THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 4th 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

Payment of stipends to the students of the Girls' Training School, Calicut.

* 252 *Q.*—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the stipends granted to the students of the Girls' Training School, Calicut, are being paid regularly at fixed intervals;

(*b*) what the period of the interval at which such payments are made is; and

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to make such payments regularly every month?

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

"(*b*) One month.

"(*c*) Stipends are normally paid regularly every month."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"May I know, Sir, the interval that elapses in regard to the payment of these stipends?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"One month."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"Will the Hon. the Minister enquire whether it is really one month, because I have received complaints about it?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The answer has been given to the hon. Member after making an investigation through the Director of Public Instruction."

Reconstitution of the selection committees for the various Government colleges in the Province.

* 253 *Q.*—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal with the Government to reconstitute the selection committees for admission of students into the various Government colleges—science, arts and professional—in the Province of Madras; and

(*b*) if so, whether the reconstitution of the said committees will be completed before the commencement of the next academic year 1938–39?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"(*a*) & (*b*) Selection committees for admission of students into Government colleges have been abolished. As such, the question of reconstitution of the committees does not arise."

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know on what basis the selection will be made hereafter?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Government have issued instructions to the principals of colleges as to the method of selection, but selection will naturally rest in the discretion of the principal of the college concerned."

Fisheries Research Station at Tanur.

* 254 *Q.*—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Tanur Experimental (Fisheries) Station was altered into a Research Station;

(*b*) the items and the results of research carried on there;

(*c*) the approximate annual revenue received and expenditure incurred in relation to it;

(*d*) whether part of the station was being treated as commercial;

(*e*) if so, the net profit and loss during the past five years; and

(*f*) whether the Government proposed to continue the station from year to year experimentally, and if so, till when?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"(*a*) The Tanur station from its inception has been both a research and an experimental station.

"(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the annual Administration Reports of the Fisheries Department which contain information on the points referred to in the question. Copies of the reports are available in the Assembly Library.

"(*c*) The receipts and expenditure during 1936–37 were Rs. 4,709 and Rs. 9,870, respectively.

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

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

"(*f*) Since 1932 the station is being continued from year to year and the present sanction expires on 31st March 1938. The question of retention of the station is under consideration."

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The Madras Fisheries Service Rules and the amendments thereto.

* 255 *Q.*—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Madras Fisheries Service Rules were first framed;

(*b*) how many times they were amended; and

(*c*) with what object the amendments were effected?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (*a*) In October 1929 and revised rules in 1934.

" (*b*) The old rules were amended on five occasions and the revised rules on three occasions.

" (*c*) It is not possible to explain in an answer the circumstances which necessitated the several amendments. If the hon. Member would like to have the information with reference to any particular amendment the Government will be glad to furnish it."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—" May I know, Sir, whether the amendments were not effected for the purpose of appointing the particular individuals concerned? "

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

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—" Do the persons employed in the department possess the necessary qualifications? "

THE. HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Yes."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—" May I know what the qualifications are? "

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Notice, Sir."

Industries aided or managed by the Government.

* 256 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any industries in this province which are entirely managed by the Government or aided by it; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (*a*) & (*b*) There is no industry in the Province which is entirely managed by Government. The Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, which manufactures soap products on commercial lines, wholly belongs to them. There are several industries which have been aided by the Government. The following are some of them:—' Silk weaving, paper manufacture, saw milling, cotton ginning, groundnut decorticating, match and pyrotechnic match manufacture, dyeing, silk reeling, tiles making,

oil milling, toy manufacture, manufacture of edge tools and cutlery, sugar, coir, fountain pens manufacture, button manufacture, hand-spinning and khadi manufacture.' Besides these, the handloom and sericulture industries and small scale woollen industries are assisted from the grants-in-aid made by the Government of India."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know whether the Government have any intention of starting important industries on their own behalf?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"If finances permit."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Can it not be done by borrowing money as it is done in the case of so many other things?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"We are trying to give State aid to industries if persons are prepared to come forward. That is all that the Government can do at present."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know whether the Government is committed to the idea that except in the case of soap factories, they are not to start any other industry themselves?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"They have not committed themselves to any such principle."

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know why, when in the case of the soap industry they are making a profit, they should not start other industries?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"This is a big question and it has to be considered only from time to time."

Libraries maintained by the co-operative societies.

*257 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of co-operative societies that have libraries; and

(*b*) whether the same are made available to the public?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"(*a*) 141.

"(*b*) The libraries of 106 societies are open to the public, while those of the rest are open only to their members and employees."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I request the Hon. the Minister to see that the other libraries also are made available to the public?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I shall certainly consider the suggestion."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, whether any grants are made by the Government for purchasing books, etc., for those libraries?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I think so, but I want notice to be quite correct about the answer to be given"

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Number of gun licences cancelled in the Malabar district after 23rd November 1937.

* 258 *Q.*—MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state the number of licences for guns cancelled in the Malabar district since the date of the Press Communiqué, viz., 23rd November 1937, regarding the grant of licences?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The number of gun licences cancelled is reported to be one."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know the reason why the licence was cancelled?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I want notice."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I request the Hon. Minister to consider the necessity of drawing the attention of the magistrates to the rules laid down in the last Government Order?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"The rules laid down in the last Government Order have been brought to the notice of the magistrates by the issuing of the Government Order itself."

MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"May I know whether licences for arms other than guns were cancelled?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I want notice, Sir."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is there any proposal with the Government for the amendment of the Arms Act and will all people in the country be allowed to use weapons such as guns, etc.?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Government have under consideration the earlier portion of the question. The latter portion of the question is not under the consideration of the Government."

Measures for increasing the efficiency and usefulness of the Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates.

* 259 *Q.*—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what basis the Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates are recruited; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to take any steps to make these services more efficient and useful, and if so, what they are?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"(*a*) The following points are considered in selecting Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates:—

Education.
Social standing.
Character.
Ability and proper representation of several communities.

"(*b*) Government have recently issued instructions to the District magistrates that care should be taken in selecting honorary magistrates and that they and subdivisional magistrates in the course of their tours should make it a point of informing themselves personally of the status, character and other qualifications of those who are already filling these positions or are suitable for appointment thereto and take steps to have powers withdrawn from any now in office whom they find unsuitable for such posts."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Are these Honorary Presidency Magistrates and Bench Magistrates getting any honorarium from the Government?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"No Sir. They are purely and simply honorary."

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIYAPPA CHETTIAR:—"Are the Government satisfied that all the qualifications referred to in the answer are strictly observed by district magistrates in recommending persons to fill such posts?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Government have been receiving complaints from various persons but so far Government have not been convinced of the truth or otherwise of those complaints."

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIYAPPA CHETTIAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of reorganizing the system of honorary magistrates as they have done in other provinces?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Government have no information as regards what has been done in the other provinces. But this Government is contemplating the reorganization of the honorary magistrates."

MR. V. S. R. M. VALLIYAPPA CHETTIAR:—"Will the Government introduce a national element into the system?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Every Indian, so far as I know, is a nationalist."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"May I know who is the authority on whose recommendation these appointments are made and who is the final authority for the appointment of these magistrates?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"So far as the recommendations are concerned, they are made by the district magistrates and the final authority is the Government."

MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—"Is it true that Government have appointed several full-time salaried headmasters and teachers of schools to these places, and if so, are they satisfied that they can efficiently discharge the onerous duties of honorary magistrates without detriment to their own responsible duties?"

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THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"One instance has been brought to the notice of the Government and in that case the persons who were paying them were satisfied that they could devote their time for doing this honorary work."

MR. P. BUCHAPPA NAYUDU:—"Is it the opinion of the Government that wherever these teachers have been appointed, independent non-officials were not available?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Perhaps the district magistrates thought that the persons whom they recommended were the best available in the locality."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know what is the minimum educational qualification that is required in the case of bench magistrates?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"It is not specified anywhere by Government Order."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that in recommending persons for the place of honorary magistrates, national interests are not considered by these district magistrates?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I am not aware of any such thing."

MR. R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to enquire whether national interests have been safeguarded till now in the matter of recruitment of honorary magistrates?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Every person, as I have already stated, represents the national interest of this country."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the appointments of these magistrates have been abolished in the Congress Province of Bombay?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"I think I have read something like that in the papers."

MR. D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"May I know whether the Government have any such proposal under consideration to remedy such things?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"No such proposal has been brought to the notice of the Government."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Is there any proposal with the Government to nominate village officers to these posts?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"There is no such thing as far as I know."

MR. P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"Is there any restriction placed on Congressmen who had defied Government and joined the Non-Co-operation Movement and undergone imprisonment in the past?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—"Not so far as I know."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister will see that persons who know something about the law are appointed as presidents, while there may be one or two other lay members?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" The question will be considered."

DR. MUHAMMAD ABDUS SALAM:—" May I know whether, if all the conditions are satisfied, there will be a reappointment of the same person for the second time?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Ordinarily they are appointed if no better men are available."

DR. MUHAMMAD ABDUS SALAM:—" May I know what the Hon. Minister means by 'better men'?"

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" Those who are more qualified, judged from the qualifications made mention of in answer to clause (*a*) of the question."

Illegal collection of licence fees from cycle owners in the Panchayat Board area of the Wallajabad Panchayat Board by its President.

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

(*a*) whether the President of the Panchayat Board, Wallajabad, collected licence fees from cycle owners without the sanction of the Inspector of Local Boards, and whether he subsequently got orders from the Government that such collection and subsequent inclusion of the names of those cycle owners in the electoral roll of the panchayat board was illegal;

(*b*) whether the President has refunded the licence fees illegally collected from cycle owners; and

(*c*) whether the Government ordered an enquiry regarding the above irregularities and what action has been or is proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (*a*) The president of the Wallajabad Panchayat Board collected cycle tax from the owners of cycles for both the half years of 1936–37 on the strength of the Panchayat Board's resolution No. 15, dated 30th September 1936, without the sanction of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards pointed out to the President, Panchayat Board, that the levy was illegal and that the tax already collected should therefore be refunded. The District Election Officer who prepared the electoral rolls of the panchayat refused to include the names of the assessees to the cycle tax under reference as the levy was illegal.

" (*b*) The Government understand that out of Rs. 24 collected the president has refunded to the parties all but annas eight on 1st October 1937.

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" (*c*) The Government did not order any enquiry and they do not consider it necessary to take any further action in the matter."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the District Panchayat Officer, Chingleput, made any enquiry about this?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I would like to have notice of the question."

Introduction of standard weights for weighing paddy.

* 261 *Q.*—MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there are no standard weights for weighing paddy; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the ryots are cheated by the traders as a result of this variation in weights in different parts of the same district?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" (*a*) No standard weights were prescribed.

" (*b*) No complaints were so far received."

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Will the Hon. Minister take steps to introduce standard weights in this Province as regards paddy and other agricultural produce?"

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

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" May I know the reasons, Sir?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" If there is any complaint, the matter will be considered."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—" May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government to bring in legislation to constitute Market Committees in order to control weights and measures and prices of marketable goods?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" The Government have under consideration legislation for weights and measures but not for all the purposes the hon. Member made mention of."

MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that many complaints were taken to the Government during the previous Ministry and that some sort of legislation was under contemplation but that the matter was dropped at that stage?"

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Not so, Sir."

Proposal to erect a new distillery for the supply of liquor to the districts in the Northern Circars.

* 262 *Q.*—MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is the intention of Government to arrange for the supply of potable liquor to the four taluks in the Northern Circars previously supplied by a distillery now situated in the Province of Orissa;

(*b*) if so, whether tenders for the supply of such liquor have been called for;

(*c*) if so, whether all the existing distillers in Northern Circars have been asked to tender;

(*d*) if not, why not;

(*e*) in view of the policy of the Government as regards prohibition, whether the Government have considered the suitability of the districts in question for further experiments; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to permit a new distillery to be erected for the supply of liquor to these districts?

THE HON. MR. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" (*a*) to (*d*) & (*f*) The Government approved the proposal of the Board of Revenue that the contract for the supply of arrack to the areas of the old Ganjam district retained in the Vizagapatam district of this Presidency after the formation of the Orissa Province, should be given for the year 1938–39 to one of the sugar factories in the Vizagapatam district and that tenders should be invited from them for this purpose. The successful tenderer will doubtless have to erect a new distillery unless he already owns one. The previous arrangement by which the supply was being made from distilleries situated outside the Madras Presidency was discontinued, as this Government were not in a position to exercise any control or supervision over such distilleries or over the manufacturing operations conducted in them and also as this Government have to pay a quarterly contribution to the Government of another Province towards the cost of supervision charges, although this Government could easily arrange for their own supply within the Province.

" (*e*) The question will be considered in due course."

Extent of fish canning industry in the Province.

* 263 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the extent of fish canning industry in this Province?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" The private cannery at Chaliyam is the only concern in the Presidency in which fish canning industry is carried on at present. This cannery has been thoroughly remodelled and it is understood that a few hundreds of tins of fish were canned in the last season."

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MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know if any new methods are being adopted in this industry, Sir?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I cannot say, Sir."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" May I know, Sir, whether canned fish are sent out to foreign countries?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" I have not got the information. But if the hon. Member will put down another question, I will certainly answer it."

Development of sericulture in the province.

*264 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the amount spent by the Government is for the development of sericulture till the end of last year; and

(*b*) the nature of improvement effected?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—" (*a*) The amount spent by the Government on the development of sericulture for the years 1920–21 to 1936–37 is given below:—

Year.	Expenditure.
	RS.
1920–21	10,591
1921–22	11,619
1922–23	12,330
1923–24	12,300
1924–25	11,227
1925–26	12,051
1926–27	12,331
1927–28	16,608
1928–29	8,057
1929–30	10,257
1930–31	23,073
1931–32	26,637
1932–33	25,301
1933–34	27,360
1934–35	27,734
1935–36	38,555
1936–37	41,750
Total ...	3,27,781

"(*b*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the annual administration reports of the Department of Industries which have been placed at the disposal of the Press and which give details of the improvement effected by the Sericultural section."

MR. N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know how far the local production has replaced the foreign production?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I want notice of the question."

Provision of house-sites to people belonging to the scheduled castes.

* 265 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the policy of providing house-sites for scheduled caste people is being continued; and

(*b*) what the amount spent on the same last year is?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"(*a*) & (*b*) Not only is the policy being continued but it has been further liberalized. The new system of aided acquisition was introduced in July 1936. In October 1937 it was modified allowing a deposit of 25 per cent of the portion of the cost to be borne by the applicants instead of 50 per cent. In 1936–37 a sum of Rs. 1,592–3–11 was spent in connexion with this scheme in the districts of West Godavari, Chingleput and Coimbatore."

MR. J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI:—"May I know how many acres of land were given last year?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I am sorry I have not got the information here. I would suggest to the hon. Member to put down another question."

MR. S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know how many persons were given lands?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"I am sorry; the information is not available. I would advise the hon. Member to put a separate question about that."

MR. G. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—"Does the system of constructing and letting houses for labourers still continue?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"It is the policy of aided acquisition for the scheduled classes that is being continued."

Loans outstanding from the industrial concerns defunct during 1936–37.

* 266 *Q.*—MR. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the concerns that failed during 1936–37 out of those helped by the Government with loans under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act; and

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(*b*) the total amount still due to Government out of the loans granted under the said Act?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"(*a*) No State-aided concern failed during the year 1936-37.

"(*b*) Out of the current loans amounting to Rs. 1,00,350 granted under the Act, a sum of Rs. 90,575-4-0 is outstanding."

MR. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"Are there any applications pending disposal with the Government?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"There are two applications pending at present."

Measures for the revitalization of the co-operative movement.

*267 *Q.*—MR. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the suggestion of the Reserve Bank of India to encourage the multiple purpose credit society in this Presidency;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the Co-operative Registrar's scheme of controlled credit recently issued; and

(*c*) which of the schemes referred to in (*a*) and (*b*) the Government have preferred and what steps the Government propose to take to revitalize the Co-operative movement?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"(*a*) & (*b*) Yes. A multipurpose society formed at Alamuru has been recently registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.

"(*c*) Both the schemes are being tried. The steps taken to revitalize the movement are given in the annual Administration Reports of the Co-operative department to which the attention of the hon. Member is invited."

MR. KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of using this multipurpose co-operative society as an agency for the distribution of the loans to agriculturists provided for in the Budget?"

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"It is a matter which will be certainly looked into."

Proposal to open a central museum of all products of local industry at the headquarters of each district in the Province.

*268 *Q.*—MR. D. RAMALINGA REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal with the Government to start and maintain a central museum of all products of local industry at the headquarters of each district in the Province of Madras; and

(*b*) whether the North Arcot District Economic Conference which met under the presidency of the Collector on the 21st January 1938 sent any proposal underlying the principle mentioned in (*a*) above?

THE HON. MR. V. V. GIRI:—"(*a*) The question is being examined by Government.

"(*b*) No definite proposal has yet been received from the Collector except what has appeared in the Press."

Short notice question.

Dates of elections in superseded municipalities subsequently restored.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. K. Varadachariar who has tabled a short notice question is not present in the House."

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi rose.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Are you authorized to put the question on his behalf?"

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"Yes, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question may be answered. The hon. Member will read the question."

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"I have not got a copy of the question, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Have you got authority in writing from Mr. Varadachariar?"

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"I have not got the written authority; but he told me about this last night when he left the place."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members will hereafter receive authority in writing if they want to put questions on behalf of others who may be absent; and they must have a copy of the question in their own hands. The Hon. Minister will read the question now."

MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"I have now got a copy, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Please read it."

* 268-A. *Q.*—MR. T. N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI (for Mr. K. Varadachariar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the notification directing the restoration of certain superseded municipalities issued recently contemplates election to take place during this month itself; and

(*b*) whether fresh orders fixing dates for the conduct of elections in these restored municipalities will be issued by the Government?

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

"(*b*) It has since been found that owing to unavoidable delay in the compilation of electoral rolls it will not be possible to hold elections to the municipalities under reference within 31st March 1938. Elections will therefore be held in the month of April 1938 on the dates which will be fixed in this behalf by the Election Authority, viz., the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards."

MR. K. SUBBA RAO:—"May I know for what other municipalities elections have been ordered, cancelling supersession?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Guntur, Hindupur, Chittoor and Wallajabad."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—"May I know when the elections to the other municipalities are coming of?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Tentatively, they have fixed for 69 municipalities of the Presidency the date of nominations on the 18th April, and the elections will be held on the 30th April 1938, and the counting of votes will commence from the 2nd May 1938."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether, when the dates were fixed, they did not realize what amount of time would be taken in the preparation of electoral rolls?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It was certainly taken into consideration; but unavoidable causes delayed the compilation of the rolls."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know what those unavoidable causes are?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"I shall get them from the Superintendent, Government Press."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Was it due only to the delay in printing or was it due to anything else?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Certainly it was due to nothing but delay in printing."

