

excess expenditure. The appropriation accounts are accounts for the expenditure incurred. These excess demands are with regard to the expenditure incurred over and above what had been voted by Parliament, and the revenues are different altogether.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: (*To Shri Govindan Nair*) Take some other opportunity to raise this.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: The only request that I would like to make of the hon. Minister is to be kind enough to let me have the figures and the name of the particular committee on the Hirakud Dam that I referred to.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: If the hon. Member just sends me something in writing I will find out and let him know the position. He is an expert on finance. It becomes difficult to find out the figures before 1950 and I know nothing about 1936-37. He might have been a Member of the old Legislature; I was not.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL (Punjab): May I supplement what my hon. friend has said, Mr. Deputy Chairman, that it is correct that whenever there was excess demand it had to be officially brought before the Legislature in those days? Since my hon. friend was not a Member I only inform him that that is correct. The other point that I wanted my hon. friend's attention to be drawn to was this. Excess grants are not looked upon with favour by Parliament and it is necessary that at the earliest possible moment the excess grants should be placed before Parliament. I do hope, now that the procedure of the Comptroller and Auditor-General and of the Public Accounts Committee has been expedited, that in future any such excess demands that my hon. friend may have in his Ministry relating to all the Ministries will be brought forward in March the following year and that we shall not have to wait for longer than that period. That is the procedure in the House of Commons.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He told the House that the accounts had not been finalised.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: The point that I am suggesting is that this should be done in future.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I agree and I concede that this must be brought with the least possible delay. It is because

the accounts had not been finalised. There is that Rule—I don't know exactly whether it is Rule 214 or any other—in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, which specifically mentions that the accounts must be looked into by the Public Accounts Committee and the recommendation should be made by the Public Accounts Committee if any items have to be regularised. We have not taken time. It is just in May that the Public Accounts Committee recommended.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

“That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1952, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir I move:

“That the Bill be returned.”

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

“That the Bill be returned.”

The motion was adopted.

THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1956

**THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE
AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI
M. C. SHAH):** Sir I beg to move :

“That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

[Shri M. C. Shah.]

Sir, the House is well aware that under article 356 of the Constitution there was the Proclamation of the President with regard to Travancore-Cochin State and the administration was taken over by the President. Thereafter whatever appropriations are to be made to the Rajpramukh or to the Legislature have to be made here by the President and by the Parliament. Now, Parliament had voted the Budget for the year 1956-57 for Travancore-Cochin State. Perhaps, hon. Members may be aware that there was no time for us to go very carefully into the details of the Budget of the Travancore-Cochin administration. The Budget that was to be presented to the Travancore-Cochin State Assembly had to be presented to the Parliament and there was not time enough for again revising that Budget. Therefore, certain expenditure could not be foreseen and so we had to come before Parliament for these Supplementary Demands. Really speaking, the Supplementary Demands are rather very small. If the hon. Members will look at the Bill the Supplementary Demands are for only Rs. 11.58 lakhs. This, however, does not mean that the excess over the main Budget for the year will be more than covered by the savings in those grants. The main item in these Supplementary Demands is Rs. 11.12 lakhs for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State. The other two important items are Rs. 23,000 for additional expenditure of the State Public Service Commission and Rs. 19,000 for the opening of Primary Health Units in the State. A further sum of Rs. 110 lakhs is required for the construction of buildings required for the District Headquarters and Civil and Police Lines. This expenditure would be met from the savings within the Grant, but it becomes an expenditure on a 'new Service' and we have to come before Parliament for a token grant and this is a token grant for that expenditure. The Administrator when he took over saw that all these official buildings were scattered and also they were in a dilapidated condition and, therefore, he thought that there should be offices at three places which we have mentioned in the foot-note under Demands for Grants copies of which have been circulated to hon. Members. There the whole explanation has been given, and, therefore, we have come forward with these Supplementary Demands before the House. They have been voted by the Lok Sabha. One of the items,

Rs. 11.12 lakhs, is for the improvement of the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I do not think any hon. Member can oppose that demand, and there is the sum of Rs. 23,000 for the Public Service Commission. They had called for certain applications. A huge number, several thousand applications were received for certain posts of clerks and copyists. They have to do a lot of work and they have to have more clerks and typists. Then there is some provision for 'Examination charges' and other things. Then, as I said, there are the Primary Health Units also. They have taken over twenty dispensaries on 1st April 1956. They had to have some additional staff and for that additional staff they had to spend about Rs. 76,000 and odd and also they had to expand and just renovate certain dispensary buildings and so Rs. 1 lakh and odd was required. Out of the Rs. 1,71,600 they would find something from the savings under that head and Rs. 19,000 only have been asked for in that demand.

