THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 17th September 1937.

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

Proceedings began with the singing of the Vande Mataram song.

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

I.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1937-38—*cont.*

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I wish to invite the attention of the House to the fact that the time allowed for the voting of grants is only 10 days. During the last three days we could finish only 6 grants. At this rate it would not be possible to finish the discussion on all the 37 grants and it seems to be the general desire of the House that the policies of the Government with regard to all these 37 Demands should be discussed on the floor of the House and that they should not be subjected to the guillotine on the last day as in previous years. I therefore suggest that the speeches on the various motions may be brief, direct and relevant to the discussion. That would facilitate the achievement of the object viz., the heart-felt desire of the House that all the 37 Demands should be discussed."

(7) DEMAND VII—IRRIGATION.

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,10,900 under Demand VII—Irrigation.

" As the House is aware, this Demand is for expenditure on irrigation works. I have divided the items of expenditure into three groups—

(1) Rupees 32·99 lakhs representing the anticipated working expenses on works—productive and unproductive—for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.

(2) Rupees 38·63 lakhs representing the cost of original works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept, the cost of minor works, working expenses of the existing works for which capital and revenue accounts are not kept and the cost of gauging and investigation of new projects.

(3) Rupees 3·49 lakhs for capital outlay on works which are unproductive but for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.

" For the information of the House I may say that working expenses include expenditure on extensions and improvements which are necessary for the proper working of the irrigation system and maintenance and

repairs of the system. The provision of Rs. 32·99 lakhs is mostly for the maintenance and repairs of the existing systems including conservancy operations on the Godavari, Kistna and Cauvery rivers and also for the completion of the works in progress in Kistna delta system, the Cauvery-Mettur Project and the Kattalai Scheme and for a new work, viz., the remodelling of Srirangapuram channel in the Kistna Delta System.

" As regards maintenance, Government have recently issued orders that the maintenance charges for the systems should not exceed a prescribed limit without their sanction with a view to keep maintenance expenditure as low as possible. Provision has also been made for cutting open the Pulicat bar in the Buckingham Canal.

" The second item of Rs. 38·63 lakhs mostly comprises expenditure on maintenance of works coming under the category of works for which no accounts are kept. It includes a provision for a new work, i.e., improvements to Murugamalai Odai in Madura district, and for expenditure on 17 works in progress. The cost of agricultural and other experiments relating to the Tungabhadra, Pennar, Kumudavati and lower Bhavani Projects is also met from this head. Government, with effect from 1st April, reduced the criterion of productivity from 6 per cent to 4 per cent and projects which have been abandoned with reference to 6 per cent criterion are being re-examined by the Chief Engineer and the local officers to ascertain whether they satisfy the revised rate of 4 per cent. The Papagni Reservoir Project, the Malampuzha Project (Malabar), Utteramerur and Prattur Pumping Schemes are being re-examined and other promising schemes will also be examined. The budget for the current year does not include provision for such projects but it is hoped that it may be possible to provide for at least some of them in the next year's budget after the Chief Engineer's examination is over.

" The third item of Rs. 3·49 lakhs is for expenditure on the Thippayapalem Project, the Duvvuleru Project and on the construction of regulators across the Nattar and Vanjiyar at the Vanjiyar head in the Cauvery Delta.

" I have made it clear how 75 lakhs are to be spent under the three heads and this will help, I hope, in discussing this Demand."

* KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I beg to move the cut motion which stands in my name and which runs as follows :—

' To reduce the allotment of Rs. 75,10,900 *for irrigation by Rs.* 100. *(To discuss policy.)* '

" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am moving this cut motion with a view to bring to the notice of the Government the injustice that is being done to districts like South Kanara, Malabar, etc. Crores of rupees are being

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spent on irrigation works such as Mettur Project, the Kistna Reservoir and their repairs and maintenance. I ask, Sir, wherefrom this money comes. Does it not come from the common fund? Do not the tax-payers in South Kanara also contribute towards this? What do they get in return? If we can fight for Provincial autonomy—if it is not a vice but a virtue—why should we not fight for District Autonomy as well? We all fought once against the Provincial contribution of 3 and odd crores of rupees and we got rid of the iniquitous impost. By this I do not mean to say that the Province should be divided into small autonomous units. What I meant is to say that our district also should be benefited and should not be neglected. Something has to be spent for irrigation and such other useful purposes in South Kanara also at least from the money that the Government gets from our districts. To questions like this the reply that was given in previous councils was that we were blessed with plenty of rainfall and that therefore we must give them a share from out of our savings. Will this not be similar to the impost made by the Government of India. Instead of the Government of India, the Tamils and Telugus are benefited by the taxes that we pay; and we don't get any benefit. Sir, in this connexion I may say that people who talk like this about the rains in Malabar and my district do not know the real facts. The country there is sloping towards the west and the Western Ghauts are so very near that whatever rains that we get during the four months from June to September are rushed into the Arabian sea by means of the several small rivers that run from east to west. In doing so they carry away the fertility of the soil. During the remaining eight months of the year the people have very little water either for second crops or for dry crops. The poor ryots have to cultivate their lands by baling water from the small rivers which are numerous in those parts. For this purpose they put up bunds across small channels at their own cost and undergo a lot of trouble. Some of the richer ryots put up bunds across the small rivers by removing earth from the neighbouring hills and putting it across the rivers and thereby make the rivers overflow the banks and irrigate the lands on either side. This is being done quite unscientifically and therefore more harm than good is being caused. The loose earth that is put in the river is washed down during the monsoon and the river becomes silted up and very shallow. As time goes on the rivers become very very shallow. Even a little rain causes floods and inundate the lands on either side and destroys the crops growing there. I would earnestly request the Government to consider whether some help cannot be given to us in the way of some minor irrigation works in our district also. I request that the Government might be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of an expert engineer, a revenue officer of the district and the Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the district. The committee might be asked to consider the possibility of constructing small bunds across the rivers scientifically for the purpose of irrigating the lands on either side so that the rivers are not silted up as is being done at present on account of the unscientific way of doing things.

10-15 a.m.

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" Sir, the Hon. the Premier may not like the idea of spending money for this purpose, because he has to scrape up all the available money for making up the loss caused by the prohibition policy. But I may tell him that this may not cost much. I quite agree that we will have to make some provision for this purpose, but what I submit is that we need not spend the amount required all at once. First, let the committee be appointed and let it consider whether South Kanara cannot be benefited by some such irrigation work. For this purpose very little money will be required. I earnestly request the Government to appoint a committee to go into the question and see whether the district cannot be helped in this matter, whether much money will be required to undertake such schemes, and whether they cannot be executed by the expenditure of a proportionately small sum of money which will not interfere with any other big schemes now under consideration. With these words, Sir, I move the motion."

* Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

" கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, காவேரியின் கீழ் இரண்டு அணைக்கட்டுகள் இருக்கின்றன. அவை கிராண்ட் அணைக்கட்டு லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு என்பவை. இவைகளில் லோயர் அணைக்கட்டானது தென்னற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவுக்காக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தென்னற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவில் ஏட்சத்து இருபதினாயிரம் ஏக்கர் பாயவேண்டும். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பதினெண்ணாயிரம் ஏக்கர் பாயவேண்டும். லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு தென்னற்காட்டு ஜில்லாவுக்காக ஏற்பட்டதென்பது தஞ்சாவூர் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட்டு மான்யுவல் (Tanjore District Manual)-ல் இருக்கிறது. லோயர் அணைக்கட்டில் ஜலம் ஏற்றமாகப் போகாமலிருக்க சேத்தியாத்தோப்பில் ஒரு அணைக்கட்டு கட்டியிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த அணைக்கட்டுக்கு ஜலம் வீராணம் ஏரி மூலம் பயன படாமலிருந்தது. 1902-ம்ஹூ வருத்தில் சில இஞ்சினீயர்கள் யோசனை செய்து ஜலம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு ஏற்பாடு செய்தார்கள். வீராணம் ஏரிக்கு மூன்றடி ஜலம் வரக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது. அதை ஐந்தடி பிடிக்கும்படி உயர்த்தினார்கள். அப்படி ஜலம் வரும்படி உயர்த்தினபோது லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு (Shutter) ஆறடியாக இருந்ததை எட்டடியாக உயர்த்தினார்கள். வீராணம் ஏரிக்கு வரக்கூடிய அதிகப்படியான இரண்டடி ஜலத்தை சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டில் விடும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்தார்கள் அதன்படி அந்த அணைக்கட்டில் எண்ணூறு கனம் அடி ஜலம் விடவேண்டும், ஆனால் ஜூலை மாதத்தில் நூறு கனம் அடி ஜலமும், ஆகஸ்டு மாதத்தில் முன்னூறு கனம் அடி ஜலமும், செப்டம்பர் மாதத்தில் இருநூறு கனம் அடி ஜலமும் விடுகிறார்கள். இதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன ? மேட்டூர் அணைக்கட்டினால் வெள்ளம் சரியாக வரவில்லை, ஜலத்தை மேட்டூரில் தேக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த ஜலத்தை தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பட்டுக்கோட்டை தாலூகாவில் மூன்று லட்சம் ஏக்கர் நிலங்களுக்கு கொடுக்க தேக்கிவிட்டார்கள். இதனால் சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டின் கீழுள்ள முப்பத்துநாலாயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள் பாழடைந்து வருகின்றன. இதற்குக் காரணம் மைசூர் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கும் மெட்ராஸ் (Madras) கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கும் ஒப்பந்தம் ஏற்பட்ட காலத்தில் சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டு மூலமாய் முப்பத்துநாலாயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலங்கள் பாயவேண்டியதிருக்கிறதைப்பற்றி சொல்ல மறந்துவிட்டதுதான். இப்பொழுது அந்த அணைக்கட்டின் கீழுள்ள நிலங்களுக்கு வரவேண்டிய ஜலம் வராமல் ஏழை விவசாயிகள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் இஞ்சினீயர்களைக் கேட்டால் அந்தக் காலத்தில் சொல்லத் தவறிப்போய் விட்டார்கள். அதற்கு இப்பொழுது என்ன செய்கிறதென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு 1884-ம்ஹூ வருத்துப் பிளானில் வடவாறு, வடராஜன் வாய்க்கால், தெற்கு ராஜன் வாய்க்கால், குமுக்மணி என்று நான்கு பிரிவுகளாக பிரித்திருக்கிறார்கள். குமுக்மணி 1884-ம்ஹூப் பிளானில் இல்லை. இப்பொழுது குமுக்மணி மூலம் இருபதினாயிரம் ஏக்கருக்கு

