their intention to kill this goose, limb by limb, and have started with the district of Salem. We were told some six months back that on account of prohibition during the last six months of 1937-38, we had to lose Rs. 13 lakhs of excise revenue. And what do we find to-day? This budget shows that instead of losing Rs. 13 lakhs, we have got Rs. 15½ lakhs more than we budgeted for in receipts under Excise. This excise goose instead of losing its vitality is laying larger golden eggs than ever. So that, after all, this is a surplus budget largely because the collections under Excise instead of falling, have actually risen. The dear old bird has kissed the hands that smote it and has borne the Government on its back to a triumphant finale. The position is not without an element of humour.

3-30 p.m.

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"But I would venture to point out that a time must arrive when the excise revenue will begin to fall, as more districts come under prohibition. I see two districts classed as dry in the land revenue accounts are going to be dry in another sense in the second half-year of 1938–39—I refer to Chittoor and Cuddapah. With all this extension of prohibition, the budgeted estimate of receipts under Excise in 1938–39 is Rs. 388.93 lakhs as against Rs. 387.06 lakhs in 1937–38. So that, the old goose that had been laying the golden eggs has proved a veritable phœnix. But what is going to happen in 1939–40 and 1940–41 when other districts join Salem, Chittoor and Cuddapah? The province—and this is the important point—has not yet *begun to feel* the financial implications of prohibition. Of the Rs. 3.87 crores budgeted for in 1937–38 not a pie has been yet lost to the Government; on the other hand, the Government expect to be Rs. 1.75 lakhs better off from this source in March 1939. But when the Excise goose begins to lose its vitality and when the golden eggs grow smaller and fewer, there will come a time when fresh and onerous taxation must be resorted to in a feverish attempt to encompass what I say is impossible. For, I believe that it is really outside the capacity of this province to supply from fresh taxation the Rs. 3¼ crores now received from country spirits and country fermented liquor alone. I say that this budget is a success and I ask permission to congratulate the Hon. the Prime Minister on his success; but I would also repeat that it is a success merely because it has been borne on the wings of a tax which the Government have set out to destroy."

* Mr. R. M. PALAT:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to compare the budget figures for 1936–37 and the Budget figures for 1938–39. I am taking the year 1936–37 because by then, Orissa had been separated from this province, and we ought to have had normal figures then. Again, after that year, this year 1938–39 is the next normal year, because last year, we cannot say that the present Ministry was responsible for the whole Budget. Taking those figures, therefore, we see that the revenue in the year 1936–37 was Rs. 15.76 crores while the present estimated revenue in 1938–39 is Rs. 15.98 crores. So that, the Hon. Minister will have Rs. 22 lakhs more to spend and is in a better financial position than any of the previous Finance Ministers. Compared to the same year, he expects to get about Rs. 24 lakhs more from land-tax in spite of the remissions which he has programmed for. While he says that he has managed without any additional taxation, he has quietly ignored the increase in the registration fees and motor-taxes. From the first, he expects very nearly Rs. 7 lakhs and about Rs. 6 lakhs from the latter. As has been pointed out by Mr. Bower, we are undoubtedly lucky in getting Rs. 20 lakhs more from the Government of India this year.

"Turning now to the expenditure side, we find that Rs. 15.96 crores were budgeted for in 1936–37, while the estimate for 1938–39 is Rs. 15.98 crores. These figures show that all things taken together, in spite of the tall talk about reduction of expenditure, it has still to be thought of.

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" Then, Sir, one important asset of the Finance Minister is his knack for changes in the accounts. If we refer to the last paragraph at page 3 of his Budget speech, the Prime Minister makes no secret of it. He says he is ready to adopt such changes in account matters, such as with regard to commutation of pensions from year to year, according to the exigencies of the Budget. I have to advise him that without reference to the exigencies of the budget, all the items of revenue and expenditure must either go to Revenue or Capital accounts, according to a fixed principle. If that is ignored, any deficit could be converted into a surplus and any surplus could be converted into a deficit, and Members of the Legislature would not know where they stand. Last year, the Hon. Minister said that he would debit it to capital; but this year, he says he would debit it to Revenue and threatens that he will have to debit it to Capital again when he is short of funds. We see this in the last paragraph at page 3 of his Budget speech.

" Then, Sir, I think the present Ministry will be well-advised to experiment more cautiously with some of their schemes. The wisdom of this they have already learnt in the matter of prohibition. We do not see this time all the enthusiastic beginning that was made last year. The two districts that are to be tried in the coming year will not be tried till October 1938, and moreover, will not cost more than Rs. 16 lakhs loss in a full year as against the Rs. 26 lakhs loss in the one district tried last year. There is also an increase in the Police staff more than any reduction in the excise staff. Similarly, it would be well to proceed more cautiously with the new schemes of education which are bound to affect the welfare of millions of people in this Presidency; similarly, again, with regard to the indiscriminate release of prisoners which is fraught with danger; so also, with regard to the scheme of honorary medical officers, which is to be introduced very shortly in this province. Sir, although I am an opponent of prohibition and although the private reports we have had do not support the Government contention that prohibition has been a success in Salem, still, if the Government believe that it has been a success there, I wonder why they do not extend it to more districts. The reason why only two districts have been chosen is not a mystery. Again, it was said that it was an advantage to take contiguous districts; but then, why not start the contiguity from Salem itself? Why take two of the poorest districts in the Presidency? No information has been vouchsafed to us as to the means taken to find employment for those who have been thrown out of employment on account of the introduction of this prohibition scheme, whether they have been absorbed in the new scheme of production of sweet toddy and production of sugar from jaggery, or whether any new source of income has been discovered in the district to make up for the loss of income, or whether they are all starving.

" Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the Wardha scheme which I understand is to be introduced in one school in every district. The essence of the scheme, as I understand it, is that every school

should be self-supporting, by making the children produce sufficient articles which by their sale would support the teaching staff of that school. Even the industrial schools where the pupils are more or less grown up do not pay their way and do not support their teaching staff; therefore, I do not think it is possible for schools composed of infants to live purely on the proceeds of the sale of articles produced. I may assure the Government that if these teachers are to live on the proceeds of the sale of goods produced by infants, they will be reduced to a worse state than perhaps even the coolies in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur who are getting famine relief, in the shape of Government doles. There will also be a tendency on the part of the teachers to earn money by sweated child labour, because the teachers would naturally try to get as much work from the children as possible. Again, Sir, there are persons on the Government Benches here who have had teaching experience. If the Government really believe in this scheme, I would suggest that these persons who are really enthusiasts, should waive their allowance and pay as Members of the Legislature and should give a practical demonstration as to how this scheme would work, by taking charge of some of these schools to be started by the Hon. Minister for Education.

"Then, Sir, I do not want to say anything about the release of political prisoners; but it is certainly immoral to release prisoners who have been convicted for ordinary crimes by competent courts. The Government are arrogating to themselves the powers of a court of appeal, a court of appeal in which neither party is heard, and where the Ministers will possibly be harassed by interested persons pleading for particular prisoners being released. In view of this declared policy, however, I do not see why the number of Police officers should not be reduced and why a number of jails should not be abolished.

"I should like to utter a similar word of caution with regard to Capital schemes. The Prime Minister is jubilating over the idea that the money market is very easy and cheap money could be obtained for the mere asking. But I would warn him that facile credit obtained in season and out of season is likely to demoralize not only the Provincial Government but all local bodies who are willing to take whatever money comes to them. But all that will be a burden on posterity. This year Rs. 175 lakhs of money is being borrowed. As tax-payers, we would any day welcome borrowing rather than submit to further taxation. But the credit that has been built up by the previous Governments during a number of years will be slowly undermined.

"The Government has borrowed a crore last year and more this year and it is losing its qualms about borrowing and it would probably go on borrowing every year more and more till it would be impossible for it to repay either the capital or interest, and then it could pass an act writing off all these debts; and this would no doubt appeal to everyone except the investor.

"In the course of his speech the Hon. the Prime Minister has expressed disappointment at the slow manner in which capital programmes can be put through in the current year. I hope he will take

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wise counsel before encouraging extravagant capital schemes either by the Government or by the local bodies. We are yet far from having a detailed scheme for scaling down of debts which is itself a very controversial matter. The Hon. the Prime Minister has already made up his mind to give 50 lakhs to the debtors while at the same time he is deprecating the slowness of recovery of the loans already made. I presume by the way that this amount would be available for zamindari ryots as well. I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister will enlighten us on that point. I would seriously suggest that the proper channel through which agricultural loans should be disbursed should be the Land Mortgage Banks and I have not the least doubt that if disbursements are to be made through the Revenue Department, the recoveries are bound to be more disappointing than now.

"The partiality of the Prime Minister for Electric Schemes for which a sum of 97 lakhs is set apart, rather than to irrigation which has only 6·6 lakhs in spite of the repeated failures of the monsoons and crops from year to year that we hear of, is very disappointing and the absence of irrigation works, particularly in Malabar has been a sorrowful feature of the Provincial administration not only of the present Government but of the past Governments also. In fact besides the remission in assessment which in reality was initiated by the former Ministry, the district of Malabar gets absolutely nothing from this budget. Even the grazing concession is no good to us since there is very little Government forest, and grazing has been always free in private forests. I would suggest that the Government should extend this principle of free grazing throughout the Presidency and be at least as generous as the private owners of forests in Malabar.

"Another grievous omission in the Budget is the absence of any special attention given to the importance of marketing facilities in the country. Although the Hon. the Finance Minister has expressed his sympathy for the agriculturists and the masses, organizations of new markets and increase of transport facilities are very much wanting. They should be instituted with a view to improving the purchasing power of the agriculturist.

"I am glad to see that the Government is carrying out the policy laid down by the late Ministry in the manifesto to give to each village in the Presidency a pure drinking water-supply. I am surprised however at the smallness of the grant towards that improvement. The health of the people is more important than the teaching of Hindi, called by the Hon. the Prime Minister Hindustani as if the calling of a language by a wrong name would change the language, and more important than the building up of quarters for higher officials, especially police officers, which we see in the present budget.

"I see from the detailed Civil Works Budget that entirely new buildings are going to put up—some to be continued for revenue divisional officers and new ones for the higher police officers. At Kurnool, quarters for a District Superintendent of Police estimated to

cost of 31,600 is to be commenced this year. No money has yet been spent on it. This is given on pages 42—43 as item 3 of the Detailed Civil Works Budget this year before us. Similarly in Coimbatore district an entirely new bungalow for an Assistant Superintendent of Police is to be commenced this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 23,200. That, Sir, is given on page 47 as item 58 in the Detailed Civil Works Budget. There are other buildings which have been commenced sometime ago and which are to be continued this year, as for instance the bungalow for the District Superintendent of Police at Mangalore. While it is difficult to get an X-Ray plant for many of the hospitals, the Cabinet do not hesitate to spend money lavishly in commencing new buildings for the higher police officers who had been living mostly in rented houses since the early days of the British occupation, and now when Indianization is the cry and when there is every possibility that Indians would be content with private buildings and when we see that many Indians refuse to occupy Government buildings as is the case with some of the buildings at Adyar, there is no reason whatever why these buildings should be continued and money spent on them. This money can be far better utilized in giving the poor villagers an uncontaminated water-supply or for famine relief.

"I have purposely not drawn the attention of the House to the building up of quarters for the lower grades, that is to say those in the lower ranks, of the police service, which is also given in this Detailed Civil Works Budget.

"Next I would like to say a few words as to salaries. After all this flourish what do we see? We see a plan which would take a number of years to develop. We see that Indian Officers, I refer to the future entrants, are severely dealt with while the European Services are left untouched, and this no way fulfils the Congress election pledges which started with a Viceroy on Rs. 500 a month. The Ministers themselves now get far more than Rs. 500. Call it pay or allowance. It makes no difference.

"With the passing of the Agriculturists Debt Relief Bill, the poor agriculturist will have to execute more documents, and the Government have stepped in by increasing the registration fee of such documents, and thereby further taxing the poor agriculturist. The Justice Ministry had considerably reduced the registration fee, and now the present Government is going back to the old days.

"Then, Sir, I regret the waste of money that is being involved in khadi-weaving. This is an attempt against all lessons of industrial history—this attempt to make handlooms and handspinning compete with machinery. This money could also have been much better utilized for purposes of improving the public health. Again the famine relief fund is not being fairly utilized. In the Ceded districts we have now famine and wages paid to each man is one anna and nine pies and to each woman one anna six pies. This is hardly sufficient to purchase a seer of cholam, the cheapest possible food, and a seer is hardly

sufficient to stay the pangs of their hunger. Why should not the Government give them higher wages, instead of sweating them and putting up buildings for the Assistant Superintendents of Police?

"I would now say a word or two about the Ooty migration of officials. I see that certain departmental Secretaries will be allowed to have their usual exodus to the hills. I am at a loss to know the reasons that weighed with the Government in taking such a step. May I ask whether the reasons applicable in such cases are different from those that are applicable to the cases of those other Secretaries who are not allowed to do so. You should send either all of them or none of them. There is no reason why certain secretaries alone should be allowed to go while others are not.

"In conclusion I would like to say a few words in regard to a recent Government Order about the election by the local bar of Government pleaders and public prosecutors in the mufassal districts. Have the Government any idea of extending this principle of election to Madras? Shall we soon see the Advocate-General and the Judges of the Madras High Court similarly elected?"

* SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Sir, I would like to open my remarks on the Hon. the Premier's Budget statement by first congratulating him and the House on the improvement in his health which has allowed him to take up his onerous duties again and present this very lucid statement of the financial affairs of the Province to this Assembly. I also wish to congratulate him on being able to present a balanced Budget although I think he will be one of the first to admit that he has been fortunate in regard to the receipts from the Central Government and also to other sources of revenue proving more favourable than was perhaps expected.

"When I was recently in England during a debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Winston Churchill quoted his father as having said that it was the business of the opposition to oppose everything and propose nothing and turn out the Government. If, he added, by any combination of circumstances the opposition is occasionally forced to support Government, that support should invariably be given with a kick and not with a caress.

"I think that as far as these Benches are concerned, we can claim that so far in the manner in which we have given support to Government when we have happily been able to do so, we have certainly not followed that advice and our support has always been accompanied by a caress. I would go further and say that when we have had to oppose the Government we have always opposed with a caress. That is partly because we are not really an opposition in the full parliamentary sense of the word. We are here, as we have said before, to support the Government of the day whenever we can conscientiously do so. We are in the unfortunate position that if through any action of ours the Government was turned out we would not be able to provide an alternative Government and there are at present no signs of the

creation of a single party to which we could give our unfailing support on all questions of policy. From that point of view I hope that such criticisms as I now put forward for the consideration of Government will be considered by the Premier as having been handed to him with a caress, and I do very sincerely hope that he will not look upon them as offered in any other spirit.

"As a Budget speech, pure and simple, we feel that the Premier's address last Tuesday was somewhat disappointing. In that address we hear much of revenue which has been given up, but we are told that we must wait to learn in what form and on whom additional taxation is to be levied in the Province, to balance further revenue which is to be given up and provide funds for those various beneficient projects so dear to the Premier's heart.

"I would ask him, that if he finds it necessary to introduce any Bills involving further taxation between now and the next Budget, he will give a much longer time for consideration of such Bills than he has allowed the Assembly on various other measures which have recently been presented to this House. We would request that such Bills are published in ample time before they are discussed on the floor of this House to allow us to consult our constituents, and also to allow us to give very full consideration to all the implications and repercussions that such additional taxation may involve. Is it too much to ask the Premier that Government will endeavour as far as possible in the future to establish a Budget convention that all proposed taxation Bills should be outlined in the Budget, so that the business and industrial interests of this Presidency will know where they are for the coming year and be able to regulate their commitments and policies accordingly?

"As far as the Premier has outlined the loan policy of Government it appears to us sound, and we enter into another financial year with the conviction that the financial stability and credit of the Province has been well-maintained. Loans for the promotion of sound economic and remunerative schemes will always continue to receive our full support. In the past we have not been supporters of a policy of purely capital expenditure being financed from current revenues, and we have no wish to see the balances of the Province built up for the benefit of posterity at the expense of the tax-payer of to-day.

"As regards the question of Prohibition, I think that the Collector of Salem's report at least demonstrates the very great enthusiasm with which the Government's policy is being carried out in that district by the services and the village committees.

"From information from other sources I feel that this enthusiasm has probably led them to claim a greater success for the policy than is actually the case. Quite possibly my opinion is biased on the other side, and the real state of affairs lies somewhere between. The fact that it was recently impossible to buy a bicycle in Madras as they had been sold to Salem, rather indicates that drink addicts are now taking

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healthy exercise to obtain their usual beverage. It is, however, still early to decide whether the policy is a success or not, and I certainly do not wish to take up the time of this House at this juncture with those arguments against Prohibition which I put forward last year.

" There are, however, one or two points on the working of Prohibition which we hope to bring up when the grant in question is under discussion.

" Much of the expenditure indicated in this Budget, particularly the proposals for the improvement of rural water-supply and other amenities in the villages have our very fullest sympathy, and we shall watch with considerable interest that the funds supplied by Government for these purposes are being wisely utilized and administered.