This is the long and short of the story of the Supplementary Demands, Sir.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO (Orissa) : There is no quorum.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There is no quorum?

(Quorum bell rings.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: (After a court). There is quorum. I will just put the motion before the House.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR (Madras): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, some at least of the supplementary demands embodied in the Bill raise some important issues which I beseech that this House must take serious notice of. Only four months ago in very special circumstances this Parliament adopted a Budget for Travancore-Cochin and in that Budget provision was made under Demand No. 37, that is, capital outlay on civil

works, other than revenue account. In the Budget there was a provision for about Rs. 293 lakhs. Now, the items were specified and specific allotments were made under that particular demand. That was four months ago. Even while this Parliament was considering that Budget or within a few weeks of Parliament passing that Budget, we find the Administrator there acting in complete disregard of the Budget provisions, acting as if he is not to be governed by any Budget. We find that he incurred an expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs; he drew that amount from contingency and entered into commitments to the extent of Rs. 110 lakhs for which there is no provision. Now, Travancore-Cochin was a Part B State and the ordinary and health conditions regarding budgeting and public finance left very much to be desired. We thought that at least when the Government of India took control of the State, healthier conventions would be established and proper regard would be paid to the principles and rules of budgeting. Now, the Administrator there incurred expenditure for which there was absolutely no provision in the Budget. I do not know if he got the approval of the Government of India to it but we know that Parliament never approved of it. Now, this sort of acting outside the Budget provisions is a very bad example to the State. Already, if you look into the past Budgets things have been quite bad. There has been over-estimation of income and underestimation of expenditure and there have been savings and lapses with absolutely no proper check or system. We thought that when the Government of India took control of the financial administration of the State of Travancore-Cochin, at least some regard would be paid to rules and principles. I ask the hon. Minister, what were the extraordinary circumstances, what were the unforeseen calamities which impelled the Administrator to go outside the Budget provisions and hurry up with these things? We are told that this is only a token grant for Rs. 100 and under the cover of that token grant permission is asked for an expenditure of Rs. 110 lakhs. That is an extraordinary procedure. We are told that all this huge amount will be met from out of the savings.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I took some pains to go through the details of that allotment under Demand No. 37. The

original demand was for urban and rural water-supply and out of Rs. 233 lakhs, Rs. 73 lakhs was set apart for urban water-supply Rs. 30 lakhs for drainage and Rs. 50 lakhs for communications. These were the items which are absolutely essential in the present conditions, especially the question of water-supply. The House may be aware of the extent of prevalence of Filariasis in the coastal regions because of the absence of proper water-supply arrangements. And we are told that from out of the allotments made for such schemes, savings would be made. I want the hon. Minister to tell us exactly from which items under Demand No. 37 these savings will be effected. I know he gave the reply the other day in the other House that we cannot know it now and that only at the time of the revised Budget, some time in January, we could come to know of it. I ask, is there no agency, even when the Government of India are managing the finances of Travancore-Cochin, to keep track of the expenditure under each of the items provided for in the Budget and to exercise a proper check on the various items of expenditure? It is only due to this House, it is ordinary courtesy due to this House that when they say they are going to incur an expenditure of Rs. 110 lakhs from out of savings, they should tell this Parliament as to how and from what items they are going to make these savings. Are you going to scrap all these schemes for water-supply which will benefit these people in the coastal region who are suffering from Filariasis? Are you starving the villages of communications? From what items are you going to cut expenditure and effect savings? It is very much due to us that you should tell us about how you are going to make the savings. There is no use saying that we will come to know in January or some time later. When you come to this House to ask for extra expenditure you must tell us, you must give us an indication as to how you are going to effect savings. The apprehension of the people of Travancore-Cochin is that village communications will be held over and water-supply schemes will be held over, all because the Administrator, who is the representative of the Government of India, wants to build some buildings. I am not entering into the merits of the thing but the question is one of priority and my point is about the method and manner of managing the finances of the State.

[Shri Perath Narayanan Nair.]

The Administrator disregards the provisions made for absolutely essential and absolutely urgent schemes which are very much needed for the welfare of the people. I want the hon. Minister to enlighten the House on the particular items on which he is going to make savings.