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தண்ணீர் பாய்கிறது. புதுமணி என்று ஒரு ஆறு எற்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதன் மூலம் இருபதினுயிரம் எக்கருக்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுக்க சிபார்சு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டு ஜலத்தை தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா நிலங்களுக்கு உபயோகிக்கிறார்கள். சேத்தியாத்தோப்பு அணைக்கட்டுக்கு லோயர் அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து தண்ணீர் வருமென்று நம்பி வெள்ளாற்றில் வருகிற ஜலத்தை தொழுதூர் அணைக்கட்டில் தேக்கி இருக்கிறார்கள். வெள்ளாற்றில் லோயர் அணைக்கட்டு ஜலம் இப்பொழுது சரியாக வரவில்லை. 1940-ம்ஞ்ரு வரையில் பரீட்சார்த்தமாகப் பார்க்கச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். தற்கால ரெகுலேஷன் படி ரிசர்வாண்ட் அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து லோயர் அணைக்கட்டுக்கு 2,162 கனம் அடி ஜலம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். வடவாற்றிற்கு 1,012 கனம் அடி ஆக்கிவிட்டார்கள். வடக்கு ராஜன் வாய்க்கால், தெற்குராஜன் வாய்க்காலுக்கு நானூறு, ஐந்நூறு கனம் அடி ஜலம்தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மீதமெல்லாம் ஆற்றிலிருந்து கடைசிந்து வரும் ஜலம். அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து கொடுக்கவில்லை. வெண்ணற்றிலிருந்து சேத்தியாத்தோப்புக்கு மூன்னூறு கனம் அடி ஜலம் தான் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்கு காரணம் பெரும்பாலும் தஞ்சாவூருக்கு வரக்கூடிய இஞ்சினீயர்கள் தஞ்சாவூர் வாசிகளாக இருந்தினால் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவின் க்ஷேமத்தைக் கருதினார்கள். தென்னற்காடு ஜில்லாவின் க்ஷேமத்தைக் கருதவில்லை. இதுமுமன்றி ஜலம் வாய்க்காலில் வர கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. வீராணம் ஏரி வாய்க்கால்களை மராமத்து செய்து கொடுக்கவில்லை. வாய்க்கால்களின் அகலம் பன்னிரண்டு அடி முதல் இருபது அடி வரையிலுள்ளன. அதை சாதாரண குடியானவர்கள் மராமத்துச் செய்ய முடியவில்லை. இதனால் தண்ணீர் வாய்க்காலில் பாயாமல் நஞ்சைகள் பயிரிட முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. இதனோடு கூட சிதம்பரம் தாலூகாவில் வடத்தலைக்குளம் என்று ஒரு கிராமம் இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் கிராமத்தில் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு கொஞ்ச நிலங்களை 1923-ம்ஞ்ரு த்தில் ஒதுக்கி கொடுத்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது 1937-ம்ஞ்ரு நடக்கிறது. பதின்மூன்று பதினைந்து வருஷமாக தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சுவதற்காக அபராதம் போட்டுக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். சட்டப்படி ஒரு நிலத்திற்கு ஒருவன் ஐந்து வருஷம் தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சினால் தண்ணீர் கொடுக்கவேண்டியது நியாயம். அபராதம் போடக்கூடாது. இந்தச் சட்டத்திற்கு விரோதமாக அங்குள்ள செவினியு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் மேற்படி நிலங்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சுவதற்காக அபராதம் போட்டுக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். வருஷம் வருஷம் செவினியு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு மனுப் போட்டு தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சிக்கொள்ள டிக்கட்டு வாங்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இப்படி டிக்கட்டு கேட்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் டிப்டி கலெக்டர் இஞ்சினீயர் ஆபீஸ்களுக்குப் போய் டிக்கட்டு கேட்க முடியாது. ஐந்து வருஷத்திற்கு மேல் தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்சின நிலங்களுக்கு இந்த மாதிரி செய்கிறது அநியாயமாயிருக்கிறதென்பதைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லத் தேவையில்லை. கனம் நீர்ப்பாசன மந்திரி அவர்கள் (Vadathalaikalam) ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு இருக்கும் இந்த கஷ்டத்தை நிவர்த்திப்பார்களென்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

" மூன்று முக்கியமான விஷயங்கள்: வீராணம் ஏரி மூலமாக குமுடி மூலேக்கு ஜலம் பாய்ந்து பயிராக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் தண்ணீர் போகிறதில்லே. நாலேந்து மைலுக்கப்பால் தண்ணீர் வருகிறது. அந்த ஊரிலிருக்கிறவர்கள் படையாச்சி ஜாதியைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள். நான் ஆதிதிராவிடனை இருந்தும் அந்த ஊர் படையாச்சி ஜாதியாருக்கு இருக்கும் கஷ்டத்தை உணர்ந்து அவர்களுடைய கஷ்டத்தை நேரில் ஜில்லா கலெக்டருக்கும், Executive Engineer-க்கும் எடுத்துச் சொல்லி தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்ச உத்திரவு வாங்கினேன் சென்றவருஷம். இந்த வருஷம் அப்படி உத்திரவு கொடுக்கமாட்டேன் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அந்த கிராமத்தில் இருபது வருஷமாக தண்ணீர் பாயாமல் போனதினுல் ஏற்பட்ட கஷ்டத்தைப் பொறுக்க முடியாமல் பெரிய மனுஷர்கள் நாலு பேர்கள் தூக்குப்போட்டுக் கொண்டார்கள். இது வாஸ்தவந்தானு என்று சி.ஐ.டி. மூலம் விசாரித்துப் பார்க்க இதற்குமுன் இந்த சபையில் பேசினபோது சொன்னேன். இது பெரிய அக்கிரமமாயிருக்கிறது. ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் படையாச்சிகள் தூக்குப்போட்டுக் கொண்டு செத்தால் அங்குள்ள கஷ்ட நிலைமையை என்னென்று சொல்லுவது? குமுடிமூலேக் கிராமத்திற்கு தண்ணீர் போகவேண்டிய எற்பாடு கனம் மந்திரி

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [17th September 1937

அவர்கள் செய்து கொடுக்காமல் போனால் அந்த ஊர்க்காரர்கள் அடியோடு அழிந்து போவார்கள். இந்த சமயத்தில் ஒரு துக்கரமான விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்லாமல் இருக்க முடியவில்லை. என்னோடுகூட இந்த அஸெம்பிளிக்கு தென்னாற்காட்டு ஜில்லாப் பிரதிநிதிகளாக வந்திருக்கிற மெம்பர்களைப் பார்த்து நீங்கள் (Cut motion) கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னேன். ஆனால் அவர்கள் நாங்கள் (Cut motion) கொடுத்துப் பேச முடியாதென்று சொல்லிவிட்டார்கள். என்னுடைய வேண்டுகோளுக்கிணங்கியாவது உடனே குமுடிமூலக் கிராமத்திற்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுக்கும்படியாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களே கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"லோயர் அணைக்கட்டில் தண்ணீரை அதிகமாகப் பெருக்கி வீராணம் ஏரிக்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். வீராணம் ஏரியின் கீழுள்ள வாய்க்கால்களை மராமத்து செய்து ஜலம் நன்முகப் பாய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்து உதவி செய்யவேண்டும். குமுடிமூலக் கிராமத்திலுள்ள ஜாதி இந்துக்களாகிய படையாச்சி வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் நிலங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய தண்ணீர் பாய்ச்ச முடியாமல் தவிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் கொடுத்துக்காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். இந்த நானு விஷயங்களையும் கனம் நீர்ப்பாசன (Irrigation) மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனித்து தக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

10-30 a.m. * MR. D. ABDUL RAWOOF:—"Sir, I wish to urge upon the Government the urgent need of taking up the Tungabhadra Project. I appeal to the present Government in the name of humanity to take up the project as early as possible. The ryots of the ceded districts are going from bad to worse day by day; year after year there has been failure of rain and consequently there is famine with all its attendant miseries. The ryot has been forced to sell his movables, his live-stock and finally his lands to satisfy the unscrupulous money-lenders. The proprietorship of the land has been speedily changing hands from the ryots to the money-lenders who are becoming the owners of lands. This Tungabhadra Project is mainly meant to relieve the ryots, and if it is delayed, it will ultimately benefit the money-lenders and not the poor ryots.

"We find that the Government has been spending large sums of money by starting famine and flood relief works and by giving remissions. I feel, Sir, that these two steps, though they relieve the ryot a little of their hardships, do not materially benefit the poor ryots. Of course they are saved from starvation; but it does not go to the root evil. If the condition of the ryots is to be improved and if the Government is anxious to see that their lot is improved, I appeal to the Government to take up the Tungabhadra Project as speedily as possible. We know that Mettur took many long years to mature. If the Tungabhadra Project is going to share the same fate, I am afraid, as I have already submitted, that it is the money-lender that will be benefited by it, because by the time the project matures, all the lands will go into the hands of the money-lender either by sales on account of execution of decrees or by voluntary transfers by the ryots for the purpose of discharging their debts. So, the matter becomes very urgent and I hope the Government will give due consideration to it. Of course we know that there are difficulties; there are other States with whom negotiations have to be completed. But I think there is bound to be much delay in

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carrying on correspondence. We cannot expedite matters by correspondence. As has been suggested by hon. Members at question time, I request the Government to consider the proposal of sending somebody to these States concerned, so that the scheme might be expedited and the project taken up immediately.

" Sir, there is one other aspect of this matter which is the cause of much loss to our provincial revenues; we are spending large sums of money on famine-relief works and by way of remissions. This money can be saved and it can be utilized for other nation-building purposes.

" I wish to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the Government to the condition in the Bellary district in particular. In many villages of the district people are not able to get fresh drinking water. I have seen people drinking water which most of hon. Members here would not use for washing purposes; water is so bad. In many cases these people have got to walk a distance of 2 to 3 miles, rising very early in the morning, because if they go late, the small springs and wells from which they get water are exhausted. If the Tungabhadra Project is taken up early, I think it will go to the relief of these people. On account of scarcity of drinking water, there have been cholera and other disease in the Bellary district. The scheme, if taken up, will give relief to the people in that direction also.