" We are very dubious of the success of the Wardah Educational scheme which Government proposes to try out, and we hope that too much expenditure will not be involved, until and unless Government are satisfied that education on the lines of this scheme is really a practical proposition. This does not mean we are opposed either to an extension of primary education or to the spread of vocational training on ordinary lines. In fact we would go further and welcome the diversion of some at least of the expenditure on secondary education to provide additional primary and vocational educational needs.

" While we, as I have already indicated, welcome all those schemes likely to ameliorate the conditions of the agriculturist, we trust that the provision for building and road works has not been cut down to an extent which will starve essential developments in those directions.

" The Premier's account of the successful development and his future plans under the headings of ' Electricity ' and ' Irrigation ' indicate a very satisfactory state of affairs under these two headings and we hope that in his next Budget he will be able to report equally satisfactory progress.

" Any further remarks and criticisms under various headings of the Budget we will reserve for the more detailed discussions which will follow when we consider the grants, although my friend, Mr. Langley, the representative of planting interests, will hope to have an opportunity during this general discussion to bring to the notice of the Government certain questions which particularly affect his constituency.

" Finally, Sir, generally speaking, we congratulate and confirm the Premier in his claim that he is building on a basis of financial rectitude, although as regards some of his policies we cannot accept that they are altogether sound."

4 p.m. * MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present speaks aloud and the future only whispers. Our prosperity depends not only on studying the situations we face to-day but in providing for the future. Few alone are destined to hear the whispers of the future. And our Premier must be congratulated on his capacity to hear them and the present Budget is the result. And the present Budget is the

indicator of the future services the Congress Party is going to render to the Presidency in particular and to the country at large. Then, Sir, when the Congress took up office last July they had a legacy of fiscal policy that did or could do little to save people from running into penury and constant famine. We might have had surplus budgets or deficit budgets in the past; but they were only window-dressing ingenuities of public accountancy. Now the country taken as a whole has been suffering from a number of fundamental evils which the Congress Party is now trying to tackle. Previously the Secretary of State used to practically approve the budget that was presented in the provinces or in the Centre before 1919. Then from 1919 what is known as 'the fiscal autonomy convention' came into effect, and the Viceroy replaced the Secretary of State, but there was not much improvement, for the policy remained unchanged. Even under the present Government of India Act, under which we are said to have provincial autonomy, I think the position has not entirely improved. For the new constitution does away with the fiscal autonomy convention as to-day India cannot legislate on the basis of discrimination and against British interests. Out of the total income for the whole of India, 60 per cent goes to the centre and only 40 per cent can be touched by the provinces. Then out of this 40 per cent, we cannot legislate on the basis of discrimination, on defence and on foreign powers, particularly against Britain. Therefore even that is restricted. So even to-day we cannot plan at an effective regeneration of the country.

"Then we come to our present state of affairs. The present system of taxation exacts the utmost from the poorer sections of the population. The main direct tax, the land revenue is based not on the capacity of the people to pay, but on a regressive basis. A man who owns two acres, pays at the same rate as the man who owns two thousand acres. This is a great inequity existing in this country and it is necessary that our Government should tackle this problem at an early date. Sir, I was overjoyed when the Hon. the Premier said day before yesterday that the 'Government are alive to the necessity for finding more revenue and undertaking the unpleasant task of expanding existing sources of revenue or imposing new taxation, and the problem is being subjected to detailed examination along several lines.' I humbly suggest that progressive taxation should be the whisper for the future. The prices fell by 50 per cent, but the total land revenue remission including the increased quota in 1937–38 comes to only 10 per cent of that fall.

"While this is the case in the ryotwari areas, the fate of the zamindari areas is far worse. As a matter of fact while Government were granting remissions, the zamindars went on increasing their taxes, and rack-renting is rampant there to-day. As a matter of fact while in Bengal to-day the zamindari rental amounts to Rs. 17 crores only 1 crores of rupees are paid to Government by way of peshkash. In the Madras Presidency all the zamindars put together pay 49 lakhs of rupees to the Government, but they actually collect over two and

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a half crores of rupees as rentals. All this is middle man's commission and it should be abolished at an early date. The lancet will have to be applied there. Tax on the surplus agricultural income, death duties, etc., coupled with the reduction of rentals paid by ryots, will yield money to the State and help the ryots affected, including those in the zamindari areas. The whole of the income-tax goes to the centre, and under the Niemeyer Award we get 50 per cent at the end of twenty years. This pace must be accelerated and we must urge upon the Central Government to yield to the Provincial demands more and more, so that you may have more nation-building activities. It is one of our primary dues, and those dues must be increased as years go by.

" I also suggest a ' turnover ' tax on all foreign goods sold in the presidency, and I would also like a tax on inherited wealth in this presidency.

" The present-day economic crisis which is dragging on wretchedly for years, never passing clean away, stabs with varying intensity this commodity or that, this area or another into sharper spasms of pain and panic. Freedom from the plague of upward booms and downward slumps can only be achieved by a planned economy. In this connection I must appreciate the attempt of the Hon. Revenue Minister towards a programme of rural revitalization. A system of controlled credit with the multi-purpose society at the base must be the co-operative ideal and such a system should be evolved, and I hope the Hon. Minister for Co-operation will soon take up this job. I also expect, Sir, that the fifty lakhs allotted in the budget towards the scaling down or the repayment of debt, under the Debt Bill and all similar payments would be disbursed through the multi-purpose co-operative societies. I think much success will be achieved in this line if this path is followed.

" Sir, famine is raging in the Ceded districts and it has become a chronic affair there. Unless we think of a permanent remedy, the lot of the people will be miserable. Government ought to be thanked for the prompt measures of relief and remission, and unless some permanent remedy is evolved, the prompt measures of relief afforded by the Hon. Revenue Minister during the last two months will be only but temporary. The Budget contains an allotment of Rs. 3,86,000 in all for relief works, but the details reveal that out of it, Rs. 3,54,000 go to communications, Rs. 7,000 only to irrigation. I wish the process is reversed under a clear plan; for I wish that the money thus spent will not go beyond creating certain roads, and will be used in digging certain tanks and repairing some canals. Therefore I appeal that some permanent relief be afforded to the Royala Seema.

" The subject of famine brings to my mind the subject of irrigation. The Hon. Premier has said that it is wrong to assume that the expenditure on these two classes of works, namely, Electricity and Irrigation, is exclusive. No one can dispute that statement. But, Sir, born in a place hemmed in by two mighty arms of the river Godavari, and enjoying the fruits of the famous Godavari Irrigation

system, I have a clear partiality for Irrigation. (The Hon. the Premier: 'Hear, hear.') The scope for expansion of irrigation is great. The net area cropped in the Madras province is 37,539,000 acres, and of this, the irrigated area is only 7,302,000 acres, and this forms but 19·4 per cent of the total cropped area of the presidency. As compared with our province, it is 97·1 per cent in Sind, and 35·1 per cent in the Punjab. Therefore I think the pace of progress of irrigation works in our province must be accelerated. I am glad to hear the good news from the Hon. Premier about the Tungabhadra project, and I hope the arrangements that have to be made for it will be concluded soon. But I fear the Tungabhadra project will not solve the Royala Seema famine. I wish that small irrigation works are undertaken and that a scheme is evolved so that all these may be put on a productive basis.

4–15 p.m. "I have got a suggestion to make, Sir, that what are known as 'irrigation group schemes' should be brought into existence. I do not think that every small work in the Ceded districts will be able to yield the 4 per cent margin which is required for irrigation works to be productive. I wish some 8 per cent yielding schemes from the north and 2 per cent yielding schemes in the Ceded districts are clubbed together and the minimum of 4 per cent is got and both the schemes are worked with a capital outlay as soon as possible.

"Every one has congratulated the Hon. the Premier for the ways and means position as well as the capital and debt position being very well in this Presidency. If we raise a loan of some more crores of rupees and use it for productive purposes for irrigation or electricity and get a good return from them nobody can blame us, for the credit of this Province will never fail, whatever Mr. Palat might fear. I now come to the expenditure proper.

"As can be seen from the face of it, the budget is completely massminded. There is a land revenue reduction of 75 lakhs of rupees and this is Rs. 20 lakhs more than the figure in 1936–37. The grazing fees have been cut down to half and it is a boon to all those that live on the fringes of the forest areas.

"Prohibition is extended to two more districts and I am glad it has fallen to the lot of the Andhara Desa and I do hope that the extension to Chittoor and Cuddapah will prove a greater success than the experiment in Salem. I have certainly no doubt as regards the success of prohibition scheme as I said in my last budget speech and the sooner we get rid of this drink evil the better for our country. We ought to achieve this even at the sacrifice of some of the nation-building activities. The whisper of the future is more evident in the creation of what is called a 'special fund' like the famine fund for the rural development of water supply. And I think, this idea, if it develops will give fresh water to many areas in this Presidency which lack these facilities at present.

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" I am glad that the khadi grant is renewed, and that there is more provision for the Harijan grant.

" Then, Sir, before closing, I want to mention a few local grievances in my district.

" The first thing is that I want to draw the attention of the Hon. the Revenue Minister to the remission of water-rate in the Kistna and Godavari anicut systems. I need not remind him, Sir, that the Godavari anicut system returns a high figure of 20 per cent and the Kistna system yields a percentage of 18. As a matter of fact, in spite of such high returns, in the year 1931, the water-rate which was at Rs. 5 was raised to Rs. 6–4–0 and this increase of 25 per cent in the era of this great depression was a great burden to the tax payer. In the remission proposal, Sir, this year, only 8 annas out of the Rs. 6–4–0 has been remitted, while the other parts of the Presidency got a remission of 2 annas in the rupee even in the predepression assessment. We in the Kistna, Godavari and Guntur areas had suffered an enhancement and even this enhancement has not been withdrawn during the remission proposals. May I make an appeal to the Hon. Minister for Revenue to give this year a remission of at least Re. 1–4–0, though our districts may forego the general concessions afforded in other places in the Presidency, where in the irrigated areas a remission of 2 annas in the rupee on the pre-depression assessment is allowed.

" I have got another request to make of the same hon. Gentleman. That is about the Island Polavaram Project in my constituency. That project was opened in 1929 and it was estimated to irrigate an area of 17,500 acres and the water-rate was fixed as high as Rs. 10–8–0. After three years the cultivable area fell down and came to 7,000 acres. Then the Government found out the mistake and decreased the tax to Rs. 7–8–0. Even that the poor people there are unable to pay, the land being saline in nature. That is a far higher rate than the rate collected in the delta. Indeed the concession is only to help those people from whom at present a high rate is being collected. Leaving alone the question of general remission and concession, for which I argued, I would appeal on behalf of the poor people of the Island Polavaram to reduce this Rs. 7–8–0 to Rs. 6–4–0, i.e., the post-settlement rate that is in vogue in all the deltas of the area.

" Then, Sir, there is the Coringa Project which will bring under cultivation more than 13,000 acres. This project, Sir, was sanctioned as early as 1914 but the war intervened, and so it was abandoned at this stage. It is a productive project and will yield a good return to Government and I do hope that in the coming year the Hon. Minister for Public Works will touch upon this. Then there are the other small schemes, like the Peravaram High Level Channel Project, with rotative supply with Kanur, water supply schemes for Sankaraguptam Antervedi and Tadicona, and the construction of a few tidal locks and other projects. On these small schemes in contemplation, the investment will not be very much but they will give a very good yield of revenue

to the Government, anything between 8 to 12 per cent. Along with that scheme which I have suggested before, I hope the Hon. the Minister for Public Works will undertake these things also. And before closing this portion of the business, I would like to suggest to the Government to undertake the Upper Godavari Project. If Rs. 75 lakhs is invested for constructing a dam along the Bison Hill, the Government will get a good deal of revenue. They can supply water earlier to the details of West Godavari and East Godavari and they can also supply water in full for the second crop.

" Then, Sir, I plead for the man with the Hoe who was described by Mr. Markham, as being plundered, profaned and disinherited. We must win freedom for him. The President of the North-Western Frontier Province when presented with the National Flag at Haripura by the President of the Congress said that he would defend it to the last drop of his blood. We, on this side of the Frontier of India, Sir, place the utmost confidence in the capacity of the Congress and its representative Government and in doing our duty to the people will not flinch a moment.

' Faith is the bird that feels the light,
' When dawn is still dark.'

said *Tagore*.

I do hope that the masses and also our Opposition Members will have that faith in the Congress, its administration and its honourable representatives headed by the Hon. the Prime Minister. I once more congratulate, Sir, the Hon. the Premier on the excellent Budget that he has presented in this Presidency on behalf of the Congress Party of which he is Leader and I am glad that this Budget is another brilliant feather in our white cap."

* Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to offer my sincere congratulations to the Hon. the Finance Minister for the admirable Budget that he has been able to present to this Hon. House. The Budget bears . . ."

An hon. MEMBER :—" May I request you, Sir, to ask the hon. Member to speak on directly to the phone, because I am not able to hear him? "

* Mr. SPEAKER :—" Hon. Members almost on every bench are talking while the hon. Member is addressing the House. That affects the acoustics of the House and it is not desirable that the hon. Members should be talking amongst themselves, when an hon. Member is addressing the House. Therefore hon. Members on both the wings of the House, both right and left, will observe perfect silence and allow the hon. Member addressing the House to be heard distinctly and clearly in every part of the House."

Mr. T. VISWANATHAM :—" I suppose we are not prevented from appreciating."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—" In doing so, the Parliamentary Secretary, should not diminish the acoustics of the House by talking frequently to members on other benches. (Laughter.) "

MR. T. VISWANATHAM:—" I mean, Sir, without affecting the acoustics. (Laughter.) "

* DIWAN BAHADUR A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—" I was saying, Sir, that the Budget bears unmistakable signs of the Hon. Finance Minister's broad outlook, thorough grasp of the details of administration, wisdom and unusual foresight in assessing the present and the future needs of this Province. My first impression when the Hon. the Finance Minister finished his speech on the 1st March, was that he completely paralized the Opposition. (Hear, hear.) I have since gone through the speech and also the Budget Memorandum prepared by his able Secretary and I am still of the opinion that the Opposition has been disarmed. It is customary, Sir, during the general discussion of the Budget to make a few observations on the general aspects of the Budget reserving the detailed examination to a later stage by means of cut motions.

" Sir, the first impression that one gets on going through the Budget that has been so ably presented is, Sir, the total absence of any measure for fresh taxation. Sir, taxation is irksome and fresh taxation is no doubt still more irksome. It invites opposition. Sir, we are coming to a stage where instead of squarely facing the consequences of fresh taxation the Government of the day, are falling back upon the device of raising fresh loans in the open market. Sir, only last year, the Hon. the Finance Minister raised a loan of 1½ crores in the open market. We all know, Sir, the avidity with which the public took hold of the opportunity to subscribe to the loan and we know how within a very short time, the loan was substantially oversubscribed. Encouraged with that result, the Hon. the Finance Minister has come up before this Assembly with a proposal to raise a fresh loan in the open market for a slightly higher amount, viz., Rs. 1·75 crores. Sir, one is tempted to enquire whether, after all, Government are pursuing a very safe policy in committing the future generations and the future legislature to ever-increasing loan transactions. Sir, I would, no doubt, be told that these loans are not raised in order to run the day-to-day administration of the province. That is no doubt a fact. We find from the Budget that we propose to close the year with a clear credit balance of Rs. 12,000. But then, Sir, there are other liabilities and they have to be faced. For this purpose therefore a loan is sought to be raised. Sir, that loan, as described in the Budget Memorandum, is to meet the liabilities on account of loans and advances, public debt, deposits of local funds, judicial deposits and so on. Sir, my point is, is it after all desirable; are we sailing smoothly when we are faced with a large public debt? Already our public debt amounts to Rs. 15·28 crores and on this we have to pay as much as Rs. 87·67 lakhs annually in the shape of interest. This is a sufficiently big drain upon the resources

of this province. In these circumstances, is it not worthwhile for us to consider whether we should pursue this policy of raising loans in the open market or whether it is not possible to face the situation squarely by having resort to fresh means of taxation by exploring fresh avenues of revenue so that we may be able to balance our Budget and we may be able to discharge our commitments without committing the future generation to huge loans which have a tendency to grow. We all know how, in the case of the agriculturists, the debts have increased, and how they have grown from year to year. Sir, there is a tendency for borrowers to borrow more freely when facilities for borrowing are available. The same might perhaps apply to Government. The tendency in future will be to continue to borrow and not to properly husband the resources available and obviate the necessity for going to the open market for loans.