MR. P. S. SRINIVASA AYYAR:—"May I ask whether the dates will not clash with the dates of elections to district boards?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"No, Sir."

MR. D. RAMALINGA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister for Local Administration when elections will be held for such of those district boards whose term expires on the 31st March of 1938?"

THE HON. MR. B. GOPALA REDDI:—"In May 1938."

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

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The general discussion of the Budget will continue. The Hon. the Premier will continue his speech."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Yesterday, Sir, you were pleased to ask me to reply to the debate because there was no one else really wanting to speak and it was thought that possibly there might be some misconception with regard to the situation. I do not know if I am now asked by you to continue and finish so that the general discussion may be taken to have finished with it or whether other hon. Members wish to apply to you for participating in the debate, so that I may reply later. It will not do for me to go on now and then have to reply again. If other hon. Members wish to speak and if you are pleased to permit them, I should like to reserve my reply altogether."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The Chair has no information as to whether any hon. Member desires to speak at all."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. T. Pannirselvam rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Does the hon. Member want to speak? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Yes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Why was not the hon. Member present in the House yesterday? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I was not here at the time."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Why was not the hon. Member present here yesterday? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I am afraid, I cannot be called upon to give an explanation of my doings outside the Assembly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I am only asking him about what happened inside the House. The discussion was going on yesterday and the hon. Member was absent. How does he claim the right to speak now? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Shall we proceed to discuss the point? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Yes."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I believe according to the notice given to us the general discussion of the Budget must go on for three days."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Will the hon. Member please read the rule? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Rule 126 (1) says:

'On a day or days to be appointed by the Governor exercising his individual judgment subsequent to the day on which the Budget is presented and for such time as the Governor exercising his individual judgment may

allot for this purpose, the Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at this stage, nor shall the Budget be submitted to the vote of the Assembly.'

"It is this rule which gives us the right. The time allotted by His Excellency the Governor acting in his individual judgment for the general discussion of the Budget is 3rd, 4th and 5th March 1938. This is one of the days so allotted by His Excellency and therefore I would submit that the Assembly is at liberty to discuss the Budget to-day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Supposing on the first day, after the lapse of two hours there are no Members desiring to speak in the House, what is to happen? Is not the Finance Minister bound to reply?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It will depend very much on the circumstances. If you restrict yourself to the technical interpretation of the rules, it might be rather difficult. But, if circumstances are such as to indicate that there are other speakers who for reasons of their own are not able to be present on the first day, the more convenient procedure—I do not want to say the more correct procedure—would be to adjourn the House at that time to the next day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Chair wanted to know the circumstances which prevented the Hon. Member from being present here yesterday and participating in the discussion. The hon. Member has refused to give an answer."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"It is not a question of refusing. I believe you can understand the difficult situation which might arise if you ask individual Members to explain their own personal and private conduct, a matter in which this House has no concern."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is public conduct. The presence of the Members in the House is public conduct; equally their absence also is public conduct. If the hon. Member claims to exercise a right under rule 126, he should explain the circumstances under which he claims to exercise that right now when the discussion is over and when he had been absent while the discussion was going on and there was plenty of time for hon. Members participating in it."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I think we will be placed in an awkward position if we are asked to explain individual acts of ours and they are made public property."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member wants a relaxation of the rule and asks for re-opening the discussion after the Hon. the Finance Minister has started replying, he should explain to the House of which he is a Member and the House also is entitled to know why he claims the indulgence of the House for re-opening the discussion."

(At this stage the Hon. the Premier rose to speak.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member will have to reply before the Hon. the Premier comes to his rescue."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I do not claim any indulgence nor do I want anybody to come to my rescue if I cannot stand on my own legs in claiming my full right."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member has no right. If it is a question of right, supposing the hon. Member is not present at the time of the discussion and the discussion closes after one hour, can the hon. Member come here the next day and say that he has got a right to discuss the budget because three days had been allotted for the purpose? The hon. Member will please explain the position even technically."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Even technically speaking, I understand that rule 126 gives us the right. Rightly or wrongly the discussion has been adjourned to to-day and I want to . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" How can the hon. Member expect that the discussion would be adjourned to to-day if there had been no Members rising up to speak yesterday? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" It would be putting a hypothetical question to ask what would have happened if the debate had closed yesterday. But the fact remains that the discussion has been adjourned to to-day. So instead of raising the first point . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Does the hon. Member claim the right of interrupting the reply of the Hon. the Finance Minister in order to have his say on the general discussion of the budget?"

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I do not claim the right to interrupt the Hon. the Finance Minister. He is in the middle of his speech and he is entitled to precedence over other hon. Members. But on a technical interpretation of the rules, as I understand them, I would submit that I do not think that the fact that Hon. the Premier has begun his reply to the discussion which has gone on so far would, provided we are within the time allotted by His Excellency the Governor for the discussion of the budget, preclude any other hon. Member from claiming a right to speak. That would not of course mean that any non-official Member will have a final say in the matter; that right will always vest in the Minister of the Government. But that would only mean that the Hon. the Premier or whosoever it is who is speaking on behalf of the Government will have a right to speak more than once. That, as I understand it, is the rule. If you choose to differ from me you may give a ruling."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" It is not a question of the Chair differing from the hon. Member. He may argue the point. I have not given a definite ruling on the point. The question is still under discussion. The hon. Member may advance his arguments patiently."

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RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" There is no question of advancing arguments. There is rule 126 before us."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Supposing the hon. Member is absent from the House to-day and the Hon. the Premier finishes his reply by 5 o'clock to-day. Suppose the House meets to transact some other business to-morrow, if another hon. Member comes here to-morrow and wants to speak on the budget, should he be permitted to do so? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Techinically speaking, as I understand the rule, he should be. That is my interpretation of it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Does the hon. Member think that the interpretation will be reasonable? Supposing the general discussion of the budget is closed to-day and we meet to transact some other business to-morrow, if an hon. Member who is absent from the House to-day comes down here to-morrow and wants to speak on the budget as a whole, should he be permitted to do so? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" There is no question of reason or unreason when we are talking of technical interpretations. We are unfortunately bound by the actual wording of the rule."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" What is the wording? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" It might be that you differ from me but the wording of the rule is this:

> ' (1) On a day or days to be appointed by the Governor . . . the Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the budget . . .
>
> (2) The Finance Minister shall have a general right of reply at the end of the discussion.'

" If the Finance Minister replies even at an early stage of the discussion to the debate that has so far proceeded, it would not mean that the Finance Minister has exhausted his right of reply."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Suppose the discussion had closed yesterday as there were no Members wishing to speak on the budget, and the Finance Minister also had finished his reply yesterday. Will the hon. Member or any other hon. Member who was absent yesterday be in order in claiming a right to speak on the budget as a whole to-day? Supposing we close the general discussion of the budget to-day and some hon. Members who are absent from the House to-day turn up to-morrow, have they also got a right to discuss the budget again to-morrow? "

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" As the rule stands, I think they will have the right."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Then the hon. Member is thoroughly wrong."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"If the Speaker differs from any hon. Member . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does any other hon. Member wish to speak on the point?"

* MR. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"Sir, I am afraid I am one of those Members who must throw themselves on the indulgence of the House as I also wish to speak in this debate, although I absented myself last night in order to escape from the intolerable tedium of the debate. I have already discussed the matter with the Leader of my Group and I think he will bear me out when I say that I claim no right whatsoever in the matter. I wish to throw myself on the indulgence of yourself and of the Hon. the Leader of the House as to whether in due course I may be permitted to make my remarks on the budget. (Cheers.) On the general proposition that if there are no further speakers, the Finance Minister has a right to reply after which it will not be possible for anybody else to claim any right in the matter, I am and I think the Leader of my Group also is in full agreement. I therefore, as I say, do not claim that I should speak as a right but purely by way of your permission with the indulgence of the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members of the Opposition will be permitted to speak. That is the correct attitude which hon. Members should take up. Mr. Langley will now speak."

* MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid that rule 126 (2) is really binding on the House. The Hon. the Premier had already started winding up the discussion yesterday on an invitation from you to reply to the debate. If he does not continue his speech now and some other hon. Member is allowed to speak, I think the Hon. the Premier would have exhausted his right of winding up the debate and the debate should be considered to have been closed. This is really not a matter of indulgence but a matter of rule. Members who are aware of parliamentary practice and I think the Hon. the Minister for Education who is conversant with parliamentary practice will bear me out when I say that when once the Chancellor of the Exchequer is asked to reply to the budget debate and he has spoken, the budget debate is at an end. I do not think it is really a matter for indulgence, but one which has to be governed by strict rules. The House is bound by the rules and I hope that you will not misunderstand me if I say that the Chair also is equally bound by the rule."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member speaks of parliamentary practice which is broken by hon. Members times without number. (Laughter.) Hon. Members of the Opposition were accommodated yesterday by the relaxation of the discipline of the Congress Party with the result that most of the speeches on the general discussion of the budget were delivered by hon. Members on the right so as to prolong the debate till the end of the day. Therefore parliamentary practice

was not observed because the Ministerialist Part was accommodating on all matters including questions, adjournment motions and supplementary questions. The needs of the Opposition were being generously met by the Members on the right wing and so there is no question of parliamentary practice. This House is having a practice of its own." (Laughter.)

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—" I have raised a point of order and I request you to give a ruling whether rule 126 (2) does or does not apply and whether we can proceed with the discussion to-day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Apart from parliamentary practice, is itn't it? "

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—" Yes, Sir."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" While it may suit us all, Sir, that you should give these indulgences, I think we should not however proceed with a confused understanding of the situation. Regarding your remark that the House has not been strictly abiding by the conventions and practice of the Parliament at London which they should with advantage do—that was I believe, the implication of your remarks—we need not imagine that we have broken them so much as to deserve a rebuke from you.

" I think, Sir, that you have, most of all, helped in maintaining those traditions; and however much the conditions of this country might make those conventions inapplicable, on the whole, I think this House has been very creditably following the parliamentary conventions of Westminster. And where we really differ, it should be only under your instruction and guidance (laughter); and we may take it, Sir, that we are all quite willing to be corrected and brought back into line with the Mother of Parliaments, should you at any time think it necessary to do so. 3-45 p.m.

" Then, as regards the particular point under discussion, I think it is better that we understand it clearly, as that question may arise again hereafter. It is true, Sir, that the Government presents the Budget and the Governor in his individual judgment puts down the dates for general discussion, among other things. The claim is that the allotment of days in that programme gives, so to say, a right to every Member to come up on any of the days so allotted for general discussion, that the House should sit and hear him and that the Speaker should permit him to do so. It may even come to this: that every hour also out of the allotted days should be available to him for the exercise of his right and that a gentleman who goes away, say, at 5 o'clock, can come back at 6 o'clock and say: 'Where is the House? I must have it; this day was allotted and the time is there, and it is mine.' I do not think we can apply a rule to the day, if we cannot apply that rule to the hour. Therefore, we must consider it in a more reasonable way. The time that is allotted is the time that is allowed to the

Speaker for regulating the proceedings. It is the maximum. It is not possible for the House to go outside it; but the normal procedure of the control of discussion is in the hands of the Speaker and must be governed by a general and universal practice, viz., that if at any point of time during those three days settled, there is no discussion claimed and there is nobody in the House or in the lobbies who can be brought back by the Whips to participate in the debate, the debate must be taken to have closed; that is the only reasonable and convenient way in which discussion could possibly be taken up. Otherwise, it would lead to the most anomalous situations and the claim can easily be made that at any part of the day between 3 and 8 p.m. that we have fixed, a Member can come and claim the right to speak. So that, even as we must sit each day though there is nobody to speak, we must sit every hour, though there is nobody to speak. It would be a most unreasonable way of interpreting the rules. Therefore, Sir, the rule as understood by Mr. Langley and as explained by you, Sir, would seem to be the correct understanding with which we should disperse. It was argued as a point or order—and that is the reason why I am taking up your time on the present occasion—that I should continue to reply and that Members should again begin to debate and that I should reply again. That would be a most inconvenient way of proceeding with the business.

"Another point was raised as a point of order, that I should finish and no Member should be allowed to speak. There was difference in interpretation with reference to this matter, and some amount of confusion might have arisen. It is obvious that Members would consider it unfair if they were prevented from being allowed to participate in the debate on a strict interpretation of the rules, however reasonable it might be. So, it is for you, Sir, to permit any Member who really claims the right—not a right exactly but only an indulgence—to speak. But I should not be asked to reply in parts but to reply once for all. That is all I have to say, Sir, on this matter."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Does any other Member want to speak on the point? (After a pause.) A point of order has been raised by Mr. Krishnamachariar. Evidently, he wants a ruling on the point of order."

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—"Yes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Section 84 of the Government of India Act provides for rules being made by the Governor for securing the timely completion of financial business. It is under clause (*b*) of the proviso to sub-section (1) of that section that these rules have been made. That does not preclude rules being made by the House on the same point; because, under sub-section (1) 'a Chamber of a Provincial Legislature may make rules for regulating, subject to the provisions of the Government of India Act, their procedure and the conduct of their business.' The Provincial Legislature has got full rights of making regulations

and rules for the whole of the adjectival law, irrespective of any rules made by the Governor. The Governor also can make rules, and it is only when there is a conflict between the rules made by the Legislature and the rules made by the Governor that the proviso at the end of sub-section (1) of section 84 comes into operation. And that is, 'if and in so far as any rule so made by the Governor is inconsistent with any rule made by a Chamber, the rule made by the Governor shall prevail.' This House has got the plenary powers of rule-making; and the timely completion of financial business does not necessarily imply the fixing of the very details which have been hitherto fixed under the system of dyarchy which previously obtained. These are only the previous rules subject to certain modifications and adaptations that have been made provisionally by the Governor to suit the convenience of the House. This House will have to make the full procedural law hereafter, and at that time, the time-table with regard to financial business also may be laid down by this House. Until then, the time-table fixed by the Governor holds good, and that time-table simply gives the number of days for the general discussion. It does not mean that the full time should be occupied. Supposing the discussion is finished within two hours, the House may close the discussion and adjourn once for all for the voting of Demands for Grants; and no Member of this House can come on the third day or the second day and claim the right of addressing an empty House—which does not even sit—and a House which has even adjourned. Even supposing the House sits for the second day or the third day, no Member shall have the right to come and address it when the Finance Minister has finished his reply. Fortunately, in the present case, the Finance Minister's reply was not finished last night. The question is whether this House which regulates the procedure, has not got the right to say that the debate shall stop there and whether this House cannot permit the other Members to speak. I hold that it is an enlargement of the rights of the House, as conceived before, and that is not precluded by any rule of procedure. At any time this House can say that a particular Member who wants to close the discussion may stop and the exigencies of the situation may require that other Members should be allowed to speak in order to throw more light. So, the Finance Minister may stop his speech at that particular stage and other Members may be allowed. As Mr. Langley has put it, it may not be a strict, and technically correct interpretation; it may be an indulgence which the Chair gives on behalf of the House. The House has got the plenary powers and the Chair always as representing the House and as the custodian of the rights of the House, interprets the rules of the House. As such, this enlargement of the rights of the House to allow Members even in the course of the reply of the Finance Minister—which may be stopped temporarily for the moment—does not mean that the rules are broken. It may not be strictly in pursuance of parliamentary practice, as the hon. Member Mr. Krishnamachariar has put it; but exigencies of the situation may require elasticity of procedure. As such, I rule that hon. Members who were absent yesterday by some mistake or misconception or under the impression that the

proceedings might go on with the help of other Members in the House, will be permitted to speak, and that the Finance Minister may reply at the end."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, one difficulty may arise . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The ruling of the Chair has been given on the matter." (Laughter.)

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" I am not saying anything about the ruling. I just wanted to say that some of the speakers hereafter may treat the reply of the Finance Minister as a part reply and refer to it in their speeches. That is the difficulty I wish to point out."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The whole thing may be taken as his Budget speech. That is an advantage which the hon. Members of the Opposition have scored over the right wing, because the right wing helped them to continue the discussion to-day."

THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I do not at all grudge any such advantage being taken, Sir." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The general discussion on the Budget will now proceed."

* MR. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to speak on this occasion; at the same time, I offer my humble apologies to the Hon. the Finance Minister for interrupting him in the course of his remarks. For, although I did not hear him yesterday, I think I was in extremely good or perhaps bad company, because at least for two hours before I left the House there was not a single Member on the front Opposition benches. However, I won't labour that point further.

" I must turn now to the Budget. My leader, Sir William Wright, has already expressed our general views on the Budget; and it is only my intention to make a few brief observations on points which especially affect my own constituency which is the planting constituency of the Madras Presidency. Sir, the Budget is, in the opinion of experts such as the late Walter Bugehot, a good budget, because he claimed that a good budget should always be a little humdrum, and that, I think, can well describe the present Budget. Now, although we had almost expected that the Prime Minister would chastise us with scorpions or at the least with whips, we are agreeably surprised that we are not chastised at present with anything; and I hope that the admirable revenues of this province may long continue to keep the rod from our shoulders.

" Now in the first place on behalf of my own constituency I have to thank the Hon. the Finance Minister for being good enough to make provision in his Budget for the usual contribution to the funds of the United Planters' Association of a sum of Rs. 21,000. It, I may remind the House, used to be Rs. 28,000 but it was in the year 1931 cut down

owing to financial exigencies to Rs. 21,000 at which figure it has remained ever since. We should have preferred the higher figure but we are grateful for this small mercy shown to us.

" This particular grant to the United Planters' Association is often, I think, misunderstood, and it is quite possible that it may be misunderstood on this occasion also, and I therefore venture to anticipate any remarks which might be offered in that regard later on or possibly under a ' cut motion '. This particular grant is only a small fraction of what the United Planters' Association spends on scientific research. It is devoted to research in connexion with tea and research in connexion with coffee, and as far as the coffee is concerned, I may say that this contribution, even the whole of it, only represents a very small amount compared with the considerable sum that is being devoted annually by the Mysore Government towards extensive research in connexion with coffee.