" But, Sir, so far as the western taluks of the Bellary district are concerned, they are not going to be benefited even if the Tungabhadra Project is taken up for execution. There are a number of tanks in the western taluks of the Bellary district which have silted up on account of heavy rains. The Government later on established a department and opened an office of a Subdivisional Officer with all his staff with his headquarters at Kudligi to see to the repairs of these tanks. Though the scheme for restoration has not been completed, we find, Sir, that the office has been abolished and the staff removed. I appeal to the Government to see that the Subdivisional Officer with all his staff is re-appointed to carry on the work of storing water in these tanks. As I have already submitted, the Tungabhadra Project, even if it is taken up, will not benefit these taluks and the maintenance and repair of these tanks is a matter of vital importance to these taluks. Then there is the question of feeder channels to these tanks. In many cases there have been breaches of irrigation channels with the result that the tanks have not been getting proper supply of water. That matter also can be attended to by the Subdivisional Officer if he is posted to Kudligi or Harpanahalli. The minor irrigation works in these western taluks should be attended to immediately. I once again appeal to the Government in the name of humanity to see that the Tungabhadra Project is expedited as early as possible."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Sir, I find that the motion that has been moved is one to discuss the general policy of the Government with reference to irrigation. But you, Sir, will kindly

see on a perusal of the cut motions that I have given notice of, that they refer to particular matters which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government for redress. May I suggest, Sir, that this cut motion with regard to the general policy may be voted upon and then these particular items be taken into consideration?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I would suggest that the hon. Member might speak, on this motion, with special reference to the particular grievances on which he wants the policy of the Government to be enunciated. The policy of the Government will be enunciated by Hon. Members of Government in their reply. I think the hon. Member will find it very convenient to speak about all the things of which he has given notice, while discussing this token cut motion. That will facilitate discussion."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir, I always have some hesitation to speak about particular matters on a cut motion for discussion of the general policy. There is also one other point which I would like to touch upon; that is, when we speak of particular grievances, these grievances do not get sufficient response when they are discussed in a general debate regarding the policy of the Government. That is one of the apprehensions which I always feel when I speak about particular matters requiring redress in a general discussion of policy. That is why I suggested a different course."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not entertain any such apprehensions."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"The first motion which stands in my name relates to the question of the financial position of the Mettur Reservoir. There was a time when the Mettur Reservoir threatened to be a project which would have to be declared, sooner or later, as an unproductive one. The reports that were placed a number of times before the Public Accounts Committee revealed to a certain extent this state of affairs. There was also a confession on the part of the Government that the outturn they expected would not be materialized from the project on which they have invested nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores. Subsequently, Sir, the Government declared that they would take special steps to see that the cultivation under the project is extended and that they would afford special facilities to the ryots to take more and more water. Unfortunately for us, non-officials, the latest reports that we could get from the Government happen to be one or two years old and we are not really able to find out the latest position with regard to the reservoir nor up-to-date information. I do hope that the reservoir is being worked with profit and that the programme that the Government have laid down with reference to bringing 3 lakhs of acres under cultivation in the Pattukkottai taluk is proceeding according to the time schedule. But we do not have any definite information about this. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister in charge to tell us as to how exactly the project is working to-day with reference to extension of cultivation or with

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reference to the yield of profit and whether that profit is calculated at 6 per cent the old rate or at the rate of 4 per cent which is the present rate as the Hon. Minister declared the other day. I would also like to know what the future is of this project; whether it will continue to be a productive one at least in view of the changed circumstances that are obtaining to-day or whether it will have still to be declared as a project that is not yielding any profit as originally forecasted. It is only with a view to know exactly how the position now stands financially, that I gave notice of this cut.

"Passing on to the next motion, I would like to discuss briefly the principles of distribution of water from the Mettur reservoir. Hon. Members are aware that, after the Mettur reservoir was brought into existence, considerable quantity of water that flowed lower down in the Cauvery and the Coleroon rivers, has been impounded for the benefit of three lakhs and odd acres in the Pattukkottai taluk. Since then some rules have been framed with reference to distribution of water from the reservoir. I may at once say that these rules are no doubt tentative. But even in working these tentative rules, there has been considerable hardship caused to several vested interests who are not getting their legitimate share out of the water that is let down from the reservoir into the Grand Anicut and from there into the Lower Anicut. According to the rules, as I understand them, 2,160 cusecs of water ought to be let down into the Grand Anicut to be distributed among the Coleroon and other systems that are connected therewith. But there have been complaints time and again against the regulation of the required and stipulated quantity of water to be let down to the Grand Anicut from the Mettur reservoir. Before the reservoir came into existence, there were floods and freshes in the Cauvery and Coleroon and a good portion of water was being emptied into the other systems connected with the Lower Coleroon system. But now after the reservoir came into existence, there has been complete block of every drop of water, so that the Lower Coleroon Anicut system as well as the Shatiatope anicuts connected therewith, are not now having any flood or freshes in the Cauvery, available to their benefit or use. It is in the justness of things that these tentative rules now in force should be modified. I understood from the previous Revenue Member that these rules will have to be worked for five years and after a period of five years, they will be subject to revision and that the interests affected thereby would be taken into consideration and would be consulted.

"Now, nearly two or three years have elapsed and the difficulties felt by the mirasidars who are entitled to get water from the Coleroon lower down have not been redressed. On the other hand, more and more hardship is being felt by them. I would however refer to that matter later on, on the next motion. But what I am concerned with just now is that the system should be worked as per rules and the definite quantity of water that has been ordered to be let down through 10-45 a.m.

the Grand Anicut must be let down. What the Public Works department seems to be doing is this: a certain quantity only is let down from the Mettur reservoir and the balance of the stipulated quantity is made up by spring water and from other sources such as occasional floods on account of local rains. That, Sir, was not the original purpose or intention of the rules. The mirasidars want a definite and a fixed quantity of water; it is no use saying to those people, 'you shall have that quantity by means of spring water along with some portion of the Coleroon water.' Moreover, Sir, the Coleroon flood water or the Cauvery flood water is certainly different in quality from the spring water that is made available. These ryots under the Grand Anicut as well as the ryots under the Lower Coleroon and the Shatiatope anicut have got a legitimate right and it is no use letting down only 500 or 600 cusecs from the Mettur reservoir and giving spring water to make up the balance. Sir, it will be found that it is on account of the improper working of the rules that the required quantity of water has not been let down; the Government should see that the full quantity of 2,160 cusecs is let down at any cost to the Grand Anicut.

"Now passing on to the next item, that is, to discuss the necessity and justice for earmarking a definite supply of water from the Lower Coleroon Anicut to the Shatiatope Anicut system, I shall be very brief. In the year 1906, at a cost of nearly Rs. 10,69,000, the Shatiatope Anicut system was connected with the Lower Coleroon system. At that time it was definitely understood and the Government Order says so—I refer in particular to Order No. 944, dated the 1st September 1906, which is the completion report connecting the Lower Coleroon Anicut system with the Shatiatope system—that water should be supplied to the Shatiatope anicut through the Veeranam tank and then to the Shatiatope Anicut system. The full tank level of the Veeranam tank was raised purposely and the crest level of the Shatiatope anicut itself was raised. Then the Vadavar which is the feeding river from the Lower Coleroon to the Veeranam tank was also widened and deepened in order to carry more water to the Veeranam tank. It was also stated then that all the surplus over the full tank level of the Veeranam tank was to be let into the Shatiatope Anicut system. By this means there was a certain assessed quantity of water let down into the Shatiatope Anicut system for the cultivation and irrigation of about 35,000 acres of land. That was found in course of time to be unsatisfactory. Repeatedly, the mirasdars complained to the Government that the water that was supplied from the Coleroon to the Shatiatope anicut was insufficient and that the crops were suffering; and time and again, the Government had to come forward with remissions. Those remissions were of course very unsatisfactory. When crops failed totally, only two annas in the rupee could be remitted, under the Board's Standing Orders. But apart from that, the complaint has been insistent and persistent, that there should be an adequate supply of water for the Shatiatope system. It is also

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a fact, Sir, that a good portion of the Rs. 10 lakhs odd that was spent was debited to the account of the Shatiatope Anicut system. It was also admitted by the officers responsible, on behalf of the Government at the time, that the Shatiatope Anicut system was not to be a north-east monsoon system, although the actual anicut was constructed on the Vellar river. It is a fact that the Vellar is a north-east monsoon river and floods come in it only late in September or in the beginning of October; and the cultivation of the 35,000 acres, if there was to be a first crop—and it is only a first crop that is being raised—had to be in the months of July, August and September. So that, the Shatiatope mirasidars of the 35,000 acres of land had ceased to depend on the floods in the Vellar which usually came, as I said, late in September or early in October. The Government had, by their orders, already decided the question, and the scheme report of 1918 also laid it down very clearly that the crop that was being raised in the 35,000 acres of land under the Shatiatope Anicut system was an early crop, on a par with the crop raised in the Tanjore delta area. The report also said specifically that there was absolutely no difference between the crop, the irrigation sources and the methods followed in the Chidambaram taluk and those followed in the deltaic portions of the Tanjore district. On that ground, Sir, the ayacut of the Shatiatope anicut was classed as one falling under a first-class irrigation source, and the tax was levied accordingly at a very high rate, which was later increased by 33⅓ per cent at the time of the resettlement, merely for the reason that Coleroon water was being supplied to the 35,000 acres of land. Taking all these considerations into account, the fact cannot be disputed, and the Public Works department will be wrong if they say that the Shatiatope Anicut system has not got a legitimate or a vested interest in the waters of the Coleroon. But what is actually happening? Whenever the Shatiatope anicut mirasidars ask for bread, stone is being given to them. That is the position to-day. Discontentment was so rife among these mirasidars that a conference had to be called in the year 1931 to reconsider the rules of the distribution of water, at the Lower Coleroon anicut. Accordingly, the old morai system that existed till then was revised, and by G.O. No. 1150 of 1932, as a result of the conference presided over by the then Revenue Member, an agreement was reached by which the Veeranam tank was to be supplied with water to the full, as often as possible, subject to variations of the quantity of water in the Coleroon itself, and that any surplus in the Veeranam tank over and above the 3 feet level should be let into the Shatiatope Anicut system. Definite rules were also framed and thereby a certain quantity though insufficient was assured to this effect; but when these rules were being worked, it was again found that the rules did not give much advantage to the Shatiatope anicut. Again, representations were made and an order was issued by the Government, in 1935 being G.O. No. 547, that in addition to the supply that was then being given to the Shatiatope Anicut system, an 'extra' supply should be given of

nearly 100 cusecs in the month of July, 300 cusecs in the month of August and 200 cusecs in the month of September. The Chief Engineer was given the discretion to see that this ' extra ' or excess supply of water was taken from the Coleroon or from the Grand Anicut through the Vadavar and let down into the Veeranam tank system. When the question of interpretation of G.O. No. 547, actually came up, a narrow view seems to have been taken of it. The Government Order was issued so recently as February 1935 and was intended to be worked until the year 1940 as an experimental measure; it was further intended to give the much-needed relief to the Shatiatope mirasidars, by allowing the Chief Engineer to take down an extra supply of 100, 300 and 200 cusecs of water respectively during the three months of July, August and September. What has now actually happened is that the Chief Engineer interpreted that Government Order to the utter disappointment of and disregard of the rights and interests of the concerned mirasidars in the Shatiatope system. He would seem to say by his order of June 1937 that only a total quantity of 100, 300 and 200 cusecs should be let in and nothing more. That is certainly a perverted interpretation of the Government Order which clearly says that the said supply is to be an ' extra ' supply. Then, Sir, questions were put on the floor of the House and the Government stated again that the Chief Engineer had been given the discretion to give an ' extra ' supply. The word ' extra ' seems to have either escaped the attention of the Chief Engineer or it has been altogether ignored. The result is that to-day everywhere in the ayacut of 35,000 acres, the seedlings are withering. The other day the Collector elicited from the Tahsildar that in several areas crops had perished and in some other areas they were slowly perishing. On account of the rains in the Vellar area, for about three days, the crops showed some signs of revival, but nobody could be sure of it unless and until a steady supply of water was assured and continuously let in. Sir, the whole point is that the Government should now so frame the rules and revise them in such a way,—and they must issue instructions,—as to provide that a definite supply of water is ear-marked and given to these 35,000 acres of land in question. These 35,000 acres must be in a position to get a supply of at least 850 cusecs from the Lower Coleroon without fail. It is no use giving discretion to the Superintending Engineer or the Chief Engineer to be abused.