" Sir, the next point that strikes me in connexion with this Budget is the question of land revenue policy which has not been defined yet. The Hon. the Finance Minister stated yesterday that land revenue question is a delicate one and that it is not possible to hurry up with it, that it requires very careful consideration and that it must be approached with considerable caution. I do admit all that; but then, what is the good of our postponing consideration of this matter? At some time or other the question will have to be settled. Sir, we have been told that the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee has submitted a report proposing substantial reduction in the current rates of assessment. But, unfortunately, the House has not been taken into confidence as to the nature and terms of the report of the Land Revenue Enquiry Committee. The report has been a sealed book to us. We were expecting that in this year's Budget at least some indications of the recommendations made by the Committee with a view to afford relief to the agriculturists would be found. But, unfortunately, we are told once more that it is not possible for the Government to take us into their confidence. We are where we were last year. All that is attempted is temporary relief to the suffering agriculturists. We all know as a matter of fact that the periodical re-settlements have kicked up the half-net-share and have imposed heavy burden on the ryots. What the ryots need is substantial reduction in the rates of assessment that they are asked to pay. If we, instead of reducing the rates offer them temporary relief in the shape of debt relief or remission, we will not be facing the problem of agricultural debt relief squarely at all. Our attempt in the direction of debt relief has so far been only to scale down the debts. But, what facilities have we provided for the indebted ryots to pay even the sealed down debts? No doubt there is a provision of Rs. 50 lakhs for giving relief to the agriculturists whose debts have been scaled down. But how far will that Rs. 50 lakhs go? What part of Rs. 200 crores of debt will this sum clear? Sir, what the ryots want is not temporary accommodation in the shape of loans. What the ryots tremendously needs is a permanent reduction in land revenue so that he might be in a position to meet his obligations.

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" Sir, the other sort of relief that is sought to be given is seasonal remission. This, at best, is only a palliative. Where the season is bad, where the ryots have lost their crops wholly or partially, seasonal remissions are granted.

" We find that out of a total revenue of Rs. 15·74 crores, land revenue alone is responsible for Rs. 7·15 crores. That means practically half the revenue brought into the coffers of Government, comes from the agricultural population. The other items of revenue, such as Excise, Forests and so on bring in only comparatively small amounts. Excise brings in Rs. 4 crores, Stamps bring in Rs. 1·95 lakhs, Forests known for rapidly diminishing returns bring in Rs. 48 lakhs, and the rest of the items are negligible. Sir, in a case where the ryots contribute half the total revenues of the Government, is it not incumbent on them to give these ryots permanent relief? Agriculturists form 75 per cent of the total population of this province. If this 75 per cent of the total population of this province stands in need of permanent relief from taxation, I wonder what prevents the Hon. the Prime Minister with his broad sympathies for the suffering ryot population, from finding ways and means for promptly affording them such relief? After all, Sir, as I submitted, out of Rs. 15·74 crores of revenue Rs. 7·15 crores come from land revenue. Let us take that as Rs. 7 crores and let us take the remission that is proposed to be granted as Rs. 70 lakhs. Rupees 70 lakhs distributed among a population which yields Rs. 7 crores of revenue means a relief of 10 per cent. In other words, this relief comes to one and a half anna in the rupee. Can we say with any comfort to ourselves that this 1½ annas in the rupee will go into the pockets of the ryots? They have to meet other charges, legitimate and otherwise, before they get this one and a half annas. This seasonal remission of 1½ annas in the rupee will not give any real relief to the poor ryots. They want and they have been asking for material reduction in the land revenue that they are asked to pay.

" The next point that has attracted my attention in the Budget is this: Very little attention has been paid to roads and communications. Sir, I particularly stress the necessity for opening up village communications. Though in the past these matters were receiving considerable attention at the hands of the former Government, we find in the present Budget that these matters have rather sunk into insignificance. I find that village communications will get only a lakh of rupees during the next year. Under the head '26, Grants-in-Aid, Grants to Local Bodies' 1·15 lakhs has been set apart in the Budget, for the improvement of village communications. Sir, out of this meagre sum of 1·15 lakhs, ·15 lakh is taken as probable savings. I wonder why this system of taking with one hand, what the other hand has given? Anyway, the grant itself is very small being a lakh of rupees scattered over 25 districts. It needs hardly any contention on my part to point out that a lakh of rupees is not what the villagers just now need. Quite a number of villages are inaccessible particularly during the monsoon. As Members of this House representing electorates situated in rural parts we have found to our regret how great

are the difficulties, the ryots have to undergo for want of communications. It is very difficult during the monsoon period for the ryots to have access to the main roads leading to the markets. Some provision has been made in the Budget for improving the important marketing roads. I say, Sir, a larger provision to make the village communications better and safer is necessary. By doing so, the village roads would be linked with the roads leading to the important markets and the ryots placed on a more satisfactory basis. This would enable them to take their produce to the markets without great difficulty and to secure medical relief and other amenities of life. Open out village communications and you open up a large vista of social progress and economic improvement. I need not labour that point further.

4–15 p.m.

"The other point which has attracted my attention in connexion with this budget is rural sanitation. Rural sanitation has been left in the background. Thanks to the efforts of the Hon. Premier and the Finance Minister, rural water-supply has claimed adequate attention. A fund has been created with a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs to commence with, and a sum of 5 lakhs of rupees out of Rs. 15 lakhs is going to be set apart for the improvement of rural water-supply in the coming year. I should say that the Hon. the Finance Minister has earned the undying gratitude of the village folk for the liberal contribution that he has made for rural water-supply. The same liberality, Sir, should be shown with reference to rural sanitation and the working of rural dispensaries. It is a sight to see the rural dispensaries at work now. I dare say the Hon. the Finance Minister has seen some of the rural dispensaries at work in Salem. Salem rural dispensaries may perhaps be in good condition, because people there have taken to prohibition and do not resort to hospitals as they have not many ailments, having been freed from the drink evil. In Chingleput where people are living in poverty, rural dispensaries are kept in awful condition; dirty walls, dirtier towels, moth-eaten plasters and walls ridden with white ants are the order of the day. In order to improve rural dispensaries, a larger provision should have been made in the Budget.

"In this connexion I would draw the attention of the Hon. the Finance Minister and the Hon. Minister in charge of Public Health to the fact that leprosy relief has not received adequate attention on the part of the present Government. Lepers are freely going about the country. There is no place where one can stand or halt on the roadside without seeing lepers or without rubbing shoulders with them. That sort of condition has been put down in every civilized county, in any country responsible for the well-being of its population. The segregation of lepers, the establishment of leper colonies, and segregation camps and positive treatment of lepers in order to free them from the cause of leprosy and to make their lives happier are certainly necessary and it behoves the Government to pay larger attention to leper relief in future.

"In addition, I would like to say just a word or two with reference to the nation-building departments. Sir, one finds with

regret that all the nation-building departments are left stationary. One has merely to turn to the figures in the budget to confirm my view. We find, Sir, that department after department is left stationary. We find the Agricultural department, the premier department which concerns the vital interests of the agricultural population is left stationary. Rs. 23·80 lakhs was the Budget for 1937–38, and Rs. 23·03 lakhs is the Budget for 1938–39; no progress. The provision for the Veterinary department was Rs. 11·17 lakhs for the year 1937–38 and it is Rs. 10·91 lakhs in 1938–39; no progress. Co-operative credit looms very large now before the public eye on account of the fact that we want organized agencies to replace the local sowcars to give relief to the agricultural population. This is also stationary. The provision was Rs. 14·34 lakhs for the year 1937–38 and it is Rs. 14·60 lakhs for 1938–39. Industries—Rs. 27·45 lakhs for 1937–38 and Rs. 27·17 lakhs in the Budget for 1938–39. Here I would like to say a word of congratulation to the Hon. Minister in charge of Industries. He has been very enthusiastic in promoting industries. He has taken every opportunity to say that cottage industries alone could save the ryot population from distress and penury. With all the will in the world, he has not, I find, raised his budget even by a little figure. This is the condition of the nation-building departments. One would have liked to see larger and increasing proportion of the budget allotment set apart for improving all the nation-building departments either from capital or from revenue, whatever the source might be. I do hope that my remarks would not be understood to detract from the excellence of the budget presented by the Hon. the Finance Minister. These observations have been made in order to bring home to him some of the crying needs that the electorate at the present moment feel. That does not mean any reflection on the budget which, by itself, is excellent and very satisfactory from all aspects of view."

* Mr. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I wish to thank, at the very outset, the Hon. the Premier for the nice budget, a budget which has given justice to the people of my district in particular. The Hon. the Premier also belongs to that district of Salem. Some observations were made regarding the results of prohibition in the Salem district. I was surprised to hear from Sir William Wright that the information he got from another source was different from what is contained in the statement of the District Collector, Mr. Dixon. As a matter of fact I know that it is a correct statement of what an I.C.S. officer of his standard has actually seen. I may inform this House that that statement is not exaggerated; it is rather restricted. I had an opportunity of going with him to the villages. Without any exaggeration I may inform this House that prohibition has really been a grand success. It was doubted by so many of my colleagues here. It was really doubted whether it is going to solve the economic problem of the agriculturists. I may assure the House that it has done so. I say it from practical experience. I say it from things that I have seen myself. Take an ordinary ryot, or agriculturist, labourer or anybody. Prior to the introduction of prohibition, I know he used to tie a dry

betel-leaf, two nuts and a piece of tobacco in one of the corners of his small torn towel on his shoulder. To-day the position of the ryot is different. He has got now at least two annas to tie in the corner of his cloth, along with a piece of tobacco, some nuts and a dry betel-leaf. A sum of two annas is a small thing to us; it is nothing to us; but it is an asset to the ordinary peasant. With this two annas, the ryot is richer than what he was. His two annas are better used than what we could with a sum of Rs. 2, 20 or 200. I have made this statement after what I have actually seen. If the District Collector who is in charge of this prohibition work is only relieved of his desk work, I am sure that the success of prohibition would be much more; more propaganda can be carried on and the small number of crimes that were reported from the Salem district will not be committed and the Sessions Judge of the district may be presented with a pair of white gloves. That will be the actual situation. I have accompanied the District Collector to some villages and I can say that he is interested particularly in the villagers; he wants to get into touch with the peasants and their problems for solution. There is no exaggeration at all in his statements. If arrangements could be made by which the District Collector would be relieved of his desk work and if he is free to tour all the villages, we would certainly have better results from the introduction of prohibition than what we had.

"The hon. Member, Mr. Palat, made the observation that the Government are employing more police on account of the introduction of prohibition. I say that it is a programme worthwhile trying even with punitive police. The introduction of prohibition is not an experiment now; it is now the avowed policy of the present Government and the present Government will carry on the programme of prohibition with all the opposition of my friend Mr. Palat.

"As regards the areas, it has been stated that they are not contiguous. I wish to say that they are contiguous now and they will be made more fittingly contiguous by the proposals in the next budget.

"As regards loans made available under the proposals in the budget for relieving the indebted people, my hon. Friend, Mr. Palat, doubted whether these loans were going to be available to the zamindari tenants or not. I wonder why he doubts it; zamindari tenants belong to our own community; they are our brethren. They are certainly entitled to the benefit which the state gives; I take it they will get the benefit. I do not think that any restriction should be made in this respect. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, suggested that the loans might be disbursed to the ryots through the land mortgage banks. Let loans be disbursed to only those people whose debts do not exceed Rs. 250; let loans be disbursed to small peasants who own only one or two acres of land; let their burdens be taken away; let that programme be adopted. I would request the Government to consider that suggestion.

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"As regards the people living in the forest areas, let me thank the 5 p.m
Government for the great relief afforded to the tenants by reducing the grazing fees to half. I tell you I am not thanking the Government on my own behalf but on behalf of those people who depend on the forest area for grazing their cattle. I have seen the tenants living in the forest area and every one of them is highly grateful to the Government for this relief and on their behalf I thank the Government. As a matter of fact, I have received a telegraphic communication to-day to thank the Hon. Government for affording this particular relief. In respect of the difficulties experienced by the tenants living near the forest areas, I would like to make a small suggestion for the approval of the Government. The grazing permits or passes are now issued by the Forest department through their ranger, guard or watcher. I may be permitted, Sir, to state for the information of the Government what actually takes place in respect of the permits purchase. Sufficient number of permits are not at all purchased by the ryot and this is done with the knowledge of immediate forest watcher or the guard. The real difficulty is that these people do not know that the watcher's help is really a danger to them later. The thing is that there is no trouble with the higher authorities but it is only with the smaller officials. In the Police department you have got the constable's tyranny and in the Forest department the demon of the tenant or ryot is the forest watcher, guard and probably the forest ranger. It is not the higher officials that give trouble. It is certainly these lower officials that create trouble. All these guards and watchers make concessions and even induce the tenants to take permits and passes for a less number of cattle even though the tenant is willing to pay for all the cattle that he takes to the forest. If the tenant is made to purchase passes or permits for all the cattle that he takes to the forest, he will be rid of so many later grievances and so many charges before the magistrates would not be there. Everything will be all right. The real difficulty is that the tenant is prevented from purchasing passes for all the cattle because of the influence of these small officials of the Forest department, who are anxious to keep the cattle tenders and villagers under their grip to get their own remuneration from the tenant.

"Now, Sir, the suggestion that I want to make in regard to this matter is this. You have got everywhere in each village, the village karnam, the village munsif, the triune officer and the talaiyari. If any one of these officers is deputed to sell passes or permits for the cattle taken to forest for grazing, I think, he would be able to sell more passes and he would be able to collect more revenue for the Government. If all the cattle that are taken to the forest for grazing purposes are let under passes certainly the revenue will be much more than now; there is no doubt about it. My only complaint is that the number of passes are not properly given and the lower officers seem to be responsible for this. I have already had occasion to put questions in regard to these grievances. If the man who takes the cattle to the forest is allowed only to purchase the required number of passes through the village officers of respective villages he will be saved a lot of trouble.

"Next, Sir, the man who is allowed to take his cattle to the forest is allowed only to take them to a particular range and where he is allowed to graze his cattle, water may not be available. If he is to take the cattle to another range where water is available he is charged. In the case of right of way given to take the cattle for water to the different range, we know, Sir, that by nature these dumb animals go this way and that way and try to graze in some places where they should not go. And if these cattle go to those places they are then charged for trespass. My suggestion is that passes should not be issued in respect of ranges where there is no water available for the cattle. The Government should issue circulars like that to the officials concerned.

"The remissions that have just been talked about very much are not very large. The remissions are very small. Of course they are only two annas and three annas for every rupee of rent. It is not a big thing to us; but it is a big thing to the tenant. But my view is that the charges which are collected on account of encroachment from these tenants are horrid. I know for 50 cents of encroachment a charge of Rs. 8 is made. There is the village munsif under whose very nose the cultivation goes on. He allows the tenant to go on cultivating at the first stage, second stage and third stage and he then charges Rs. 8 for cultivating the 50 cents. This is certainly a horrid state of affairs. Why did the village officer, the revenue inspector, the tahsildar, sleep over all these months? When the first encroachment was made why should not immediately the officers take note of such encroachment and prevent it then and there? We know the tenants of this Presidency are not quite cultured and educated; they cannot really understand the limitations under which they labour and they are unaware of the consequences. These people have to be relieved of such troubles. Of course the encroachments should be stopped, but let there not be such prohibitive charges in respect of such encroachments and let the concerned officers be made responsible for encroachment rather than levy prohibitive charges.

"In regard to district boards though I was elected on the 17th of last month, I have been connected with the district boards some time before and I have got experience."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"Is the hon. Member talking on the budget or about his experience of the district boards? (Laughter.) The general discussion should be on the budget as a whole or in respect of any principle involved in the budget and not the personal experience of Members in the district boards." (Renewed laughter.)

* Mr. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"It is not on my experience of the district board, Sir, but on the question of policy of the Government in respect of local bodies."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"With regard to his conduct in the district board, the hon. Member may discuss it elsewhere." (Laughter.)

* Mr. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"In respect of road maintenance, the Superintending Engineer is allowed to pass certain

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things. A certain amount of grant is given by the Local Government. The Superintending Engineer is asked to check these roads. He checks these roads and disallows a certain amount of grant and that grant is mostly not given by the Government. My suggestion is that this disallowance is really not good and that it should not be ordered without scrutiny. The Superintending Engineer without understanding the financial difficulties of the local boards recommends to the Government to withhold these grants, if the roads are not good. This officer inspects the roads once a year. This withholding of grants will make the roads still worse. The duty of the officer must be to see whether the local bodies spend the grant for the maintenance of the road. He never looks into that. And even if more money is spent by the local boards on the roads his remark is they are still bad. The difficulty is that the grant which is given by the Local Government is not adequate for the purpose. If the roads are not as they should be, it means there is something bad about the road and the soil under it and the grants must not as a matter of course be withheld and more grants should be given wherever it is desirable and wherever the roads are not good."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does not the hon. Member think it more appropriate to refer to these details when these items are discussed under grants? The general discussion must be confined to the budget as a whole or to any principle of finance involved therein. These details can be conveniently discussed when the items under various heads and sub-heads are taken up under grants."

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only submit that this is the principle that has been actually followed by the Government and that is why I have raised this question.

"In regard to the rural dispensaries I propose to raise some principle."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Details need not be gone into. Detailed discussions with regard to the items need not be gone into now. The principles underlying the budget proposals may be discussed."