Then I have to say something about the merits of the construction of the buildings. I am not against our officers having proper buildings but still in all these things there is a question of priority. Will you give priority for collectors' bungalows over water-supply schemes for the people, say, of Vypinkara? What was the extraordinary urgency for this? We are going to have a new State. Travancore-Cochin has got only six districts; Malabar is one district and even according to present calculations they have to be reorganised. For 140 lakhs of population five districts would not be enough. We will have to make it into six or seven and as such the question of district headquarters will assume a new importance. He could have waited for some little time more. At least he could have taken up the question of providing buildings for constables and other lower type of officials. Or he could have spread the expenditure over a number of years. But he has incurred this expenditure without the sanction of Parliament. When I say 'he' I mean the Government of India. The Government of India wants to spend the whole amount this year, during this current year itself. That is very unfortunate. What is your concept of priority? Bungalows for collectors over drinking water-supply for the people, over village communication for the people? You could have waited a little more. Then during the first Five Year Plan period all our development schemes were held over mainly because for want of cement. Now, you undertake the construction of these buildings to the tune of Rs. 80 lakhs this year. Where do you get the cement from? Even today in reply to questions we were told that so far as cement was concerned, it was still scarce. Already in Cochin many of the schemes included in the Plan, many of the irrigation schemes have been held over. All because the cement and other things which are absolutely required for these purposes, which are absolutely necessary from the point of view of the people, he wants them to be spent on buildings. So, my

point is we are not against buildings, but he might have waited. For want of time I do not want to go into the question of the selection of headquarters. He has left out Ernakulam for which there is absolutely no justification. Even in fixing these headquarters, surely there is some townplanning, etc. over which the people of the whole State have something to say. Now, for this disregard of Parliament and incurring expenditure without permission and this hurrying over these things, there was absolutely no justification. Nothing would have been lost if he had waited for some little more time and if he had got on with at least Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 lakhs for which already there was provision for the construction of some buildings for the lower class officials. Now, this sort of thing creates apprehensions in the minds of the people and elections are coming. On these points—acting beyond Budget provisions and acting without authorisation by Parliament—I want the hon. Minister to give a reply, so that the people of the State.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : (To Shri Govindan Nair) Have you anything to say?

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: There are one or two other points. In regard to public health scheme also, the demand is only for about Rs. 19,000. As a matter of fact, the additional expenditure is about a lakh and seventy-three thousand rupees. Now, again this is a question. You make some provisions for expenditure. Then all of a sudden, without taking Parliament into consideration, you say you make enormous saving out of that, but what is that process? If you follow certain salutary principles of public finance, you must at least be able to place before us facts as to how you get this. Even now we are glad that some of these dispensaries, twenty of them, are yet to be converted into public health units. Now, what are the extra facilities the people of Travancore-Cochin get by this conversion? We were told by the Deputy Minister for Health the other day that preventive and curative work will be undertaken and maternity and child welfare work will be undertaken. All right. But can we not get some more details when they want Parliament to sanction money to Government? Now, in the matter of prevention of filariasis, in the matter of prevention of malaria, I have a lot to say. Now, you

do not give any details about these. You are satisfied with generalisations, so that in asking for Grants, Members of Parliament have no facilities to know what the real facts are. There is no time.

Again, in regard to the Demand for Public Service Commission, we are told that 40,000 applications were received for some clerical posts. Is it a peculiar phenomenon of this year? This large number of applications have been received only after the present Administrator took charge? How many applications were there last time? It is not a peculiar thing. When you come for this sanction, you must give us some more details. I say this is very scant courtesy.

Regarding one other demand, that is in regard to scheduled castes, we are all for uplifting of these scheduled castes, but we have very many grievances about how you spend that money. For example, you spend much of this money through recognized institutions and you say there will be proper audit. I can quote you many instances where the way in which the recognised institutions have conducted themselves has given rise to so many complaints from the people. For example, there is this cosmopolitan hostel system. Even private individuals are given money to run that. And there are so many complaints. Why can't you make this substantially available to the students concerned?

(Time bell rings.)

Again, there is the question of housing colony. So many of these people are taken out of their moorings; colonies are built for those who do not use them. For want of time I am not going into these things. But regarding the new surplus for these house buildings, especially the manner in which the Administrator acted, I take serious objection. I want a reply on that.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR (Travancore-Cochin): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister himself has explained the extraordinary circumstances in which this Demand has been asked for. He also explained that the Budget was presented to this House in a hurry. So, I expected not a small sum as has been asked for now, but a better amount that would at least give some relief to the people of the State to face certain important problems that confront them. Soon after the Budget discussion here