" I must, with great pain, observe on this occasion that the Superintending Engineer has his headquarters at Tanjore; and invariably the Superintending Engineers are people drawn from Tanjore and therefore they are always having a bias in favour of the people of Tanjore, and to the detriment of the people of South Arcot. So it is that the ryots under the Shatiatope Anicut system have always been at great disadvantage in not being able to persuade and convince the Superintending Engineers about their needs and difficulties, that is because the Superintending Engineers have the interests of the Tanjore people nearer their hearts. It was therefore suggested often that the Superintending Engineer for this area should be placed in any of the

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towns of South Arcot, preferably at Cuddalore or Chidambaram which should be headquarters but the Government, for certain reasons, would not approve of that suggestion. The Superintending Engineers have also been sometimes people whose native place happened to be Tanjore itself. All these facts are no doubt strange and minor points, but still, when I am giving vent to the feelings of the people of South Arcot, I cannot refrain from making these observations. I hope, Sir, you and the Hon. House will pardon me for it.

"This being the case, if really the Government are intent upon getting their due share of revenue from the lands under the Shatiatope anicut, it is their bounden duty to see that there is no failure of supply, that there is always an adequate supply of water, and that, that supply is regularly given from the Coleroon waters. It must be remembered that there are no more freshes and floods in the Coleroon. The Shatiatope anicut system does not need any water from Vellar because the Shatiatope anicut system was not able to take advantage of the waters of the Vellar, for the first crop and because there was great possibility of turning that water to other uses that the Toludur project was brought into existence, and probably also the two further projects, viz., the Pelandorai project which is a completed one and the Kalroyan Hills project, further up, which seems to be under consideration. The contention therefore that the Shatiatope anicut is on the Vellar river and should accordingly get its water from the Vellar is a fallacy and cannot hold water. Besides, Sir, the waters of the Vellar have been definitely pronounced by experts, as not being fit for cultivation purposes in the Shatiatope anicut area. That being the case, it is only fair and just that a definite supply of water from the lower Coleroon anicut to the Shatiatope anicut system should be ear-marked, and that the rules should be so revised as to give effect to this demand for a definite and adequate quantity. The position to-day is this: that in spite of the fact that the Collector requested a week or so ago the Engineer to let in a certain amount of extra supply, I have received reports this morning, that water has not been supplied and the crops are withering. The Collector has called for a conference again on the 25th of this month to settle this matter and till then do not know what will happen; but until then, what is likely to happen to the withering crops is not known. May I, on this occasion, request the Hon. Minister to see that orders are issued by the Chief Engineer immediately that the required quantity should be supplied? In fact, there is a certain quantity, about 1,600 cusecs, already not having been drawn during the last rains; and it will be an act of great generosity, if I may say so, if immediate orders are issued for the supply of the required quantity of water to the Shatiatope anicut system. I also hope, Sir, that as soon as possible, even before the tentative period is over, rules will be revised to ensure and ear-mark a definite supply of about 850 cusecs to the Shatiatope anicut system from the lower Coleroon anicut.

"The next point is with reference to the working of the Toludur project. Sir, the Toludur project was intended to cultivate 26,000 acres 11 a.m.

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of land but I understand from persons who are interested and affected by the project that only about 6,000 acres have been brought under cultivation. Of course the Government have spent large sums of money on the Toludur project, but no steps have been taken to extend the area of cultivation under that project, as it is to-day only one-fourth of the estimated area seems to have been brought under cultivation till now. I do not know definitely whether the project is actually working at a profit or at a loss and whether the Government propose to declare it to be an unproductive work. Surely, there is scope to increase cultivation, but only the Government should change their present rules; if only the Government would reduce the present rate of Rs. 6–4–0 to Rs. 4 or thereabouts per acre, I am sure there is every possibility of working the project with more profit and for bringing in a greater extent of land under its cultivation. Sir, representations seem to have been made by the ryots whose interests were affected by this Toludur project that the rate must be reduced if the Government wanted that more and more lands should be brought under cultivation and if there were to be more profit for themselves. I do not see what exactly is the objection to reduce the rate. If they fix the rate at Rs. 4 per acre and all the 26,000 acres of land are cultivated, then certainly it is a profitable venture. I suggest this to the Government so that they may try this as an experiment at least for a few years and then see whether it will be a project that can be worked successfully and the real object with which they started and completed the project is achieved. Otherwise the water will be there in the Toludur reservoir and will not be availed of by the ryots, and the lands will remain uncultivated and the Government revenue would be low. The object of the Government ought to be to find out ways and means of increasing the extent of cultivation and their revenues. It is true the department of agriculture failed in this regard, but why, when there are opportunities, the Government should not afford facilities to the ryots who are anxious to avail of such facilities and increase the extent of cultivation and production, which is sure to be the case if only the rates are reduced. I therefore, Sir, in all earnestness, suggest that it is up to the Government to see that their projects are worked successfully and at a profit, that all facilities are given to the ryots to take more and more water and that the present rates are reduced. It is with these objects that I gave notice of these three or four cut motions. I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given."

Mr. MAHOOB ALI BAIG:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure the present Government are aware of the agitation that is being carried on by the ryot population with regard to the lowering of the high water rate that is being collected from them. I am personally of the opinion that the Government is entitled to water rate for supplying water from Government sources and I am also of the opinion that the Government must undertake remunerative projects, and thereby earn money so that the general rate-payer may be benefited. I am further of the opinion that the sooner the Government nationalize industries and make money, the better for the country. At the same time I may also state as I have

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already stated once before that this burden is inequitably distributed. Whenever any money comes to the Government it is through the ryot. As I have already stated about 7 crores of revenue is derived from the ryot, either by way of land revenue or by way of irrigation charges. Therefore, my submission to this House is, no doubt the Government are entitled to water-rate for supplying water, but let not the profit be abnormal. I find, Sir, from certain projects, for instance, the Kistna delta project, the Government get not less than 18 per cent as profit. May I ask the Government, let the profit be marginal, let the ryot not suffer still more? The Government construct these works from capital or loans and they have to pay a certain amount of interest either to the Central Government or to others from whom they borrow, but there must be some proportion between the interest that the Government pay to their creditors and the money that they derive from the ryots in that regard. My submission is that 18 per cent profit from irrigation projects derived from the ryot is abnormal. I know that Government's criterion is 6 per cent profit and I think that is what the Hon. the Minister for Public Works stated before. May I request the Hon. the Minister to investigate this question and see whether the water-rate may not be reduced?

"Again, Sir, sometimes it happens that where an improvement is made to an original project, that improvement is taken to be the original project itself and interest is calculated thereupon. Here, I wish to submit, Sir, that it is not necessary that a separate account should be prepared with regard to improvements to a certain project. The East Bank canal in Kistna is a point in question. It is an improvement to the Kistna anicut project which was started as early as 1858 or 1859 when the Irrigation Cess Act was passed. Now, this is an improvement to that system and yet profits and losses are calculated separately, and not only the ordinary rate is sought to be collected, but a sort of inclusion fee also is sought to be collected. Now, Sir, this question of inclusion fee is peculiar only to the Kistna district, or perhaps even to the Godavari district. But, is there any justification to collect not only the ordinary rate at Rs. 6-12-0—which is now reduced to Rs. 6-4-0 I think—which works out at 18 per cent on the investment made by the Government for the Kistna project, but in addition, an inclusion fee also. It may perhaps be answered by the Government that the ryot or the owner of the land gains because of the fact that the value of the land is increased. Of course it is an unearned value. My submission to the House is, that even according to the calculation of the Government or the Superintending Engineer, Kistna, or even the Chief Engineer, and the Board of Revenue, it has been found that even without this inclusion fee, the profit will work out at 8 to 12 per cent. In view of these facts, the previous Government very rightly and justly stated that they were not going to collect the inclusion fee. In my cut motion I have asked for information from the Government, whether they have or have not decided to collect the inclusion fee. I hope, Sir, the present Government would not collect it?

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" From the figures furnished at page 37 of the Budget Memorandum it is seen that the decrease in the preliminary accounts for 1936–37 is due mainly to the inclusion fees collected in the Kistna district being less than was anitiepated. I find from the figures that the revenue assessment for this year is below the preliminary accounts of the previous year. In the previous year the preliminary accounts show Rs. 5,71,329 and the budget estimate of this year shows Rs. 5,24,000 and that the decrease in the realization of this money last year was due to the fact that inclusion fee was not collected and so it fell short of expectation. This year also the estimate is less than the preliminary accounts for 1936–37. I therefore take it that the Government are not going to collect the inclusion fee this year also. If that be so, I should be very thankful to the Government for taking that step.

" Another point to which I wish to invite the attention of the Government is that in all places where irrigation projects have come into existence, canals have been dug, and channels have been excavated. But in many places, I know it from personal knowledge, in my own district, there are no bridges and not even small culverts to enable the ryots to pass from one village to another.

11-15 a.m. " During the rainy season and the cultivation season, Sir, it is very difficult for people to pass and repass. I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister in charge of the Irrigation department to see that wherever any channel or canal is dug for irrigation purpose necessarily a small bridge or culvert may also be provided in the estimate. Another thing which is peculiar to our district is that in many places, especially Kaikalur division, the drainage system is bad; I am told that no attention is paid to drainage at all. The peculiar levels of the place are also responsible for it, but I submit that without drainage no irrigation will be satisfactory. The last point that I want to urge on the Government is the peculiar circumstances in which water is supplied to the ryots in their villages or near by. The officers live in distant places 50 or 60 miles away. In the circumstances it is impossible for doing justice to these ryots and these ryots depend upon the whims and fancies of the subordinate staff. The peculiar circumstances are such that it is impossible for the staff not to take advantage of the ignorance of the ryot or the necessity of the ryot. What I mean to say is that the immediate officers who will be letting down water are in a very advantageous position. It so happens that this letting down of water is not strictly supervised, no doubt it is supervised, but it is not strictly supervised by the higher officers who are in charge and that gives rise to so much trouble. Ignorance is taken advantage of by the petty officers and their subordinates. I need not say much more except to state that it is common knowledge that mamuls have grown and they have lost the seriousness of bribes. This has been in vogue for several years. This Government has come into existence by the sufferance of the people and they would do well to see that no occasion is given to lower officers who are in an advantageous position of getting their mamuls. I make a special appeal to purge the system of any

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longstanding mamul and see that the ryot gets his due share without making payments by way of baksheesh, mamuls or bribe."