* MR. M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"As regards the rural dispensaries, the point has been very ably put by Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai. They are experiencing immense difficulty in the matter of purchasing medicines. With regard to the purchase of medicines for the rural dispensaries, we are compelled to buy medicines only from the military stores and when we indent for Rs. 100 worth of medicines the payment we make is Rs. 200. The charges are said to be excise duty and profit of 10 per cent from the non-subsidized dispensaries. The difficulty is that we are forced to purchase medicines only from the military stores. If we are allowed to buy in the local market it will be advantageous. It is said that pure medicines are not available from the local market. I suggest that the Government might select a few firms which sell pure medicines and allow us to purchase medicines from them. We will certainly get all the medicines from them. Here we would pay less money and we would

buy more. Why should there be restrictions? I hope the Government will take steps to remove this difficulty and I am sure if this difficulty is removed, we will have more supplies of medicines and everything will be all right. I request the Government to give due consideration to the suggestions I have made."

* Mr. K. VARADACHARIAR:—" Sir, while congratulating the Government on its present budget on behalf of the House, I, who come from the Chittoor district, have to tender my humble and sincere thanks to the Government for the most beneficial programme which is sought to be introduced in our district in the course of this year.

5 p.m. " More than any other thing, the scheme for introducing prohibition in order to make our district dry is certainly very valuable to our district and it is really fortunate that our Prime Minister has been able to make a provision in the budget and it is a great advantage for us. Along with that I should also thank the Government for bringing forward a scheme for developing a profitable industry, viz., the bee industry. Our district is very favourable for the introduction of this industry. It is famous for large mango groves and there are really good major forests in several parts of the district; so several rural areas adjoining these forests will be benefited by the bee-keeping industry. I am glad to say that along with this advantage, it has also the general advantage of having a remission of half the grazing fees along with the rest of the districts in the Presidency. Sir, all this is a valuable benefit that any Government has rendered in so short a time.

" With regard to the other aspects of the budget, I wish to confine myself to one or two general aspects without going into detail. I wish to join my hon. Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, in the cry for allotting more funds for village communications. There has been a lot of unnecessary apprehension that the providing of village communications will cost the Government a great deal for which they may not be able to find funds. I assure this House and also the Government that a study of this problem reveals to me that the Government without undertaking any financial responsibility to any serious extent and without resorting to any additional taxation proposals on a large scale, can easily formulate a scheme by which every village which has not been supplied with a road till now can be supplied with one hereafter. I do not wish to enter into the details of this scheme, because I do not want to embarass the Government with any proposals of mine, but I would request the Government to undertake the investigation of this problem with the help of persons who have investigated into this matter. If they do so they will be able to evolve a scheme without straining the finances of the Government to a large extent.

" The next point that I wish to refer to is this: it seems to me that even Members belonging to the Congress Party will have to make a hardy annual in pressing our representations with regard to the separation of judicial from executive functions that are now vested in our magistrates. I am prepared to agree with our Premier that

it is not a practical proposition at this stage. But I would point out that the one thing that has given rise to this cry and agitation for separation of judicial from executive functions is the way in which the subordinate magistracy is doing its work. It is really a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and the sooner the subordinate magistracy at least is reformed the better for efficient administration of justice."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" Is it one of the principles involved in the budget? May I know from the hon. Member whether it is a principle involved in the budget? "

Mr. K. VARADACHARIAR:—" Yes, Sir. I am discussing the general features of the budget. It really comes under administrative charges."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" When the question of administrative charges is taken up, this may be discussed. This is a detail. It is not a principle which is covered in the budget proposals. It is a detail which may very well be commented upon when the proposals coming under that particular grant are taken up. I do not think that this is the proper occasion when the hon. Member can discuss that question."

Mr. K. VARADACHARIAR:—" I wanted to merely point out that some steps should be taken to improve the subordinate magistracy and to see that justice is dealt with by persons who have had some legal training and knowledge of the work and even if this will entail some additional cost, it is worth while spending that amount.

" The next thing that I wish to refer to here is that there is some difficulty in actually giving the concessions which have now been granted in respect of grazing fees in forest areas. Apart from other difficulties, there is particularly one difficulty which is giving a good deal of trouble to people in my constituency, especially to those people whose villages are lying very near the forest area. They are suffering a lot at the hands of the subordinate ranks of the forest officials. People are taken to task for even a small trespass of their cows or buffaloes into the adjoining forest areas. Even if it is two feet that has been trespassed by these cows or buffaloes, the owners are punished severely. I hope the Government will take note of this and try to see that the limits of the villages are extended and that any the slightest trespass may not be considered as an offence coming under the Forest Act.

" I shall also refer to one other aspect in the budget and that is with regard to religious endowments for which I do not find any specific allocation in the budget. I have to repeat my request with regard to the administration of religious endowments, viz., that the sooner the Endowments Board is abolished the better for all religious institutions in this Presidency. The working of this Board has really tended to the victimisation of many religious institutions by reason of the fact that the members constituting the Board are always actuated by political bias. As a result of this, the institutions are really suffering largely at the hands of politicians. In my district one big

trust has suffered on account of political interference in its management and it is likely to become extinct. It is on the brink of insolvency and it is going to disappear very soon.

"In respect of another big trust, viz., Tirupati Devasthanam, in spite of the fact that we have had able and excellent commissioners, they have not been able to control their subordinates. The subordinates have been made really subordinates, not of commissioners, but of some other superior authority. In that way the devasthanam has become demoralized. We have suffered all these years with this disadvantage and in spite of the fact that we have had able commissioners, they have not been able to do anything.

"I will close my remarks by saying that these religious institutions and endowments may be directly taken over under the control of the Revenue department of the Government and thus administered on the spot instead of victimising the institutions by the arrangements to which we have been accustomed so far."

* MR. N. RANGA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Premier for having presented the budget in such an able manner this year. In congratulating the Hon. Premier, I submit that he has not departed from the time-honoured canons in the preparation of his budget. You know that so far as capital expenditure is concerned, it is not drawn from the current revenues and in fact the Hon. Premier wants to apply for a loan for incurring this capital expenditure. The second reason as to why I want to congratulate the Hon. Premier is for his having extended the prohibition scheme to Cuddapah district from next October. It might be that some hon. Members of this House have expressed great doubts about the success of the Prohibition Act but I should submit that whatever might be the motive and whatever might be the suspicions entertained by the hon. Members, the motive by which the Hon. the Premier has been actuated to introduce this scheme cannot be questioned at all and the results can be seen in a very short time. I am firmly of the opinion that the introduction of prohibition scheme in a district like Cuddapah would lessen the crime of that district to a great extent. I am sure that next year by this time, when we shall be speaking on the budget motion, I shall be able to support and the Hon. the Finance Minister also will be able to justify the anticipations made by hon. Members here to-day. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government has been in power only for a very short time and during that short time it has been in power, it has been able to impress upon the people that it has enunciated very large policies and that it is not also unmindful of the interests of the people. Times without number the representatives of the people in the previous Assemblies would have pressed upon the previous administrations about the need for the reduction of grazing fees. But it was a cry in the wilderness and this is the first time when we are able to see that a very substantial reduction has been made in the matter of grazing fees. It may appear to be very small but I should still say that it goes a long way in relieving the great difficulties under which the agriculturists have been suffering.

Of course, Sir, if I were to say that some more things should be done with regard to the alleviation of these grievances, I should not be understood as criticising the conduct of the Hon. the Minister. These are purely matters of administration, but unfortunately, the administrative subordinates do not exercise their discretion properly and their point is always to increase the revenue and not to show their sympathy to the people by administering the Act in a broad vision. By way of illustration, I would submit only one thing. It is known to all that head-loads of grass are allowed to be carried free by these agriculturists and everyone knows that this grass can be used only for feeding purposes by these agriculturists. But then, the executive subordinates say that this grass is not being intended for feeding the cattle of the agriculturists but is intended for being sold by them. I submit that this is a distinction without a difference. Where a cooly is engaged beforehand to carry the grass from the forest or a cooly is carrying it on his own account and sells it to an agriculturist, it does not matter, because grass is not to be utilized for any industry so that much profit might be made out of it. But still the executive subordinates make it a point that unless the bona fides of an agriculturist is shown, he will be charged. Therefore I submit that side by side with the liberal concession granted by the Government, a number of executive instructions should follow so that the matter might be administered very sympathetically. 5-30 p.m.

" There is another point I would like to mention in this connexion and that is about the cart-loads of grass which are generally taken by these agriculturists. It is well-known that the agriculturists take these cart-loads of grass because they come from long distances, but still the officers say that they should not carry cart--loads but only head--loads. If a man comes with a cart, he comes only for the purpose of taking it for his own purpose and not for the purpose of selling it, but still the executive subordinates would not allow such a sort of concession.

" I would also like to mention one or two more points with regard to these forest grievances. I know the present Government is in complete sympathy with the aspirations of the ryot; they want to increase the standard of his living and they want to reduce his poverty and mitigate the suffering which he is at present enduring. One of the greatest obstacles in the way of the ryot is his difficulty of procuring manure. Even here, if the forest authorities co-operate to a very great extent with the ryot, his position will be bettered and improved, but the difficulty is that these forest authorities do not co-operate and they put very many obstacles in his way. One of such obstacles is this. So far as the Ceded Districts are concerned, it is well-known that there is scanty rainfall there and nobody could say when rains would be coming and when the ryots could begin agricultural operations. The green leaf which has to be used as manure is not made available in almost all the villages where there are forests, but it is made available only in particular coupes which are situated at very long distances and it is very difficult to expect the ryot to get the green leaf manure in advance so that he might utilize it in case

there is a supply of rain. Therefore, I submit that the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture should be pleased to consider that so far as this concession is concerned, it should be made available to the ryot at the earliest opportunity. I join hands with my hon. Friend Mr. K. Varadachari in submitting to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, that a very great difficulty is being experienced by the villagers in villages which are situated in the middle of the forests. I do not understand how these villages have come to be situated in the middle of the forests. Either it is the mistake of the Revenue authorities or the mistake of the Forest department. Either way, people who reside therein must not be punished for no fault of their own. The moment they get out of their homes—and sometimes there are forest boundaries in the backyards of houses—they are liable to be punished because the authorities are not sympathetic. I submit in this connexion that the boundary of a forest should be removed to at least a distance of two miles from the villages concerned. No doubt there would be opposition to this from the Forest department and even as it is, I should say that some change should be made with regard to the policy of the Government in regard to this matter. So far as my district is concerned, the Collector is prepared to examine these cases individually. But there is one thing. When the opposition from the department comes, even the hands of the Collector will be tied. Therefore, I submit that the Minister for Agriculture should be pleased to issue instructions to the Collectors who are already investigating into this question in individual cases to view such cases with broad sympathy.

"The next point I would like to submit is with regard to the rural indebtedness of the ryot. Already so much has been done by the present Government by passing the Debt Relief Bill and it only awaits the sanction of His Excellency the Viceroy. I hope at no distant date it will be placed on the Statute Book. But, as has been observed by most hon. Members during the course of the debate on the Debt Relief Bill, one of the greatest and the most important causes for the indebtedness is not only the fact that the ryot has contracted debts but also the incidence of taxation being very high; and this has been admitted to a certain extent by the Hon. the Premier also. I know that this question has been under the consideration of the Government and if I were to say anything on this, it is not that they should hasten the solution of this question without satisfactory consideration, but I would like to mention this for another reason, namely, that in the matter of the distribution of the 75 lakhs, so far as the Cuddapah district is concerned, the ryots got the benefit only with regard to wet lands and not with regard to dry lands; the dry lands did not get the benefit of even a single pie. It may be there are valid reasons for distributing the grant in this particular manner. Of course it has been observed that the new settlement rates have not been introduced in the Cuddapah district and therefore that district has been deprived of this favour. But, I find from the budget that a similar concession in regard to land revenue is going to be made for

the next year. Here, I wish to submit that the very same principles which actuated this Government in distributing the grant should not be followed next year also and that the dry areas also should get the same benefit as the wet areas, because I feel that so far as the dry areas are concerned, the taxation is very heavy and in particular parts of the district the assessment on dry lands comes to Rs. 4 per acre, which may be astounding to many hon. Members of this House.

"In regard to irrigation facilities, no doubt the Government have announced that these districts would be given special concession. It is true that irrigation facilities cannot be created on a very large scale in the Ceded districts. There is scanty rainfall in those districts; there are not very many big rivers there and even if there are rivers, only during the rainy season there is likely to be any water in them and that will be only for two or three months in the year, but during the other parts of the year, we do not get sufficient supply of water. Therefore, it is a very difficult problem as to how to improve the irrigation facilities in those districts. I submit therefore that it is all the greater reason that the small tanks, wherever they are available, should be improved in the matter of giving adequate supply of water in the districts. No doubt a step has been taken in the right direction by digging bore-wells. As has been indicated by the Hon. the Premier also, one well has been recently dug very near Cuddapah. But I submit that the policy of irrigation and the policy of supplying pure drinking-water should not be clubbed together. In the one case we have always to incur some expenditure if we are to get any return, but in the other case there is no return at all except the increase in the prosperity of the people. I submit that though these tube-wells may be dug in very large numbers, the prime consideration with the Government should be not whether any return can be got from these tube-wells, but whether they would be able to give sufficient supply of water for the people for drinking. I say that it is a step in the right direction for this reason also. So far as the black cotton soil is concerned, the construction of a well would cost up to Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 or even Rs. 10,000 whereas a tube-well can be dug even for a much smaller cost and the water-supply difficulty can be solved to a very great extent.

"Again, in regard to this irrigation facility, I would also like to submit one other thing. No doubt a particular standard has been fixed as the return; what I mean is that if a scheme yields a particular return, only then the Government is going to undertake that scheme. But so far as these dry areas are concerned, that rule cannot be insisted on, because there are very few opportunities for improving the facilities. Therefore, I submit in this connexion that Government should show some particular favour in this matter. The Hon. the Revenue Minister and the Hon. the Minister for Public Works also in the course of their tours some two or three months ago, visited the Badvel tank. That scheme has been under contemplation for the last 20 or 25 years, but for want of proper return that scheme was

given up. I now request the Government to consider the necessity for taking up this scheme immediately and thus confer a very great boon on the people of the taluk.

"Now, Sir, with regard to education, I would like to submit one thing. The recent policy of the Government in closing down the uneconomic schools has come upon us as a surprise and it has worked a very great hardship in my district. In my district, there are after all only four high schools and three incomplete secondary schools and the Government propose that these three incomplete secondary schools should be closed as uneconomic. We, Sir, started in the race only very late; we opened these institutions very late and the Government now force us to close them. I hope that Government will show a preferential treatment in the matter of closing down these schools. The Cuddapah district is a large district and if these three schools are closed down, for about fifty miles there will be no school close at hand for those who are anxious to get education. I submit, therefore, that those three schools should not be closed but that preferential treatment should be given to the schools in the Ceded districts.

5-45 p.m.

"I should be pardoned for making a reference to the administration that is being pursued. It is very often said that the test of the success of Government should be by the number of enactments that it had placed on the statute book; but I beg to differ from that view. I believe in keeping the administration pure. That ought to be the first and foremost and in fact the primary consideration that any Government ought to have. Judged by that standard, I submit that the purity of the administration is not being maintained in the same manner in which one would desire it to be. I am not blaming the Congress Government at all; it is an evil which has been inherited by the present Government. The tone of the administration could not be changed overnight. But still I submit that a lot will have to be done to improve the tone of the administration. It is no doubt true that the previous Government, partly due to the fact that they had no complete control and power over all the branches of the administration or because they did not have sufficient strength, could not follow a bold policy. But so far as the present Government is concerned, they need have no fears in that direction at all. I hope that wherever there is an occasion for rectifying abuses in the administration, the Government will not let that opportunity pass by. Had only the Congress been in power some seven or eight years ago and had they accepted office seven or eight years ago, the rot so characteristic of so many of the local bodies would not have set in much less spread. But the previous administrations were busy trying to keep themselves in power with the result that they could not rectify so many faults in the administration. But so far as the Congress Government is concerned, I hope that the scandals that have crept into the administration of local boards would be wiped out by them and that they would remedy them immediately. If these things are nipped in the bud, you will not have the need to take the powers

from the hands of the local bodies step by step as you are doing at present. A stitch in time saves nine. If quick and immediate action is taken most of the abuses would be rectified. I am glad that the Hon. Minister in charge of Local Administration has been very efficient and that whenever any abuse or maladministration was brought to his notice, he has not been remiss and has been taking prompt action.

" There is yet only one point I wish to touch and that is with regard to the release of prisoners about which a dissentient note was struck by Mr. Palat. These persons have served very long sentences and there is no need to keep them in prison any longer unless it be that we want to be avenged, which I submit is not the policy of the jail administration. I would like also to add that death sentences should be abolished. Anybody who has got even a little experience in courts of law would see the wisdom of abolishing capital sentence. There are so many cases on the border line where death sentences have been given; but though the Congress ministry has been liberal to a certain extent in the beginning, later on they have tightened their hold and have not been using their powers in ordering the commutation of death sentence into one of transportation. There are various reasons as to why one advocates that course. This is not the place nor the occasion to go into them. I would only request the Hon. Minister for Courts and Prisons to more liberally exercise clemency in cases where death sentences are involved. It ought to be remembered that there are many cases where witnesses have come in abundance and sworn falsely and implicated innocent persons.