" As I said, the United Planters' Association themselves contribute a very much larger sum than that amount, from their own funds, and it is our intention to find ways and means by which the amount now subscribed may be increased. I would also emphasize that this scientific research in connexion with tea and coffee like all other research, when anything valuable is discovered, is open to and for the benefit of everybody whether they are members of the United Planters' Association or not. I think the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture will bear me out when I say that quite a large number of Indian planters, particularly in the Nilgiris do not contribute at present—although in due course we hope they will in large numbers join the United Planters' Association—towards this scientific research but they receive the full value of it just the same as the largest group of companies who happen to subscribe on a very large scale. That I say is but right and proper in connexion with scientific research.

"But it has been said by Samuel Smiles that God helps those who help themselves, and as I indicated, it is our intention, if possible to increase the expenditure on scientific research. We shall not claim any further sum from Government, although we hope they will be good enough to continue their present contribution. But we shall venture —in fact we have already entered into negotiations to that effect— to ask the Government to be good enough to help us in the matter of assisting our industries to tax themselves in order to provide the necessary funds for scientific research. It is only reasonable that such research should be paid for in proper proportion by everybody who is getting benefit from it, and we therefore desire that some means may be found for financing it, preferably by means, if possible, of a cess to be added to the land revenue when it is collected, both on tea and on coffee and possibly later on on rubber as well. That cess should be collected as I said by the same agency of the Government that collects the land revenue. This burden will not come down on the general taxpayer. It will be paid entirely by the industry as a whole, and the amounts so collected will be administered in the interests of the industry

itself, if necessary with the help of a Committee with suitable representatives from the Government. As I said, we have entered into negotiations on this matter with the Government and I believe the Hon. the Finance Minister is not unsympathetic and that in due course when proper proposals are put forward, the Government may be pleased to assist us in the manner I have indicated.

"Now the next matter which is of supreme importance to all planters in this Presidency—in fact it is a subject on which great stress has been laid from many quarters—is undoubtedly the question of labour, and I am afraid it may be necessary in due course to discuss this matter at fuller length under a 'cut motion.' But at the present moment, as I have already done in several places outside this House, I should like to testify on the floor of this House, to the very sympathetic attitude which the present Government has displayed in connexion with labour matters in what are called the plantations in Southern India, and more particularly perhaps in the Anamalais, where we had the pleasure of having in our midst both the Hon. the Ministers, the Minister for Agriculture and subsequently the Minister for Labour himself and I feel confident that they must have been satisfied with what they saw there, as they expressed nothing but appreciation and sympathy—and more particularly the Hon. the Minister for Labour—in connexion with our labour problems.

"But at the same time I am afraid I must just slightly cloud these observations, because while the Ministry itself have been most kind and sympathetic, I am afraid I cannot altogether say the same thing in respect of some of their supporters. I am aware, of course, that the whole of labour in the Presidency is at present in a very disturbed state. I am afraid we need not go outside the City of Madras in order to find that. Well, it would be impertinence on my part to attempt to lecture the Hon. the Premier in connexion with this matter or any other, for he knows the art of politics much better than I do. But it is a truism—and a truism which must present itself to the present Government of Madras—that no Government can possibly govern satisfactorily unless its power to maintain law and order is properly enforced. To let that go, would inevitably, as Lord Lothian has remarked recently, lead to damaging the prestige of the Government very seriously, and consequently the desire to maintain order whenever there is a disturbed condition in labour matters, must, I feel sure, be ever present in the mind of the Government itself, and particularly of the Hon. the Premier. But as I have remarked, outside this House and even perhaps closer, there are elements, very disturbing elements who, although, they act and speak as being members of the predominant party in the Presidency, do not, I fell convinced, do so with the approval of the Government. Whether they do so or not, the fact remains that there is a most insidious propaganda going on which is not only causing great concern to all employers of labour but is also, in my opinion, exceedingly damaging to the Government itself, unless the Government controls matters in a very firm way.

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" I will just take one instance in one particular planting district with which I am concerned. This is the district which has been visited by the Hon. the Minister for Labour and, I am sure, he had found the conditions there comparing most favourably—in fact more than favourably with those obtaining in other planting districts and particularly with the conditions in other agricultural districts of the Province. We had a most wonderful speech on this subject in this House from the Parliamentary Secretary Mr. N. S. Varadachari not long ago. In spite of that, every week on shandy days agitators are going from the low country up to that particular district and are attempting to stir up labour in every possible way they can, and they are in effect nullifying the extraordinary good effect which the visit of the Hon. the Minister for Labour had upon the labour of that district and I feel it most regrettable that such a state of things should continue. I venture to commend this most seriously to the Government of the day, with the hope that they may be able to exercise some control over those who profess themselves to be their followers and who are carrying on this, as I have remarked, extremely insidious movement and propaganda.

" I now turn to the other matter which has been the subject of considerable discussion and which must be very much in the mind of the Hon. the Minister for Labour in connexion with plantation matters, and that is the question of general improvement of the conditions and welfare of workers. Well, I know he has very high views on these matters, and I know that he is of opinion that while conditions are tolerably good he would like to see them still better. With that general proposition we all agree. We are only too anxious to raise the general standard of the people of this country, because the higher the standard of the common population the more will they be spending and the larger the quantity of products they produce and consume and in due course we might be in the happy condition of being able to be dependent on this country, so far as the problem of consumption is concerned, instead of shipping our produce overseas with all the risks attaching to markets that lie far away, over which we have very little control and which are subject to changing tariff barriers and such other difficulties which we are not faced with here.

" As regards this matter I sincerely hope that the Hon. the Minister for Labour will act with due caution. We employ a very large number of labourers, and to give just one instance of what a small increase may mean, I shall take the case of an ordinary one thousand acres unit. In that plantation area, supposing you were to increase the pay of the labourer by even one anna—no doubt that does not seem to be much, yet that one anna increase in the daily wages of the labourer in an estate of one thousand acres, would mean an addition to estate costs of somewhere between 20 and 25 thousand rupees per annum. That would have the effect of wiping out the average profit that such an estate can expect to make and if capital cannot find reasonable remuneration it would simply fly elsewhere, and if capital disappears, labour would disappear and there would be unemployment. That is therefore another matter which I wish to commend to the consideration of the

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Hon. Minister for Labour when he is considering those ameliorative measures which he rightly feels it his duty to bring into effect, in which so far as we can we wish to assist him.

" I was very glad to see in the budget references by the Premier to rural water-supply. That is a matter of intense interest and close concern to my constituency, and I may claim in the matter of improvement of rural water-supply and also in such matters as anti-malarial and anti-hookworm measures—all which tend to improve the health of the labour and rise the standard of efficiency of the workers in this country, we have been pioneers. For one of the first things that anybody running an estate must do is to ensure proper water-supply for the estate and take proper measures to safeguard the health of labour; for, as I said these are all matters which tend improve the efficiency of labour. In fact when the late John D. Rockefeller, who amassed a huge wealth by the sale of kerosene oil, endowed his foundation to combat Tropical diseases, he did so for his own benefit as a commercial magnate. For his wealth largely depended on raising the efficiency of labour which in turn led to increased wages and increased purchasing power. In the same way, we on our plantations do our utmost to increase the efficiency of labour by adopting those measures which also happen to react to the benefit of the people themselves. I say we are pioneers in this respect, and so we welcome the measures the Hon. Premier is going to bring about with regard to increased water-supply in the rural areas of the Madras Presidency. I can only hope that this will be followed up by anti-malarial and anti-hookworm measures. Anyway I regard the provision of water-supply as by far the most important proposal put forward in the budget. I therefore venture to congratulate the Hon. Premier on the considerable provision of funds he has made for rural water-supply, and I am perfectly certain he will not be satisfied with this, but that he will insist that the contributions under this head should be increased in future budgets. In fact, that is so important an item that as Sir William Wright put it yesterday we have no hesitation in accepting the principle, and that such measures for raising the standard of health and efficiency of the country are suitable measures for being financed by loans instead of from current revenue. Because we are certain, and here we are in full agreement with the Government, that the money so spent will be got back in due course, if not directly at least indirectly.

" I now turn finally to a subject which is ever present before planters, and that is the question of roads. And here I must say, I view with considerable dismay what the Hon. Premier said when he unfolded the budget. The whole implication of the important paragraph on this subject on page 9 of the budget speech seems to indicate that he intends to reduce expenditure on road works down to the very minimum. It is absolutely certain to my mind that this is an extremely short-sighted policy. For to put aside a comparatively small sum of money for repairs to roads now would mean the saving of thousands and thousands

of rupees a few years hence. In fact it is one of the fundamental principles in connexion with a major work of this nature, or machinery, or any plant, for that matter, of any description, that once you allow it to get into disrepair, it will cost you afterwards enormous sums to put it right. Whereas if you put all such works in proper order as occasion arises by increasing small expenditure, then you will not have to incur any sort of major expenditure later on. So I fear if this policy is continued all the roads in the Presidency will deteriorate at an alarming rate and with repercussions in several ways, which despite all attempts, it would be impossible to restore satisfactorily. We find in connexion with the question of land revenue it is generally the reply of Government that it is difficult to grant any particular relief to the agriculturists as far as actual cess is concerned, and that the agriculturists must find means of improving their marketing facilities and to that end Government are prepared to assist by appointing marketing officers and so forth. To this end I claim it is for the Government to provide agriculturists with roads and other means of communications for carrying their produce to the most convenient market. I am not suggesting that roads should be opened only to the ports. I only suggest that roads should be opened or improved so as to provide easy access to the railways. In short I hold that the general system of communications must be maintained in good condition for the proper marketing of produce, and here I speak for all agriculturists, and not alone for my own constituency. I would once again press this point of view upon the Hon. Premier with the hope that he will adopt a rather more liberal policy in connexion with roads than appears to be the case, judging from his remarks in this particular budget.

Sir, I have no other observations to make except to reiterate, what my leader said, how happy we are to see the Hon. Premier back here restored in health, and I can only express the hope that his next and successive budgets, which I hope he will introduce for many years to come, may prove as satisfactory as that which we are now discussing." (Cheers.)

* RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech introducing the budget with its reference to the ' haunting ghost of the old dyarchy refusing to disappear from its old haunts and attachments and casting a pale shadow over the autonomy of the representatives of the people ' and to the necessity for that ' evil spirit being exercised ' and the nightmare of federation and the melodramatic suggestion of an ever-impending resignation, the learned and scholarly discourse on prohibition and its merits and the too oft-repeated reference to the ' health, welfare and prosperity of the people, whom we have the honour to serve,' seem to me, Sir, to be better fitted to the Congress House than the Assembly Building at Chepauk. But with the Premier delivering even a matter-of-fact, business speech as a budget speech, a propagandist touch was perhaps inevitable. But that is by the way.

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" Turning now to the budget, it is no doubt a surplus budget, a surplus over which I think the province can well congratulate itself, a surplus, however, for which no credit is due to the Ministry. The surplus, as hon. Members will notice is made up mainly of two items, for one of which the Ministry is by no means responsible and the increase in the other is in spite of the Ministerial activities. I refer to what was, I consider, rightly described by the representative of the Anglo-Indian community to be the windfall of the income-tax contribution from the Government of India. I say it is a windfall in the sense that it was unexpected, that for bringing it about we are not responsible and that it comes from a source beyond our control. The increase under the other head, i.e., ' Excise ' is in spite of the activities of the Ministry. I must, however, point out that the first source of income, namely, ' Income-tax ' is a very uncertain source at least for the next five years. About the other source, it is certain to be progressively diminished year after year till it is completely wiped out. Anyhow the fact remains that these two sources give a surplus. So far so good. But with this surplus and an unexpected saving in Expenditure both under Revenue and Capital, we notice this curious feature, that while we open this year with a free cash balance of 125·75 lakhs, we shall be closing the year with a balance of only 109·88 lakhs, a shrinkage of about 16 lakhs, a fact over which, I think, we ought to pause and ponder. However, these two items, namely, Income-tax and excess income under Excise, help to keep us buoyed up for the time being, and we are thankful.

4–30 p.m. " I will now turn to that portion of the Budget for which we can really hold the Ministry responsible. And what is it we find? First, the question of land revenue, our main source of revenue. Sir, we were led to believe when the Congress Ministry accepted office that we were going to be relieved to a considerable extent from this huge and intolerable burden of heavy land taxation which sits on the agriculturists. We find however that we stand exactly where we stood on the date on which the Congress came into office. On that date, it had been already decided that there should be a remission of Rs. 73·15 lakhs and that is exactly the same amount that we are going to allow this year again and mark the word ' concession.' Even in the next year it is going to be a mere temporary concession and not a reduction of a permanent character. The old assessment still stands to be revived or reimposed in future if necessary. So we stand where we were and we are assured that ' the policy of land revenue is ' in the time-honoured language, ' under the anxious consideration of the Government.' Their policy is still in the incubatory stage and how long the incubation process is going to take God alone knows and when the process comes to an end, it might after all turn out to be addled egg.

" Next, Sir, as regards new taxation, we are again kept under suspense. New sources of taxation are under the very anxious and deep consideration of Government. What shape the new taxes are going to take, how they are going to be distributed and on whom they are going to

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fall, we are left absolutely in the dark. I can only endorse the hope expressed by the Hon. Leader of the European Group yesterday that when new taxation is to be imposed and legislative measures for the purpose are introduced in this House, we will not be hustled. True, Sir, we were treated the other day to a discourse on the difference between 'quickness' and 'haste' a difference not easily perceptible. (Hear, hear.)

"Just one word, Sir, about the increased registration fees, which came into force on the 1st January 1938. I said, Sir, that the weight on the agriculturist stands as it exactly stood on the day on which the Ministry assumed office. I must perhaps slightly amend that statement. The position, if anything, has worsened. After all, the major portion of the registration fee in an agricultural province like ours is going to fall on the agriculturist. While with one hand you appear to give 73·15 lakhs, you are taking away with the other an amount varying between 4 to 5 lakhs. I would submit, Sir, that this is really worsening the position of the agriculturist. Why do we do it? Because, we have the example of Bombay and Bengal. Well, Sir, when it is a question of debt relief, when it is a question of prohibition, Madras is the province for others to follow, but if it comes to the imposition of taxation, well, we are to follow Bengal and Bombay.

"The next method by which the Government hope to balance the budget is by the reduction of the salary of Government officials. With reference to that, Sir, I should just like the Hon. the Prime Minister to give us information on one point. In introducing the last budget, Sir, he said, 'We cannot reduce the salary of the existing incumbents and officials without obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State for India for which we propose to apply.' Sir, no further information has been furnished to us as to whether the Secretary of State's sanction has been applied for, and if so, with what result. I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister would be able to furnish information on that point.

"There is just one other point on which I should also like to have information from the Hon. the Prime Minister. In reducing the salary of the various Government services, I think, a distinction should be made between the services in other departments and those in the Judicial Department. For, in the interests of efficient administration of justice, it seems to me, Sir, that this should be placed specially under the protection of the High Court and outside the ordinary purview of the Government. I should like to know in regard to the proposal to reduce the salary of Judicial officers, whether the Chief Justice of the High Court was consulted and, if so, whether his recommendations were accepted. The High Court and its Chief Justice are specially responsible for the proper administration of justice in the province and any interference with that department over their heads would be dangerous. Well, as regards the reduced scale, Sir, no fresh argument can be advanced against any sudden and drastic reduction of the salaries of officials. All that can be said has been urged times out of number and

we shall probably have the same replies. The Hon. the Prime Minister will tell us as before that it is not the amount of income that a person derives that safeguards the rectitude and propriety of his conduct. But I can only say human beings are not angels. They are not free from ambition. They have got their own demands on their earnings. It would be the duty of any Government to see to it that these public servants are kept above temptation. And, if you are going to reduce the scale inordinately I am afraid that you would be shaking the very foundations of the administration with disastrous consequences. To clearly understand the implications of your new proposal, let us take the specific case, say, of a District Munsif, who is on the eve of being promoted as a Sub-Judge. Under the present scale he is now getting a salary of Rs. 600. If, say, three months from now, he is promoted as a Sub-Judge, he exercises his jurisdiction which becomes extended and his responsibility will be greater. What is it that you are going to pay him? You convert his present pay of Rs. 600 to Rs. 560 salary *plus* a personal pay of Rs. 40 and there he would stand for all time to come. It may be all right to be very optimistic and to have belief in our countrymen and their character, etc. But I submit that even our countrymen must not be allowed to get disgruntled. They must be kept above temptation; their anticipations should not be thwarted altogether and all of a sudden like this.

" The next item under which the Government propose to make more money is the honorary medical system. Well, Sir, I believe that it is ill-advised to make this very dangerous experiment. We have heard rumours and stories about the practice which is obtaining even now, even among paid medical officers who are allowed to run private ' Nursing Homes ' and things like that. There have been complaints about proper treatment not being meted out to deserving patients. People who are supposed to be getting free treatment have very often to pay people in the hospitals and if you are going to abolish all these paid medical officers and employ in their places honorary medical men with a pittance of allowance which you call an honorarium, I am afraid that you will ultimately be depriving the general public of the medical aid which they are entitled to expect at the hands of the Government. While I am on medical officers, I might refer to one other fact. If I remember rightly, I believe a Government Order was recently issued that the appointments of medical officers are not hereafter going to be made on the principle of communal representation. If I also remember rightly, just a few months back, the Hon. the Premier gave this House an assurance that the principle of communal representation in the matter of appointments to services was not going to be affected. How would this principle of the communal representation being not applicable to medical services, be consistent with the statement of the Hon. the Prime Minister that the principle followed in the past was not going to be disturbed. Would I be far wrong if I presume that this is just an indication of the cloven foot which we feared from the moment the Congress came into office? Sir, again, these medical men are going to be appointed

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not on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission which has been specially constituted to see that the services are all free from political influences. These medical officers, I find, are going to be appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Surgeon-General. Sir, under the Government of India Act, the police are outside the purview of the Public Service Commission and now the Medical Department is going to be taken out of it. If you go on at this rate, there will be no need for the existence of the Public Service Commission at all. What will become of the principle of appointment to public services being free from all political influences?

" Next, Sir, for the sake of economy you are going to free from the jails an unlimited number of prisoners. We have been seeing reports of what is already happening and we find that the District Magistrates in the districts or the Chief Presidency Magistrate in Madras is present at the jail gates preaching a homily for five minutes and then these prisoners are being sent away from the jails—a homily as to how they should behave in the future. Do you really think that this is an experiment which, merely for the sake of economy, we ought to indulge in? Is it not a dangerous principle to release from jails persons who have been sentenced to definite periods of imprisonment and kept in jails, from the point of view of the protection of the rest of society if not for anything else? This is, Sir, I submit, a shortsighted policy to bring about economy. 4-45 p.m.