* MR. A. KARUNAKARA MENON:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I rise to speak on this grant to-day it is only to voice the great need that the people of Malabar feel that some sort of irrigation scheme should be introduced in that district. It is unfortunate that no steps of any kind for the introduction of any irrigation scheme in Malabar have been taken up, up to this time. Perhaps it might be due to the belief that we are getting proper seasonal rains. No doubt formerly the rains were regular and the crops were successful. But since the past few years rains have become very irregular and therefore crops have begun to fail. When the south-west monsoon appears it pours in one lump for some time and afterwards there is a great lull. Consequently there has been a more or less regular failure of the second crop. The Premier in his budget speech stated that seasons were likely to be more favourable this year. But at least as far as Malabar is concerned this prognostication is not going to be true. There has been no rain at all in Malabar during the last six or seven weeks. Palghat will be benefited by the introduction of the regular irrigation system, for the nature of the country is more or less like that of the eastern districts. As regards the hilly Walluvanad and Ernad taluks big tanks and reservoirs may be constructed and when they are constructed large acres of lands could be cultivated. I earnestly appeal to the Hon. Minister to do something in this line. Agriculturists expect that at least this Government would respond to their needs."

* MR. K. R. KARANT:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, various points were raised thus far. Sir, I shall submit some answers with your permission. I assure hon. Members of this House that on various matters of irrigation there have been repeated and constant complaints in the past and probably also stereotyped answers from time to time. But I could assure them that this Government though it has been in office only for a very short time will try its utmost to have a new outlook on the various grievances in all the districts, subject of course to the question of finance, because it is impossible to tackle all schemes in all districts. If we have to go in for loans for our large schemes we cannot do so for each and every scheme in every district. We have to put the limit somewhere. Subject to that qualification I might assure hon. Members that with all the earnestness that Government could command we shall look into and consider all schemes and grievances put forward by hon. Members. With regard to the points raised by my Friend Mr. Schamnad from the very district from which I hail I could say that with regard to the irrigation works in that district, it may be that he has rather overpainted the picture. Because though there are no irrigation works in that district and Malabar by Government and though there are difficulties it is not correct to say that except for four months in the year there is no rain or no water at all. At the same time it may be difficult for irrigation works to be constructed in those districts exactly of the kind which we have in the east coast

districts because both the districts are full of hills and valleys and we cannot have a common reservoir and an irrigation system to cover any large area. But I may however say that Government would be willing to consider any practical and definite scheme that may be suggested. So far as Malabar is concerned I understand that there were six projects which were considered some years ago and because they were not remunerative under the then existing condition of six per cent return they were not proceeded with. But I understand that one of those projects, the Malampusha project, is under reinvestigation by the Chief Engineer and I hope Government will kindly take up the reconsideration of all these projects both because of the change in the rate of interest that has now taken place from 6 per cent to 4 per cent and because the old estimates were prepared while the materials were costly.

"With regard to the various points raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmad, though I am not going to reply as far as points raised by him are concerned, as far as I understand him, there is plenty of water in the Cauvery which goes waste to join the sea, and by a wrong understanding of a Government Order certain quantities are allowed and no more, even though 35,000 acres are suffering under disabilities for want of water. I request Government to consider whether they should wait till 1940 according to their previous order if the assurance given by the Member that there is not enough water is correct. (Hear, hear.)

"Then, Sir, with regard to the Tungabhadra project, I have read a little on this subject and have heard complaints from members of the Ceded districts. Probably this is a great project which has been the desire of many hon. Members of Governments in the past to put through. This has been going on for a long time and I was told that the hon. Member who was till recently holding the portfolio, Sir Charles Souter, was very anxious to put it through.

11-30 a.m. "But at the same time, hon. Members will realize that having embarked upon a big project like the Cauvery Project costing nearly 6 crores of rupees, which I understand, is to-day getting a revenue of only ·9 per cent after deducting the maintenance charges, Government will have to consider seriously whether before any new and big project is to be launched upon, it is likely to be remunerative.

"With regard to the Tungabhadra Project, there are certain difficulties. First, there is the question of sharing the waters among the four Governments concerned, namely, the Bombay, the Hyderabad, the Mysore and the Madras Governments. I understand, Sir, that there are certain negotiations proceeding, and, however much any one Government may be anxious to put through the scheme, still there are difficulties when four Governments are involved. I do hope the Government will however, get through this project as early as possible. There is another difficulty also. I understand that the Cauvery project being a project for raising paddy, has become so reduced in its return because of the heavy fall in the price of rice over which, hon. Members are

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aware, this Government or this Province has no control. Those factors are regulated by the tariff control of the Central Government and by the exports and imports and world conditions. With regard to the Tungabhadra Project, I understand, Sir, that first it was estimated to be a wet project and that then, because wet projects were not very hopeful, it was estimated as a dry project some years ago. But, again, there is this difficulty now that with the experience of other projects elsewhere in this province it is feared—and that seems to be the view in the higher quarters of the Irrigation department—that the project may not be remunerative if it is a dry project and there may be failure again. So some time is necessary. I understand investigations are going on as to the suitability of the waters and the soil for dry crops. So, it may take some time. Hon. Members are aware that it will cost 10 crores to launch upon the scheme. I therefore request the Government, considering the sentiments and the claims of the Ceded districts —no doubt, any Government would be anxious and would try its very best—to put through this scheme as early as possible.

"Then, Sir, there are only one or two points. My hon. Friend Mr. Baig touched upon some matters. He said, if I am not mistaken, that the profits of the Kistna delta were 18 per cent. It is correctly 16·51 per cent in the year 1935–36. But the average profit of all productive works in the province works out at only 6·5 per cent in 1935–36 and unproductive works in the same year yielded 5·0 per cent, so that over all works it came to only 4·3 per cent. It would not be right to take any one project and treat it as a separate unit and ask for extensions. He also referred to the trouble given by petty officers and subordinates. I am quite sure, Sir, the House is aware that a Government cannot be carried on by only the high officers. In every place we must have also petty officers. No doubt, there is complaint against them, and probably there is a great deal of substance and truth in the statement that people are being harassed. But I have no doubt that the present Government will do its very best to remove all such traces of corruption and to see that they do not continue to deal with such questions in the same time-honoured way as their predecessors have done."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members should not try to catch the ear of the Speaker; they must catch his eye." (Laughter.)

* Mr. K. VENKATAPPAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the district from which I come, I wish to lay before this House a few matters for consideration. Opinion is gaining ground in the Telugu districts that for some years past, the interests of those districts are being neglected in the matter of irrigation as in many other matters. You may know, Sir, that as early as in 1914, there was a scheme called the Kistna Reservoir Project, which was estimated to cost about 8 crores and 33 lakhs of rupees. The scheme received the sanction of even the Secretary of State for India, and it would have been immediately taken up for execution but for the claim pressed on behalf of the Mettur project, which was slightly less costly, the estimate being about 6 crores of rupees. Thus the Kistna Reservoir

Project was kept in abeyance. Now that the Mettur project has reached completion, my submission is that it is high time that this Government should take up the work into their hands without further delay.

"The Kistna Reservoir Project will not only irrigate the uplands of the Guntur district, but as it will join the Sangam Project in the Nellore district, it will become one of the most important irrigation projects in this province, which would relieve distress in almost all the dry areas both in the Guntur and Nellore districts.

"Again, Sir, there are some smaller projects like the Gundlakamma Project in the Guntur district, pending consideration for a long time. It is not known to what state the investigations of the scheme have reached. The river Gundlakamma flows through areas where the rainfall is very scarce. The people of those parts are in constant distress for want of rain. The project will prove very useful and being a smaller project can be undertaken with much less cost and will indeed be a source of great relief to the people.

"There is another question, Sir, that calls for immediate consideration of the Government, namely, the question of inclusion fees. This fee is insisted upon even in respect of lands which are worthless. They are mostly saline lands which cannot be valued at more than Rs. 25 per acre. It works hard upon the people, if inclusion fees are insisted upon even in respect of such valueless lands.

"There are some other lands which were purchased by the people in Government auction, which have been under wet cultivation for several years past and for the inclusion of which in the permanent ayacut, the inclusion fees are now asked for by the Government. This demand of fees for inclusion in the ayacut is unjust. There was a talk during the term of the Interim Ministry that the collection of inclusion fees would be given up. But no final decision seems to have been arrived at. I hope this Government will soon consider the question and order abolition of the collection of inclusion fees in all cases."

* THE HON. MR. T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I would like to confine myself to the question of inclusion fees raised in this House during this debate. It was between 1917 and 1920 that the Government got a special survey made, with regard to the lands that were able to command and also the lands that were not able to get water. It was then decided that those lands which did not command should be excluded and the lands to which water could be given, might be included. The inclusion fees started then. There are five deltaic areas in this connexion, the Godavari Central, the Godavari Eastern, the Godavari Western, the Kistna Eastern and the Kistna Western. In the Kistna Eastern and the Godavari Western areas, inclusion fees were introduced in 1920. In 1923, the question was raised in the Legislative Council, and a resolution was passed for cancelling the inclusion fees. But the Government did not agree. With regard to the Godavari Eastern and Central deltas, inclusion fees had been collected between

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1926 and 1928. Between 1928 and 1932, they were cancelled. In 1932 again, the fees were levied in the Kistna Western delta. In 1934 the Government accepted proposals for the levy of these fees in this delta for extensions. The justification for the levy of the inclusion fees is three-fold; firstly, payment of compensation for extension of water-rights in the areas that have been excluded and the cost of special localization staff in the Kistna and Guntur districts; secondly, as had been referred to by the hon. Member, Mr. Mahboob Ali, the right of the State to a share in the unearned increment in the value of land arising from the inclusion in the ayacut; and thirdly, consideration for inclusion in the ayacut giving prior right for water over lands not included.

"I shall not detain the House over this matter at length just now, but I may refer to the G.O. No. 1419, dated 3rd July 1936, in which a special concession was made in favour of those who would not be able to find money for payment of the inclusion fees. The appeal now made for the cancellation of inclusion fees by the hon. Member, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, cannot be accepted. The question relating to this inclusion fee being retained or cancelled is yet to be considered by the Government, and a final decision will come to, when all the other matters covered by the recent Economic Enquiry Committee of Mr. Marjoribanks will be taken into account. 11-45 a.m.