" In conclusion, I would like to thank the Premier for having extended the scheme of prohibition to the district of Cuddapah."

* Mr. V. J. SAMU PILLAI:—" Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. the Premier on his presenting not only an excellent budget but what I may call a very sympathetic budget. Whatever might have been said by one or two members of the Opposition, there is no doubt that the judicious way in which he has handled the finances of the province would mark him out as one of the sound financial administrators of the country. His is not a hesitant or a mere carrying on budget. Time was when that was the order of the day and budgets were framed without any regard to the needs of the vast bulk of the population of the province. Fortunately for the good of the country, the old order has changed giving place to a new one and to-day budgets are beginning to be given a practical orientation and are being framed in that spirit of sympathy which every statesman into whose hands the welfare of the teeming millions of this province is committed, must feel for the people entrusted to his care. To-day budgets contain no provisions for making an already too-heavy administration still more heavy but contain proposals which, to use the words of the Premier himself, reflect the wishes and aspirations of the vast body of the people of the province.

" Sir, this budget and the record of service already done by the Congress Government of the province for the last eight months will, I

am sure, silence once for all the critics of the Congress party and convince them of its capacity and capability to successfully run the administration of the country. They will, I am sure, also realize that if the Congress declined to accept office last year it was not because they shirked to shoulder the responsibility of running the administration of the province, but because they felt an honest and sincere doubt as to the genuineness of the Provincial Autonomy said to have been conferred by the Government of India Act on the elected representatives of the people —doubts, Sir, which events that recently occurred in Bihar and United Provinces, have clearly proved to have been rightly and justly entertained.

" It is indeed creditable, Sir, that in the midst of the shadowy clouds referred to by the Hon. the Premier in his speech and in spite of the financial handicaps caused by a faithful adherence to the party's election pledges, that the Congress Ministry should have found it possible to propose measures which go a great way in easing, in ameliorating in every direction the condition of the poor and of the depressed and also to provide the ways and means to give practical effect to them. No branch of service which concerns directly or indirectly the welfare of the masses, has been lost sight of. Education, medical relief, public health, agriculture, etc., have come in for consideration and received increased provisions. Projects which will conduce greatly to the advantage and prosperity of the country have also been promised to be considered and taken up, for immediate execution. Above all, what is more important is that the Government have taken seriously the question of solving the most pressing of problems, namely, the supply of good and pure drinking-water for the people in the rural areas. With that end in view a fund is to be started and a sum is earmarked for that purpose. What more beneficial and necessary measures could have been thought of in a province where thousands of villages have been denied the benefit of pure drinking-water and in consequence have been subjected to all kinds of periodical epidemics and endemics? And yet, Sir, nothing had been done in the past to provide those villages with the necessity of life for the want of which they have been suffering all these years. It is, therefore, to the credit of the Congress Government that they should have taken on hand the question of village water-supply with all the seriousness it deserves and proposed to draw up a comprehensive scheme and initiated a programme with setting apart an earmarked sum of 15 lakhs of rupees. I am sure that at no distant future a definite programme will be drawn up by the Government to give practical effect to the scheme and thereby save life and prevent untold miseries which those in the villages suffer for want of pure drinking-water.

" It is gratifying to note that in the midst of all these difficulties the Government have not forgotten to promise to settle the longstanding question of the land revenue policy of the Government. The formulation of a new and workable policy is said to be under their anxious consideration and I am sure that ere long the Government would find it possible to reduce land taxation to such an extent that it will give permanent relief to the ryots who are groaning at present under this

burden. In this connexion, Sir, I would request you to kindly permit me to press upon the attention of the Hon. the Finance Minister and also the Hon. the Minister for Revenue in particular the hard lot of the agriculturists who own lands within municipal limits. These people are subject to the same difficulties as people who own lands in rural areas but derive no extract income or advantage on account of the fact that they own lands in municipal areas. All the same they are subject to a double taxation—one set of taxes to the Government and another set of taxes which are at times even higher, to the municipality. That is the real state of things. One cannot understand what extra advantage an agriculturist gets, simply because his land is in a municipality. On the other hand, he is subject to greater disadvantages and difficulties than the agriculturist who has lands in a rural area. Besides the difficulties caused by freaks of nature and fluctuations of the market, he has to pay a higher cost for labour because labour in municipal areas is more costly than labour in rural areas, and also taxes for the plough and cart-bulls he owns. In addition to this disadvantage, he is asked to pay a double tax for the same land, a tax to the Government and an equal or a greater amount of tax to the municipality. There is no justification whatever for this state of things and, therefore, I appeal to the Government in all earnestness that they should, as a mere matter of justice, take up this question seriously into their consideration when they are going to revise their land revenue policy and redress this long-felt grievance of agriculturists who hold lands within municipal limits. With these few remarks I resume my seat."

* Mr. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance has already been overwhelmed with congratulations from all sides of the House and so I do not propose now to congratulate him because he does not need the congratulations of a member of the Party which he has the honour to lead. But I rise now to thank him for having given the pride of place to the two districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah by extending prohibition to those districts. One of these districts I have adopted and the other is the place of my origin. A thrill of joy has gone round and round those districts and I come here now just to express the gratitude of the lakhs of people there to the Hon. Minister for having extended prohibition to those places. We all know, Sir, that when the Hon. the Premier introduced prohibition in his own native district of Salem he over-exerted himself to see that the policy of prohibition succeeded, because that being the first district success was very essential. Now Sir, I give an assurance to him that myself and other representatives of these two districts will strive our best to make this policy a success in our two districts.

" Sir, I would like to refer to one or two statements made by the leading members of the Opposition with regard to the borrowing policy of the Government. The hon. Member Mr. Palat stated that the Government ought not to launch on this borrowing policy indiscriminately simply because they were getting money at a cheap rate. The hon.

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi] [3rd March 1938

Member Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai stated that the Government ought not to borrow but should raise fresh taxes if they want to undertake capital works.

(At this stage Mr. K. Koti Reddi took the Chair.)

" I beg to submit, Sir, that these two policies are not good; they are not correct. According to well-established economic principles all capital expenditure should be met by borrowing, especially capital expenditure which is expected to be productive, because such capital works will benefit even generations yet unborn and therefore the present generation alone ought not to be burdened with heavy taxation. But I would at once concede that the Government ought not to borrow indiscriminately. Well, what is the financial position of the present Government? For what purpose have the Government launched on this policy of borrowing? Is the present Government in a position to borrow? Well, Sir, we know that the Madras Government is noted throughout India for its strong financial position. We find from the budget memorandum that between the years 1921–22 and 1936–37, the Government have re-paid debts to the extent of Rs. 6·53 lakhs and the total debt which then stood at Rs. 13 crores and more has now been reduced to about Rs. 7 crores. Now Sir, the present debt position of the Madras Government is this: there is a debt of about Rs. 8·28 lakhs on account of the pre-1921 irrigation debt and there is another debt of Rs. 7,00·21 lakhs borrowed for the Cauvery-Mettur Project and other objects. Altogether the total debt is Rs. 15,28·46 lakhs, for which in 1937–38 we were liable to pay Rs. 87 lakhs and odd per annum by way of interest and principal. According to the decentralization which took place in 1921 and also according to the consolidation of these debts the annual payment of Rs. 87 lakhs has now been reduced to Rs. 53 lakhs. This is what is stated at page 25 of the budget memorandum: —

'The immediate financial effect of the decentralisation of balances and the consolidation of debt is that the total payment under debt charges in 1937–38 in respect of borrowings prior to that year, will be about 53·87 lakhs, whereas it would have been 87·67 lakhs under the old arrangements.'

" All these borrowings were for productive purposes. This year the Government want to borrow Rs. 175 lakhs for productive purposes. This year the Government have got a programme of capital expenditure of Rs. 83½ lakhs for irrigation and electricity works and a capital expenditure of Rs. 38 lakhs for other objects. The Government are giving Rs. 50 lakhs for the relief of the indebtedness of the agriculturists, Rs. 7¼ lakhs for house-building and Rs. 53 lakhs to the Madras Corporation and Rs. 6 lakhs to co-operative societies for Harijans. All this is remunerative expenditure and against the sum of Rs. 222 lakhs which they want for these purposes they are borrowing only Rs. 175 lakhs. The advances that are made, are interest-bearing advances and therefore there is nothing wrong in borrowing especially at a time when the Government can get cheap money. It is quite essential for the Government to borrow and launch on schemes of irrigation and electricity. On the other hand if we follow the dictum of Mr. Palat we will not be able to launch on capital expenditure for irrigation and electricity on an extensive and productive scale as we have been doing now.

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" Then Sir, when my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao was speaking about so many irrigation projects in his district my mouth was watering. We have only one Tungabadra Project and this has been hanging fire for a number of years. Even now we have not seen the end of it. Now we have been told that experiments have to be made for three more years before the scheme can be taken up. Even this project will not be enough for these poor districts which are notorious for their drought. Though this project may be of help to Bellary, Kurnool and a part of Cuddapah, it would not be of any use to Anantapur, Chittoor and other parts of the Ceded districts. The Hon. the Finance Minister has already stated that there is a scheme for bore-wells under the consideration of the Government. On account of the hilly and undulating nature of the country some portions of the Ceded districts cannot derive any benefit from big irrigation projects. We want only tanks, bore-wells and similar things to be constructed all over the district. First of all it is important that a survey of the under-ground water sources should be made, and then bore-wells should be sunk and water should be pumped by means of electricity. Then old tanks should be repaired and restored. The Government should launch upon a clear-cut programme like this and then only there will be salvation for some of our districts. Mention has been made in the budget speech of the accelerated programme of works, which have been going on for the last three years from the money given by the Central Government. For all these three years, this one and a half *crores* of rupees has been spent on the repair of tank-bunds. The previous Government did not attend to the restoration of the irrigation channels and other sources of irrigation. I pointed out this defect to the Hon. Mr. Souter who was then the Revenue Member. He made some changes in the manner of spending these grants for the accelerated programme, so that some portion of the grant might be spent for the restoration of irrigation channels also. Mere setting right the tank-bunds will not do. It is something like putting up a beautiful temple without an idol in it. What is required is the renovation of the irrigation sources which have been neglected for long years. I am referring to the irrigation sources that supply water to the tanks. According to the Board's Standing Orders the cultivators have to supply labour for the restoration of these irrigation sources. Because we could not get these labourers to do this work, the irrigation sources have been neglected with the result that tanks which were supplying water for a year or six months are not supplying water even for two months. So the first thing and the most important thing to do is to restore these irrigation channels.

" Then, Sir, I must thank the present Government, especially the lucky Hon. Minister for Public Health for providing very good amounts for the supply of drinking-water to the villagers. Such provision is being made as a matter of policy and is not made in any haphazard manner. The Government have created a fund for this purpose and Rs. 15 lakhs have been allotted to it; out of which they are spending about Rs. 5 lakhs this year. If anything more is found necessary, they can draw money from this source and this fund will continue to become 6–15 p.m.

bigger and bigger until it becomes sufficient for supplying drinking-water to all the villages in this province. Sir, this is a very great boon to rural population. Side by side with it, I would also very much like the Government to provide funds for rural communications. Sir, drinking-water and rural communications are like two eyes to the villager; it is something like food and drink to him. Without good rural communications, it is not possible to bring produce from the interior villages to the markets; it is only when there are good road facilities that there will be movement of produce. Nowadays, with motor lorries going even into interior villages and plying between important places and bringing produce from the villages to the markets, it is quite essential that there should be more rural communications connecting every remote village with the headquarter towns and market places. We are getting subventions from the Government of India from out of the petrol duty; we should fight with the Government of India to enable us to spend the amount so granted on whatever purpose we like, which we are not now able to do; because, Sir, the Government of India are now imposing certain conditions to the effect that the money should be spent only on bridges and trunk roads. This money, after all, is got in a way from our province too. The petrol duty which is collected by the Government of India is distributed to the various provinces according to the consumption capacity of the provinces. So, we are also to a certain extent masters of this amount, and that is why I say we should insist on the Government of India to give us power to spend the amount in whichever way we please and there should be no restrictions placed in the matter.

" Then, Sir, I must congratulate the Government on having reduced the grazing fees by half. The present rate is very high and we have been clamouring all these years for the complete removal of the grazing fees. The Government have been able to reduce it to half. Perhaps, if they were able to do it, they would have completely abolished it; probably on financial grounds and expenditure on remunerative enterprise, they have not been able to abolish the fees fully. But I would request the Government that when better times allow it, free grazing should be allowed.

" On the question of loans to agriculturists, after the passing of the Agriculturists' Relief Act, there was a fear in the minds of many that the creditors would press the debtors for the repayment of money, and it was stated that the Government had not made any arrangements for the repayment of the debts by granting loans to the debtors, which would ultimately result in the grip of the creditors being tightened over the debtors. It is, therefore, a welcome feature that the Government have been able to provide Rs. 50 lakhs for loans to the small agriculturists. I wish Government would fix a limit to the maximum borrowing power also, say about Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 so that the poor agriculturists might set the fullest benefit out of the provision of Rs. 50 lakhs. I would also warn the Government not to have any costly establishment for disbursing these loans. Already, we were told that in the previous regime, in connexion with the Agricultural Loans Act,

in order to disburse a few lakhs, a big establishment was created and that much of the amount allotted was eaten away by the salaries of officers and others. I would therefore request the Government to see that the agency for the distribution of these loans is made as cheap as possible. I would commend the suggestion made by my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, that the Government should utilize the services of co-operative societies for this purpose, and see that in this way every pie of the provisions reaches the cultivator expeditiously and fully.

" Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Ranga Reddi spoke about the education policy and about the closing down of the uneconomic schools. He said that this policy would work adversely and was not likely to have a good effect. I would like to say a few words in reply, on this policy. Sir, hitherto, there were a number of schools, elementary schools, with a very small number of boys taking advantage of their existence. There was a school for 2, 3 and even 5 boys and girls in a village and therefore it was practically a waste of money. When the Government took up the question of elementary education, they thought that schools with a strength of less than twenty might be abolished. They did not, however, want this idea to be put into execution immediately. Some of the district boards issued notices to the parents in some of the villages that if they did not send their children to the schools in their villages, the schools would be abolished. What was the result? The result was really magical. Immediately, the number of boys in the schools began to swell and there was a clamour for more and more teachers. At any rate, that has been my experience in my own district. And the result was that after all, it has not been possible to close down more than half a dozen schools at the most. And even while some of these schools were being closed down in some villages, some schools were being newly opened in other places. In that way, Sir, education did not suffer. At the same time, I should plead that the Government should not enforce the condition so far as the Ceded districts are concerned. In the matter of secondary education, Sir, it is notorious that the Ceded districts are very backward—and they are very poor—and so it will not be possible for the parents to send their children to distant schools for the purpose of secondary or higher education. Further, there is only one school for each taluk in our parts, and there are also cases where some taluks go without any schools at all. Let us not, therefore, abolish these schools in all places, just because they are uneconomic. Moreover, after the notices were issued, we find signs of improvement in these secondary schools. I therefore appeal to the Government not to apply the test of efficiency to the Ceded districts, as they do in the case of the more fortunate districts of the province. In the case of the Ceded districts, I should like the Government not only not to abolish the present schools, but to open more schools for the education of the children in the villages.

" Well, Sir, all the other points have already been touched by hon. Members who spoke before me. I shall conclude by congratulating the Hon. the Finance Member on this excellent budget that he has been able to present to this House. I hope this will be a model for other provinces to copy."

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to say a few words on the budget, I am tempted to say that it is because I find that the Opposition does not evince a desire to offer any criticism thereon. I take it, Sir, to be a silent tribute that they pay to the excellence of the budget. So far as we from Chittoor are concerned, the one fact which gives us very great satisfaction is that Chittoor has been selected in the coming year for the introduction of prohibition. Sir, budget secrets are as much secrets to us on this side as to the opposite side, and we also came to know of this fact only in this House along with the Members of the Opposition. The Hon. the Premier has, therefore, a right to expect and know what we think of the budget as much as we owe a duty to tell him what we think of it. No doubt, Sir, praise will be more welcome from the other side; but at the same time we should not fail in our duty to give praise wherever and whenever it is due.

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

" Sir, from what has been happening in Salem, prohibition is considered to be such a great boon and it is considered to have so much relieved the distress of the poor people in Salem, that all members of this House and the whole Presidency will be very glad if prohibition is introduced at the same time in all the districts of the province. But having regard to financial considerations, the Government have thought it necessary to select only two more districts this year, and it is a matter for supreme gratification and satisfaction to us that Chittoor and Cuddapah have been selected for this favour. We consider it a favour because we hope that what has happened in Salem would very soon happen in Chittoor and Cuddapah and that there would be a great relief of the distress of the toiling millions in these two districts.