" Then there is the exodus to Ootacamund. It is expected that by stopping this a saving of half a lakh of rupees is going to be effected. On this question I wish to say nothing more than this, that at the end of three months we should see what remains of this half a lakh after meeting the cost of the innumerable trips and visits to the various parts of the province by the ten Ministers and the ten Parliamentary Secretaries. I do not say that they ought not to go on these visits. I am only pointing out that the so-called saving on account of the stopping of the exodus is, in the language of the Hon. the Premier, a delusion.

" Next, Sir, I come to the expected income of one lakh of rupees under the Sale of Cloth Act. Even when the Act was passed, it was stated that it was not primarily intended as a taxation measure. Now, if it was not so intended, what was it for? It is said that it was for the encouragement and production of handloom cloth. Sir, there is no one in this House who does not want to encourage handloom products. They deserve encouragement. They require encouragement. But, at the same time, I would say that mill products also deserve encouragement. We must remember that ours is essentially an agricultural province and that we have made very little advance in industrial development. We have a considerable headway to make industrially. When the world all around us is rapidly arming and industrializing, how are we, if we are going to be an autonomous country, to arm ourselves similarly if our industries do not keep pace with the progress made all around us? Sir, this tax on mill-made cloth is not going to afford

any encouragement to the handloom product. Our action in this respect is very much like this: There are two boys, one of them forward and intelligent and the other a bit backward. We want to give encouragement to the backward boy and so we pat him on the back and then we catch hold of the forward boy and give him a slap on the face, or a rap on the knuckles. Will it not while encouraging the backward boy, positively discourage the forward boy? This measure will have practically that discouraging effect on the mill industry, while it affords no encouragement to the handloom products. This is merely a gesture of dissatisfaction on your part with the mill product. That seems to me a very bad policy to adopt. I think the mill product should be encouraged as much as the handloom product. Sir, there is room in the country for both of them to thrive side by side. There are people who use both kinds of cloth.

"Turning next to education, Sir, we are going to have economy effected by abolishing the uneconomical schools. How are you going to find out which school is uneconomical? You take a map, you draw up squares and you say that there should be a school here or no school there. Is it correct to say that there should be no school at a place if a particular number on the rolls which you prescribe is not there? Do you think that a proposal like that is practicable particularly with regard to elementary schools? I am speaking with some knowledge of geography of the deltaic areas. In deltaic areas we find a revenue village which consists of half a dozen hamlets each one of them separated from the other by well over a mile and a half, with broad channels and unbridged rivers in between them. If we are to have one school only for all these hamlets on the ground that the number of boys attending the schools is small, we will be putting these children below 12 to the greatest possible inconvenience. For the sake of economy if you close down a number of schools, just as you are letting out prisoners from jails, you will be denying the education to our children.

"Sir, under the head 'ameliorative measures for scheduled castes,' I am happy to find increased provision. But I am afraid when we come to the actuals we may find that the increase is not very much more than what was spent in the previous years. We have made a provision of 11·24 lakhs of expenditure, but the actual figures for 1936–37 are Rs. 8·98 lakhs. As the Hon. the Premier has pointed out in another place, it is seldom indeed that the provision that we make for any item is wholly utilized. I would be happy if the whole of the sum allotted for the uplift of the depressed classes is utilized this year.

"Coming now to prohibition, Sir, a confirmed anti-prohibitionist that I am, it would be no matter for surprise if I am rather sceptical about the success that will attend this scheme. At the same time, I might state, Sir, that the period during which we have made this experiment is far too short for any one to come to any conclusion. While I may not agree with the conclusion arrived at by the Premier that the

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scheme has been a complete success in Salem, I am equally not prepared to accept the other theory that it has proved a failure. The time has been far too short to come to any one conclusion. But I would like to point out that as we go on, the difficulties attendant on enforcing prohibition will increase. When you first introduce it, you generally find enthusiastic young men coming forward to work for it; but, as time goes on, enthusiasm is bound to evaporate and the supervision exercised by both official and non-official agencies is bound to slacken. Simultaneously the activities of the law-breakers, the boot-leggers and illicit distillers will increase and they will get time to organize themselves. After all, human nature being avaricious, when money could be made easily, there will be a strong incentive to illegal methods. When I point out these possibilities, Sir, it should not be inferred that I do not wish the experiment to be a success. Though I am an anti-prohibitionist and am against the introduction of compulsion in this matter, I shall be happy to see that excessive drink is stopped. I do not, however, agree with the Kumararaja of Chettinad in thinking that all drink, even a moderate drink, is evil. I might also state, Sir, that if this experiment proves a success no one would be happier than myself. It is certainly right to take away the temptation to drink from those who cannot afford it. But my only fear is that it may not be a success. I hope that my fears will prove unfounded. If the Hon. the Premier really succeeds in effectively eradicating the evil from this land there is no greater service that he can do to the country.

" Turning to schemes of new expenditure, I wish to say just a word about one thing alone and that is the teaching of Hindustani in 125 schools for which provision is made in the budget. Sir, the Congress people have been giving it out from various platforms that this Government is not merely a responsible Government, but also a responsive Government. Talking about responsiveness, I might in passing state, Sir, that till this minute I have not been able to understand what it was that so terribly upset the Hon. the Premier the night before last when I referred to the Government having responded to the demonstration outside. Nobody ever said that the demonstration was improper or illegitimate. I certainly admit that the demonstration was got up for a very proper purpose and for the redressal of a very legitimate grievance. Assuming that the Government response to the amendment of my hon. Friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, was not really affected by the demonstration, and that the decision had been arrived at even in advance of the demonstration, where was the offence implied in the statement that the Government were responsive, unless it be that the contact which the Hon. the Premier has had for the last eight months with the bureaucracy has influenced him rather than his influencing the bureaucracy to such an extent that he thought that it was a slur on him if it were to be said that he has responded to public demonstration? "

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I am sorry to have to interrupt the hon. Member, Sir. He is referring to a subject which was touched upon in connexion with a bill which was disposed

of the other day and some shadow of relevancy is pitched upon it for bringing it up again. It would be a pity if I allow it to go in without an explanation from me. He seems to be urging there was nothing wrong in his having referred to the demonstration having produced the necessary preparedness for accepting the amendment. He says in that connexion that as Premier I have got spoiled by a certain amount of contact with the bureaucracy. I submit that these remarks are hardly necessary for the debate. The hon. Member should be the first to understand, having held responsible posts in the Executive, that the responsiveness to demonstration is wholly different from becoming bureaucratic. I wish therefore as a personal explanation to point out that he need not pursue that topic unless he proposes to say something very useful to the debate on this subject."

RAO BAHADUR SIR A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I referred to it only because there may be occasions hereafter to refer to the responsiveness of the Government to public agitation. I shall immediately refer to the irresponsiveness of the Government on the question of Hindustani.

5 p.m. Am I to understand that the Government have not realized the feeling in the country in the Tamil Nad about the introduction of Hindustani, how no Tamilian is going to allow his mother-tongue to be strangled by the proposal to make Hindustani compulsory at an early stage for the I, II and III Form boys who are already encumbered with an over-burdened syllabus, who have to learn Tamil and English? All the same you are going to impose the condition of learning Hindustani and to make it compulsory. It would be bad enough if you state that the subject would form a part of the syllabus for being taught. That does not seem to be the idea; you seem to introduce the teaching of the subject in 125 schools, and to compel the boys to learn this third additional language. Why is it? Does the Hon. the Premier realize the feeling in the country about it? Why this irresponsiveness? Is it because the Congress Committees have not passed resolutions about it? Is it because people outside the Congress have passed the resolutions? Even Congressmen in meetings outside this House have been saying that this should not be allowed to go on in this country. I am not able to see the point in the compulsion of learning Hindustani, unless it be you want to have one national language for the whole country with a population of 350 millions spread over the area of this country. As I had an occasion to say in another place, that is absolutely impossible. How are you going to impose this language and to make it compulsory for the boys of the I, II and III Forms? We have had the experience of boys relapsing into illiteracy even after a schooling of two or three years. You are going to teach Hindustani for a few hours in a week. Are you going to impart real knowledge in this language? What will be the proportion of people who are going to take advantage of it? It will be perhaps 1 per cent of the population of our province. What can be the object, unless it be that you want to get hold of the opportunity and to impose it during the period when you are in power? It seems to be that the imposition of Hindustani on the people will be an autocracy of the worst type.

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" Next, Sir, there is the provision for the development of hand-spinning and hand-weaving. You propose to distribute the money on the certificate to be given by the All-India Spinners' Association, which is, I believe, a subsidiary body to the Congress. Is it intended to encourage the village industries? Then why speak of hand-weaving and hand-spinning alone? That is not the only industry which you can find in the country. If you are really honest about encouraging the village industries which would serve as a supplementary source of income to the ryot, it ought to be different kinds of industries suited to the various parts of the province. Each area has got its own peculiar situation and peculiar circumstances. The Government should aim at helping such industries as are suited to the people, if you really intend to benefit the people. On the other hand you want uniformity throughout the whole province in hand-spinning and hand-weaving. You have allotted a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for this purpose.

" Then there is the provision of Rs. 50 lakhs for the relief of and to accommodate people whose debts are going to be scaled down under the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act. If it is really intended to benefit the people, it seems to me that Rs. 50 lakhs is a drop in the ocean. The debt that has to be covered in this province is to the tune of Rs. 200 crores. Rs. 50 lakhs forms just 25 per cent or 4 annas for every hundred rupees. If you are really earnest about it and if that is your principal object, this sum is quite inadequate. Perhaps you merely want to add one more item for parading from the platform that you have done this for the indebted agriculturist. If you intend to give substantial relief, I submit that the amount ought to be many times this sum of Rs. 50 lakhs. These 50 lakhs of rupees are not going to afford any real relief to the people.

" As regards the ameliorative measures you seek to provide for, we are particularly thankful to the extent to which you have made provision. It seems to me that not one of the ameliorative measures which you propose, is new. There is nothing novel. There was so much talk about the Congress orientation of the budget; we heard it at the time of the last budget; we hear it now also. Nothing has been done which had not been already thought of by previous Governments. The previous Governments also had been spending money on rural water supply. We are thankful for the provision made in the current year's budget—Rs. 1·50 lakhs. What can you really do with this amount? What has been the progress? Eight or ten wells in each district for 18 districts, altogether about 180 wells for the whole province. I do not say that you can dig wells everywhere with a stroke of the pen. I am only referring to it to show that this budget is more or less a humdrum budget; you have made provision for various things in the same manner as it has been done in the past; there is nothing in it on which you can really congratulate yourselves.

" In conclusion let us try, if possible, to peep through the smoke-screen of the very clever speech of the Hon. the Premier and visualize the future as it would be after the year 1938–39. Well, with decreasing

sources of revenue, with an uncertain contribution from income-tax, with the Excise revenue diminished, with the incubus of the land revenue sitting heavy on the agriculturists, with the Damocles' sword of fresh taxation yet hanging over people, with the children going uneducated because of the abolition of your uneconomic schools, with the sick people being ill-served by reason of the introduction of the honorary medical service in the name of economy again, with an ill-paid, disgruntled and dissatisfied group of civil servants in consequence of your reducing their salaries unreasonably to look after the whole administration, with the agriculutrists' usual source of credit choked off by reason of your Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act with the mere mockery of affording relief by a provision of just Rs. 50 lakhs to cover a debt of Rs. 200 crores, with all these things as our future, I would submit that there is nothing over which we can congratulate the Ministry."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I wish to join the chorus of congratulations that were showered on the Hon. Premier over the lucid budget that he has presented this year. Beyond the fact that the budget has been presented in a lucid manner and that the Hon. the Premier has endeavoured his utmost to try and see how the budget can be balanced with a small surplus, I am afraid the budget does not stand the acid test of how far he has endeavoured to give permanent relief to the poor in this province. I am afraid even the Premier of a responsible Government has adopted the policy that has been pursued in the past. The Finance Members in the past had only one thing before them and that was to see how best to collect cent per cent of the revenues, without any reference to the economic or uneconomic condition of the tax-payer, whether the tax-payer was able to meet the demand that was made on him by the Government. They did not take into consideration the fact that the condition of the agriculturist was becoming worse and worse day after day, when they prepared the budget. Even the Hon. Premier of a responsible Government does not seem to have taken into account the condition of the people from whom the tax is sought to be collected. The Hon. Premier is responsible to this House as every other Minister who leads the party in this House as a democratic party and they have not taken into account the condition of the people in this province whether they are in a condition to pay the taxes or not. If they had done that, they would have come forward with a Bill to regularize the land revenue policy of this province. There has been a demand from the people and it is a legitimate one, asking the Government to come forward with a Bill on the subject of land revenue and to pass it. They elected a progressive party in such large numbers and they expected that that party's first act would be to try and regularize the system of land revenue of this province. During the last six or seven months, instead of going straight to the solution of that problem, the Government has been trying to tinker with it.

5-15 p.m. "We have seen the passing of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Bill in this House, which has not yet become an Act. I do not know what the fate of that Bill will be and what exactly the future is going to be,

and what vicissitudes might come about in case the Act is turned down. Sir, we have seen, as I said, the passing of a measure which perhaps was expected to give relief to the agriculturists, the people who pay more than half of the revenues of the province. In spite of the fact we have agreed to the main principles of the Bill, it is a forlorn hope that we should expect that the Bill will become law, and would give relief to the agriculturist. His position as the backbone of the province will certainly not be improved by this Bill. I would like to ask on this occasion, Sir, what other measures the Government are contemplating with a view to give relief to this class of people? I hear that instead of giving relief to this class of people it is generally stated that there is going to be a measure brought in this House which will add to the burden of the agriculturist tax-payer in this province. I understand, Sir, that the Government is contemplating a measure which is called the Agricultural Income-tax Bill. I do not know how far the Government is going to proceed with that measure, whether the Act will be passed in the House, whether it will be of good help to the agriculturist or whether it is going to be an additional burden on him. We know, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier in his budget statement has told us that a good deal is being done for affording relief to the agriculturist by way of remission, by way of cutting down the grazing fees and by some other means and by also providing half a crore of rupees to help the agriculturists by way of loans. These are certainly very favourable things so far as the agriculturist is concerned; but the burden of the agriculturist is so vast that these small reliefs will not go a long way to help him so far as his primary needs are concerned. I therefore hope, Sir, that this Government will soon come forward with a measure which will regularize the land revenue in this province.

" The Hon. the Premier in his statement also said that the Government is going to borrow another sum of money, more than what they borrowed last year, this year and that is about 175 lakhs of rupees. Of course it is true that this amount that they are going to raise by way of loans is not going to be spent so far as the current needs are concerned and that this amount is going to be set apart towards more capital expenditure. All the same, Sir, I am afraid that the Government should not add to the burden of the tax-payer more and more, year after year by raising loans every year. They raised a loan of 150 lakhs of rupees last year and they intend raising a loan of 175 lakhs of rupees this year. I do not know whether the Government will be right, whether this is sound finance, whether it is right, although we may be very much in need of money and whether it is sound to add to the burden of the tax-payer year after year. I think the new debt is a heavy sum and it is not a burden on the party in power because the party might be in power to-day and might not be in power to-morrow, but the burden remains on the tax-payer and he has to reap the results of what the present Government does. Therefore it is not right for any party to force a burden on the tax-payer in this manner.

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"I am glad, Sir, with regard to the question of salaries that the Hon. the Premier has not touched the salaries of the existing incumbents, although he intended to do that originally. I am glad that he changed his mind and the cut on the salaries will not affect the present incumbents but will only affect new entrants and those who are to be promoted. (Interruption by an hon. Member), I understand of course. I do not stand to be corrected. I understand the whole thing correctly. I know that certain classes of the present incumbents will be affected but they are certainly those who will be promoted from one grade to another. I do not think the hon. Member is right if he thinks that the present incumbents include those people who will be affected by promotion to other grades. The Hon. the Premier ought to have made the thing clearer than what it is to-day. There are some difficulties raised on account of the scrappy manner in which the communiqué has been issued. I hope therefore the Government will look into the matter and make it clear that the cut in the salaries of the new grades will affect those who are promoted from one grade to another.

"Well, Sir, we have been making complaints to the Government of the past that the administration was top-heavy. Well, I think the same might still be repeated now, namely that the administration is top-heavy. No doubt some burden has been taken away in the shape of cutting the salaries of the new entrants. This is certainly a step in the right direction. But the Hon. the Premier has not yet acceded to the demand of the people when he said that he was not prepared to reduce the number of supernumerary posts in the service of the Government. There are many posts in the Government departments which can be easily abolished without any detriment to the administration. In answer to such a demand the Premier said that that was unnecessary because he was suggesting reduced salaries for the servants of the Government and that under such circumstances it would be unnecessary for the Government to remove or abolish any of these posts; and I think, if I remember right, he also said that that will go to a certain extent to solve the problem of unemployment. Sir, that is what I believe the Hon. the Premier said. If these are the reasons for refusing to look into the matter of abolishing certain supernumerary posts maintained in the departments of the Government, I am afraid, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier has not yet examined the question thoroughly."

* THE HON. MR. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"It is rather undesirable and it will lead to confusion when the hon. Member has said that he consulted me in the matter of certain posts and that I was unwilling to do away with unnecessary appointments because I was cutting down the salaries of some other people. If there are unnecessary appointments and if I am convinced of that, I am always prepared to do away with them. What I then said was that there was no such appointment according to my information. Reduction in the salaries does not compensate for maintaining useless posts; but I join issue on the statement that there are such posts. Though it might mean the same thing, the hon. Member's speech will lead to the confusion that I have definitely adopted the policy of keeping unnecessary posts."

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MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" I am glad that the matter has been made clear. I am glad that the Hon. the Premier's mind is open and that he is certainly prepared to pay attention to any suggestion that will be made by any Member either from the Opposition or from his own party to let him know that there are a number of posts which are supernumerary and which can easily be abolished. I am glad to know further that if once he is convinced he is prepared to abolish those posts. That is all that I want the Hon. the Premier to do. I say this, Sir, because we must reduce the expenditure of this administration; I say it is top-heavy and the tax-payer has been asked to maintain this top-heavy administration, because in the past the point of view of the Finance Ministers and the Government used to be that expenditure came first and then came the question of how best to collect the revenue to meet the expenditure. That was the policy that was pursued by the Finance Ministers of the past and that was the policy that was responsible for burdening the tax-payer with more and more taxes. I hope that there will be a change in the policy of the present Government and that expenditure would not come first. The revenues should come first and then the question of expenditure. In order to meet the expenditure of the administration the Government should not ask the tax-payer to pay. Therefore I hope, Sir, that the policy of the Government will undergo a change and that the Government will meet the expenditure from the amount of revenue that the Government is able to collect without burdening the tax-payer more.

" Sir, in this connexion, although it might appear to be paradoxical, I might add a word of complaint, that the Hon. the Premier has not in any way, whatsoever, either by suggestion or otherwise, tackled the question of unemployment in this province, which is becoming very acute and intense and might become very very difficult for the people to bear any longer. We have been asking the Governments in the past which were as my hon. Friends have been saying, irresponsive and irresponsible, to tackle this question and the reply that was given by them was that they were not prepared to tackle, because it was a vast problem and it was not also within the jurisdiction of the Government of this province to tackle the problem of unemployment. It did not matter to them how many people were unemployed, how many educated people and how many skilled and unskilled labourers were starving and this problem did not seem to them to be a matter of importance. But, might I ask the present Government, whether they can say the same thing now? I hope they cannot. And, when they cannot say the same thing, why not they make a beginning by at any rate collecting statistics of the unemployed in this province and spending some initial amount on the matter, so that they can build upon it and see whether they cannot find ways and means of tackling the problem in a practical manner.

" Sir, the Hon. the Premier when he introduced the last Budget some six months ago, made a provision of two lakhs for spinning. I thought that it was going to be managed by the Government department

itself, but from the communiqué issued subsequently, it was found that it was going to be handed over to the All-India Spinners' Association. I do not know exactly in what manner it is going to be managed by them. Whether it is going to be merely an advisory body or whether they are going to hand over the entire amount to that body, I am not able to say. All the same, my fear is that the All-India Spinners' Association is going to have a very big hand in the administration of this large sum of money. I have known the administration of the All-India Spinners' Association and the way in which they have been functioning at any rate in the Tamil Nadu during the last 10 or 15 years. I do not know whether they would be helping all the communities or are going to neglect or ignore the interests of certain communities which have been very useful so far as spinning is concerned. I do hope that when the amount is going to be administered by the All-India Spinners' Association, they will certainly take into account this fact, that this money belongs to the people and when it is especially given by the Government of the province as such, it must be made useful to all the classes of the community concerned.

"The Hon. the Premier has stated in his Budget statement that a good deal has been done to afford amenities to the people of this province by way of a planned policy for rural water-supply. They have also, as I have already stated, reduced the grazing fees. They are also going to extend prohibition to two more districts after the 1st of October next. I agree with the Hon. the Premier and the Collector of Salem that the prohibition scheme has succeeded very well in the Salem district and that it is time it should be extended to other districts in the province as well. I am glad that the districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah have been included in this year's budget for the extension of the scheme from October next, because on the last occasion I pleaded for the Ceded districts and I am therefore glad that one of the districts in that area has been included. I hope in the next year, the other districts in that area will also be included in the scheme. I am not one of those who cavil at or are opposed to the prohibition scheme. But I am wholeheartedly in favour of the introduction of prohibition in this province. But, might I ask, while we are introducing prohibition in one district and propose to extend it to other districts in the coming years, is it not moral, is it not just and is it not right that we should also have some control over consumption in the other districts? What is happening now is, that while there is prohibition in one district, consumption is increasing in the other districts. When the Government believe in the evil of drink and that it should be stopped, should they not also try and see that consumption should be controlled in other districts where there is no prohibition instead of allowing things to go on as merrily as they have been going on all these years? There is also this question to be considered, namely that there is the increase in revenue from excise in the other districts on account of increased consumption. Should they not have some control and should they not tighten their hold over the Excise

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Licensing Board and should they not remove the toddy shops from objectionable places? But, nothing of the kind is being done by the department and yet we have this practical policy of prohibition having been introduced in one district and being introduced in the other districts in the subsequent years?

" Another point, Sir. Government are aware that our province is not as healthy as it should be and that the health of the province is becoming worse and worse. In regard to malaria, although the Government have done something to tackle the problem, yet malaria is spreading throughout the province in the same way as before and I am afraid that the disease is assuming an epidemic form and unless the problem is tackled in a proper manner, I am afraid the health of the people of the province will become worse. Previously plague never used to be so very prevalent. I understand that it is now assuming more or less an epidemic form in places like Ootacamund and Coonoor. Therefore, I suggest that the health administration of the province will have to take more severe and active measures in order to prevent its spreading from district to district.

" So far as the educational policy of the Government is concerned, I daresay hon. Members of this House are by this time aware that the Hon. Minister in charge of education is pursuing a very uneconomic policy in endeavouring to close down what are termed to be uneconomic schools. I know that there is much wastage in education and I know that more money is being spent on uneconomic schools. But it will certainly be a ' penny-wise and pound-foolish ' policy if, by closing down the schools, you deprive the children of all communities from getting the education that they have been receiving, however meagre it may be. Though, I may have other opportunities of speaking on this question at the time of the voting of demands for grants, here I would like only to say that the policy of the Government so far as Muslim education is concerned, is undergoing a change for the worse. I need not detail here how it is undergoing a change for the worse and how Muslim education is suffering and will suffer, but shall take the opportunity later on at the time of the voting of demands for grants. If the present policy is to be continued I fear a day will come when Muslim education will practically become nil. The Hon. the Minister for Education when answering questions in regard to adult education stated that his hands were full and that he could not give any time for the consideration of a proposition for the introduction of adult education however important it might be. The Hon. Minister evidently is not here. I wish he were here for I want to tell him that the replies that he gave to questions were certainly not satisfactory and the manner in which he gave his replies was far from satisfactory; he probably feels that so far as education is concerned—he appears to be very much annoyed—Hon. Members of this House have no right to ask questions of him. Sir, the department of education is an important one and the question has to be dealt with in a very careful and sympathetic manner . . . "

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Does the hon. Member think that the manner of answering questions by Ministers could be appropriately referred to in a Budget speech?"

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" I am prepared to bow to your ruling Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I hope the hon. Member will not continue in that strain any further."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" I bow to your ruling and I humbly bow to your ruling and would certainly not go against your ruling at any time. So, I stop there.

" Sir, I was speaking about adult education. Adult education is very, very necessary and I do not think that the Government can give up consideration of such an important question as adult education. It is a demand that has been made by our people for a very long number of years. Governments of the past have not been paying any heed to that question. I hope at least the responsible Government of the day will introduce adult education in the province in the same manner as they are trying to introduce the Wardha Scheme of education in one district and that they would introduce adult education at least in one district or some area like the Ceded districts or in any of the backward areas. Or they can even introduce it in the City itself to start with to show that they are prepared to accede to the wishes of the people. I have nothing more to say except to thank you, Sir, for the kind indulgence that you have shown me so long. With this I resume my seat."

* MR. H. S. HUSSAIN:—" Mr. Speaker, the Budget is too good to be criticized. Unfortunately the Congress Premier has not left any scope for us the Members of the opposition to say anything against it. As a matter of fact, I for my part would have very much liked to criticize the Budget in all its aspects; but however much I may wish to criticize it and however much I may try to find loop holes somewhere, I confess that I have not been able to find any room for criticizm. I do not want to praise the Hon. the Premier for the sake of mere formality which is usually observed on occasions like this in the legislature. But figures speak for themselves and I hope it is not necessary for us to congratulate the Premier and shower encomiums on him. The Budget presented to us bears eloquent testimony to his sincerity and honesty of purpose.

" Though there is nothing in the Budget to criticize, I would like to take this opportunity of sounding a note of warning in regard to the Government's policy of borrowing. Wise borrowing when occasions demand it, is good and quite essential; but borrowing, more often than not, like the drinking habit, has a tendency to persist and in course of time it may even become chronic. That is my fear and so I submit that in the matter of borrowing the Government should see that it does not become chronic. For otherwise I feel that at some future date it

may become necessary to have some other kind of prohibition to eradicate this evil also. What is true in the case of individuals so far as borrowing is concerned, will be true in the case of States and Governments also. We see how the canker of debt has been eating into the vitals of the agriculturists and how the Government have been forced to stop it. That is why to-day I sound a note of warning against the policy of borrowing.

"There are two features of the Budget which have impressed me most. One of them is the boons of the Budget and the other the economies effected and shown in the Budget. The boons are the grazing fee concession, loan of 50 lakhs of rupees to agriculturist debtors, the repetition of the land revenue concession to the same extent as in the last fasli and the starting of a fund for a comprehensive scheme of water-supply with an initial contribution of 15 lakhs. These boons, though inadequate, are quite good in themselves and I am sure that they will be received throughout the country with great joy. These boons, I hope, are only an earnest of what is going to come next in its full measure. With regard to the provision for the loan of 50 lakhs of rupees to the agriculturists debtors, I feel that this loan will not be adequate and will not go a long way in providing the relief to the debtors. The Government will have to get ready with other credit schemes to enable the debtors to pay off the scaled down debts with all convenient speed; for otherwise the effect of the wholesome measure, which I fervently hope would be put into operation without further delay, will be lost. With regard to land revenue concession which is going to be repeated in the coming year, I have only to say this much. The repetition of the concession that was granted in the last year will not alone be sufficient and I am afraid, if it is going to be repeated year after year, it will not satisfy the longstanding demand of the people. The Government may for various reasons find it difficult at this stage of their finances to give substantial relief in this matter. But I hope that when the position improves they will grant a substantial reduction in land revenue. I may tell the Government that people will not be satisfied with repetitions of this concession year after year. Only the other day, the Hon. Minister for Revenue was pleased in answer to a question to state that the principle on which the land revenue policy of the Government was based was that 50 per cent of the net produce was the share of the State. Whatever might be the principle the fact remains that it is too heavy a burden for the agriculturists of a poor country like ours to bear. Be it noted that the basic industry of our province is agriculture and all efforts ought to be made to make it prosperous. The policy that the Government have set before themselves can be seen from their election manifesto and that is that the land tax ought to be reduced by 25 per cent at least. Combined with a substantial reduction of land revenue, the Agriculturist Relief Act that will shortly be put in operation will be the greatest and in fact the only way of granting relief to the agriculturists and I hope thereby the condition of this basic industry will be improved.

" There is also a negative boon and that is that the Government have no immediate intention of imposing any fresh taxation. It has been made quite clear in the Budget speech of the Hon. Premier that the unpleasant task of imposing fresh taxation is the subject of a critical examination and that it will take some time. So we expect that though not in the immediate future at least in the near future some more burden will be imposed on the people of this province. I would request the Hon. the Premier before imposing fresh burdens that he may be pleased to remove or at least considerably lighten as far as possible the existing burdens.

" The other features of the Budget as I said before are the economies by way of salary reduction, stoppage of exodus to the hills, the introduction of the system of Honorary Medical Officers and the release of prisoners. I am sure that in the long run the Government will get a substantial saving on these accounts.

" Coming to the question of education, I want to stress even at the risk of repetition the demand of the Muslims for a special provision with regard to their education. We have been stressing in season and even out of season that the Mussalmans who form a great community, an important community, a major community among the minority communities, stand in need of special treatment with regard to their education. It is a well-known fact that the Muslims are poor and are becoming poorer.

3 p.m. (At this stage Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai took the chair.)

" Therefore it is quite necessary that their interests, especially their educational needs should be given special consideration. I need not remind the House that the minority communities including the important minority community of Muslims form the component parts of the machinery of the great Indian nation. It is but right that every component part should be kept in a sound condition and it is, therefore, necessary that they should be developed on proper lines and strengthened. Therefore I want to stress on the floor of this House the necessity for separate schools for Muslims and concessions in the matter of fees. It would be but doing bare justice to this community if the Government are pleased to consider the special demands of this community and continue the separate schools and grant fee concession until such time when it may be thought that special concessions are no longer necessary. It is quite essential that this community which forms an important part of the whole nation should be made stronger.

" Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about the budget surplus. Sir, I am not enamoured of budget surpluses. I may at once say that a well-balanced budget leaving perhaps a small surplus is the budget that is required. Every pie that is taken from the people must be returned to the people in the shape of services or other benefits. It is not at all a good policy and no Government which calls itself a popular Government

will ever think of saving and hoarding money. A budget disclosing a large surplus does not deserve any praise at all. If this is the criterion of a good budget, the present budget is more or less like it.

" Sir, the Hon. the Premier has presented a very good budget and he has conferred some boons on the people of this province. He has also at the same time adopted measures of economy. While the Government is conferring boons on one side, and at the same time it is borrowing money on the other side and also losing large slices of its revenue on account of the introduction of prohibition in one district and its extension to two other districts, it may appear, but I hope it is not so, that the candle is being burnt at both ends. I only hope that the present Government under the able guidance of the Hon. the Premier will always be on the alert and take care to see that the candle is not burnt at both ends but only at one end."

* Dr. M. J. SAMUEL:—" In offering a few remarks on the good budget presented to us for the year, I have to thank the Premier at the very outset for the very generous way he in which has dealt with the famine stricken areas in Ceded districts. The word Rayala Seema has appeared in the Budget Speech quite a good number of times which shows that some care and attention is bestowed on these unfortunate people living in Rayala Seema who are constantly subjected to famine and pestilence.

" To eradicate famine and root out epidemics such as cholera and other waterborne diseases the people of Royala Seema require a comprehensive Scheme of water-supply both for irrigation and drinking purposes.

" The present Government has studied the needs of the Ceded districts and provided a few lakhs of rupees in the budget for starting famine works in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool. I humbly submit Sir, that this sort of relief to a few labouring class people is no relief at all. There are thousands of ryots who are owning large tracts of land but are drowned in debt on account of these recurrent famines year after year. The ryotwari population with a certain amount of social status are not coming forward to work at the famine works but are famishing away in unknown quarters for want of proper food and clothing. I appeal on behalf of these unfortunate men and women Sir, who are almost starving in spite of their large landed property to start permanent protective works throughout the Ceded districts. Furnishing a few lakhs of rupees every year in the Budget will not solve the problem of famine relief in the Ceded districts. Instead of spending these few lakhs every year on some road works to give temporary relief to the starving labourers, it is highly advisable that the amount is directed towards some minor irrigation works to groups of villages. Our districts are not wanting in tanks and reservoirs for storing water at such seasons of the year when the monsoon is favourable to them. The only regrettable defect in all these tanks is that either the source of water-supply is cut off for want of minor repairs periodically or the tank beds have become very shallow.

[Dr. M. J. Samuel] [4th March 1938

"I would urge on the Government to direct the funds amounting to 75 lakhs allotted again this year to give relief to the agriculturists by way of land revenue remission to undertake some minor works of irrigation to groups of villages in the Ceded Districts. I humbly submit that these land revenue remissions do not reach the agriculturists at all. I know from personal experience that they are lost somewhere and I should like to suggest that next year these remissions amounting to Rs. 75 lakhs should be utilized on some minor irrigation works.

"Except the Kurnool–Cuddapah Canal Project which had been undertaken some 40 or 50 years back no other useful irrigation project of importance has been taken up by the Government, though there were recurrent famines in the districts. The Thippayya Palem Project in Kurnool district is nearing completion and I don't know exactly how far it would meet the irrigation needs of the people of Markapur taluk. The Siddhapuram tank in Kurnool district under which the former Government had spent a considerable sum did not serve any useful purpose to the agriculturist as the tank is almost dry during the major part of the year.

"I would request the Hon. Minister for Public Works on behalf of the famine-stricken people of Cuddapah and Kurnool districts that the following minor irrigation projects be undertaken to ward off famine:—

The much talked of Velgode project should be revived in Kurnool district on a smaller scale and the large number of tanks lying along the foot of the Nalaemalai hills in Kurnool district should be supplied with water by spending a few thousands of rupees every year in repairing these channels of water-supply.

The Mutialapad tank in Kurnool district is a big tank capable of irrigating a few thousands of acres of land, but it is now able to irrigate hardly two to three hundred acres of land, because the channel coming from the hills is diverted elsewhere. A few thousand rupees will be sufficient to repair these neglected sources of water-supply and make large tracts of land extending over many villages richly fruitful to the agriculturists. As it is at present the ryot is paying a high water-rate to the Government, though he is not enjoying a drop of water from the tank.

Thirdly, there is another tank in Cuddapah district, viz., Paramboti cheruvu in Badvel taluk, which needs urgent repairs. A small rivulet of Sagileru runs through the broken bund of this tank; and I would urge on the Government to undertake such minor irrigation projects which will be highly beneficial to the remote villages in the district. A memorial signed by a number of villagers has been submitted to the Minister for Public Works and I hope he would do his best for these villages of Etukullapadu, Ambavaram, Mallaipalle, Chenchayyagarupalle and Eddulayapalle (Badvel taluk), Cuddapah district,

by constructing a small bund of 1 furlong length between the two hillocks.

" Coming to the question of prohibition, we are glad, Sir, that our neighbouring districts of Cuddapah and Chittoor are taken up this year for the operation of the Prohibition Act. It would have been a wiser policy to have introduced prohibition, in Kurnool district instead of Chittoor as these two districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah are similar in their mode of living, manners and customs and even in the matter of committing crime. The reports of the Excise department would clearly show that there were more illicit distillation cases recorded in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts in the past years.

" The Jammalamadugu taluk is almost jutting into Kurnool district and I am afraid the people in the villages bordering on the Kurnool district can easily walk over into the other villages to have their usual drink of toddy or arrack; or carry out their operations of illicit distillation in the villages of Kurnool district.

" Before prohibition was introduced in Salem district, the people were thoroughly prepared to accept the scheme of prohibition. I am afraid the scheme may not work successfully in Cuddapah district. (An hon. Member: why not?) Because there has been very little propaganda work carried on in this district.

" On behalf of the Indian-Christian community in the central districts, I assure you, Sir, that the Indian church will stand by and help the popular Ministry in introducing prohibition throughout the districts in our area. The Dornakal Diocesan Council of 300 strong representing nearly two lakhs of Christians, met the other day at Bezwada in the first week of January and unanimously passed a resolution upholding the action of the Government in introducing prohibition in the Madras Presidency and promised hearty support for the enforcement of the Act throughout their diocese. In this connexion, Sir, I may say that the Christian church in Dornakal diocese has done more than any other organization in putting down this evil by vigorous propaganda against the drink evil.

" With regard to education, the closing down of some of the mission elementary schools in the districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah is causing great inconvenience to the Christians and poor Depressed Class people. I think, I am not exaggerating matters when I say that the missions have catered to a great extent, not only to the educational needs of urban areas but largely to the rural population, mainly the Christian and Depressed Class people.

" There are some instances, Sir, where the mission schools which were run for 40 to 60 years were closed down as ' uneconomic.' Those schools served all communities in the villages faithfully in the past and now they are put down as back numbers, because there are not sufficient number of pupils to warrant their continuance. I would request

the Government, Sir, to reconsider their decision and pass orders for the continuance of these schools which have done and are still doing yeoman service to the educational needs of the community.

"Finally I am glad, Sir, the Congress Government has reduced by half the present rates of grazing fees in forests throughout the Presidency to redeem their election pledges. The whole agricultural population will be grateful to the present Ministry for this privilege extended to them so graciously even at the expense of losing a large portion of their forest revenue. But I would like to point out to Government that there is an invidious distinction made in charging grazing fees at a higher rate of one rupee per animal in the case of the Sugalis, Lambadis and other hill-tribes while the ordinary ryot is charged only half of it in the Kurnool district. I would request and pray to the Government to kindly consider the desirability of charging uniform grazing fees for all people alike whether they are hill-tribes or residents of ryotwari villages."

3-15 p.m. * MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Budget has received the general approval of even the Opposition members who are ever critical of Congress policies and Congress activities, it is not for me, a member of the party in power, to expatiate on the excellence of the Budget. It is essentially a Budget for the masses, and there lies its excellence.

"As regards prohibition, it was believed that Malabar would be selected this year. The Hon. the Premier's tour and speeches engendered that hope. The natural protection against smuggling afforded by the sea on the West and the Ghats on the East, ought to have been made a ground for selecting Malabar. More than one-third of the population are Mussalmans. A large number among the Hindus are also free from the vice of drink. An atmosphere for prohibition already exists in that district. We hope our turn will be at least next year.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Appadurai Pillai objected to prohibition this year also on financial grounds. May I ask him one question? Suppose we can make money for building temples and churches by robbing our neighbours or going on war with them, will he justify the method for the erection of temples and churches? So also, the collection of excise revenue, by robbing the poor for the purpose of education and other important nation-building activities, cannot be justified. If a thing is bad, it has to be put an end to as quickly as possible.

"With respect to the subject of revenue, the people of our district are pleased with the remissions and are able to understand that no permanent reduction is possible without a closer investigation which may involve delay. The complaint is with respect to waste lands converted into garden lands. Suppose I plant a few coconut trees this year and put up a fence round the plot. After three years, it is assessed to permanent revenue. The Government do not wait to collect revenue until the trees become fruit-bearing. Hence the incentive to plant coconut trees and other fruit-bearing trees is becoming diminished.

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" We, though of Malabar, suffer on account of irregular monsoons that we have been having in recent years. With respect to agricultural operations, I think it is highly necessary that an investigation into the minor schemes that are possible in the taluks of Walluvanad, Ernad and Palghat should be attempted. They are the main paddy-producing taluks of the district. In this connexion, I may be permitted to state that when I approached the District Collector to give us the aid and advice of his revenue subordinates at a proposed Irrigation Conference, the District Collector replied that the rules prohibited assistance being rendered to me and the people at such a conference. This is curious. I do not know if the revenue officers exist for the people or the people for the revenue officers.

" As regards rural water-supply, I find only eighteen districts are selected. I apprehend that Malabar may not be one among them. I want the Hon. the Premier and the other Ministers to believe me when I state that there are villages in the district where there used to be large scarcity of water during two or three months in a year. I request that a list of such villages, though few, might be prepared and the benefits of the scheme might be extended to those villages also. The soil of the district is extremely porous and is not capable of retaining rain water throughout the year.

" Sir, great injustice has been done by the introduction of the photostat system of registration in our district. The system is not as cheap as it is imagined to be. Much of foreign materials has to be used. The question regarding the capital outlay incurred up to date asked on the floor of this House still remains unanswered. A Government Order was passed that the permanent and the acting clerks thrown out of employment would be absorbed into Government service soon. The authorities have not yet carried out the Government Order. I request the Hon. the Revenue Minister to do justice in the matter and to abolish the photostat system when the experimental stage is over.

" As regards the Pykara Scheme, its benefits have not yet been made available to the West Coast excepting Palghat town, though the scheme has seen its way to remoter districts. Pykara is on the ghats just over Malabar. There was a Wynaad scheme investigated by the Government a few years ago. That investigation might be further pursued and then perhaps the question of power to the West Coast—Malabar and South Kanara—may be more easily solved.

" Again, the administration of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board is a scandal in our district and perhaps in the presidency in general. The Board is only intent upon the collection of its dues for the payment of the salaries of the members of the Board and the staff. The whole administration has to be made a part of the general administration.

" Sir, the Calicut hospital requires the urgent attention of the Hon. Minister for Public Health. The present building was considered by both His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Minister himself when

he visited Calicut, as unsuitable. The district authorities have made representations regarding it, and I have received a communication to-day of a resolution passed at the Medical Council recently. This is a matter in which some enthusiasm was shown even by the inert Interim Ministry; and it behoves the Congress Ministry to do the needful in the matter immediately—this year itself, if possible.

"Sir, I have nothing more to say."

* Mr. G. KRISHNAMURTHI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, no apology is required if I rise to speak a few words from the labour point of view about the Budget, especially after the Member representing plantation employers was given the special indulgence to pour forth his wrath against Trade Union Labour. I shall deal with Mr. Langley a little later.

"Coming now to the Budget, I will be dishonest if I do not state that there is nothing in the Budget which can be called satisfactory from the point of view of labour. I want to mention in the first place that provision for factory inspection has been reduced, although there is a crying need for increased expenditure under this head.

"There is no mention of any possibility of the introduction of any social insurance scheme in the year of grace 1938-39 under our popular Government.

"I may state, Sir, that the Bombay Government in their instructions to the Textile Enquiry Committee outlined the possibility of State provision for sickness and old age benefits which would entail a contribution of about four weeks' pay by the worker, by the Government and by the employer, for each worker in the industrial undertakings of that province.

"I want this Government to concentrate their special attention on the provision of alternative employment to the toddy-tappers and others thrown out of employment on account of Governmental measures such as prohibition. I know one of the cheap arguments trotted out is that workers employed in socially undesirable occupations have no claim for public support. Sir, if this argument is stretched and if some of our philosophers come to influence our State policies, the existence of Government would be considered an evil and all those who depend for employment on State would forfeit public sympathy.

"Instead of concentrating on remission of land revenue, I venture to suggest that the Government would be well advised in starting collective farms on sound and scientific lines for the benefit of the unemployed, by the Agricultural department.

"In regard to land transport, I would beg of this Government to forestall the Bombay Government in not merely accepting the principle of nationalization of motor transport, but enforcing it in practice, so that the maximum revenue may be made available to the province for developmental schemes of rural uplift.

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" Sir, in French India, lending of money on jewellery is the sole monopoly of the Government, and I am sure that if this Government adopt this source of revenue, the present starvation Budget need not be put before the province.

" I make these remarks in a spirit of constructive criticism. I know that our Premier is the most intelligent personage in this province and if only he is persuaded to catch an idea nothing on earth will deter him from executing the same. 6-30 p.m.

" I will now deal with Mr. Langley. In his speech Mr. Langley referred to the Trade Union workers as agitators. In his speech before the Planters' Association he referred to the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour as an agitator. The Cabinet Members have all been referred to as agitators and political criminals. It is easy to turn round and say that Mr. Langley and others belonging to his class and his ilk are downright exploiters and parasites on society and blood-suckers. But I am not going to reply in that cheap and provocative strain. He presented a rosy picture of the conditions of labour in the plantation industry. The wearer alone knows where the shoe pinches. Will Mr. Langley as a planter accept the wages paid to the average plantation worker? Would he accept the premediæval conditions of service prevalent in the plantation industry? He, as a planter objected to the raising of the wages of the plantation worker and lectured about the disappearance of capital by the grant of one anna increment for every worker. Let Mr. Langley understand that the world is not going to learn economics and business management from such poor employers. When legislation to reduce the hours of employment from 16 to 12 was brought in the Mother of Parliaments in Great Britain, the capitalists and employers of labour in Lancashire told the representatives in the Parliament that the 16th hour of work by the industrial worker would alone go to the making of profits. In spite of such plausible arguments adduced against reduction of the hours of work, legislation to reduce hours of work has been going on apace in various civilized countries. The argument of Mr. Langley will share the same fate as the arguments of bigotted and reactionary employers of Lancashire. Old beliefs and ideas take time to die; and I wish Mr. Langley will live long enough to see that his pet ideas of labour and their treatment die.

" Last but not the least I would ask the Government before it gives any contribution to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, to enquire whether the affairs over there are properly managed, and Asia's Nobel Prize-Winner in Physical Science has been fairly treated.

" I hope the next Budget would be a better performance, and in view of the judicial officer's enquiry at Chirala, I do not want to criticise now as to whether the police methods of dealing with labour problems would be conducive to the best interests of the province."

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*Dr. N. LAKSHMI DEVI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to express my opinion about the Budget which has been presented to this House by the Hon. the Prime Minister. I should say that the Hon. the Prime Minister has taken every care to present such an excellent Budget. The Budget before us shows that great care has been taken to see that it is well intended for the people of this province. The Congress Government known as the popular Government is progressing in full determination to carry out its election pledges to its electorate. This feature is being clearly shown in the Budget proposals. Well, Sir, the Congress Government has been only in power for a short time; that is to say, for eight months since it took up office. Within such a short time, the feeling that prevails in the country is pleasant and satisfactory. The Government meets to legislate measures to better the conditions of the masses but not to increase and impose fresh taxes and make top-heavy administration heavier still which was the practice of the previous Government. On account of the utter poverty in the country and due to various other adverse conditions the Government is not able to collect the annual revenue. But with all that the Hon. the Premier has taken a bold step to make provision in his Budget for the improvement of the masses. This clearly shows that 'where there is a will there is a way.' That is the policy of the present Government, and I hope that the same will be continued to be the feature for every year when the Congress Government presents the Budget.

"Coming to the Budget proposals that are allotted, Sir, I welcome them. Coming as I do from a famine-stricken area, I say, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier has shown every consideration and has set apart a large portion of the sum to relieve the people. I am afraid that unless the Famine Code is revised, we cannot undertake measures by which the conditions of the people in those parts would be made better.

"As far as the conditions that are prevailing in the famine-stricken areas, are concerned I would say a few words with regard to the proposal laid down for the supply of fodder to cattle. As far as fodder is concerned, I am afraid, Sir, that it is not a satisfactory one. As far as my knowledge goes, the hill-grass that has been supplied to the cattle is not at all useful because the cattle are not accustomed to such grass. It may be sufficient to meet the demands, but in long run, it is injurious to the health of the cattle that are fed by this hill-grass. Sometimes, the cattle contract disease and die. Therefore my earnest desire is that the Government which has allotted a large sum for the famine-stricken area will consider this aspect of the question and see that proper fodder is supplied to the cattle. I would suggest that where fodder is not available it should be brought from other places, by train at concession rates and transported to the required area.

"I see from the Budget proposals that the Hon. the Premier has made provision for the encouragement of handloom industry. Now is the time when a portion of that money can be utilized in the famine-stricken area. I know that a large number of people there are engaged

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in this industry, and by helping people in that area, Government would be helping those whose occupation is spinning and weaving, and reviving the hand-spinning and hand-weaving industry. I request the Hon. Minister for Labour and Industry to take up this proposal.

" I now come to the water-supply. This is a welcome proposal. Sir, it is the primary duty of every Government to see that the people of the province get the necessities of life and particularly see that people do not suffer for want of drinking water. The Congress which is in full power has pledged itself to the people to provide all amenities and accordingly it is taking many ameliorative measures. Protected water-supply is one of them. In my district, bore-well system had been formerly tried and it has proved a failure. Now I would propose to the Government that they should see that the money that they propose to spend in this direction of providing a good water-supply is usefully spent and that every pie of it is strictly spent towards the needs of the people. I would suggest, Sir, that the existing wells may be improved and facilities provided for other sources of water-supply and money spent on them. Another thing I would like to suggest is that it is really worth while to spend a thousand or more to dig a well wherever possible and make it a protective one so that people in the village might use it.

" This leads me on to the difficult evil that is present in our country in regard to social disabilities. On account of this evil we have got so many difficulties. The Scheduled Caste people are not given a chance to be benefited by these amenities. Particularly in the villages where there is water scarcity and where there is only one protected well, they are not allowed to touch the well and draw water from it. On account of this they are suffering. These inconveniences will not be prevented unless and until the social disabilities under which they are suffering are eradicated. But we need not wait till such a time comes. Meanwhile, I urge upon the Government to provide separate wells for the Scheduled Caste people, so that they might use them.

" Now, Sir, I wish to say a few words with regard to prohibition. I am glad that two of the Ceded districts have been included in the prohibition area in the coming year, and I am sure it will be a great success there. Next year I hope the Hon. the Premier will include the other two districts, namely, Anantapur and Bellary. (Opposition cheers.) So that we may take this opportunity and make them also dry. (Voices from the Opposition Benches: ' Very dry ' and renewed cheers.)

" I know that hon. Members from the Opposition Benches are very much afraid of the introduction of Hindi. I don't see any reason why they should anticipate such a fear now. When English was first introduced in the schools we never thought that our mother tongue will suffer. At that time we felt that English was the universal language and that therefore we should adopt it, and we have done so. Now the same thing applies to Hindi. Very soon the whole of India

is going to have one Government and in that case a common language will be necessary. That purpose can very well be served by adopting Hindi as the universal common language. This is the policy underlying the principle of introducing Hindi, and I therefore feel that there need be no fear that by this introduction of Hindi, our mother tongue will die.

"In conclusion, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to express my observations."

* MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to join the chorus of praise that has been bestowed on the Hon. the Premier and I wish to add my own. I tender my congratulations to the Hon. the Premier for having presented a surplus budget. I am also glad that the estimates proposed in the Budget meet with the agreement of the whole House, and I also agree with the hon. the Member from Malappuram division who said that the budget is one that is meant for the masses. I wish to qualify this statement and say that this budget is meant more for the 'haves' than the 'have nots.' Only last week I have been asked very pertinently by one of the labourers who had been attending a public meeting of the Congress, 'What have you been doing and what do you propose to do for us, the labourers?' He told me that the Debt Relief Bill which is intended to relieve the peasantry who are indebted, does not benefit the agricultural labourers who are being left out. Notes of warning have been sounded to the Hon. the Finance Minister about his borrowing policy. I agree it is a very sound financial policy in individual cases not to borrow. But is it always a sound financial policy not to borrow for developmental and other schemes?

"I say borrowing for remunerative purposes and borrowing which may encumber the posterity, who in future are really to be the beneficiaries of the developmental works from the borrowings of to-day is sound financial policy. Further I beg to make it clear that this budget so far as it goes shows sound financial policy. Then if the budget is judged in terms of human relations, the question may be raised how far the budget promises to improve the economic condition of the country and how far it brings relief to the hungry stomachs of the people. If it does not go to the extent, as we have desired, to satisfy the hunger of the masses, however well it may be balanced, and however large the surpluses may be, all the same, I should say, the budget or the financial policy of the Government is not quite sound. I should say the Hon. the Finance Minister has been very halting in his economic measures to reduce the cost of administration in all that we have been expecting him to do. We thought he would apply the axe at least in the Provincial services in the Secretariat, where he can lay his hands quite easily. He has done nothing at all; he has not touched the salaries of the present incumbents; he has reduced the scales of salaries of future incumbents alone; even there I am inclined to think he has not come up to the standard laid down by the Congress,

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as exemplified by himself and his colleagues of the Cabinet in their salaries. For, the Congress has laid down that the maximum salary drawn by any officer under the Government shall not exceed Rs. 500. Even in the Finance Minister's own department, the Assistant Finance Secretaries are drawing more than Rs. 500. Besides reduction of salaries of the Provincial services men in the Secretariat, I should think that if the Hon. the Prime Minister appealed to the heads of all departments to help him in economising the administration—the Police, the Forest and the Public Works departments particularly—much savings could have been brought about. Again, if he had taken the trouble to ask those in service aged 50 years and more to retire from services he would not only have effected economy in the cost of administration but would also have solved to some extent at least the unemployment problem. The younger people who are the educated unemployed may be given posts by retiring those people who have attained the age of fifty and more. In solving the unemployment problem I would also suggest that the Hon. the Revenue Minister will consider the question of easy improvement of waste lands by declaring those waste lands which have been newly brought under cultivation not to be taxed until the fruits of labour come to hand. At present when a piece of waste land is brought under cultivation, at once comes the Collector with his demand for land-tax, even before the crops are ready for reaping. Such a thing ought not to be done. Government should wait for some time so that the person who brings the waste land under cultivation may be able to do so without further burden until his labour reach the stage when he is able to get back some return for the money he has invested in it. If only the Hon. the Revenue Minister will make up his mind to make all waste lands available for the unemployed to cultivate without demanding any tax from them till the lands begin to give some return for their labours, I think much of the present unemployment can be solved. Now, as matters stand at present, if anybody occupies a piece of waste land and puts up a fence round it, he has to pay tax for that plot of land, whether he receives any fruits from it or not. In my own district, in Ernad taluk, about two hundred and odd thousand acres of cultivable land are available for improvement. Malabar has a tendency, I should say, to increase population enormously. In certain parts the population has increased to such an extent as to bring it to the tune of 1,500 per square mile. And this happens in the rural areas and not in towns.

" Further, in the solution of unemployment, in the improvement of the country and more especially in the development of the rural parts, Government should adumbrate a much bolder scheme of development. There is a scheme of road and bridge construction called the Vipan scheme, which I understand, is to be financed entirely from the Government of India Road Fund. The Provincial Government may get only a much smaller amount than may be required annually, but they may raise a loan and repay it from their annual subvention from the

Central Government so that they may launch boldly the scheme of road and bridge construction and complete it quickly.

" Coming to this question of road development, I should say, my own district of Malabar needs most urgent help, because it is a case of a number of rivers cutting the country criss-cross. I am glad the present budget provides for the construction of two or three bridges, over the Korapuzha and the Moorat rivers in North Malabar, and across the Bharatapuzha in South Malabar. The Bharatapuzha bridge is an important link connecting the communication of Cochin Harbour with Malabar. Formerly the Madras Government and at present the Government of India jointly with the Governments of Cochin and Travancore have been spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on the improvements to the Cochin Harbour, and I can confidently say that if the Cochin Harbour is fully developed it is going to be one of the most important stations in the whole of India. With the improvements to be effected in the Cochin Harbour we feel highly doubtful whether Malabar would be able to benefit by it, as it ought to be. From its present position the Cochin Harbour is situated in the centre of Kerala. At present the railway line connecting Cochin with Malabar runs to Shoranur at the east end and comes at a tangent to Madras. Malabar as we know is rich in vegetation and hilly for the most part, and in the coastal regions alone we have the strip of land that may be called plains, very narrow and densely populated. And these plains are absolutely cut off from the Cochin Harbour for want of proper and direct means of communication. The proposed bridge over the Bharatapuzha river and the road contemplated to Chowghat with the proposed Chettuva bridge contained in Vypan's scheme provides a direct connexion to and opens up the country up to the boundary of Cochin. If only this Government will persuade the Governments of Cochin and Travancore to construct bridges over Periyar at Cranganore and Alwaye, then the whole of Malabar will be opened up to the Cochin Harbour by direct communication by road. And this road communication can subsequently be used for improved transport facility and made highly remunerative by providing tramways either by the Local Government or the District Board of Malabar. And this latter enterprise also can be facilitated by bringing in power from the Pykara scheme.

" Coming now to the Pykara scheme, it has been the general complaint in my district, Sir, that though that scheme has been worked out within sight of Malabar, it has not been extended to our district, even though the scheme owes its origin to the forests and mountains of Malabar. This scheme provides power to the district of Madura and even other districts farther off north; but Malabar is denied the benefit, even though it lies very very close to Pykara. I do not know why in reply to an interpellation yesterday the Hon. Minister for Public Works said that the bringing in of power from Pykara to Malabar by Meppadi-Vayitri route is not considered feasible, nor why any hydro-electric schemes either Vayitri or Mannaghaut is worked. I do not know why the

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Hon. Minister prefers the route from Pykara to Meppadi branching north to Manantody, Tellicherry and Cannanore and then only south to Calicut. I submit that it is not the shortest route that is to be considered in a matter like this. Gudalur lies only about 70 miles from Calicut, and a line this way will facilitate the lighting up of a number of villages and small towns and a number of people will be benefited by giving them scope to adopt lift irrigation. The conditions of Malabar are peculiar; even though there is water near at hand, there is no scope to utilize it. You have only to dig the earth a few feet to get water, and yet it is not possible to utilize it for irrigation purposes. So if you extend the Pykara hydro-electric system to Malabar, it will help the people very much. And I would say intensive cultivation is the barest necessity for the large population of Malabar. Further for the development of rural industry also electricity is necessary.

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

"Besides these important roads connecting Cochin Harbour with Malabar and the construction of bridges with the aid of Central Government funds, I should appeal to Government to make early and generous provision for the improvement of rural communication in my own division. I understand, Sir, there is a proposal now for constructing a bridge at Parakadavu for connecting the Special Police Camp at Koichena with Chalari side of Ernad taluk. The same purpose may be served at a lesser cost if the district board proposal is carried out connecting the Panampuzha bridge with Munniyur by road as recommended in Vipan's scheme. This has got another advantage of opening up a number of villages also. I would also ask for a road connecting Kundoti with Tirurangadi, and Kundoti with Vazhakkad, which places are all marketing centres. Whenever the people clamour for roads, the district board turns round and says 'there is no fund'. If the Provincial Government could take charge of other roads for making them more useful for motor traffic, if the Provincial Government could spend large amounts of money for making the roads more comfortable for motorists, I ask, then, whether they could not take up some of these important village roads connecting marketing centres and opening up a number of rural areas, thus facilitating transportation of agricultural commodities.

"Coming to transport facilities for agricultural commodities, I would like to suggest to the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to pay a little more heed to the necessities of the agriculturists of Malabar. Ginger, Sir, is a peculiar commodity for Malabar and my constituency especially. Pests attacking them have become chronic and cries from the ginger cultivators have not been attended to for long now. There are agricultural demonstrators in our taluks as well and veterinary doctors are going round villages. I want to tell the Minister for Agriculture that the benefits derived by the people at large from these people, I say the Agricultural Demonstrators as well as the Veterinary doctors, are precious little. I want the Hon. Minister for Agriculture

to issue instructions to these people to move more frequently and more closely with peasants rather than sit in taluk headquarters and write diaries.

"To the agriculturist, co-operative societies are supposed to be a boon, but Sir, I would tell the Minister for Industries that in my constituency especially, people, at the period of boom, when ginger price was going very high, have borrowed lavishly and at very high rates of interest. You may be surprised to hear that these agriculturists are paying very high rates of interest to the co-operative societies. I say they are paying to the tune of 12 per cent even. If you add penalties to it, it may go even to 15 or 18 or even 24 per cent. The Debt Relief Bill has not given them any relief in this connexion. May I request the Hon. the Minister for Industries to do some thing to mitigate the distress of these agriculturists by some executive measure now? Further, Sir, about the credit facilities for agriculturists, I am sorry to say that Land Mortgage Banks are denied for the time being to my constituency. I do not want to speak more on this at the present time. But, I hope the matter will be attended to immediately and that the grievances of my people will be redressed handsomely. When speaking on the question of agriculture I want to bring in one particular section of agricultural industry in Malabar. That is the plantations. Sir, I suggested various methods of reducing the cost of administration now. I would also suggest now that taxation must be regulated in such a manner that the burden of taxation might be removed from the heads of the poor agriculturists whose holdings do not go beyond 1 to 5 acres of land. Many of the poor agriculturists feel to-day that they would be happy if the Government would take over the land from them and pay them something annually or monthly for their barest maintenance. But the question of taxation is a very important problem and it cannot be tackled so easily or so lightly. I do not want to go into the details of taxation or into the question of solving this problem of the burden of taxation on the agriculturists. But one thing I may be permitted to suggest, and that is that Government should pursue a policy by which agricultural produce of the ryots beyond certain quantities should only be taxed and that the agriculturists who are so poor and cannot bear the burden of taxation should be relieved of it. I put forth this plea on the ground that agriculture is considered as an industry and as such why should it be discriminated from any other industry or any other avocation. Commerce and industry when brought under income-tax are given certain margin for not only the existence of those who are engaged in them, but certain comforts also. As at present, I believe a member of an industrial or commercial avocation is taxed only if his income goes beyond Rs. 2,000. May I ask whether at least 300 or 500 rupees a year could not be allowed as a margin for all poor agriculturists. If Rs. 300 is allowed it gives only Rs. 25 for an agriculturist a month to maintain his wife and five or six children and in some cases a widowed mother and with some sisters too. I should think that Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 or even Rs. 50 a month

would not be a very large amount for an agriculturist. Then again I put the question to the Government that if what I learn is true that the plantations in the forest areas of Malabar and other parts of the province, of tea, rubber, coffee, orange, etc., are taxed only lower than even paddy fields or garden lands, why this discrimination should be allowed to go on? If plantations could give fat dividends to the planters, I do not know why the poor peasants should be burdened with heavy taxation and these rich people who are living luxuriously on the income from the plantation should be let alone. When the cry of labour comes up, when red flags and red posters go about demonstrating, the people only know of the industrial labour. There is a section of labour in the forest regions of our Presidency who are uncared for and unknown to the people who sit here. I am glad the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture had an occasion very recently to visit the plantations and I also know the Minister for Labour and Industries had also been to some other plantations in Malabar. But I do not know how far they have been able to see through the real conditions of labour in the plantations. The Hon. Mr. Giri was taken round in the car of Mr. MacEwen, Collector of Malabar. I do not know how far the Hon. Minister was free to move about among the labourers and to know about their grievances. If the reports from the newspapers are to be relied upon, I should think, the Hon. Minister, Mr. Muniswami Pillai also could have had no better chance of knowing the bitter conditions of labour in plantations. I want the Hon. Ministers of this Congress Government to eschew these ceremonial visits and take to closer study of the real conditions of people in their charge."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Hon. Members of the right wing are expected to speak in reply to observations made by those on the left wing; but the position is exactly topsy-turvy here. (Laughter.) The hon. Member is making an original comment which has to be replied to by the Ministers. He may go on with his speech."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" I am speaking, Sir, in reply to certain points they have raised. (Laughter.) I began my speech saying that the Opposition is mighty glad with the Budget presented. I wanted to tell the House, Sir, that we feel that the Budget of the Hon. the Finance Minister must have gone further."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member must kindly understand that the members of the right wing are expected to answer the points raised by those on the left wing so as to keep the debate lively. But, if he wants to comment upon the Budget and criticise the Government as a member of this House, he is at liberty to do so. (Hear, hear.)

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" I am sorry, Sir, I have to say that I am not misusing my liberty. I am only making suggestions which must be considered by the Hon. Ministers. I want to tell them that the country is on the tip toe of expectation. I want to tell the Hon. Ministers, although they are warned against borrowing, although the Opposition is much satisfied with the Budget and about

the financial proposals of the Hon. the Finance Minister, that this is not a Budget expected by this side of the House." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—" He is technically within his rights in doing so."

MR. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" Then, coming to education, Sir, there is the proposal, which is agitating the minds of the public, on closing down all uneconomic schools. I beg to assure the Hon. Minister for Education that I will be the last to ask the Government to keep up uneconomic schools and waste the public finances, but at the same time, I want him to consider this point of view also, that simply because a certain school is uneconomic, i.e., by merely counting the heads of students attending the school, it should not be closed. I want the local boards to be instructed that wherever the attendance in schools are found to be uneconomical, the people of the locality must be warned sufficiently early, that the school is not showing sufficient attendance, and then only if conditions are not improved within a reasonable period, it should be closed. We, Sir, stand for free and compulsory primary education. We, Sir, stand for instituting all-round education, to make the people literate and closing down schools, whether economic or uneconomic will be taken by the layman as the Congress Ministry going against its pledges. Therefore, I want the Education Minister to be cautious in carrying out his policy of closing down uneconomic schools."

* MR. K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the present Budget so ably prepared and placed before the House by the Hon. the Premier.

" Sir, in considering the Budget, we have to keep in view certain fundamental principles. We should see in what order the funds have been allotted for the various activities of Government. If we look at it from that point of view, we would unhesitatingly come to the conclusion that the Budget has been very wisely prepared without having recourse to additional taxation. This Budget may be called the poor man's Budget as enough funds have been provided for rural uplift, expansion of village industries and so on. Prohibition has been extended to two more districts; grazing fees have been reduced by 50 per cent; and separate funds have been allotted for drinking water-supply. Just as a good housewife spends economically and caters to all the needs and tastes of the whole family, the Hon. the Premier has wisely and sympathetically attended to the needs of the masses.

" In this connexion, Sir, I want to say one word about the remarks made by Sir Pannirselvam regarding the preference given by the Hon. the Premier to khadi and other rural industries. This has been discussed time and again in this House. I therefore wish only to say to-day that this is the only industry which puts a few coppers into the hands of villagers and supplements their meagre earnings. I appeal to the Hon. the Premier to spend the moneys that have been allotted under the various heads in such a way that every pie of these moneys goes

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for the benefit of the poor man. These measures will enrich the poor man and make him happy and prosperous. Our country will by this means attain its former greatness. With these few words I resume my seat."

* Mr. K. SUBBA RAO:—

"సభాపతి ! చక్కని చమత్కారమగు లోటుపాటులేని సరియైన జమాఖర్చు పట్టికను యీ సభకు సమర్పించినందుకు ఆర్థిక మంత్రిగారు చెప్పిన ఉపన్యాసములో రాయలసీమను పలుమారులు యీ సభాస్థలిని సంస్తరించినందుకు వారికి వందనము లర్పించుచున్నాను. రాయలసీమ వాస్తవ్యుల పరిస్థితులగురించి 4, 5 చోట్ల వారు విన్నవించినారు. క్షామ పరిస్థితులగురించి, నీటి పారుదలగురించి చెప్పినప్పుడు, రాయలసీమ అనగా యేమో చెప్పమని చాలామంది సభ్యులు ప్రశ్నవేసినారు. ఆర్థికసభ్యులు ప్రభుత్వంలో తమ ఉపన్యాసములో యీ పదము ప్రయోగించుటకు యిది మొదటిసారి రాయలసీమ అనగా, బ్రహ్మానికాడు అనేకమందికి అన్నదానంచేసి యీ దినం తినుటకు తిండిలేక, కట్టుటకు గుడ్డలేక ఆవస్థపడుచు యీ ప్రభుత్వమునకు ఋణపడ్డన్న సీమ. ఈ పత్రిక చదివినప్పుడు యీ మదరాసు ప్రభుత్వంలో యీ భూభాగము యెంత పెద్దబరువుగా వున్నది తెలుసుకోగలరు. 1914 నుండి యీనాటివరకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు కోటి రూపాయిలు రెమిషను famine గురించి యీ సీమలో ఖర్చుపెట్టినారు. ఇంత మొత్తము గవర్నమెంటు చాబడినుండి ఖర్చుపెట్టుటకు యెంతే బరువుగావున్నదో పూహించిన చాలా కష్టముగా నుండును. అయితే యీ సీమ యీ దుర్భర స్థితికి వచ్చుటకు కారణమేమో వారు ఆలోచించవలెనని ప్రార్థన చేయుచున్నాను. ఈ సామాన్య చర్చ సందర్భమున నేను యెక్కువగా యీ విషయమునుగూర్చి చెప్పనుగాని, యింత దీనావస్థ, దరిద్రావస్థకు యీ సీమ వచ్చుటకు కారణము చక్కగ ప్రభుత్వదస్తములో ప్రాంతములయొక్క పరిస్థితులను విచారణచేసి, అలోచించి, దానికి తగిన సదుపాయములు చేయుటకు పూనుకొనే సభ్యులు లేనిదే. యీ రాయలసీమ మొట్టమొదట పండుకొరగ్యమైన ప్రాంతము. దీనికి విచ్చారణలు జీవనప్రదములగు యేర్పాటుచేసి, చక్కని పరిస్థితులుచేసి యీ మదరాసు గోస్తాలో యెక్కడా లేనటువంటి వెరుపులు కట్టించి అన్ని సదుపాయములు కల్పనచేసినారు. ఇన్ని సంవత్సరములకు మరల విచ్చారణ్యలవలె యీ మంత్రిగారు యీ సీమనుగురించి చెప్పటకు పూనుకొన్నప్పుడు నేను చాలా సంతోషించినాను. ఈ ప్రాంతములో మొట్టమొదట విజయనగర రాజుల అధికారములో చక్కని సదుపాయములు యేర్పడినవి. నీటి పారుదలకు గొప్ప వెరుపులు మదరాసు గోస్తాలో లేనటువంటి యేర్పాటుచేసి కొనలసిన నీరు సేకరించి పంటలు పండించుటకు యేర్పాటుచేసినారు. ఆ విజయనగర సామ్రాజ్యము అంతరించిన తరువాత మైసూరు రాజ్యమునకు యీ భూమి ఆధీనము అయినది. తరువాత కర్ణాటకయుద్ధముల తరువాత నైజాముకు స్వాధీనమైనది. తరువాత బ్రిటిషువారికి cede చేయబడినది అందుకు Ceded districts పేరు వచ్చినది. ఒక్క ప్రభుత్వమూ దీనిపైన సరిగా ఆలోచనచేయనందున యీ పరిస్థితి దీనికి వచ్చినది. తరువాత బ్రిటిష్ప్రభుత్వము మనకు వచ్చినతరువాత మైసూరు ప్రాంతమునకు యీ ప్రాంతమునకు కలిగినటువంటి కట్టుబాట్లు ఛిన్నభిన్నంచేసిన చానికలన యీ దుర్భరస్థితి దుఃఖస్థితి యీ జిల్లాలకు యేర్పడినదని నేను చెప్పగలను. 1892 వ సం॥ ఫిబ్రవరి 18 వ తారీఖున మైసూరు ప్రభుత్వమువారిని బ్రిటిష్ ప్రభుత్వమునారికిని agreeme t జరిగినది అందులో యీ ప్రాంతములకు వచ్చే నీటి సదుపాయములకు అడ్డుచేయకూడదని చక్కగా వ్రాసినారు. కాని ఆనాటినుండి 1933 వ సంవత్సరం సెప్టంబరు 4, 5 తారీఖుల వరకును వారు యెంతవరకు అడ్డగించినారో ఆలోచనచేయలేము. వచ్చే నీటి సదుపాయములకు

ఆడ్డుకట్టదుండుటవలన చెరువులు పూడిపోవుటకు కారణమైనది. ఇంకొక విషయము యిక్కడ చెప్పవలసియున్నది. రెమిషను విషయములో ప్రతి సంవత్సరము అనేక లక్షల రూపాయిలు యీ ప్రాంతములకు యిచ్చుచున్నారు. సామాన్యంగా యీ రెమిషను లెక్క లబట్టిచూస్తె నేను మొదట చెప్పినట్లు 20 సంవత్సరములకు కోటి రూపాయలు రెమిషను యీ గవర్నమెంటువారు ఆ ప్రాంతములకు యిచ్చినారు. ఇన్ని సంవత్సరములు యీ రెమిషను యివ్వడం బాగాలున్నది. వీరిని యీ దుర్భర స్థితినుంచి తప్పించుటకు మంత్రివర్గము వారు ఆలోచనచేయవలెనని ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. ముఖ్యముగా శాశ్వతనివారణచేయుట, నీటి సదుపాయములు కలుగజేయుట, తరువాత చిన్నచిన్న కుటీర పరిశ్రమలు యేర్పాటుచేయుట 3 ముఖ్యసూత్రములు. Famine గురించి పోయినసంవత్సరము 16 లక్షల రూపాయిలు ఖర్చు పెట్టినారు. అందులో 7 లక్షలు Administration charges క్రింద పోయినది. నేను ప్రభుత్వము వారిని ప్రార్థనచేయడం యేమనగా, యీడినం ఒకవిధముగా ఆసీమను అభివృద్ధిచేయవలెనంటే 5 కోట్లు రూపాయిలు 3 రూపాయిల వడ్డీతో తీసుకొని 5 సంవత్సరముల కార్యక్రమముపెట్టే, యీ ప్రభుత్వమునకు బరువులేకుండా చేయగలరని చెప్పగలను. మంత్రివర్గమువారు దీనిని గమనింపవలెనని ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. 5 కోట్లు రెక్కలైని వడ్డీ 15 లక్షలు. ఆ 15 లక్షలు famine క్రింద ప్రతి సంవత్సరము యీ జిల్లాలలో ఖర్చుపెట్టుచున్నారు. కనుక మంత్రివర్గమువారు పరిశ్రమలను అభివృద్ధిచేయుటకు యీ ప్రాంతములో యెక్కువ పనిచేయవలసియున్నది. బొబ్బిలి రాజాగారి మంత్రివర్గమున్నప్పుడు ఒక పెద్ద mill పెట్టవలెనని Provincial Economic Council వారు ప్రయత్నించారు. కుటీర పరిశ్రమలయందు అభిమానము గలిగిన మంత్రివర్గమువారు వచ్చేవరకు అవని జరుగలేదు. ఇప్పుడు అవకాశం కలిగింది. ఇప్పుడైనా కుటీర పరిశ్రమలకు కంకణము కట్టుకొన్న కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు పూనుకొంటే యెక్కువ పనిచేయగలరని గట్టిగా చెప్పగలను. ఇప్పుడు ప్రయత్నపడి ఒక కోటి రూపాయిలు కుటీర పరిశ్రమలక్రింద ఆ ప్రాంతములలో ఖర్చుపెడితే, ఉపయోగమున్నది. వారు ప్రయత్నముచేస్తే, కాంగ్రెసు కంకణము కట్టుకొన్న కుటీర పరిశ్రమల పద్ధతి చక్కగా ఆమలులో వుండునని యీ సభయెడుట నుంత్రివర్గమువారికి చెప్పుచున్నాను. నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యములు కనీసము వారు యిప్పుడు పూడిపోయిన చెరువులను చక్కబరచుట మొట్టమొదటి పని. ఈ Budget చూస్తే Minor irrigation works కు యిన్ని సంవత్సరములకంటె తక్కువ మొత్తం యేర్పాటు చేసినారు. రాయల సీమలో నిజంగా నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యములు చేయవలెనంటే పెద్ద వ్యవసాయం మొదటనుండి వున్నది. 1926 వ సంవత్సరములో మద్రాసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఆప్పటి మంత్రివర్గమువారు ఆలోచనచేసి, ఒక Irrigation Committee యేర్పాటు చేసినారు. ఆ Irrigation Committee లో తుంగభద్ర Project తోపాటు అనేక చిన్న Project లతో యీ ప్రాంతమంతయు సస్యశ్యామలము చేయుటకు వసతులున్నవని సిఫారసు చేసినారు. కాని తుంగభద్ర వచ్చేవరకు ఆపుదల చేయవలెనంటే పద్ధతి లేదు. గవర్నమెంటువారు యేమీ చేయకుండా వున్నారు. తుంగభద్ర రావచ్చును. లేక రాకపోవచ్చును కాని చిన్న చిన్న నీటిపారుదల సౌకర్యములు యీ నాటినుంచి చక్కగా యేర్పాటుచేయవలెనని ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. రెండవ విషయము—ముఖ్యముగా వారు bore wells గురించి చెప్పినారు. Electricity విషయము లేదు. ప్రభుత్వమువారు కొన్నాళ్లక్రిందట Ceded districts లో thermal station పెట్టుటకు స్థిర సంకల్పం చేసుకొన్నారు. మద్రాసు గవర్నమెంటులో యెందుకు ఆది పోయినదో తెలియదు. దానికి బదులు చిన్న Bore wells system పెట్టవలెనని చూచుచున్నారు. కాని యేదైనా సరే experiment చేస్తున్నాము అంటున్నారు. తగిన పసతులు

చిన్న చిన్న నీటి పారుదలకుకూడా ఖర్చున్నది. ఆనంతపురంలో పెన్నా, పాపగ్ని, కర్నూలు జిల్లాలో హంద్రి యింకా కొన్ని నదులు యెక్కడెక్కడ కలవో experiment గా కాకుండా, వెంటనే బాధలు యేర్పాటుచేసి, నీరు సస్యయి చేయవచ్చునని పథకాలు చేయవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. ఇంకొక విషయము. ఆంధ్ర దేశం మొత్తమునకు చెందినది broadcasting ఖర్చున్నది. తిరుచినాపల్లిలోను, సైదాపేటలోను పెట్టబోతున్నారు. తెలుగు దేశంలో యెక్కడాలేదు. తెలుగు దేశంలో broadcasting పెట్టించి జనసామాన్యమునకు తగిన ప్రపంచ జ్ఞానము అన్ని విషయాలూ యేర్పాటు చేయవలెను. రెండవది అంతవరకు యిప్పుడు తిరుచినాపల్లి, సైదాపేట broadcast లో కనీసము సగము తెలుగు broadcast యేర్పాటు చేయవలెనని వారిని కోరుచున్నాను. ఇంకొక విషయము. Prohibition క్రిందికి రాయలసీమలో రెండు జిల్లాలు తీసుకొంటున్నారు. యింకా మూడు జిల్లాలు వచ్చే సంవత్సరం తీసుకొంటారు అనుకొంటాను. మూడు జిల్లాలు నిజమైన కార్యక్రమము చేయుటకు తగినవా అని మంత్రులు వచ్చిచూచినారు. గవర్నమెంటువారు యిచ్చే ఆణా, ఆణాకానీ కూలి అంతాకూడా కల్లు అంగళ్లకు యిస్తూఖర్చున్నారు. ఆ దుకాణములు తీసివేయవలెను. అన్ని ప్రాంతములలో నీరు ఖర్చు పెట్టే 15 లక్షలూకూడా కల్లు అంగళ్లు పోగొట్టే యేర్పాటు చేయవలెను. మిగిలిన మూడు జిల్లాలుకూడా ప్రత్యేకంగా Prohibition area క్రింద తీసుకొని రావలెనని ప్రార్థన చేస్తున్నాను. 75 లక్షలు remission యిస్తూఖర్చున్నారు. నేను ఆ ప్రాంతములో సంచారం చేసినప్పుడు నీటి సౌకర్యములు కలుగచేస్తూ remission యివ్వకుండాఖర్చులే మంచిదా అంటే, 75 లక్షలు మూడాయిలు నీటి సౌకర్యములకు ఖర్చు పెట్టమన్నారు. గవర్నమెంటువారు 75 లక్షలు remission యిచ్చుటకంటె దీనిని నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యములకు ఖర్చుపెడితే, ప్రజలకు ఉపయోగం యెక్కువ. గవర్నమెంటు వరుబడికోసం యెక్కువ భయపడుతుంటే నుండవని చెప్పుచున్నాను."

* Mr. E. KANNAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Harijan representatives I wish to express my gratitude to the Hon. the Prime Minister and the Government for the larger allotment they have made for the welfare of the Harijan classes. At the time of the discussion of the Poona Pact and at the conferences that followed it, along with other leaders of the Hindu community, the Hon. the Prime Minister gave us the assurance that when the nationalist party came to power, the question of the amelioration of the depressed classes would receive their anxious and very immediate attention. I am glad that the Hon. the Prime Minister has been true to his promises and he has not only exhibited his sympathy by public utterances but by practical measures. As Prime Minister of the Madras Government he has given effect to his promises. We are very much satisfied with this token of sympathy on the part of the Government and I am sure that, in the hands of the Congress, the fate of the depressed classes is very safe. When Government have given us Rs. $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs and more I wish to draw their attention to certain features connected with the way in which the money allotted for this minority community is spent. I find from the Budget speech of the Hon. the Finance Minister that the money is going to be spent through the Labour Department. I have to say that for the last several years in this Presidency, the allotment for the depressed classes has been spent in a most unsatisfactory manner. If the money is going to be spent in the name of the depressed classes, as it is being

done in Malabar, I think it will be a criminal waste of public funds. Times without number the representatives of the depressed classess have complained to the Government that the Labour Department is conducting its operations in a most unsatisfactory manner. Opening of schools in places where they are not wanted and in the teeth of the opposition of the Harijans themselves, maintaining hostels in a manner not conducive to the good of the community and sinking of wells where they are not wanted, have been the familiar features of the Labour Department for the last several years. I appeal to the Government and particularly to the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject, to look into these things soon and see that the money is not wasted. I am very sorry to see that separate schools for depressed classes are being still continued. As the Labour Commissioner says, where the opposition from the caste Hindus is very great, the opening of separate schools is justified. But I cannot understand why separate schools are opened and maintained in localities where there is no caste Hindu opposition and in localities where there are very many schools where the children of the depressed classes can be educated. I need not tell the House that from the point of view of the particular problem of the depressed classes, the existence of separate schools seems to be outrageous and from the point of view of national solidarity, it is scandalous. I think the Government would be good enough to do away with these separate schools as early as possible and to allow the children of the depressed classes to mingle with the children of the other communities to enable them to have the spirit of national unity.

" I am a little bit constrained to refer to the question of legislation against anti-touchability; Travancore Government have shown us the way; Indore has followed it and I do not know why the Provincial Governments should hesitate in the matter. From the utterances of the various Ministers, we are led to understand that there are certain difficulties which they cannot ignore for the time being. We, members of the depressed classes, certainly appreciate their difficulties and if there are difficulties for the Government for passing the anti-touchability legislation, we will certainly wait. But one cannot understand whether there should be any reasonable difficulty for Government to move in this matter. But the Madras Government particularly under the Congress influence have always given the lead to other provinces in many matters; and in this matter I think the Madras Government will not wait to follow other provinces, but will lead them.

" Sir, with regard to the question of prohibition, when the Hon. the Prime Minister brought forward his Bill last time, some Members of the Opposition were expressing some misgivings about the success of the scheme. We are now glad to find that none of those gentlemen has turned out to be a prophet; the Prohibition scheme is a success and it will be a success so long as everybody takes it in the proper spirit. I emphasise this point because among the various ameliorative measures for the depressed classes, there is nothing more effective and more beneficial than the Scheme of Prohibition. I am glad that in

spite of the financial limitations and in spite of other difficulties confronting them, the Government have taken up the question of the amelioration of the depressed classes in right earnest, and I hope that with the co-operation of the House, the question will be pushed forward with all the energy and earnestness we can command so that these people also may come in line with the rest of the people in this country."

* Mr. B. T. SESHADRI ACHARIYAR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank the Hon. Premier and the other Members of the Government—especially the Hon. Mr. Muniswami Pillai and his Secretary, Mr. Varadachariyar—on behalf of North Arcot for the proposed reduction of grazing fees by 50 per cent. Members from East Godavari, Kistna, Tanjore and other deltaic areas will not be able to appreciate the benefit that will be conferred by such reduction on the ryot population that live near the forest areas, in North Arcot, Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and other districts. The Congress Party will surely become a more popular party in these areas. Prohibition will make, at least the Excise contractors, the enemies of the Congress. The Agricultural Debt Relief Bill may alienate the money-lender; cuts in salaries may make some Government officials lose their sympathy for the Congress. Prohibition will give relief to a minority of the ryot population in the districts in which it has been introduced because the majority of the ryots are not addicted to drink. But the removal of forest grievances like the reduction of grazing fees and the reduction of land revenue will give great relief to one and all of the ryots. Permanent reduction of land revenue is long overdue. There are several other grievances connected with land revenue and irrigation questions. Several hon. Members have stated that the irrigation charges are very heavy. The Collectors and other officers demand contribution from the ayacutdars for repairs to minor irrigation and other irrigation sources without taking into consideration whether there was any neglect on the part of the ryot in doing kudimaramat work. There are several pinpricks like this from which the ryots are suffering, things like faslijasti, thirvaijasti, getting permission for utilizing water from one ayacut to another ayacut. These must be solved. No provision has been made for starting a factory for the manufacture of artificial manure like bone-meal by the Government and supplying it to the ryots after examining the soil. Next to the condition of the soil and facilities for irrigation, manure is most essential to agriculture. The soil that is being exhausted on account of repeated cultivation by the ryot for want of any other occupation, has to be recouped. Manure leaves must therefore be supplied to the ryot wherever they are available at a reasonable cost, from the adjacent reserved forests. I hope the Government will pay attention to these matters at their earliest convenience.

" Then, Sir, I wish to refer to the hydro-electric lines running from one end of the country to the other, something like the Ganges water which flows from its source up to Haridwar but not being useful for those who live on the banks for irrigation purposes. Because there is no provision made for the supply of electricity at a cheap rate for

agricultural purposes by constructing transformers or sub-stations wherever convenient. These things must be attended to and electricity must be made available to the people at cheap rates for agricultural purposes. Then, Sir, some of the hon. Members made some distinction between the bigger ryot and the smaller ryot. There are two systems in this Presidency, the zamindari system and the ryotwari system and I cannot understand why any discrimination shoud be made between the bigger landholders and the smaller landholders. From my experience in my district, I know that the bigger landholders are suffering indeed more than the smaller landholders. Therefore, Sir, when the question of taxation is taken into consideration I hope the bigger landholders will not be singled out for more taxation. Once more, Sir, I thank the Hon. the Premier and the Members of the Government for the sound Budget they have been able to produce and for the other concessions they have given."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" I suppose there are no more speakers."

Kumararaja MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR of Chettinad:—" There are, Sir."

* Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" Sir, finding no speakers and thinking that the same thing that happened last night may happen to-night also, I get up to say a few words. So far as the Budget goes, it is very commendable. Certain of our friends made criticisms about the Budget and this, I suppose, is because they have not studied the Budget well and I may be pardoned for saying that."

Mr. MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN:—" I want to explain. If certain suggestions were made, it did not mean that we took away our support for the Budget."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may explain why that observation was necessary. The hon. Member may kindly speak through the phone, if he is very particular about his observations being heard by all."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—" Nothing more can be done by the Congress Government than what it has done in this Budget. This Budget gives a remission of about Rs. 75 lakhs. This goes to the benefit of the poor as well as the rich ryot. There is of course no question that the small persons alone holding small areas are benefited altogether. I think it is a matter of detail. With regard to water-supply a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been set apart for work in rural areas in that direction. Out of this amount Rs. 5 lakhs will be spent within the Budget year. And as regards loans to small agriculturists, a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been set apart. And as regards the grazing fees, they have been reduced to half and everybody is satisfied with it. For the Harijans ample provision has been made by setting apart a decent sum. That is appreciated very much.

" My friend, Mr. Krishnamurthi, said that nothing has been done for labour. I am afraid he is entirely under a mistaken impression.

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The greatest thing that has been done for the labourer is the introduction of prohibition. Not only in the Salem district has prohibition been introduced, but now it is going to be extended to two more districts and this prohibition in fullness of time will be extended to all the other districts of the province. (Interruption by an hon. Member.) My hon. Friend is right. This prohibition helps the labourer most. This not only helps the industrial labourer but also the other kinds of labourers as well. So far as this Budget goes, nothing more can be desired.

"Now, as regards borrowing funds, one or two of the hon. Members of the Opposition took objection. I do not know whether they have appreciated the point of view of the Government. If we spend money on irrigation, electricity or some other enterprise even by borrowing, it will do immense good to the country and it will not in any way affect this Budget. The money that will be borrowed this year is to the extent of Rs. 175 lakhs. The money that will be invested in remunerative enterprises is to the extent of 222 lakhs which is much in excess of the loan the Government propose floating. So it means we are investing more money in remunerative enterprises than we are borrowing. That means that we are adopting the same system which is prevailing in every country and which every wise Government ought to adopt.

"And now, speaking about the remarks of Mr. Langley I suppose Mr. Krishnamurthi has given a reply; but I am afraid it is rather sharp. Mr. Langley and his group of men want cheap labour; and they say that the labourers must be free from disease and they should keep themselves very fit for their work. They do not want to pay more wages. They want that their dividend should go higher and higher and they have no sympathy for the labourer."

Mr. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"I may assure my friend that we would pay labour as much as we possibly can, consistent with reasonable profits to us."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"I am glad that my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, is willing to pay more to the labourers if he gets good profits. Even the previous Governments sided with the capitalists; that was the attitude. And the other remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, were with regard to the agitators, those who wanted to help the labourers. They are not merely agitators. If the labourers cannot help themselves there must be some persons to help them. My friend Mr. Langley has got great experience and he knows what is happening in other countries. He must take these things into consideration. India cannot be an exception to the general order or even with reference to the general rule. We should see how other people are helping the labourers. We cannot any longer say that the labourer is born to serve only the other persons, and he must be satisfied with the fodder that he is given. The conditions have changed. Even Mr. Langley and his group must recognize the point of view of the labourer. They have got very good experience and they can help us; they are only

careful about their affairs. They want peaceful labour, peaceful conditions and no taxes, and the Premier is advised to look to these things. They want roads for rural areas; how can that help the labourer? Has he got any motor car or has he got any commodity to be taken to the market? What he wants is food first. That is the most important question. Mr. Langley should think of the conditions of the rural areas and he should help those who are interested in labour.

"Our European friends are living in this country and they are making money on account of their investments here and they should have some sympathy for this country. If that view had been taken, Mr. Langley would have advised the Hon. the Premier, as others did, to improve the industries of the country and to make this country self-sufficient and in that way my friends can help. As regards the Budget they are not in favour of certain things. They want two things; one is to continue the sale of drinks; that is the first thing they want. The other thing is that they do not want agitation; they do not want that labourers should be told what their needs are and how their conditions can be bettered. That, I beg to say, ought not to be the attitude of these people, because we know what has happened in Russia and what is now happening elsewhere. So I request my hon. Friend and his group of men to take a liberal view of the matter and also to help this country.

"I would also, Sir, like to suggest a few things, because it has been a habit of mine always. I am always thinking of the industrial development of the country. I am sorry that much has not been given to industry. That is not the fault of the Hon. the Premier; but I think it is because my young energetic and very capable friend, the Hon. Mr. V. V. Giri, the Minister, has been a little slack. (Laughter.) My friend has multifarious duties and I think my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnamurthi and his party have been giving him very much trouble. (Laughter.) I am sure that the Minister could manage all the labour strikes in the whole of India, but he could not manage the strikes here easily because they do not listen to his advice. We must have confidence in our own people; we have seen what he has done for labour. My friend Mr. Krishnamurthi asks him, 'Why should you not do all those things for labour that have been done in England?' In this Province of Madras conditions are different. So far as Bombay is concerned it is in no way inferior to Manchester and the conditions prevailing in Bombay are exactly similar to those in Manchester. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnamurthi is thinking that the Hon. the Premier is not very attentive to labour problems. We are not sharing the views of our hon. Friend. Mr. Krishnamurthi wants that everything should be done now and at once for the labour. But I say the Legislature after some time will help the labourers."

*MR. SPEAKER:—"The House is now adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. to-morrow."