"Mr. Venkatappayya referred to what he had heard about and what had happened before this Government came into office. What happened during the three and a half months prior to our coming into office with regard to the recommendations of the Marjoribanks Committee, cannot be discussed now, because the Committee's report is not before the House, and we are not also free to take up these matters for discussion. But one thing can be said, that is, that whatever was done by way of recommendation in that report does not become final, as I have pointed out already in connexion with some other matter, for some technical reason. So, in this budget, the inclusion fee was included. And the inclusion fee relates to a very large area; it does not confine itself to the lands owned by poor people. Large extents of land are owned by zamindars, as their home-farm lands or lands of their tenants within those estates. I do not wish to take this House at this stage into all the details. The inclusion fee if it should be cancelled to-day will not enure to the benefit of the poor people only. The poor people would be very few when compared with the rich people, the zamindars, in some districts who stand to benefit more by this cancellation. The question of retention or cancellation will be considered and decided upon later by the Government."

* THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, the members of this House have formed committees to study certain subjects. One of these committees is for the purpose of studying the subjects connected with irrigation. And of this committee Mr. Karant is the convener as well as the Chairman."

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MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"May I ask whether it is a committee of this House?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"It is not a committee appointed by this House; if it was so, the hon. Member would have come to know of it without asking me for any information. The members have elected a committee of themselves to study certain questions."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Which members?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Members of the Assembly."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"We are also members of the Assembly."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I ought to have said that some members of the Congress party who are members of this Assembly have formed themselves into a committee. I suppose that is clear now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I think the Hon. Minister need not dwell at length upon the committees of parties."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"What I was going to say, Sir, is this, that this committee is studying the questions relating to irrigation. This is a departure from the procedure of the past Governments with regard to the handling of important questions. The committee is going into the questions so thoroughly; not only the Minister but also the Parliamentary Secretary and a committee are giving all their attention to this subject."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I again request the Hon. Minister not to allude to the proceedings or reports of committees appointed by parties."

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I was only anxious to show that we are giving so much attention to the questions relating to my department. There were some cut motions to discuss the policy of Government, but as one of the members who had a cut motion in his name had not taken part in this discussion, there was no occasion to speak about the general policy. Members who spoke made only some general remarks on certain projects in which they were personally interested. The first speaker, Mr. Schamnad, said that much injustice has been done to Malabar and South Kanara, and suggested that a committee should be appointed to go into this question. Sir, in the year 1935, this suggestion was also made but it was then pointed out that there was no necessity for such a committee. This question has been dealt with at great length in previous debates in the Council. In the year 1935, there was a programme for improving the minor works; an expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned; investigation was made, and it was reported that there was no scope or necessity for irrigation works in Malabar and South Kanara districts. No allotments were made on any project that was considered not to be productive. Now

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Government has resolved to reduce the criterion of productivity from 6 per cent to 4 per cent; the project known as the Malampura project is taken on hand and investigation is being made, and I shall soon be able to report what the Government's decision is on the matter.

"In regard to South Kanara, a deputation waited on His Excellency the Governor in October 1935, and three proposals were made by them, (1) provision of a tube well pump in the bed of the rivers which go dry during hot weather; (2) construction of a reservoir for storage of surplus water; and (3) the repairing of tanks like Anamasamudram-Beraperu tank. These were examined by the local Public Works Department officers and Collectors in consultation with Mr. Sreshta, a member of the deputation, and all of them were found impracticable.

"I might also mention that the conditions prevailing in Malabar and South Kanara are the same as those in Travancore and Cochin. An enquiry is being made as to what is being done in the matter of irrigation in those two States, with a view to evolve a policy that could be applicable to those two districts.

"Swami Sahajanandam has given a long list of grievances. Some of these have been covered by Mr. Basheer Ahmed as far as Chingleput is concerned. I shall come to them by and by. I may mention that in the matter of pathways and wells, powers have been given to the Collector of the district to sanction anything up to Rs. 2,500, under which come the miscellaneous measures connected with the welfare of the depressed classes. The provision of wells for the depressed classes is one of the main activities of the Labour Department. In this connexion I would suggest that the facilities that are placed at the disposal of the Collector should be availed of to a larger extent than they seem to be at present.

"Mr. Abdul Rawoof has spoken mostly on Tungabhadra project. Sir, the Government is quite alive to the necessity of proceeding with this project as soon as possible.

"I am personally well aware of the great distress that prevails in the Ceded districts and what all Mr. Abdul Rawoof has said so eloquently was not necessary to convince me as to the necessity of this scheme being taken up as soon as possible. I am aware that much time has been wasted over this matter, but I can assure hon. Members that the present Government will make the Tungabhadra project as one of the most important items in their programme to be given their special attention. As has already been stated, in this case the Mysore Government and the Nizam's Government are involved. The proposal is that the waters of the Tungabhadra should be shared between Mysore, Hyderabad and Madras. Naturally therefore we have to come to some understanding with Hyderabad and this matter is engaging our special attention. I can assure hon. Members that I will not allow grass to grow under my feet until I make the waters of the Tungabhadra grow corn by flowing all over the Ceded districts. 12 noon.

" The question of supply of drinking water, the question of repairing tanks, the question of keeping in disrepair all the feeding channels to these tanks—all these questions have been gone into in detail by Mr. Abdul Rawoof and I assure the hon. Members that every one of them will receive our attention.

" Sir, this is not the first time when my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, has spoken on this subject of irrigation in South Arcot district in this House. He spoke last year also on the very same thing and almost in the same strain. I studied his speech to see whether I might improve on the reply that Sir Charles Souter gave him last year. My hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, said that the rules which are tentative for five years are working hardship and they are being interpreted in such a way as to result in hardship to the people. Therefore he has suggested that they should be considered again, and that even before the five years period is over something may be done to give relief in the directions enumerated by him. I think I will be doing him very much injustice if I do not go through the whole thing and give him a reply off-hand. I think I would be doing better service to him if I promise that I will make a minute study of all the points raised by him and try to meet them as much as possible.

" I now come to the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. As pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Karant, the actual return that has been fixed from a certain irrigation project named by him is not as high as 18 per cent. I may mention that the return that was previously fixed for a productive project at 6 per cent has now been reduced to 4 per cent. The fixing of a return of 6 per cent or 4 per cent is done only to classify the projects as productive and unproductive and not with a view that these projects should be made to yield that return or more. When a project is undertaken some estimates have to be made whether it will be paying or not. In some cases, after the project has been worked for ten years, it has to be found out whether the amount of return that was expected from that project is forthcoming or not. It is only after some years that it is found whether the project is paying or not. All the productive projects are generally financed from loans and the other projects are financed from the revenue.

" Sir, Mr. Basheer Ahmed has spoken about the Mettur project. It was only about three years ago that the project was completed, and that was a period of widespread economic depression. It is therefore no use in seeing now whether the project has fulfilled the expectations. It is too soon to expect any beneficial results from it now. With the rivival of normal conditions, the project may come up to our expectation. I have got a statement showing the total extent of lands to be served by the Mettur project and the return to be realized in 1936 according to the forecast made in 1932. But, Sir, so far as the

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returns are now concerned, at the present stage of development and with the present water-rates, the percentage of gross revenue to capital outlay is only 1·13; excluding maintenance charges it is only ·9 per cent. As I have already said, the project was completed only two or three years before."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed spoke in a low tone to the Hon. Minister in charge across the Bench.

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" The Chair has not heard what has passed between Mr. Basheer Ahmed and the Hon. Minister."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" I wanted to know how the position stands in relation to the extent of lands brought under cultivation."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" Hon. Members are requested to address the Chair and not carry on conversation across the benches."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" I am sorry, Sir."

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" I must not omit Mr. Venkatappayya, who was the last speaker. He observed that the Telugu districts were rather neglected and added that Kistna Reservoir project was set aside in favour of Mettur. In this connexion I may point out that there is not much ground for this remark. Very many projects in this Province which have always drawn the attention of the Government were investigated from time to time. Government have taken necessary steps to push through some schemes. But it was pointed out in several cases, especially in Ceded districts that such projects would be a failure because of the peculiar condition of the soil, the poorness of the soil and the insufficient supply of water, etc.

" Sir, Mr. Venkatappayya in his speech has drawn my attention to one particular project. I will have that examined again.

" I need not take up the time of the House any more for my reply. On the assurance of the careful examination that I have given I hope the cut motion will be withdrawn."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—" I do not press my motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

(8) DEMAND VIII—HEADS OF PROVINCES, MINISTERS AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

* The Hon. Mr. C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" Sir, I rise to move that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,00,400 under Demand VIII—Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff. 12-15 p.m.

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"In moving this Demand, Sir, I have only to say that General Administration is divided into three demands, viz., this one that I have moved, the next demand for Legislative Bodies and the next after that for District Administration and Miscellaneous. Hon. Members may also note that full details in respect of this matter which may not only be informative but interesting will be found at page 84 onwards of the Budget Memorandum supplied to them. They will see from it how figures cannot always show the real purport of the work of the administration and how the expenditure is distributed. They will see from the interesting and detailed explanation of the position at page 91 of the Memorandum that under the head of Land Revenue the demand is only for 28 lakhs, but really if the expenditure on the services is distributed in a proper manner they will find that under Land Revenue actually 133 lakhs and odd are to be spent. Under General Administration about 285 lakhs would be the total of the three heads I have referred to. As a matter of fact not all this is spent merely on General Administration, but much of it goes to the Administration of Justice, Police and Land Revenue. In that way only 134 lakhs is really the budget allotment for General Administration. So also for Administration of Justice, the particular demand is only Rs. 97 lakhs, but they will find on a reappropriation of the various heads that I have mentioned under General Administration that really Rs. 130 lakhs are spent on that account. I explain this because a large part of the House consists of new Members who may like to be guided in this matter and I hope older Members will forgive me for giving what they may deem to be very elementary information.

"The Demand which I have moved just now is in addition to the expenditure on His Excellency the Governor, his personal staff—secretariat as well as household, the expenditure in connexion with which is charged on the revenues by statute—for the Secretariat Headquarters Establishments, the Public Service Commission, the Board of Revenue and certain miscellaneous items which come in, such as the Local Fund Audit establishments, etc. I do not think, Sir, anything more need be said by me at this stage. There are a number of cut motions arising questions of policy and I await hon. Members' references to those points.

"Sir, I join with you in appealing that the speeches may be as far as possible on different points instead of going over the same ground. I hope hon. Members will forgive me for making this appeal, because I also desire on behalf of Government that if at all possible, all the 37 demands might be gone through substantially and the guillotine need not be dropped on the discussions."

* Mr. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respectfully beg to make a very humble suggestion with regard to the Demand for the Salary and Allowances of His Excellency the Governor."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—" Under sub-section (1) of section 79 of the Government of India Act, the House cannot discuss the salary and allowances of the Governor. The sub-section runs as follows:—

' 79 (1) So much of the estimates of expenditure as relates to expenditure charged upon the revenues of a Province shall not be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, but nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as preventing the discussion in the Legislature of those estimates, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (*a*) of sub-section (3) of the last preceding section.'

" And paragraph (*a*) of sub-section (3) of section 78 refers to—

' The salary and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to his office for which provision is required to be made by Order in Council.'

" Therefore no discussion will be permitted in this House on the salary and allowances of His Excellency the Governor."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" Sir, I beg to be enlightened on the point. There are certain charges which are voted. On some of these votable items I propose to say a few words."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The salary of the Governor about which the hon. Member wanted to speak is not a votable item. Section 79 read with section 78 of the Government of India Act specifically excludes the discussion of the subject here. The hon. Member may proceed to discuss the remaining points."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I only wanted to suggest, Sir, that the future Governors of this Province . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I do hope that the hon. Member will not speak on it. He may proceed with the rest of his speech."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I am really at a loss to know whether any reference could not be made to the Governor under this Demand."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" The ruling of the Chair will have to be obeyed."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I obey your ruling, Sir. It is regrettable that the powers of this House are limited. I would suggest very seriously for the consideration of the House that they should take up the matter with the Government of India and the British Government. If necessary a resolution may be tabled to that effect."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I hope that the hon. Member will understand the position under the Government of India Act and not comment on it. He may proceed with the rest of the heads under the Demand."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" I beg your pardon, Sir; I do not comment on the Act."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" I will have to stop the hon. Member from speaking if he continues in this strain."

MR. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—" Very well, Sir, I want to say something about the Services Commission.

" Sir, that Commission seems to be unnecessary. It is the opinion of many Members of this House as well as the enlightened people outside that this Commission is superfluous. If the Commission exists only for the purpose of applying the principle of communal representation, I do not think that it will do it much better than the appointing authorities who are now permitted to apply the rules as far as the subordinate ministerial posts are concerned. I am not one of those who are in favour of continuing the principle of communal representation in the services, because I find that it is not quite logically followed, the principle of it at any rate. Secondly, in the interests of the nation at large, we should have the support of as large a body of the public as possible for the national cause. We have not recognized the importance of the backward communities in the services. Sir, I am not one of those who are considered to be communal, but the only way in which the communal feeling can be overcome is by educating the people. By education I do not mean merely the academic education, qualifications, etc., but education that one gets from the exercise of one's powers in the discharge of one's duties in the public service. If you give such education to communities which are backward, I am sure that sooner than later you will find the support of the entire people for the Indian National cause. It is in that spirit that I urge the representation of backward communities in much larger proportion in the public services. I may make a very serious suggestion to the Government that hereafter in the matter of the recruitment to the services backward communities should be given representation to the exclusion of all other communities for some time to come. I make this suggestion for what it is worth. It is nothing but pure public spirit which actuates the foremost leaders of Indian nationalism. It is all right for people who have come up to the stage at which they can see things from a purely nationalist point of view. But there are people who have not yet reached that stage and the only way in which you can make them trust you is to place them in positions of trust. What is objected to generally is what may be called parochialism which is wrongly called communalism. Parochialism is, I understand, that which subordinates nationalism to communalism. But communalism is not that; it is merely patriotism limited to a certain community. That is not necessarily opposed to nationalism."

12-30 p.m. " I make this humble suggestion to the leaders who have been exhorting people to give up what they call communalism in favour of nationalism. I can understand it; but I am afraid that the people whom they address, the majority of them, do not understand it. It is a matter of psychology that has to be taken into account. You simply cannot satisfy a man by telling him, ' I love your brother, love another man as your brother and there is no difference between man and man.' I would suggest that the present Government should modify the communal rule, in view of the present circumstances and that recruitment

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should be made from backward communities to the exclusion of others; it will go a long way to get the support of the masses. You must understand that all those who are communal are not less patriotic than anybody else, if not more. Only they do not speak out.

"Then there is the other question of the Board of Revenue. The Board of Revenue has come in for a lot of criticism in the old Council and I am sure there are a large number of members here who are in favour of the abolition of that department. The Board of Revenue does not serve any good purpose; it is also supernumerary. With these words, I move that the allotment of Rs. 19,00,400 for Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff by Rs. 100 (to discuss policy)."

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion on this Demand. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the demand for the formation of the Andhra Province. I need hardly labour very much to convince this House as well as the Government how keenly this question is felt by the Andhras. Speaking on the previous demand, the hon. Member, Mr. Venkatapayya, has given us an inkling of the mind of the Andhras. I am not going to narrate the irritation the Andhras have been subjected to in the past. It is unnecessary for me to go into details. It is enough for me to say that, for no other reason but for the solitary reason that they want to manage their own affairs, the Andhras must be given a separate province. It is the right of every man to manage his own affairs. People have been carrying on agitation for self-government, for the purpose of managing their own affairs. They want to impose taxes, to collect them and to spend them as they please. The very fact that this House is debarred from discussing certain items of expenditure is galling to us. Of course, present conditions are such and office has been accepted knowing full well all the defects. That is by the way. It is a well-known fact that everybody desires to manage his own affairs. Unless he is incapacitated by unsoundness of mind or immaturity, one ought to be given the right to manage his own affairs. The argument that you may be better off in the company of another, does not appeal to anybody at all. We want self-government not because the present system is not beneficial to us. We do not want the British Government, not because it is not beneficial to us, but because we want to rule our own country, to manage our own affairs. The whole point that we should consider in a matter like this, is why should we not concede the right of the Andhras and try to help them. I am glad to state that the previous Government and the party to which the present Government belongs, have already recognized the principle of determination as I may put it. Andhras are entitled to have their own province. There was discussion with regard to this question every time Reforms were granted to India. This agitation came into being as early as 1913. Andhras have been meeting in provincial conferences presided over by very

eminent persons, some of whom I might mention, Sir, M. Ramachandra Rao, Sir B. N. Sarma, Mr. C. R. Reddi and several others. You, Sir, and some hon. Members on the Treasury Benches here have taken a leading part. The agitation began in the year 1919 when the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were granted. The British Government also recognized the right of the Andhras to have a separate province. Even when the present Reforms were granted to us, this matter was foremost in the minds of the Andhras. It is the misfortune of the Andhras. Other people have their own provinces though their provinces are small and though their income is so small that they cannot get on without a special subvention from moneys that we are bound to contribute. I do not deny their right. But why should not Andhras be given a separate province? I do not throw any blame at anybody's door. I only say that Andhras being sentimental, we must come to a decision on this point. Some Members may say that we will be better as it is. It may be that we may be better. But what I want is a separate province and wish to have an independent province of my own. I have taken the time of the House in order to impress upon it and on the present Government how unjustly the Andhras have been denied the right of having a separate province so long. The minds of some Andhras are agitated very much over this question. We cannot wait any longer. Here and there some people are saying that Federation has not come into existence; although we are willing to give you and to help you to form a separate province, Federation has not come into existence. Federation may come or may not come. You cannot therefore say, wait until the unknown future, until uncertain future. May I ask whether it is necessary that Federation should come into existence before this Government can recommend it to the Governor-General who would make his recommendation to the Secretary of State? Section 290 of the Government of India Act, 1935, says:

'Subject to the provisions of this section His Majesty may by Order in Council, create a new Province, increase the area of any Province, diminish the area of any province, alter the boundaries of any province: Provided that, before the draft of any such Order is laid before Parliament, the Secretary of State shall take such steps as His Majesty may direct for ascertaining the views of the Federal Government and the Chambers of the Federal Legislature and the views of the Government and the Chamber or Chambers of the Legislature of any province which will be affected by the Order . . .'

"Sub-section (1) of section 313 runs thus:—

'Subject to the provisions of this Act for the time being in force, such executive authority as is hereinafter mentioned shall be exercised on behalf of His Majesty by the Governor-General in Council, either directly or through officers subordinate to him . . .'

"Sub-section (3) of section 313 is as follows:—

'References in the provisions of this Act for the time being in force to the Governor-General and the Federal Government shall, except as respects matters with respect to which the Governor-General is required by the said provisions to act in his discretion, be construed as references to the Governor-General in Council, and any reference to the Federation, except where the

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reference is to the establishment of the Federation, shall be construed as a reference to British India, the Governor-General in Council, or the Governor-General, as the circumstances and the context may require.'

"The section does not debar the present Government from making its recommendations. There is no impediment for our doing so. The Congress Party to which the present Government belongs, has in its programme of the separation of the provinces on a linguistic basis. There is no difficulty in the way of allowing the Andhras to work out their own destinies in their own way, according to their culture. I hope the Government will at once take steps to recommend to the authorities concerned, the formation of a separate Andhra Province."

* SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே மாகாணத் தலைமை ஆபீசு மினிஸ்டர்கள் என்ற வகைக்கு ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கும் ரூபாய் 19,00,400-ல் நூறு ரூபாயைக் குறைக்க வேண்டுமென்று பிரேரேபிக்கிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இரண்டு மந்திரி ஸ்தானமும் இரண்டு செக்ரட்டரி ஸ்தானமும் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தை சொல்லுவதற்காக இந்த பிரேரணை கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். இதனுல் இப்பொழுதுள்ள காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகளிடத்தில் எங்களுக்கு விசுவாசம் இல்லாமல் இதைக் கொண்டுவந்துவிட்டோம் என்று நினைக்கக்கூடாது. ஹரிஜன மந்திரி பன்னிரண்டு மந்திரிகள் இருந்தாலும் இப்பொழுதிருக்கிற மந்திரிகளிடத்தில் இருக்கிற சந்தோஷமிருக்காது. ஹரிஜன மந்திரிகளுக்கு ஒரு காரியத்தையும் செய்ய சக்தி இருக்காது. அழுத பிள்ளைதான் பால் குடிக்கும் என்ற பழமொழிக்கிணங்க எந்த ஜனங்களால் நாம் அலுப்படைந்தோமோ அந்த ஜனங்களின் வேண்டுகோளைத் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தைக் கொண்டு இந்த பிரேரணையைக் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். அபாண்டமான தீண்டாமை ஒழிவதற்கு இந்தப் பதவிகள் ஒரு காரணமாய்க்கூடாது என்பதைத் தெரிந்து கொண்டதால் இந்த மோஷனைக் கொடுத்தேன். எப்படி என்றால் எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த கனம் M. C. Raja அவர்கள் இடைகால மந்திரியாக இருந்தபோது பல ஊர்களுக்குப் போனபோது பல ஜாதி இந்துக்களும் அதிகார வர்க்கத்தினர்களும் அவர்களே வரவேற்றார்கள். அதைக்கண்டு ஆனந்தமடைந்தேன். இப்பொழுது கனம் வி. ஐ. முனுசாமி பிள்ளை எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் மந்திரியாக எங்கள் ஜில்லாவுக்கு வந்தபோது அவர்களை அழைத்துக் கொண்டுபோய் கோவில் சந்நிதானத்தில் வரவேற்றார்கள். அதைப்பார்த்து அளவிலா மகிழ்ச்சியடைந்தேன். தீண்டாமை ஒழிகிற அதிகாரத்தில் இருக்கிறதென்பதினுல் இந்த மோஷனை நான் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். சாதாரணமாக இந்த மாகாணத்தில் நாலு கோடியே இருப்பத்து லட்சம் ஜனங்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இதில் ஆறிலொரு பங்கு ஹரிஜனங்களாக இருக்கிறோம். இந்தக் கணக்கைப் பார்த்தால் பத்து Ministerகளுக்கு $1\frac{3}{4}$ Ministerகள் எங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்துத் தீரவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. இன்னும் நூற்றுக்குப் பத்து பதினைந்துபேர் என்று அதன்படி பார்த்தாலும் $1\frac{3}{4}$ Ministerகள் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஆகையினுலே இரண்டு மந்திரி ஸ்தானங்கள் ஹரிஜன மெம்பர்களுக்கு கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். ஆனுல் இது வகுப்பு வாதத்தைக் கிளப்பி விடுவதுபோலிருக்கிறதென்று சொல்லலாம். வகுப்புவாதமே இதில் அதுமில்லாமல் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம் என்று சொல்லியிருந்தால் சந்தோஷமாக இருந்திருக்கும் காங்கிரசானது இந்த மாகாணத்தில் பொதுத்தானத்தில் நிறுத்தி வெற்றி பெறச் செய்திருந்தால் அது அளவிலா மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தரும் அப்படி ஒரு மந்திரியைக்கொண்டுவந்தால் அதைவிட மோட்சம் ஒன்றும் கிடையாது. ஆனுல் முதன் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அப்படி வேண்டியதில்லை. அதில் நாங்கள் எங்கள் ஸீட்டில் நிறுத்தி மந்திரி வேலை கொடுக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி அபிவிர்த்தி இலாகா மந்திரி 1-ம் லேபர் மந்திரி 1-ம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனுல் இங்கே இருக்கிற பத்து மந்திரிகளையும் எங்கள் மந்திரிகளாகக் கருதுகிறோம்.

12–45 p.m.

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [17th September 1937

கனம் சி. ராஜகோபலாச்சாரியார் அவர்களே எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம். கனம் பிரகாசம் அவர்களே எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம், கனம் ராமன் மேனன் அவர்களே எங்கள் மந்திரியாகக் கருதுகிறோம், டாக்டர் சுப்பராயன் அவர்களே எங்கள் மந்திரியாக கருதுகிறோம். ஆகையினாலே எல்லா மந்திரிகளும் எங்கள் மந்திரிகள்தான். இந்த இடத்தில் ஒரு விசேஷம் என்னவென்றால் எங்களுடைய மந்திரிகள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டாலும் கனம் வி. ஐ. முனிசாமி பிள்ளை மந்திரி அவர்களிடத்தில் இதைச் செய்யவேண்டும் அதைச் செய்யவேண்டும் எங்கள் வகுப்பாருக்கு என்று உரிமையோடும் கேட்பதைப்போல் கனம் லேபர் (Labour) மந்திரி கிரி அவர்களிடத்தில் கேட்க முடியாது. ஆகையினாலே எங்கள் வகுப்பு மந்திரிகள் இரண்டு பேர்கள் இருந்தால் நல்லதாயிருக்குமென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். . இதைக்கொண்டு இரண்டு மந்திரி ஹரிஜன மந்திரியாக இருக்கலாமென்று அபிப்பிராயப்பட்டேன். வங்காளத்தில் பதினெரு மந்திரிகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டில்லே. அங்கே இரண்டு ஹரிஜன மந்திரிகள் இருக்கிறார்கள். முப்பது அங்கத்தினர்கள் ஆதிதிராவிட அங்கத்தினர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அதில் இரண்டு மந்திரிகள் ஹரிஜன மந்திரிகளாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அதைப்போல் நாங்களும் கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். தீண்டாமை மிகவும் கொடுமையாக இருக்கிறது. இந்தத் தீண்டாமை ஒழிவதற்கு இது ஒரு காரணமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினாலே எங்களுடைய ஹரிஜனங்கள் நன்மையை முன்னிட்டு இரண்டு மந்திரிகள் கொடுத்திருக்கலாம். எங்களுடைய ஜனங்களுடைய வேண்டுகோளுக்காக சொல்லுகிறேன். இதனால் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகளிடத்தில் நம்பிக்கை குறைவாயிருக்கிறதாக நினைக்கக்கூடாது. தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்காக 93, 94-வது மோஷனைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன்.

" இந்தச் சமயத்தில் தீண்டாமை என்பது மதத்திலிருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறதை அப்படிக்கில்லே என்பதை நிரூபிக்க சாமவேதம், பகவத் கீதை, துவாதச உபநிஷத்து முதலியவைகளைக்கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். தீண்டாமை ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு பெருந்தடையாக இருக்கிறது. ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஒரு வேலே செய்யப்போனால், ஒரு பயிரிடப்போனால், ஒரு உத்தியோகத்திற்குப் போனால் அவர்களே முன்னுக்கு வராமல் தடுக்கிறது. இந்தத் தீண்டமைப் பேயை ஒழிப்பதற்காக பண்டைக் காலத்தில் சங்கரர், ராமானுஜாச்சாரியார் என்ன, பௌத்தர் என்ன, இப்படிப்பட்ட பெரியோர்கள் பாடுபட்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸில் தலைவராயிருந்த தாதாபாய் நௌரோஜி முதல் இப்பொழுது தலைவராயிருக்கிற மகாத்மா காந்தி அவர்கள் வரையிலும் கனம் முதல் மந்திரி சி. ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் அவர்களும் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்காக பாடுபட்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கு மேல் பாடுபடுகிறவர்கள் இல்லே என்று சொல்லலாம். காங்கிரஸ் திட்டத்தில் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்கிறது முக்கியமாக இருக்கிறது. இதற்கு முன்னிருந்த சபையில் கனம் டாக்டர் சுப்பராயன் அவர்கள் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிக்க ஒரு பில் கொண்டுவந்தார். அதை ஜஸ்டிஸ் கட்சியார் தோற்கடித்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆகவே இந்த சமயத்தில் ஒரு பில் கொண்டுவரும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அந்தக் காலத்தில், சேலம், ஈரோடு, தூத்துக்குடி முதலான இடங்களில் காப்பிக் கிளப்புகளில் ஹரிஜனங்களே விடவேண்டுமென்று ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களில் தீர்மானஞ் செய்து அனுப்பினார்கள். அந்தத் தீர்மானங்களே Raja of Bobbili காலத்தில் கொணுத்தி எரித்துவிட்டார்கள். இந்தச் சமயம் நல்ல சமயம். யார் எங்களே முன்னுக்கு கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்களோ அவர்கள் கையில் அதிகாரம் இருக்கிறதினால் தீண்டாமைப் பேயை இப்பொழுது ஒழிக்கவேண்டியது முக்கியமாகும். மகாத்மா காந்தியை இந்த தீண்டாமை இருபது நாள் சாப்பிடாமல் செய்தது. உடனே தீண்டாமையை ஒழித்துவிடுகிறோம் என்று பலபெரியோர்கள் காந்தியினிடத்தில் போய்ச் சொன்னார்கள். எங்கள் வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த ராவ் பகதூர் M. C. Raja, திவான் பகதூர் R. Srinivasan, கனம் முனிசாமி பிள்ளை முதலானவர்கள் Poona ஒப்பந்தத்தில் கையெழுத்துப் போட்டார்கள். கையெழுத்துப் போட்டபோது காங்கிரஸ் கக்ஷியைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் தீண்டாமையை ஒழித்துவிடுகிறோம் அதற்காக சட்டம் கொண்டுவந்துவிடுகிறோம் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அந்தக் காலம் முதற்கொண்டு

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தீண்டாமை ஒழிப்புச் சட்டம் எப்பொழுது வருமென்று எதிர்ப்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். வாஸ்தவத்தில் நாங்கள் தீண்டப்படாதவர்களா? தீண்டாமைக்குக் காரணம் எங்கேயாவது இருக்கிறதா என்று ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து பார்க்கும்பொழுது மனு ஸ்மிருதியில் தீண்டாமையை மூன்று விதமாக காட்டுகிறார்கள். (1) பெரு நோயாளிகளைத் தீண்டக்கூடாது. (2) நாயைத் தின்கிறவனைத் தீண்டக் கூடாது. (3) சண்டாளனைத் தீண்டக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் பெருநோயாளிகளா? ஆறுகோடிப்பேர்களும் பெருநோயாளிகளாயில்லை. நல்ல சரீரமுடையவர்களாயிருக்கிறோம். இரண்டாவது நாயைத் தின்கிறவர்கள் இந்த நாட்டில் கிடையாது. மூன்றாவது சண்டாளன் என்பது யார் என்பதை ஆராய்ச்சி செய்தால் இரண்டு விஷயம் சாஸ்திரத்தில் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த இடத்தில் என்ன சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். தங்களுடைய பெண்களின் கற்பை ஒழுக்கத்தைக் காப்பாற்றச் சட்ட திட்டங்கள் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள், ஆரிய வகுப்புப் பெண்களில் விவாகமாகாத பெண் நெறி தவறி அந்நிய ஜாதி ஆடவனோடு கூடிப் பெற்ற பிள்ளைக்கு சண்டாளன் என்ற பேர். அவன் ஜென்ம சண்டாளன். உயர்ந்த வகுப்பில் பிறந்து சாஸ்திரத்தை விட்டு விட்டு அந்நிய விஷயங்களில் தலையிட்டு வைதிக கருமங்களை விட்டுவிட்டவர்களுக்கு கருமச்சண்டாளன் என்று பெயர். இந்த இரண்டு வகுப்புச் சண்டாளர்களும் எற்படுகிறது. ஒரு பிராமணப் பெண் அந்நிய வகுப்பு ஆடவனுடன் சேர்ந்து பெற்ற பிள்ளை சண்டாளன் என்றால் நான் அப்படிப் பிறக்கவில்லை என்னுடைய வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களும் அப்படிப் பிறக்கவில்லை. நாங்கள் எங்கள் கருமங்களைச் சரிவரச் செய்துவருகிறோம். ஆகையினால் கருமச் சண்டாளர்களுமல்ல. ஆகையினால் இருவகைச் சண்டாளர்களுமல்ல. பெருநோயாளிகள் கிடையாது. நாம் தின்கிறதுமில்லை. ஒரு குற்றமுமில்லாது எங்களை தீண்டப்பாடாதவர்கள் என்று சொன்னால் சிக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது."

MR. P. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"May I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker? I should like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that the hon. Member seems to be speaking on untouchability. Is it relevant to this subject?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is the cut motion. (Laughter). May I know how long Swami Sahajanandam intends to speak?"

SWAMI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"இன்னும் 15 நிமிஷங்கள் பேச வேண்டும்."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Out of regard for the usual practice of this House rising at 1 o'clock on Fridays, I now adjourn the House to meet again at 10 a.m. to-morrow."