" Now, Sir, as regards the budget, no doubt, all of us were afraid that this budget might not be very satisfactory, because it was thought, that with prohibition and many new demands on the Government exchequer, we might be faced with a deficit budget this year; but thanks to the extraordinary capacity of the Hon. the Finance Minister and the great economies effected in so many ways in our expenditure, and also to the windfall, as hon. Members call it—although it is not a windfall—all these things have contributed to make the budget a very satisfactory one. Luck is also a thing for which one should be thankful, and we generally congratulate the person who happens to be lucky. So even in that view, I submit that the Congress Government have to be thanked for the extraordinary way in which the budget has been framed and for its being a surplus budget.

" One outstanding feature of this budget is that provision has been made for rural water-supply. This provision which has been begun this year is likely to go on from year to year, and I am sure it will prove to be a lasting benefit to the rural population of this province and the only question is how that money is to be utilized for the welfare of the people for whom it is intended. I, for one, from my experience of

local boards, can say, Sir, that it would be the greatest mistake to entrust this money to the Engineering department, be it Engineers of Government or Engineers of Local Boards. For instance, it costed this department Rs. 700 to dig a well for a Harijan colony. I, therefore, say that the best way in which this money can be utilized is to entrust it to the village panchayats wherever they exist. If village panchayats are not existing in a great many of the villages it is up to the Government to see that such panchayats are established in almost all the villages where this rural water system is going to be introduced, and entrust this money to their care. It is common knowledge that in the village, we can dig a well even for Rs. 100 instead of having it done by a costly establishment and with costly supervision and costly estimates. If we can give a free hand to the villagers, I am sure, they can very economically manage this fund so that for the same amount we can have a greater number of wells dug in a greater number of villages than we could otherwise do. Pumps and other accessories may not be necessary in all the villages. No doubt pumps and cisterns over deep tanks may be useful and may be properly installed in big villages or in big centres and towns. But in ordinary villages, pumps may not be very convenient, for if they get out of order an expert has to be called in to set them right. So, good draw wells will suffice for villages generally and I request the Government to adopt that policy.

" Next I would like to refer to the provision of 50 lakhs for the benefit of indebted agriculturists. Here I may appeal and pray that the Government will be mindful of the claims of the zamindari areas as much as of the Government areas. Anyone who follows the proceedings of this House day in and day out cannot but be impressed with the idea that the zamindari ryots are outside the pale of the general scheme of the Government administration. If it is a question of land revenue concession, he is out of it. If it is a question of taking up a big irrigation project involving lakhs and crores, he is out of the question. Even in the question of loans granted from Government money, he is out of it. I know of cases in my own district and in other districts where zamindari ryots are being neglected. The Government are very very reluctant to invest their money in zamindari areas. They have absolutely nothing to get out of all these measures. All these things forcibly bring out to our consciousness that the zamindari ryot is, so to say, a step-son of the Government. Perhaps it will be much better to define him as an illegitimate son. (Laughter.) The Government cannot openly acknowledge him. He cannot openly claim any benefit from the Government. What little is done for him is done only on the sly and even that, only after the claims of the ryotwari areas are met. He is placed in a very invidious position. Therefore, I submit that this anomalous and pitiable position of the zamindari tenant must be very soon corrected. He must be placed on the same level as the ryotwari tenant. He must have the same right to come and say that his land revenue system must be guided as the Government land revenue system is guided by resolutions passed by this House. He must also have the right to say that he must be protected and amenities provided for

him as they are being done in the Government areas. The 50 lakhs provided in the budget for the sake of rural population should be equally distributed among all the ryots in this Presidency irrespective of the fact whether the ryot is in the zamindari area or the Government area. In fact, the ryot in the zamindari area has got a stronger case in his favour for greater money being spent to relieve him than his brethren in the Government area, because the burden of rent on him is much heavier and the Government would even be justified if a greater portion of the 50 lakhs is utilized in that manner. But the ryots in the zamindari areas would be very much satisfied if no invidious distinction is made between the zamindari ryots and the ryots in Government area and the money is distributed equally amongst them."

"As regards the veterinary services, I see that the budget proposes to appoint 12 touring assistants in the coming year. I do not want to make any general remarks about the administration of this department but would like to speak with special reference to my district and especially to my constituency. My constituency consists nearly of one thousand villages. For all these villages there is only one veterinary assistant stationed at Tiruttani. Some of the other villages are annexed perhaps to Tirupati or Chandragiri, but we can all very well understand how the veterinary needs of these villages would be attended to if there is only one assistant, stationed in the midst of all these villages. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that one more centre should be selected and provision made for another veterinary assistant. He may be stationed in Puttur and should be in charge of the Puttur area and attend to the veterinary needs in that area.

"I find from the demands for grants that the strength of the veterinary assistants is going to be increased. The number 45 in the existing year is proposed to be raised to 92. I do not know, if it means, that nearly 47 extra hands are going to be appointed on the permanent staff. I speak subject to correction, and if this is the idea—and I remember to have read in the administration report that the Government's intention was to appoint more and more veterinary assistants—may I press the claims of my constituency in this regard?

"I now come to the Forest department, and I pray I may be excused if I deal with this subject a little in extenso. What we find from the budget is that the expenditure on Forest department is stationary. The expenditure on this department is somewhere about 40 lakhs from year to year, whereas the income ranges from 44 to 45 lakhs. So much so, the net saving from this department ranges from 2 to 5 lakhs from year to year. That is to say that 90 per cent of the income from the Forest department is being spent away and what remains is only 10 per cent or even less than that. Supposing the same thing happens to the land revenue—if for collecting 5 crores suppose 4 lakhs are being spent —what would be the result? I respectively submit that the expenditure involved upon the Forest department is out of all proportion to the income derived from this department.

"Another thing we find in the budget is the distribution of expenditure. 'General direction' itself takes away a lakh and fifty-five

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thousand and the pay of officers including pay of establishment, allowances and contingencies, all take away a sum of 25 lakhs and 31 thousand and odd. Out of 45 lakhs which is expected as income, about 25 lakhs and more is spent upon establishment. Including the excluded areas it comes to a total of about 28 lakhs. About 12 lakhs are spent in conservancy and other works including maintenance, repair and expenditure for extracting timber, etc. Thus the expenditure is accounted for under these two heads, the major head being establishment and the minor head being. . .''

* Mr. SPEAKER:—'' May I suggest to the hon. Member that these details will be appropriate on a ' cut motion ' ? They do not relate to any principle involved in the Budget.''

* Mr. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU:—'' I am only stating all these to show that the Forest department is not contributing much to the proper income of the Province, and I respectfully urge on the Government to see that this department is overhauled, improved and put on a proper basis so that it may function as a really useful adjunct to the revenue yielding departments of the Government. It is only for that purpose I refer to these details.

'' As regards the forest grievances there is much to be said, but I do not want to enumerate them in detail. I would only refer to a few facts from the Report of the Forest Committee, presided over by Mr. W. O. Horne, of which the late Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai was a member. That Committee was appointed to enquire how far the reserve forests have failed to meet the wants of the villagers and the question of the cause of the failure, if failure there has been, and the remedies which the Committee would suggest. After touring round a number of villages and after careful observations in the various districts, that Committee came to a unanimous opinion that these grievances are many and are severely felt. Dealing with the grievances themselves, the Committee say: ' The Committee have now to consider the other grievances which have been brought to their notice in the course of their enquiry. How deeply these grievances are felt was obvious to the Committee from the very beginning of their tour. Hundreds of ryots travelled over distances up to 50 or 60 miles and waited for days in the hope of obtaining a hearing. On the march and in camp, the Committee were waylaid by anxious ryots begging them to turn aside to see the particular difficulties under which they were labouring. It is true that if the Committee did visit the desired spot, it sometimes happened that the alleged grievance was found to be imaginary. But still it was very often real and the fact remains that unless there had been very deep feeling, the ryots would not have taken so much trouble to come in person in such large numbers and from such distances to state their difficulties.'

'' The evidence before the Committee also shows that the Forest department is more unpopular than any department of the Government. Proceeding further, the Committee observe: ' The main grievances which were represented are connected either with the selection of

reserves and the plans and rules for working them or with the methods adopted for carrying out the orders thus laid down. In nearly every district visited, complaints were made of the proximity of the reserves to the villages or to cultivation of tracts converted into reserves which contain nothing but black rocks and prickly-pear, of tortuous boundaries, of boundaries so aligned that it was impossible for the cultivator to reach his fields or to take his cattle to water without trespass, of access denied to temples; of rights of way so narrow that it was impossible to prevent animals from trespassing into the forest, of closure of reserves to grazing planned so badly that villagers were deprived of all grazing whatever, of areas closed to grazing so badly demarcated that the owner of cattle was unable to tell whether he was in the closed area or not, and of whole herds of cattle, sheep and goats given up on account of reservation. Bitter complaints were made of the impounding of whole herds of cattle which were being grazed on permits because one or two animals, young ones just born perhaps, were found in the herd without permit; of the impounding of cattle which were known to graze on permit, simply because the herd-boy had forgetten to bring the permit with him to the reserve, or was absent for a few minutes from the herd; of the impounding of cattle which merely stepped over the boundary into the reserve to rest; or of the impounding of whole herds of cattle travelling along a narrow right of way because one or two of the animals strayed over the border. It was complained that in almost every case, in addition to the impounding, an extra punishment in the shape of a compounding fee was imposed after an enquiry made only by a forest subordinate, and the fee thus levied was said to be so heavy as to result in the sale of herds of cattle.'

" Further the Committee add: ' But after making every allowance for exaggeration and for untruth, the Committee are unanimously agreed that valid reasons do exist for the deep-seated dissatisfaction which prevails, and that most of the alleged grievances are very often true. Apart from some points of comparatively minor importance, which will be discussed later on, the chief real grievances are undoubtedly due to the insufficiently supervised contact of the minor forest subordinates with the rural population. It is the guard or the watcher who, as a rule, detects forest offences, impounds cattle, and checks permits. When prosecution is necessary it is on his evidence that the conviction of the accused depends. He is brought into daily contact with the villagers, and has therefore, unlimited opportunities for extortion. When it is considered that the average area of reserved forest which a forest guard on Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 a month has to protect, is as much as 16 square miles, that he is expected to prevent illicit grazing and illicit cutting over the whole of this area with no other assistance than that of a few watchers, temporary servants on Rs. 6 a month, in the face of a population which, so far from assisting him in the work of conservation, does all in its power to prevent him from doing his work and to prevent him from remaining honest, it is not surprising that forest guards, unless they are more than human, frequently give way to temptation and accept the bribes that are so freely offered to them. . .' "

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* MR. SPEAKER :—" Does the hon. Member propose to read the whole report? " (Laughter.)

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU :—" No, Sir." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER :—" Will the hon. Member tell the House the year of the report? "

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU :—" 1913." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER :—" 1913! And that report is being read now." (Laughter.)

* MR. R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU :—" But those facts are as true to-day as they were in 1913. All I want to impress on the Government to-day by this quotation is that they should take early steps to redress the grievances of the people relating to the Forest department. In connexion with this matter, in 1921 the late Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu, ex-Minister, brought a resolution before the Legislative Council requesting Government to push back the limits of reserved forests beyond one mile from the portions inhabited by villagers, but that resolution has not been given effect to for some reason or other. So I would impress upon the Government the necessity of redressing this grievance.

" Coming now to electricty, no provision under capital has been made for its supply to the rural areas for agricultural purposes. No other social amenity can so improve materially the rural areas as electricity. After all electricity is a luxuary in towns, and so if you really want to make electricity into a nation-building service, I respectfully submit that the Government must take the earliest opportunity to introduce it for agricultural purposes in rural areas. I am, therefore, anxious that Government should take up this question and survey those districts where the hydro-electric scheme is supplying power with a view to see where a real need is expressed by the villagers for the introduction of electricity for agricultural purposes. This is a matter which is beyond the scope of private enterprise. Agriculture is an uneconomical problem even to-day; and if you want to extend electricity in that field, unless Government take upon themselves this duty, it is not possible to expect any expansion from private enterprise. I therefore submit that Government should kindly see at least in the next budget that proper provision is made for the introduction of electricity to rural areas.

" As regards loans, Mr. Appadurai Pillai said that Government are following a policy of borrowing from year to year and wondered if it was wise for the Government to do so. I submit that any number of nation-building schemes are awaiting the attention of Government. If you want to do anything substantial to the country, you require large sums of money. For this, only two courses are open. Either you levy additional taxes, or borrow. It cannot be contended that this Government or any Government can undertake huge enterprises from its normal revenues. For, out of normal revenues, normal services are provided. There is no scope for the Government for levying additional

taxation. So the only course open to them is to borrow. The financial position of the Government is perfectly sound. The assets exceed the liabilities by Rs. 12 crores. So I would impress upon the Government the necessity of floating more and more loans to give adequate relief to the rural areas as soon as possible."

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—" Sir, I speak because there is none else to speak." (Laughter.)

* Mr. SPEAKER:—There is no obligation on any Member to accommodate other Members. (Laughter.) I really congratulate the Members of the Right Wing, the Members of the Ministerialist Party on their having supplied the needs of the Opposition. If Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar really wants to speak he may speak now." (Laughter.) "

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—" Sir, I have always been of the opinion that the Opposition has a right to speak first, and I have always been accommodating them in that respect; because their view needs greater respect than ours. That view I have always in my mind, and the result is that I had no opportunity to speak in the last budget meeting. Now there is an opportunity for me, and I wish to say a few words on the present budget.

" There is one point upon which I will lay stress. The Hon. Premier has said, 'We hope to function in power and responsibility carrying on as if staying for a century.' Quite true, for, the changes that we are making will last for a century; the foundations that we now lay will last for a very long time. And so it very much depends upon us, what turn we give to the course of events, because to-day we are at the helm of affairs, because to-day we are at the ship's rudder, and the policy that we now inculcate will last certainly for a century.

" The first policy we are adumbrating is the substitution of co-operation for competition. Now that we are in power, the ideal which we want to place before the country is that we expect co-operation from all parties, be they big or small, we expect co-operation from all people, be they rich or poor, high or low, we expect co-operation from all castes and creeds and from all sections of people. Every one is expected to act to his best ability and contribute his mite to the common good, and he is expected to do all that lies in his power to help in furthering the cause of the country. Up to this time we have been acting on the impression that competition is the ruling power in the land. But so far as Indian ideals are concerned we want distinctly to lay down that both in practice and in theory, we propose to act on the principle that we expect co-operation everywhere. Now so far as provincial autonomy is concerned, we take it that the power that the Act has now placed in our hands is not to be entirely guided from the centre, but it is to be delegated to the villages as well as to the districts so that real provincial autonomy may be a *fait accompli*. We want to train leaders in every village, we want every village to be reconstructed so that every

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one of the villagers must feel that it is as much his duty as that of anybody else to carry on the administration so far as the village is concerned. Every villager should be acquainted with every departmental activity of Government so that he may have the power to initiate in all matters of administration. For this purpose we want leaders for every village, we shall not be satisfied with a few leaders here and there, for when we have got leaders in each and every village, all the functions of Government now carried on in the centre will be distributed to the villages, so that ultimately there will be no departments, no Collectors' offices, no local boards, no district boards and no municipalities as now, and the entire local administration will be carried on by one body and the imperial administration will be guided by those who are in charge of the Central Government. Thus the village administration will be the unit of administration and on it will depend the stability of the whole country. Civilizations have come and civilizations have gone, but our system of administration has gone undisturbed; it has withstood the onslaughts of several invasions, one coming behind the other like the waves of the sea.

" Now, Sir, taking that point of view, I lay stress upon the fact that all our administration, all our Acts, all our Bills, which are introduced from time to time are intended for the purpose of introducing this village autonomy, which path we now see is bestrewn with difficulties. What else is the policy of Government behind the Debt Relief Bill, except it be to make the villager really take a part in the day to day administration of the land, so that he may have a voice in the shaping of the future destinies of the land? Again what about the Prohibition Bill? Does that not affect directly each and every village in the Presidency? Does that not bring home to every man and woman in the village that he or she has a part to play in the village administration? Therefore I say that each man in the village is entitled to give advice in the village administration. Every man in the village should be trained in village administration. If he is trained he has a right to say that his voice should be heard. Every Act in this Legislature is passed to give the man in the village a right to have his say in the administration of his village. For example a man who has been chastened by the Prohibition Act will have a right to say, 'I shall be heard.' The same also applies with regard to every Act that has since been passed. All these Acts are intended to give the man a power so that he may be fitted with this power under the legislation. So, Sir, I wish therefore to draw the attention of the House to the fact that we all know our responsibilities. This is not all. There is still more to be done. That is the only important point on which I want to lay stress. There is the subject of the Hon. the Revenue Minister. This must also find its due place in the reconstruction of village life. 7 p.

" Now, Sir, there is the Co-operative department. Under that administration, we know, Sir, there is the Land Mortgage Bank, the Co-operative Bank and the other banks connected with co-operation.