the hon. Minister for Industries had the courtesy to call the Parliament Members and consult us about the industrial situation there. He promised that he himself would be going over there, studying the problems and doing what was possible immediately. We were also told that an enquiry would be arranged through experts to find out which industries could be started there. It is true that the hon. Minister for Industries visited our State. But the result was not at all satisfactory. It was disappointing. Again, certain very important problems have cropped up in our State. You know the cashew industry is one of the main industries of our State. During the last few months all the factories were closed and more than fifty thousand workers were without any employment.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I Sir, draw his attention to the fact that this is not a general discussion on the General Budget. There are only three supplementary Demands.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Any remarks should be on the items.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: After hearing my hon. friend, Mr. Narayanan Nair, I thought the main question with regard to this supplementary demand is the question of priority. There you have asked for Rs. 100 as a token amount for spending more than a crore of rupees for buildings for officers. Since he has spoken about it and since there was no time, I thought that I could straightaway come to this point without introduction. My point is this that the priority which he had given to this spending of one crore of rupees on buildings was wrong. There were other more important problems which the Government ought to have taken note of. And one of the most important problems is this. Representatives of all parties, all organisations, *panchayats*, municipalities in those areas—in central Travancore—recently met together and demanded from the Government to proclaim that area as a famine area and give relief to the people there. Not a word about that is spoken by the Minister, not even a pie has been set apart for expenditure like that.

Again, you know one of the most important industries is coir. That industry is in a crisis and lakhs of signatures are being collected to be presented to the Ministry here. The Government is aware of the situation, but

[Shri Govindan Nair.]

still not a pie has been asked for to give some relief to those people. So, as has been pointed out by my friend, I also would suggest that instead of hurrying for building purposes, Government ought to have given attention to this important matter.

Then, with regard to these demands, first about the Public Service Commission, apart from what has been pointed out by my friend, I feel that much of the work can be simplified.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no mention of Public Service Commission at all.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Here is "clerks", etc., under the Public Service Commission. 46,000 applications were there. This is Demand No. 9.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: I point this out because not only Government has to incur more expenses, but the poor unemployed people of our State are put to difficulties because of the way in which the Public Service Commission has been functioning. Here it is said that on a particular occasion 46,000 applications were received.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not an occasion to discuss the report of the Public Service Commission. There is no time. You must finish by 1-45.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: For selection of typists and clerks applications are called for and 46,000 people come. Again after two months a few clerks had to be appointed at some place. They give another call. Again 46,000 or perhaps more than that number come there. This way of repeating the same process is causing too much work for the Public Service Commission. Then some teachers had to be selected—the same process. Once you make a selection, why not Government make the appointments from among those selected? If that process is adopted, I feel much of the work that is now being done by this Public Service Commission can be reduced.

(Time bell rings.)

• This morning it was announced that only half an hour is allotted to discuss

Travancore-Cochin. I felt very sorry. I remembered the promise made by the Home Minister when the whole rule was taken over by the President that "here is the House where you can speak about all your grievances and demands". But unfortunately we are so busy.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will have another opportunity.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Where is the opportunity to speak about our problems?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will have ample time. There will be another opportunity.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Then also I am sure it will be fifteen minutes. I will stop, since I am to obey the Chair.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: My hon. friend will get an opportunity as soon as the question of extension of that proclamation comes.

I appreciated the viewpoint advanced by my friend about the priority. After all the Budget was prepared by the Ministry and that was presented to the Travancore-Cochin State Assembly, but thereafter came the proclamation and the Administrator was appointed. As I just told you, in the beginning there was no time to go into the matter very carefully and, therefore, the same Budget had to be presented to both the Houses of Parliament, and that Budget was passed. Really speaking, we reviewed the whole Budget and we found that there was more expenditure provided for in the Budget than was justified under the first year of the Second Five Year Plan. So, certain items were to be removed, but there was no time. Now, after the Budget was presented and was passed, the Administrator felt that there was great necessity of having the offices at these three places. As I explained, they were scattered here and there. In order to get the maximum efficiency from the servants of the State it was actually necessary that the construction should be undertaken, and, therefore, he discussed the matter with the Ministry here, and we came to the conclusion that there was a very pressing necessity for arranging the offices in these three places.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: One question I want to ask.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Have some patience please. Therefore, it was decided that this work should be undertaken. And when we undertook the construction of office accommodation, it was also absolutely necessary to give ordinary comforts to the employees of the States, those serving in those offices, and, therefore certain residential buildings were also to be constructed for the civilian people as well as the police people. Therefore, a supplementary demand has been brought forward. As the Budget had been passed and there was no time at that time to make any changes in the Budget—and a decision was taken after the Budget was passed finally to take on this work—this token Grant has been made. My hon. friend there takes exception to the necessity for constructing the offices and the State buildings. He is very much afraid of certain other important works being left out. I can assure him that that will not be the position. The provisions were rather on a very high side. They were not in a position to spend that much during the financial year, and at the same time according to the first phase of the Second Five Year Plan they were not entitled to have that much capital expenditure on that basis. Therefore, there is every possibility that there would be savings, and hence this token grant. Then he asked us about savings. But it is not possible for us to say how much the savings would be. It can be known only in January when the revised estimates are framed, and, therefore, he will excuse me if we cannot give today what the savings will be.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: What is the expenditure up to date? Is there no agency for saying this?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have not got those figures. I will get those figures from Travancore-Cochin and supply those figures. I have not got the figures on actual expenditure on that Demand No. 37. That is what he wants. I will give him the actual figures. If he writes a letter to me, I will find out those actual figures and I will supply them.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: I want to know if the Willingdon waterworks will be taken up?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will give you the figures.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: It is a question of priority.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: He is a very intelligent Member of this House and he must know that the Budget was passed in April. Now we are in August. During these three months supposing the work has been started, yet the accounts have not yet been made; supposing the contract has been given, supposing the work has been taken in hand, in order to find out the expenditure we incurred and all that, it takes some time to collect all those figures. This is only a Supplementary Demand. If there was a Budget discussion and if they wanted the figures of last year, then we would have been in a position to supply those figures. Therefore, if he wants figures, then I advise him to write a letter to me and I will get the figures from the Administrator of Travancore-Cochin and supply him very willingly.

Then, there were the points about these 43,000 applications, may be in the last year. But looking into the work that is there, the Administrator feels that there must be some more clerks and typists. Also the Public Service Commission wanted all this help. There will be tests, examinations, etc., and, therefore, that sum is necessary and has been provided for here.

About the health units also, because the schemes are not yet finalised, in the process of finalising the schemes, it has been found that some sum could be found from the sanctioned grant and, therefore, only Rs. 19,000 have been asked for.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: About these district headquarters, has the Government taken into consideration the fact that, since a few taluks of the southern part of the State are now going to be transferred to Madras, a reorganisation of the district is necessary and, as such, the present sites may not suit the purpose?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The Administrator has considered all these aspects and discussed the whole matter with the Home Ministry, where all these factors were taken into consideration. He was very strongly of the view that this accommodation at these three places is absolutely necessary and cannot admit of any delay. Therefore, they have agreed to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.

THE MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee:

Shri T. J. M. Wilson

Shri K. S. Hegde

Shri H. P. Saksena

Shri P. D. Himatsingka

Sardar Raghubir Singh Panjhzari

Shri Deokinandan Narayan

Shri Amar Nath Agrawal

Dr. Purna Chandra Mitra

Dr. R. P. Dube

Shri K. P. Madhavan Nair

Shri R. P. Sinha

Shri S. N. Mazumdar

Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerji

Shri T. Bhaskara Rao

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri."

Sir, the Motor Vehicles Act come into operation early in 1939 and soon after that the Second World War broke out. The provisions relating to the regulation and control of motor transport in the Act could not, therefore, be worked under normal conditions. Nevertheless, the Act did succeed in bringing about improved standards of driving and road safety and a measure of regulation of the competitive "small owners" of transport vehicles. After the conclusion of the War, it was found necessary to amend the Act generally to remove the defects revealed in practice, and, in particulars, to give effect to the then agreed policy between the Centre and the Provinces which had been gradually evolved for the better co-ordination of land transport generally, and of road and rail transport, in particular. An amending Bill was accordingly introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly in 1946 and it reached the stage of report by a Select Committee. Its further progress was, however, halted by the constitutional changes leading to independence. Subsequently, other developments in the shape of initiative taken by some State Governments in nationalising sections of road transport made it necessary to reconsider amendments to the Act. With the finalisation of the second Five Year Plan, the trend of road transport development has become more clear and the amending measure has not come a day too soon.

The Bill before the House is the result of prolonged consultations and discussions with the State Governments and at meetings of the Transport Advisory Council during which it was found possible to reach a large measure of agreement on most of the proposals. The views of certain important associations of road transport operators and of users of motor vehicles, have also been taken into consideration. The present Bill also incorporates most of the provisions contained in the Bill as revised by the Select Committee of the Central Legislature in 1946.

The Bill has been before Parliament for over nine months. Along with the text, fairly elaborate notes on the clauses have been circulated which, I