All these things must go and the whole administration of a village should be co-ordinated and placed in charge of the village. Our experience of the Co-operative department for the last so many years has shown us that it is very very unsatisfactory and no Co-operative department with all its implications of what ' co-operation ' means, can ever be satisfactory until the problem of land, labour and capital in the village is solved. There are so many in the village who are landless and so are leaving the village. Our policy must be that nobody should leave the villages and create a slum problem in the towns. I have always been anxious that the slum trouble in Madras should be solved at the earliest possible moment. The question of slum trouble is due to the fact that the village is not safeguarded by the wing of protection that ought to be extended to every villager so that he should not leave the village for want of land, labour or capital.

" The Debt Relief Bill, I dare say, will make the man, hereafter, improve his land and also make him the owner of the land in his village. If a person has an interest in the land he should not be driven out of it, and he should not run about the towns and the mills for the purpose of eking out his livelihood. It is rather immoral. The Eastern troubles can easily be solved if we solve the question of land, labour and capital. If a man has plenty of capital let him put it in the village bank, which can be got for other purposes by others. If he has got plenty of money let him invest it in the village. If a man has got plenty of land, other people who have no land must be made to cultivate and take an interest in it so that no one may leave the village. If a man has nothing other than labour to contribute, he should also be made to contribute, as labour may find more place in the village so that this bug bear of the modern politician can be easily solved. In our village system, the landed, the landless, the capitalist and the labourer all must meet together and must provide for the administration of the village so that no one should be allowed to leave the village and create problems elsewhere. There is no use tackling other problems, before tackling the problem of the village. No one should be allowed to leave the village. Every one must be made to take an interest in the village. The Co-operative department will be the best way by which each one in the village is made to contribute his labour, his capital, his land so that the village will be a unit and that system of administration will be a success everywhere. In other words, we hope to create new villages, new land, new capital, so that the village administration can be worked satisfactorily and start new village communities so that we may have an ideal village community, where business could be readily and properly carried on. Therefore I suggest, Sir, that the village system must be revived and a new orientation should be given to it so that all things are co-ordinated there. There must be a creative department, there must be an executive department. I suggest that the executive power also should be delegated to some people in the villages. Probably for some time the Tahsildar, the Deputy Collector or the Collector may be put in charge of the executive side of the administration as well as the

protective side and the creative side, so that they can be co-ordinated and our people will be taught to recreate the village and start on a new life. Therefore, all these are mere steps leading to the great consummation which we have in view, namely, to revive the village with all its powers of economy, with all the ability and skill we possessed in the past and make it suitable to modern conditions, so that every discovery, every invention, will be harnessed to the village life. Therefore, I strongly lay stress upon this fact that as soon as possible a Village Bill will be introduced for the purpose of making the villager a self-contained unit and also to train him in the art of administration. They must be set on their feet. They must be taught to govern, if necessary; Village Assemblies might be held. If this is done all the difficulties connected with the estates will be solved. We cannot make a distinction between tenants in estates and those in ryotwari areas. Very many people have been urging, why not make the tenants in estates similar to those in ryotwari areas? Every one whether he is a person living in an estate or a ryotwari area has a right to live in the village so that things that are administered in the villages from headquarters of the district must be delegated to the area where first hand knowledge is available. It is only then that the false statements made in courts of law by interested people will disappear. Much of the falsehood that is uttered about the villager is due to the fact that the villager is not allowed to have his own say in the administration. Every business connected with village administration must be open to criticism by the public. Every department that we have now got must be made to co-ordinate their work in the villages and each department must be instructed to train the villager in the respective spheres, so that all departments which are at present for purposes of exploitation should hereafter function for the regeneration of the village. Then, new life will spring up in the village and will give the villager a status of his own, without giving opportunities to intermediaries for exploiting as at present under different names and different colours. There is no use saying, 'here is a village who has a right to get food', but he must also exercise that right. Then he will be a more potent factor so far as the village is concerned. He will know exactly what he wants. I submit that many of the evils and ills from which the nation is suffering have their origin in the village and once you reconstruct the village, our trade, our prosperity, our manufactures, handloom industry and everything would prosper. Sir Thomas Munro observed in 1815 that the manufacturing skill, the capacity for administration, and education given in every village were marvellous. The village system has been destroyed by the previous administration. Though it is now more than a century we should now rebuild the structure and attain the millenium. Therefore, Sir, I earnestly pray that the next step in the administration should be the introduction of a Bill which will have the effect of reinvigorating the village which has disintegrated."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I take it that there are no other members to speak. The Hon. the Finance Minister will now reply."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, there are two more days for general discussion. Some members on this side were under the impression that they could take their chance later on. Is that impression wrong, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Absolutely wrong. Members must be in their places during the hours of the sittings of the House and the Legislature is entitled to the service of every member during its sittings. Members must be always careful to attend and take their chance to deliver their speeches. Three days have been allotted for the benefit of the members so that the full time may be availed of by them, and if members do not avail themselves of the time, the House cannot be asked to sit waiting on the off chance of a member speaking or not. If members do not speak, the Finance Minister will have to reply and the discussion will have to be closed. How can the House be adjourned at 7 o'clock when there is still one hour more? The Congress members have been very generous to supply the needs of the Opposition these two hours. Supposing there was no member of the Opposition to speak even at 5 o'clock, is the House to sit continuously from day to day without any business? So it is only on the distinct understanding that there would be members to speak, that three days have been allotted. If there are no members to speak, the Finance Member will have to reply and the discussion will have to close. If he so chooses the Finance Minister may reply."

HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I take it, Sir, that after the explanation of the position that you have given, if any member of the Opposition . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I may also add that no member has intimated to me that he would speak at a later stage. Even that has not been done and as such, I have only to call upon the Hon. the Finance Minister to reply."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of fact, I have made enquiries of certain hon. Members . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member's enquiries are irrelevant. Those gentlemen have not intimated to the Chair. The Hon. the Finance Minister will now reply."

HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I was on the point, Sir, that if after your explanation of the position, any Opposition Member wishes to speak now, it need not appear as if, having been called, I must proceed."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" If Opposition Members want to speak, they will be permitted to speak."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—" If permitted, I would like to speak, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Yes. The hon. Member may make his speech."

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7-15 p.m.

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—" Mr. Speaker, I should be failing in my duty if I did not join in the chorus of congratulations that were showered on the Government and on the Premier by the people from the Opposition and add to it the congratulations of the community which I represent on his presenting such an able Budget. Sir, it is not only an able Budget, it is a prudent Budget. I use the word ' prudent ' advisedly, because prudence is a very good thing; prudence is a wise thing, but it will not always be a correct thing. As a matter of fact, a surplus Budget like this leads one to think that it could have been a little different; that it could have contained a few other ameliorative measures, a few more ameliorative measures than the ones outlined in the Budget speech of the Premier. Sir, I was imagining as to why it was that only a small sum of 17 or 18 lakhs is going to be spent on ameliorative measures while there is a surplus Budget. My feeling is that the Finance Minister must be absolved of all blame. Of course as the head of the Cabinet he will be willing to take the responsibility. It is generally said that Finance Ministers are always tight-fisted and will allot money only if they are pressed. I can understand the difficulties of the Ministers. They have set before themselves a very heavy programme. The Government have been very busy all along. There has been a lot of legislation and there are a lot of other things to think about. All the same I think the Ministers in charge of departments connected with social service have singularly neglected their opportunities of getting money from the Finance Minister. There is my Hon. Friend the Minister for Education. He said the other day that his hands were full with work connected with elementary education and that he could not tackle the problem of adult education or secondary education, presumably for want of money. It is up to him to ask for more money. Then, Sir, there is my hon. Friend Mr. Giri. He is not present in the House. He might have thought of measures for improving the commercial and industrial conditions of this province. He might have thought of schemes for starting new industries aided by the State. He has been speaking of evolutionary socialism. I think he might have justifiably talked of State socialism. This morning there was mention made of the manure industry and so on in which the State can take prominent part. The State could subscribe half the capital of such enterprises and keep the control and direction thereof in its hands. It could provide a Government director. In these directions the Hon. Minister could have moved and asked for more money. If he had asked for more funds, the Finance Minister would have found ways and means of providing him with the money.

" Similarly the Hon. Minister for Rural Development does not seem to have thought of measures for rural development. There is no doubt the provision in the Budget for drinking water-supply. That is about all. He has evidently not been active himself.

" Then there is my Hon. Friend the Minister for Public Works. He has been singularly badly treated in this Budget. The moneys

given to him in former years have been taken away. He has evidently not put up a bold fight. I have no right to question what happened in the Cabinet. But the Budget shows that the Cabinet members have not been thinking of getting more money from the Finance Minister and putting up a fight for it. It is perhaps just like this: I was very nearly losing my right to speak by default. They have lost their right by default. A prudent Budget has been brought forward and the Hon. the Finance Minister has had no pressure brought to bear on him or incentive to think of fresh measures of taxation to be spent on ameliorative measures. That I think is the keynote of this Budget primarily. But, as I said, it is just a matter of guess, pure and simple guessing, because I am not aware of the facts.

"Next, Sir, I will deal with the various items dealt with by the Hon. the Premier in his Budget speech seriatim. First, I may refer to the rural water-supply scheme. Sir, it is no doubt a good thing. Quite a number of speakers on the floor of this House to-day have praised him for it. But there is one thing with regard to which the Government have to guard against. They have to see that the moneys allotted are usefully spent, spent by people who are enthusiastic and by people who know what they are about. Recently I read of a report of a meeting held under the auspices of the Collector of Bellary who had to spend 1·08 lakhs on rural water-supply in his district. If anybody reads that report—the newspaper report may be correct or may not be correct—the position would appear to be very tragic. The Collector, pointing out the difficulties with regard to water-supply, it seems, said: 'We have no electric power to take out water from deep wells. We cannot use pumps as the villagers are illiterate and ruin mechanical pumps and there is always difficulty in getting water in black cotton soil.' Then, the Health Officer, who usually gets about 10 hours lectures in the course of a few months' training on health work addressing the gathering, said: 'The Collector is a wise man. We will leave things to his discretion.' Little else, practically, was said there. There is this allotment of 1·08 lakhs put in their hands, I do not know for what purpose. Sir, the Hon. the Premier said that the district Collectors will be in charge of rural water-supply. In the minds of people who read reports like the one I quoted just now, this will cause some misgivings. Without an expert to direct policy and without a person qualified to know what a water-supply scheme is, I do not think these sums will be usefully spent. I think former Governments have made some attempts in this direction and we know the results. I think there is necessity for caution. You can find funds, but that is not all that you have got to do. You have got also to make sure that the funds that are allotted are properly utilized and to see that the follies like those of the Collector of Bellary are not repeated.

"Sir, I was speaking about a really dynamic Budget. Possibly the Hon. the Premier was then chuckling within himself, 'Oh, this man is speaking a lot about it now. He will sing a different tune

next year when I bring in taxation measures.' That may be so. But as a businessman I say that my community is not really afraid of taxation, provided it is not discriminatory and inequitous. If the businessmen are convinced that the money to be realized will be put to good use so as ultimately to raise the standard of living of the people, they would not be afraid. It will be doing good to themselves. They will not be scared by it though legislative measures which have been passed in the recent past might probably give some room for alarm. Provided taxation is reasonable, its incidence is properly looked into and arranged and it is going to give benefit to the people of the country and ultimately make them happy, the businessmen who depend upon the happiness of other people would not object and my community would not feel worried. I will here endorse what has been said by the member for the European Chamber of Commerce. I do not want to be told a whole year ahead what fresh measures of taxation the Government are going to propose. But it is worthwhile for the Government to take the House into their confidence sufficiently early and outline the schemes of taxation, if any, which they are going to bring in next year.

" I next come to the question of the economy measures adopted by the Government. The first thing is salary reduction. A lot has been talked about salary reduction in the last Budget. Some of us have been very emphatic in our condemnation of salary reduction. And yet, what is happening? Rs. 41,000 is saved this year. This sum of Rs. 41,000 measured by the reaction of the services, by the discontent in the departments, is perhaps worth Rs. 41 lakhs. It is not that I contend that the salaries that are paid are not high. It is not that I contend that the Government have no right to reduce the salaries. But the manner in which it has been done is to my mind unsatisfactory. This question has been dealt with by a few people sitting down together taking up the shears and pruning off the salaries by a particular percentage without any consideration whether particular services have to be paid somewhat higher salaries. I am not talking about the maximum but about the minimum. If you fix the salary of a munsif at Rs. 150 a number of lawyers will be willing to accept the job; but, on the other hand, if you fix the salary of a sanitary engineer at Rs. 250, you cannot get the right man. This man undergoes a five years' training in the Engineering College and after some training abroad probably, applies for the post. If you offer only Rs. 250 to such men, properly qualified men will not be forthcoming. I think there has been no proper thought given to this question of reduction of salaries. After all, Sir, what is the saving? It is Rs. 41,000. Sir, we are told that the people concerned are content and that they are accepting the cut without a demur. We, however learn that there is discontent. It seems people complain that they do not get any more money by promotion and that they are simply marking time. That is the common impression that I have gathered in my talks with various people. I say that the amount gained by salary cuts is not worth having. Rupees 41,000 is not worth much, I mean as a saving in a Budget

involving over 16 crores. I am afraid the Government are not getting a saving in proportion to the discontent occasioned by the cut. They are losing Rs. 41,00,000 worth of goodwill while they are gaining Rs. 41,000 in cash. Even now it is not too late to retrace this step. The Government might appoint a committee to revise salaries for all Government servants. They may probably cut down the salaries in cases where they are too high and proper people are available and raise the minimum in the case of such services where it has got to be raised.

" The next question I want to dwell upon is the one relating to the honorary medical service. I am afraid the Hon. Minister concerned is not here to reply to the remarks which I have to make in regard to the way in which this reform is being carried out. Perhaps it is enough if his Parliamentary Secretary is present. Sir, I am an enthusiast about the honorary medical service. But what has been done? What is it that is proposed to be done? It is very easy for the Hon. the Premier to be complacent about this matter. His speech seems to show that he has not much confidence in this scheme. There has been agitation, no doubt, from the vested interests, that the honorary system is wrong. But I think the Minister himself has introduced this system only very half-heartedly. His appointment of two I.M.S. officers to posts to which the Government could have appointed senior provincial medical service officers shows that he is not willing to break away from the old tradition. Now, more I.M.S. officers are coming in. I am told that one I.M.S. officer is tossed about between the Surgeon-General and the Secretariat without finding a proper billet and the Hon. Minister has not set his face against it. I believe the Public Health Minister of Bombay, the Hon. Dr. Gilder, has taken a strong stand against fresh dumping of I.M.S. officers. Why should not the Madras Minister do likewise?

" Here, you want to try this honorary system which you hope to complete in the course of 20 years. Why don't you start more hospitals? Why don't you send your stipendiary men to new hospitals? With a little more money for this department you can open more dispensaries and put the stipendiary officers in charge of these. It is not by the filling up of two assistant surgeons' posts in one or two provincial towns with honorary men that you are going to succeed in making the honorary system a success. This shows that the Hon. Minister himself has no faith in this scheme. I think measures half done are better not be done at all. I think it is better that we go back to the old system if this is what we are going to get out of the honorary system.

" Then, Sir, there is the question of the release of convicts. I do not really look at it from the point of view of my hon. Friend, Mr. Palat. I do not say that these people should not be released. Sir, many of them have been released and evidently there is a feeling in the mind of the authorities that the sentences have been either too severe or frivolous, that people have been convicted to six months' rigorous

imprisonment by the magistrates who evidently have not exercised their minds properly and have not considered the question whether a fine would not have been sufficient. Sir, if there is this feeling, then it is a case for reforming the Criminal Law. I find under the Government of India Act for appointing a Law Commission, you need not wait for an all-India measure. You need not wait for Sir N. N. Sircar to move in the matter. The local Government can set up a Law Commission. They can reform the Criminal Law if they want. It is as old as Lord Macaulay and there is a case for reform. If you want to release the convicts, if you feel that the Criminal Law is not adequate, there is a case for examination of the provisions of the Criminal Law and there is a case for appointing a Law Commission.

"Sir, the next ameliorative measure referred to is the Sale of Cloth Act. I said at the time the legislation was put through that this was not a good measure. Look at the report that has been given to us. At that time I pointed out that it was not a regulatory measure, that it was not a measure for producing revenue. Look at the reduced number of licences that have been applied for and taken. The operation of the Act shows that the Government themselves are not as enthusiastic as they were when they introduced the Bill, when we spent some time over it and when the Government spent more time over it. It is one of those infructuous pieces of legislation passed through in the Legislature. I think the less said about it, the better. An income of Rs. 1 lakh is ultimately expected from it, which is rather optimistic. Considering the amount of labour spent, considering the administration charges that are going to be involved in collecting it, the return is negligible and the less said about the Sale of Cloth Bill, the better it is for all concerned. 7-30 p.m.

"There is another point, with regard to broadcasting. The Hon. the Premier makes mention about the benefits of broadcasting. I think a certain amount of Rs. 14,000 has been allocated for the purpose in the Budget. But I should like to know if the Local Government really propose to leave it entirely in the hands of the Central Government as they might be paying a few thousand rupees. The House may remember what happened at Haripura, where they refused Congress speeches to be broadcast through the all-India Radio transmitting stations. Are this Government going to place themselves at the mercy of the all-India Radio in this matter? Are they not going to open their own transmitting stations? The Government of India cannot refuse permission to the Local Government to have their own transmitting stations under the Government of India Act. When we have instances of refusal when an important organization wanted to have its speeches broadcast, is it not a warning to the Local Government to run this show themselves without the help of the Government of India? I would commend this point to the attention of the Hon. the Finance Minister.

"As regards ameliorative measures for the depressed classes, there is one sentence in the speech of the Hon. the Premier which has to be

taken notice of, that moneys lent out to them in some cases become irrecoverable. The same remarks might apply to the amount that is going to be spent on agricultural loans. That is a warning, I hope, the Government will take note of. Rupees 50 lakhs have been allotted under this heading. The amount actually allotted this year in this Budget might be a little less. They say that a sum of about Rs. 12 lakhs allotted in the last year's budget has not been spent. Only an additional sum of Rs. 38 lakhs is granted by the Government in the coming year. I hope care will be exercised in spending this amount.

"With regard to prohibition, I am very happy to see that it is a success in Salem. I was not one of those who opposed prohibition on proalchoholic grounds; my feeling was one of scepticism with regard to its enforcement and I am glad that it has achieved a certain amount of success; I have got reports myself that people are happy. Whether there is illicit distillation or whether sweet toddy after it becomes semi-fermented is drunk, people do not have to spend money as they used to. The women and children are said to be more happy, they are more contented. The only question that has to be considered is whether the Government can afford to forego the revenue; this is, after all, the primary factor which our Government should look into. I wish them Godspeed in their venture in the two new districts.

"I shall not presume on the indulgence you have shown me in allowing me to speak, as I shall have opportunities of speaking on certain items in regard to the Budget when the cut motions come. I shall finish by once again congratulating the Hon. the Premier upon having produced a prudent Budget and we shall look forward to his next Budget which promises, if this speech is treated as an indication of what is to come, that it is going to be dynamic one."

* MR. K. ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN:—"Sir, I wish to join the chorus of congratulations to the Hon. the Premier on the excellent Budget that he has presented to this hon. House; I have great pleasure in offering him congratulations on behalf of the Muslim League Party to which I have the honour to belong. As has already been stated by one of the previous speakers, the Budget has one distinguishing feature about it and that is its mass-minded character. We have got proposals in it for the betterment of the rural folk; we have a scheme for water-supply to rural areas. We also find that the Ministry has allotted a definite amount towards land revenue remissions. But until the whole system of land revenue is properly revised, this piecemeal benefit cannot at all be properly utilized by the people at large. Then we find from the speech of the Hon. the Premier that the Prohibition Act is going to be extended to Cuddapah and Chittoor. I have to congratulate the people of those two districts on their good luck. But I must say that the people of the other districts including the backward Ceded districts are rather disappointed. When the Budget for the current year was presented, I pressed the needs of my district, namely, Kurnool district, and requested the Hon. the Premier to have some consideration for the conditions that prevail there. It was our hope that Kurnool will find a place in the programme this year; but

unfortunately we do not find it there. I hope that it will certainly find a place when the Budget for the next year is prepared by the Premier. One hopeful thing is that he has selected Chittoor and Cuddapah because they lie on the borders of Salem. We hope that Kurnool which lies on the borders of Cuddapah district will certainly find a place next year.

" We are disappointed about the progress that we are making about the Tungabhadra Project. We have been told that three years would be taken up for negotiations. I am afraid that this delay will mean a great hardship to the people of Rayalaseema districts. As we know, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary and Anantapur are famine-stricken areas. It has become a normal course of things for these districts to suffer from famine every year. Until and unless a definite policy for famine relief is taken up, I am afraid the lot of these districts will never improve. So, the best thing in this direction is to take up the Tungabhadra Project at once and carry it through as early as possible. I think that it is not necessary that the Government should take such a long period of three years for carrying on negotiations with the Nizam's Government; matters can be hurried through and the Tungabhadra Project can be brought at once into a definite shape. From a perusal of the Budget speech made by the Hon. the Premier, we find there is absolutely no mention of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary or Anantapur, these backward districts, so far as the productive schemes are concerned. It is unfortunate that these districts should not receive the consideration which they deserve.

" We find from the Budget speech that at present the Government are investigating the question of further taxation and we hope that the Government will not launch upon any scheme of new taxes without giving full and adequate notice to the representatives of the people. During the last few months we have seen that very many Bills have been passed with short notice and in a big hurry. The question of new taxation is an important one on which the opinion of this House has to be taken. Members of this House should, therefore, be given adequate notice and more time to consider such measures.

" There is one other matter on which I wish to speak and it is about the poor funds that have been allotted for roads and village communications. No doubt, the hands of the Ministry are full with other important matters. But that is no reason why sufficient funds should not be allotted for the urgent needs also. Speaking of my own district, I must say that there are certain villages to which there is absolutely no access. It is very difficult for people to move about from one village to another, even though they may be 15 or 20 miles apart. I might point out one specific case. There is a village called Ardhaveedu which is just 20 miles from Cumbum. It is very difficult for people to go from Cumbum to that place; for there is absolutely no road worth the name. A cart-track goes through tank-bunds and sometimes through hills. The people of that place have been complaining about this difficulty from time to time. I represented the matter to the

District Collector and to the President of the District Board; but they say they do not have sufficient funds to launch upon the construction of a road to this village in my district.

"Coming to a few other points referred to by Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai, I must lay some stress on the need for improving rural dispensaries. Even in the case of certain municipalities we find that the medical relief given is not proper and adequate. In this connexion may I point out, sufficient support and sufficient encouragement should be given to the Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine? I think it is high time that these two systems are encouraged.

"Regarding education, the whole thing seems to be in the melting pot. We do not know where we are. At one time we hear reports that the Wardha scheme would be introduced in one or two districts; we hear also that the Government have committed themselves to this scheme and that it will be introduced everywhere. There have been discussions and debates over this question and people with large experience in this particular field have expressed their opinions. The Government should carefully consider all these opinions before they actually launch upon the scheme and put it in operation. As has been pointed out by very many educationists, this scheme is defective in very many respects. Education is sought to be made self-supporting. It would be a great folly to think of introducing the Wardha scheme only because it comes from a very eminent personality. We have no doubt our admiration for him but this should not tempt us to accept anything and everything that may come from him without consulting public opinion. There is one other point I wish to speak about; it is the closure of uneconomic schools. This measure should not be carried through in all the districts at one stretch. There are certain districts which are very backward in education. What applies to Tanjore and Trichinopoly may not apply in the same manner to districts like Kurnool and Cuddapah. So, regard should be had to the backward condition in which some of the districts are placed. Before we apply this scheme to these districts, we must examine and see if this can be justifiably done. I trust that these points will be considered by the Hon. Ministers concerned and that proper attention will be paid to them."

7-45 p.m. * THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"Mr. Speaker, I think that one of the results of a good Budget is a dull debate and a quick conclusion of the general discussion. I therefore do not think that we have done badly. I think that facts and events prove more than mere statements. The fact that we have concluded this general discussion even before a five-hour sitting is concluded and that on the very first day itself is a more convincing proof of the fact that we have not done ill with our estimates than any amount of congratulations that came from one's own side of the House or even the caressing congratulations that came from the opposite side—sometimes that caressing had a bite in it. I do not think that any Budget could have been received better than this year's estimates in Madras have

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been received. And it is worth repeating, Sir, that the history of the debate is more abundant proof of the claim that I make than anything said by any Member in the House. I think this is a record for all Budgets and I think it is a record for Provincial Administration; it is a record for the Congress's venture in the difficult art of Government in respect of which, according to some people and according to some Members even now here, we are not experts but only Ministers. I am sorry that the exponent of the expert government is not here. But I think he entirely misunderstands the place of experts in the administration of a country. It is a most dangerous thing to hand over the administration to an expert; it is the wisest thing to keep an expert nearby; it is the wisest thing to tie up the expert's hands and keep only his mouth open, so that he may be able to advise what is good but he may not put his hands into the purse and he may not open the treasury.

" Sir, if the general remarks that fell from well-intentioned critics are summarized, they come to this. Have more ameliorative measures, do not forget any particular district, let more and more ameliorative measures be undertaken and let every district have them, extend prohibition to all districts more quickly than you are doing, reduce land revenue more than you have done and give plenty of notice for fresh taxation. Let me tell you, Sir, that it is difficult to collate all these good and pleasant advices. We are to have more and more ameliorative measures and that quickly and reduce land revenue, which according to the very clear exposition of one of the earlier speakers in the debate is very nearly half the revenue that stands to our credit; but yet we should also extend prohibition quickly and on a larger scale and not merely pretend to add two districts. At the same time we should not undertake fresh taxation; we should not undertake even a proposal for fresh taxation without giving plenty of notice, so that if you undertake any taxation which the Member for Commerce might permit as being wise, those who hold stocks may keep them over till the crisis might arise—thereby plenty of notice may come in in a handy way to the Commercial community. I tell you, Sir, this is impossible for Congress Ministries. I know that the old Government might do wonders, that the older order of things might probably make all such things possible. But it is not possible for us; we cannot disobey the laws of nature. If we have to spend we have to raise money, if we should raise money we must raise taxes. If we have to spend quickly, we must raise taxes quickly; if we have to spend without notice we must raise taxes also without notice. It is impossible to do things other than according to the laws of nature, which include the laws of mathematics, though some Members who spoke in another House would ask us even not to speak about mathematics.

" Reference was made by some to general matters like prohibition and we were told it was a goose that laid golden eggs and it looks as if we killed it carelessly; but I did not hear the Member very well. I was only thinking it was a good goose, but I did not consider the

egg was real gold. It was only an optical illusion. All that glitters is not gold even if the goose laid it. Prohibition tries to find the real gold and I think the report from which I have read an extract seems not to have satisfied all Members; and it seems to me to contain some words about what is gold and what is not gold. And the hope was expressed, if I heard the Member aright, that the goose we killed might rise up from the ashes again when we find our revenues shrinking. Sir, perhaps the phoenix might rise. But I do hope that I shall not live as long as that to see the phoenix rise. We are not going to have that goose again whether it wears the plumage of a phoenix, whether it wears the plumage of a parrot or even that of a nightingale singing songs for the wet interests. I do not think that there is any chance hereafter to re-establish it in this land. It is as well that all gentlemen interested in it take notice of it once for all. It is as impossible perhaps as it is to replace the Congress Ministries. It is a hard thing, it was admitted, to replace us; there is no alternative; it looks as if it is to go from the frying pan into the fire and there is no better alternative. If this is admitted, let me give notice once for all that there is no chance for bringing it up and I hope there will be no more demand for long notice for people to wind up their business, change their habits and readjust their affairs; we must get along on the distinct understanding that the Indian climate is not good for that stuff.

"Sir, much was said by way of expert financial criticism by the hon. Member who was wrongly called the hon. ex-Minister, Mr. Palat. We should not think of the previous histories of a person when we are dealing with things in a new light. It was stated that the commutation of pensions was a contradictory policy in our programme. You once put it down for capital; now you put it back for revenue and admit that this is a proper charge on revenue and not a capital head; you put it again for capital this time. This is very bad, very dangerous and very improper. I submit, Sir, that even in finance there are some things in the margin as in all things in the world; and it is difficult to draw a line and say that a pensioner can ask for capitalization of his pension and claim from the year's revenues to be paid for that capitalized value of his pension until his death; and it is wrong at the same time for the tax-payer to capitalize his liability and to raise a loan and to pay back through a scheme of sinking fund principal and interest spread over a number of years. It is entirely understandable that the liability for commutation of pensions should be treated as a capital head; and it was so treated by the Government of India; it was only the Government of Madras, the Finance Department, that was pointing out the other view that should be taken in this matter. It is only recently and after our last year's Budget that the Government of India have accepted the principle that even liability on a capital head, if it is recurring, may be properly debited to revenue. It is allowable on revenue. In its nature it is capital but it is allowable and wise to debit it to revenue and that is exactly what we have done; following that procedure we debit it to capital; when we see that

we can pay it from revenue we so pay it. That is how we are dealing with the marginal problems. This is the highest financial rectitude that is possible and that can be applied to the case; and it is wrong for Mr. Palat to say that we have done anything improper or outside financial rectitude in regard to this subject.

"Then he said, 'Be cautious, do not have bold programmes, do not have hasty programmes.' He gave us advice; perhaps just the opposite of the Commercial Representative's advice. The Representative for Commerce wants dynamics, Mr. Palat wants caution and care. It is difficult when Members from the same side from the somewhat independent benches give contradictary advice in this manner. But I forget that they are a group entirely independent of one another and they are entitled to give contradictory advice and that we are entitled to take that advice. But the best way is to collate those contradictory advices from independent Members and to follow the path of the golden mean; we must be dynamic, we should be cautious also; cautiously dynamic and dynamically cautious. (Laughter.) It is not safe to put our hands in the pocket of your breeches and say I am cautious; that is a virtue by itself; nor is it safe to spread one's hands out and fling them to the other side saying 'I am dynamic, look at me.' We shall not be deserving of the places that we are holding if we are to give up everything and do nothing else as Mr. Palat wants us to be. I claim, Sir, that our Budget is cautiously dynamic and only dynamically cautious. Wherever possible we are cautious; it is not caution for caution's sake, but caution so that we may progress. We may even sometimes take a step or two back in order that we may spring forward. The Member for Indian Chamber of Commerce twitted us with being less courageous than some other Ministers of some other provinces. He said 'You have not asked the I.M.S. people to go back to London. You are receiving them and finding posts for them. What is the good of this honorary medical scheme that you are boasting about? You must ask these gentlemen to go back.' I have no objection to ask them to go back; I shall give it in writing to the hon. Member for the Chamber of Commerce and ask him to execute it. (Laughter.) Until the Government of India Act is altered and until the temper and the character of the people of Britain is altered either by violence or by non-violence on our part, it is not possible. The Government of India Act cannot be altered merely by speeches made in the Assembly House. It is not possible to abolish 8 p.m. the Government of India Act by a mere speech in the Assembly House. The Members of the Indian Medical Service are being sent from one place to another so that they may get experience, so that their temper may change. They must be reminded that there are equally efficient Indian medical men and that they are not wanted here. They must be reminded that the Government of India Act is an anachronism. They must be reminded that there is no want of medical men here and there is no room for them here. They have to be sent from one place to another on account of the letter and spirit of the Government of India Act. The I.M.S. men must come here and you must find berths for them according to law. We must go on working the Government

of India Act even for the purpose of ending that Act. Let not anybody mistake that we are sitting in the Secretariat in order to issue orders which cannot be fitted into the scheme of the Government of India Act. If I get into a railway train in order to attend the meeting of the Railway Board where I want to have a resolution passed to the effect that these Railways should be abolished, I must travel by that train. I cannot get out of the running train because I want to wreck the railways altogether; if I did so I would be breaking my head and wrecking myself. So if I want to abolish the Government of India Act, I must travel by the law of the Government of India Act, and so long as we are here, we must work it, even if we want to wreck it at the end. Therefore it is no use saying that the Government of India Act is in a fine form and gives us freedom to do all these things. It pleases me even when I heard, 'Send them back; why should you not act as Dr. Gilder said in Bombay?' Sir, we are reading these things only from newspaper reports. I do not think for myself that what Dr. Gilder said can be worked on the other side of Raichur, or on behalf of the Congress Ministry of this Province. It is not as if we have not examined the frame-work of the Government of India Act and seen whether there are loop-holes for us and whether there are at least steps for us to get out of the train for a while. It is not as if we have not examined the constitution. I think we would be given the credit that we have tried everything.

"Sir, it was suggested that we do not make the full use of the possibilities that have been afforded to us. Here, for instance, it was said that we could abolish the system of exodus to the hills altogether. It was said, 'the Under Secretary is not very different from the Secretary; you are asking Secretaries to go; why do you allow them? Why don't you stop that also?' Sir, it is not easy to discuss administrative details on the floor of the House."

(At this stage the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar stopped his speech for a while.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier may continue and finish his speech."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"If you will not mind, I may say I am very weak and I would prefer to speak to-morrow."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then that will also give an opportunity to Opposition Members to speak, so that the Hon. Minister may be required to speak at the end. The reply given to-day is only a partial reply."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I can strain myself and finish now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suggest that the Hon. the Finance Minister may stop his reply now and finish it to-morrow after other Members of the Opposition speak on the general discussion, because general discussion cannot be closed. So, another reply may have to be given at the end."

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* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I would leave the point of order to you, Sir, as to whether we can allow Opposition Members to speak after I have begun to reply. I do not stand in the way of Opposition Members being allowed to speak. However I would prefer to speak to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. the next day.

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Notification appended to G.O. No. 528, *Local Administration, dated* 15*th February* 1938, *amalgamating the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai.*

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS