

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reconstitution of the Medical Council of India, and the maintenance of a Medical Register for India and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR:

I introduce the Bill.

THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN BUDGET, 1956-57—continued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have 50 minutes; say another 10 minutes; that makes an hour from now. So two of you speak on this side and Mr. Datar and Mr. Shah on the other side. Yes, Mr. Kishen Chand.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad): Mr. Chairman, after the proclamation of the President's rule there, it is the responsibility of the Parliament to really carefully examine the Budget of Travancore-Cochin.

The hon. Member who spoke before me has pointed out that Travancore-Cochin is a problem State, that the total land area is small and the population is very large giving it a density of population which is the largest in India, that in this situation it is a poor State and the incidence of taxation is fairly heavy on the population. Sir, we have to carefully examine how best to improve matters in Travancore-Cochin so that it attains the prosperity which is its due share.

I submit, Sir, that there is one very good feature in the Budget of Travancore-Cochin that out of a revenue of Rs. 21 crores it is spending Rs. 7 crores on education, and I think that it is the highest percentage comparing it with any other part of India, and the result is that literacy also is the highest in Travancore-Cochin as compared to any other State in India.

I very greatly welcome this feature and, as suggested by several other hon. Members, if we change the bias of education from literary education, that is, arts and science education to

technical education by changing some of the arts colleges and converting them into technical colleges, the result will be that you will have technical graduates coming out of these colleges. The next step will be to establish industries, either small-scale or large-scale, to absorb them.

Sir, one feature of Travancore-Cochin must be noted, that it is rich in agricultural products of a certain type. It has very nearly monopoly in rubber; it is supplying nearly 70 per cent. of the requirement of cashewnuts; it is almost the sole supplier of cardamom; it has got a fair quantity of black pepper and then, there is the usual coffee, tea, etc.

Now, a State which is rich in all these agricultural products should really be fairly prosperous. Why it is not prosperous? The reason is simple. In a big country like ours we cannot impose any export duty on these agricultural products when sent from one State to the other State. If the raw material is not utilised in the State for the production of finished articles, naturally the State gets low prices for its raw products and is not rich and cannot establish industries. Therefore I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he should think out some possible ways and means whereby if an excise duty is levied on these products of agricultural articles, the State may get a big share of the excise duty so levied. In particular, in the case of rubber I would request the hon. Minister to insist that the processing of the rubber is carried on in Travancore-Cochin. It is a strange phenomenon, Sir, that the rubber produced in Travancore-Cochin is transported to Calcutta, where almost all the tyre-making factories are established. The result is that the Travancore-Cochin State does not get the full benefit of the rubber it produces. Will the hon. Minister consider a proposal of levying some sort of excise duty on that rubber which is exported from Travancore-Cochin to Bengal and give a good portion of that excise duty to Travancore-Cochin to balance its budget? Let us take the

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case of West Bengal. There also the density is fairly high but West Bengal is prosperous because it has got a very large number of industries. I think a very fair demand has been made by Members coming from Travancore-Cochin that industries should be established. I submit that when we are thinking of a second shipyard—it is under the consideration of the Central Government—and when we realise that Travancore-Cochin has got a very fine port in the Cochin harbour, the second shipyard should be located in Travancore-Cochin.

There are several small rivers in **Travancore-Cochin** which are flowing westwards at present. Before the Reorganisation Bill there was a proposal that if Madras and Kerala were merged together it would be possible that Madras State with its large resources may develop these rivers and bring benefit to Travancore-Cochin as well as to Madras. In the absence of that type of merger, is the Government of India taking any steps to give any help to Travancore-Cochin in the Second Five Year Plan to develop those small rivers? Those small rivers can be utilised not only for the production of electricity but for irrigation purposes also and any surplus water that is left over can be diverted to Madras. The main difficulty is that all these rivers flow towards the west while Madras State is situated to the east of Travancore-Cochin. Therefore, it will require a very large amount of money to divert the rivers after flowing through Travancore-Cochin to flow to Madras. And the poor State of Travancore-Cochin cannot afford it. So I would suggest to the hon. Minister that when Parliament is responsible for the passing of the Budget of Travancore-Cochin it should go to the help of Travancore-Cochin by subsidizing their schemes for the development of these small rivers.

Sir, out of a total area of about 9,000 sq. miles nearly 35 per cent. is covered by forests. Here also there

is potential wealth which is not being utilised fully. Here again it is the responsibility of Parliament to take suitable steps for the quick development of the forests in Travancore-Cochin.

Lastly, there is the question of sea erosion. A large part of the coastal area is being slowly and gradually eaten up by the sea. There is continuous erosion going on and immediate and urgent steps must be taken to stop this erosion. Here again as it requires a large amount of money, the Central Government must come to the aid of Travancore-Cochin.

In conclusion I would only request that immediate and urgent steps should be taken for rehabilitating the finances of Travancore-Cochin.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on a subject on which very able speeches have been made in the other House and in this House also. Yet I feel that it is necessary to say a few words because I find that the Government instead of trying to meet objective criticism and instead of being responsive to suggestions has become angry because we are bringing up certain representations before Parliament. But let it not be forgotten that the Congress Government in Travancore-Cochin had mismanaged the affairs and mismanaged very badly. It has been found that it is not possible for the Congress to continue with a stable administration there—I mean with a popular administration—that is to say, with Legislative Assembly functioning. All kinds of tactics have been used in the past to keep somehow or other the tottering Ministry of the Congress Party in power but their efforts did not succeed. Between 1952 and 1954 there were two elections in that State and neither of these elections gave the Congress Party what may be called a stable majority. If that is so, it is so not because people were conspiring to do things against the Congress as such but it is because the Congress Ministry and the Congress

Administration failed by the people and failed very badly. That is why the people of Travancore-Cochin rejected the Congress Administration. I need not go into the whole case but it is well-known how the Assembly was dissolved and how the President's rule has been installed. I wonder when the Constitution was passed if the framers of the Constitution thought that certain parties in power and certain people in the Administration would use the Constitution with a view to subverting democracy. If they had thought so, I suppose they would have taken care to see that this provision was not like what it is today.

Sir, we have got the Budget and a Budget speech. Here we are given the Budget speech of the Finance Minister of Travancore-Cochin. I do not know this gentleman but by reading parts of the speech it appears to me that he has not quite learnt the art of budgeting although he has been a Minister for some time. Not only this, some of his figures are wide off the mark; his estimates are wrong; some estimates are very highly off the mark and sometimes they are very much below the mark. You never get an exact picture. Sir, this Budget has been given different names in the other House. Some hon. Member called it a stupid Budget. I do not know how a Budget could be stupid but I leave it to the other House to decide. Anyway if the Budget could speak for itself and if it were an animate object, I would certainly have given this appellation to this Budget. Sir, I am not concerned with the individual involved. Again you find that none of the problems is tackled—the problem of unemployment, the problem of the agrarian crisis, the problem of protection to some of the industries, the problem of starting new industries there, etc. We all know that Travancore-Cochin is a small State but the people there are highly educated and the percentage of education is very high. The people are industrious and intelligent and they are in a position to build up that State in a democratic way. Unfortunately they have been denied the opportu-

nities by the Government of the time. The Government in power, the Congress Ministry has spent the time in working out tactics and positions in order to keep itself in power and that is why today even after a number of years of Congress rule in that State after its integration, the grievances of the people have piled up and the problems have accumulated. We are told that there are trouble makers in Travancore-Cochin and the accusing finger is pointed to the working class. We are told that the working class there are indulging in strikes. Well, the right to strike is an inalienable right of the working class; if the legitimate demands of the working class are denied, if they are persecuted, if their trade union rights are taken away, if they are sought to be regimented by the authorities, then it is their right to resort to strikes in order to save themselves. This right is something which is recognised in all civilised countries, while here in Parliament I hear some hon. Members from Congress benches telling us that they would not embark upon industrialisation in Travancore-Cochin because the workers in that State dare resort to strike. Have you heard such a thing? In any democratic 12 Noon Parliament—in England in the United States of America and France—if such an utterance were made, it would set the whole nation laughing and the person who makes such an utterance would make the greatest laughing stock of himself. And yet quite seriously it is suggested that they would not undertake the industrial development of this country because the workers resort to strikes. And not only this, during the past two years we have got accounts and we find that the workers are being persecuted. Many cases are pending against the trade union workers for no other reason than for voicing their demand, than for organising the workers. Cases are cooked up against the political workers belonging to the parties in opposition and persecution goes on and they are kept in police lock-up. And there is not a day that passes in Travancore-Cochin

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without police persecution. It is most regrettable that when complaints have been made to the highest authorities in the present administration no attention has been paid to them. The Inspector-General of Police, I am told, is the real boss of Travancore-Cochin and the President's Rule has made no difference to him. On the contrary he thinks he has got a *carte blanche* to get on as he likes. I can ask the hon. Minister here what is the purpose of our speaking on such subjects in Parliament, what is the use of listening to such debates until and unless the Minister looks into them, until and unless the Minister seriously examines the allegations that are made. Allegations have been made here by responsible members of the Opposition party, the leaders of Travancore-Cochin people, the leaders of democratic movement there. They have made public allegations and they have owned them up. It is the duty of the Government to accept those allegations and go into them instead of brushing them aside, as they have been doing. Now, if the leaders of the parties are treated in this manner, if their allegations are set aside in this manner, you can imagine what will happen if a trade union worker goes to a local administration and makes a certain allegation and seeks redress of the grievance. Yesterday a suggestion was made for instituting a parliamentary enquiry. Why should we not do that? President's Rule is an exceptional thing and if we are to resort to such measures, it is the duty of Parliament to be vigilant as to see how the administration goes on. There the people do not enjoy the right to express their grievances through their Legislative Assembly. It is here that we are taking up their case. I think in such a situation it is particularly urgent for the Government to accept the suggestion and probe into this matter. If we are found to be wrong we are prepared to go to the country and tell that we have brought up irresponsible allegations before Parliament. If we are

bound have to take measures in order to remove the grievances of the people. Sir, how is it that a particular Inspector-General of Police is so much favoured by the Government that nothing said against him finds any kind of a response in the ruling circles? Is he the ruler of the land or are we in Parliament the rulers of the country? This is the question that I pose before them today. If responsible Members of Parliament, not one, but a number of Members of Parliament bring up allegations against a particular officer of the administration, whether they are right or wrong is to be decided by a proper enquiry. They should not be brushed aside in the manner in which they are sought to be brushed aside. I say this because until and unless the police administration in Travancore-Cochin is bridled, the life there will continue to be disturbed. I do not think that the Congress can gain this ground. Why should they grudge? In all the States they are in power and authority and if in one State perchance they get dislodged from their position they should take it gracefully and they should not be vindictive against the opposition parties, against democratic movement. Democracy is not one-way traffic. It is a both-way traffic. If you are in power and keep up others in opposition in particular States or Parliament, you should be prepared to sit in the opposition in Assemblies. This is what I would ask of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please talk about the Budget.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Only I have got a list of grievances, of misdeeds of the local administration there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall not discuss all that. We will discuss the budget here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The discussion on Budget is all right. We are sanctioning money here and we are sanctioning money when the peo-

ple of Travancore-Cochin have been denied the right to have their own Assembly. Naturally we have to see that we place money in proper hands and not for evil things. This is something which I want to ensure before we allow this budget proposal to be endorsed by this Parliament. I was very sorry the hon. lady Member yesterday got upset by our criticisms. We did not mean to injure anybody in this House. We do not want to bring in allegations which we cannot substantiate against anybody as far as Travancore-Cochin is concerned. After all the whole of Travancore-Cochin is crying against the misdeeds of the Congress Administration. It does not require to be said in this Parliament by any individual Member or so. We voice the grievances of the people that are loudly heard outside the Parliament. I think hon. Members from Travancore Cochin, including that respected lady Member, will bear with me if I say that these allegations are reasonable and true and they have got to be made in the interests of justice and democracy. It is for the Government to prove that they are false and it is not for us to come here and make the allegations and then prove that they are not false.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

Sir, with regard to agriculture, here in the Finance Minister's speech it is stated the variation in the price of agricultural commodities such as cocoanut, pepper, tapioca, etc. has affected to a great extent the agricultural economy of the State. And I think it was Dr. Thomas who wrote an article showing that as a result of the fall in agricultural prices, the peasantry of Travancore-Cochin suffered to the tune of sixty crores of rupees—a huge sum of money—and we know that the majority of the peasantry there live in starvation and perpetual want and the fall in agricultural prices has aggravated the suffering of the people. We would like to know what steps the Government have taken for improving matters in the agrarian economy of that State.

Now, Sir, as far as the administration is concerned, democracy is being attacked everywhere, not merely in making inroads against the trade union movements and all that. The municipalities and the local bodies are also being subverted by the Government. I know that many of these municipalities and local bodies do not contain people of the Congress, are not in the hands of the Congress party. What does it matter? These are bodies which have been elected by the people and they have to be respected. But ever since it appears that the magistrates and collectors and other officials are interfering with the powers of the local bodies and are trying to subvert them. This should be certainly stopped, because these are the only institutions through which democracy Travancore-Cochin, as far as the Government is concerned, could function. Nothing should be done with a view to subverting them. On the contrary, their rights should be expanded. They should be allowed to function as truly popular bodies. Then, in the field of education there has been a constant demand for making provision for technical education and scientific education for the people, for starting more medical colleges. All these things have been neglected and all requests of the people seem to have fallen on deaf ears as far as these matters are concerned.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (Mysore):
The elections are still far off.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I need not go into the details of what is happening there because these things are known to the Government. But I would like to tell that this State is under Central administration and their function should not be confined merely to look at the Budget and pass it. They should see that the administration functions according to the wishes and desires of Parliament and according to the spirit in which we all work in this Parliament. That is why we would like to see that the present administration under the President which is actually run by the Adviser

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who regards himself as the Chief Administrator of the State should be under the effective control of Parliament. His powers should be carefully weighed and it must be seen that the administration does not function in a dictatorial and unjust manner. Unless this is done, it will be said that the President's rule is meant for killing democracy, for stifling the urges of the people and for giving a free run to the bureaucrats and the police officials. They should be aware of their responsibilities in this matter. The Central Government, especially the Ministry of Home Affairs, should be particularly sensitive to the grievances that are being expressed there. It is for them to run the administration better. Unless this is done the complaints, the grievances will accumulate and the troubles will never end. Today the time has come for us to express our opinion on the subject and I hope that the Government will not brush aside what we say here, will not stick at the breaking point, as if it is something being said by the Opposition for the sake of saying. We know that many, including those who used to support the Congress and who perhaps will support it in Travancore-Cochin, are really annoyed with the administration, fed up with the manner in which it is being carried on. It is necessary, therefore, for the Central Minister, if I may say so, to go to the spot and see for himself as to what has happened. How long can we tolerate such things?

Sir, it has been our bitter experience that whenever the Central Government takes over the Administration of any particular State, it is not the Parliament which has the supreme say in the matter; it is the bureaucracy which has the free run. This has been our unfortunate experience. We find that various things are said here and nothing is done about them. The officials there take it as an endorsement of Parliament and Government and they become all the more vindictive, all the more aggressive and strike at the heart of democracy and hit the people. This has been our

sorry experience. The Government should not ignore such things and should not overlook such representations as had been made to them.

In the other House, Shri A. K. Gopalan had made very serious allegations. I ask the Government to tell us what they have done about them? Mr. Punnoose also the other day mentioned in the other House about the memorandum that was sent to the Government cataloguing all the misdeeds of the Government there. I would like the Government to tell us specifically and in a concrete way as to which of the allegations they have gone into and which are wrong. I would like them to tell this Parliament; otherwise, we think that the Government would be failing in its duty altogether.

Now I would resume my seat with a request and it is this, that the present Inspector-General of Police of Travancore-Cochin should be summarily removed from his position and I think you can easily find another man to take his place. I request the Government to repeal all repressive measures and withdraw all proceedings started under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. I would request them to tell the Adviser that here is Parliament which will not tolerate this kind of bureaucratic administration to be conducted in the name of the President of the Republic. It is something which should be immediately communicated to the local administration. It is something which we expect the Government to do. After all, we are here to see that the people of Travancore-Cochin do not become the victims of bureaucratic and dictatorial practices of some tyrants and dictators who, unhappily rule that State today and who would continue until we call them to order.

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have had a discussion on the affairs in Travancore-Cochin and, to a very small extent, about the Budget

presented for the year 1956-57 since yesterday here, and for a fairly long period in the other House. I may assure my hon. friend who spoke last that the President's rule in Travancore-Cochin will neither be tyrannical nor bureaucratic. It has been the experience—and Parliament is aware of it—that, in the three or four States where the President had to take over the administration because it could not be carried on in those States, the tone of the administration was improved, there was good government and what was handed over to the people was an extremely satisfactory state of affairs. So far as the State of Travancore-Cochin is concerned, though the President had, under circumstances of which this House is aware, to take over the administration, I may assure this House that the administration there would be carried on very fairly, efficiently and impartially. And there need be no doubt or misgiving that the Government would be tolerating any instances of inefficiency or dishonesty. Whatever might be said by my hon. friends opposite, it is the aim of the Government to see that the administration is maintained in an absolutely pure condition and we are trying our best to see that the tone of administration is what it really ought to be.

So far as the various complaints, especially against the police officials, are concerned, it is true, Sir, that ultimately it is open to hon. Members of Parliament to ventilate their grievances. But I would like in all humility to submit to hon. Members that there are legitimate channels under the law through which it would be feasible to take all these complaints. If, for example, there are any complaints of a serious nature where the machinery of the law can be set in motion, then naturally it is open to the aggrieved party or the aggrieved organisation to move that machinery and to see to it that whatever is necessary is done. We have got the police machinery, we have also got the judicial machinery and it is open to all aggrieved persons to take action. If, instead of follow-

ing the usual or the normal course, complaints are made in this House or in the other, then it becomes difficult for us to understand to what extent these complaints are justified. But I would assure hon. Members that whatever has been stated on the floor of this House or the other would be duly investigated into where investigation is necessary and proper action will be taken, because ultimately it is the gist of democracy that we ought to look into all complaints. So far as that is concerned, I would assure my hon. friends that we have no desire to shirk any enquiry nor to protect or shield any officers.

Now, Sir, he made a reference to certain officer and he stated that that particular officer should be summarily removed. Now, assuming for the sake of argument that any of these officers is summarily removed, then my hon. friend would fall upon us and say that we have not been following the procedure laid down by the Constitution and by the rules. Therefore, in all these cases, Government have to be very careful and they have to act according to the Constitution as well. And I would assure the hon. Members that to the extent that the complaints are justified, to that extent, Government would surely take action, because Government are anxious that nothing that is wrong should be allowed to remain.

Then, Sir, a reference was made to a particular case by my hon. friend, Shri Govindan Nair. The facts were not fully stated by him regarding the arrest of one Jacob to whom he made a reference. He was arrested on the 26th of April and produced before the Ponkunnam Magistrate, who remanded him to custody for ten days. In the meanwhile, bail was produced and he was released on bail on the 1st of May 1956. The case against him before the Peermade Magistrate was posted on 30th April. Jacob did not mention about this either to the police or before the Ponkunnam Magistrate. He was arrested on the warrant issued by the Peermade Magistrate on the 8th of May, and produced before him on

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the same day. The police had no bad intention in this matter as is evidenced by the fact that he was not detained in custody even for one day on the Peermade warrant.

Regarding the antecedents of Tobias, Sub-Inspector, there was occasion for him to arrest communists at Changanassery for trespass and other offences last year when force had to be used for the arrest.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, what the hon. Minister is reading from?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am reading from my brief. I am reading the information supplied to me by my officers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: By which officers?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: By my officers, by the officers who now work under the superintendence of the Government of India.

So, Sir, complaints have been filed against him and this matter is pending before the court. And when the matter was pending before the court, it was not proper for him to have made a reference to it, because the matter is *sub judice*. Therefore, Sir, it would be found that an organised attempt, a systematic attempt is being made to bring the Administration into disrepute for certain Party ends. Let us be above all these things. So far as these alleged excesses are concerned, I can assure the hon. Member that enquiries will be made as justly as possible, and in other cases also, wherever it is found that there is anything wrong on the part of our officers, we shall see to it that proper enquiries are made and full investigation is made, and if there is actually anything wrong, then definitely some action will be taken.

Then, Sir, an hon. lady friend on this side, and another friend also, made a complaint about the Bhopal settlers from Travancore-Cochin. I may point

out the real facts, so far as this question is concerned. It will be found that the Government of India have a modified scheme for the Central Mechanised Farm which has been established in Bhopal. It envisages the settlement of 500 families of landless agricultural labourers in three phases, namely, 100, 200 and 200. Now, on the basis of fifty-fifty, it has been decided to take over from Travancore-Cochin poor peasants and to settle them on this land. The ultimate objective is to give each family 15 acres or good land, which is partly irrigated, and partly not irrigated. And certain other resources have also to be placed at their disposal, because the desire is that they should be settled there permanently so that they can be very useful members of the society. For this purpose, Sir, a number of labourers, about 200, have already been brought over to Bhopal, and they are doing their work there. Now, the ultimate idea, which would fructify in the course of a year or so, is that these families from Travancore-Cochin would be settled on those lands. The lands are being cleared, and as soon as those lands are cleared, 15 acres are to be given to every family, and on these lands permanent houses would be constructed for the use of these labourers' families. What has happened now is that until the construction of a permanent building is made on these lands, temporary arrangements have been made. And so far as these temporary arrangements are concerned, Sir, you will kindly understand that Rs. 700 are spent over these sheds, over these small houses. It is true that they have the cover of tins, but attempts have been made to spread grass in order to protect them from heat, and actually grass is being spread, and in a number of cases, grass has been spread, and arrangements are being made to give them as comfortable an existence as possible.

In this connection, Sir, I might also point out that about a few months ago, my colleague, the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri Krishnappa, had gone there. He inspected

the conditions there, and I have here before me his opinion or his impressions about the conditions existing there. He has stated that "I was struck by their cheer and their apparent willingness to undergo some hardships." Naturally, Sir, during the interim period some hardship has to be undergone. Now, in the initial stages of this development, and even during this period, Sir, until they are actually settled on that land, each of them is given Rs. 50 for the purchase of warm clothing, Rs. 50 per mensem as wages, and Rs. 5,000 are being given to these labourers for enabling them to become members of a co-operative society. And, in the course of the next few years, it is quite likely that the conditions will be fully improved. There is one well there, and attempts are being made to repair it. And in any case, I can assure this House that so far as the drinking water facilities are concerned, they would be supplied to them without any difficulty, and naturally without any cost, because that is one of the primary duties of the Government. Therefore, so far as this question is concerned, I would point out to the hon. Members who spoke yesterday that we are making all arrangements for the purpose. It should also be noted, Sir, that so far as these persons are concerned, they were brought over to Bhopal at Government expense, and if they find that the climate there is not congenial, then they would be sent back also at Government expense. The climate in Bhopal is somewhat different, Sir, from the climate in Travancore-Cochin, but only a few people have gone there, and not all. And it will be understood, Sir, very clearly that there is no discrimination so far as the local labourers in Bhopal settled on this land, as also the Travancore-Cochin labourers are concerned. In fact, a Malayalam school has already been started, and another is going to be started. We are having adult schools also. So far as medical facilities are concerned, it will be noted that for minor or accidental injuries a dispensary has been opened, a doctor

is there and a nurse is there. And at Sultanpur, at a distance of four miles, we have a very efficient hospital where serious cases are dealt with, and transport charges are not debited to these people. In the light of these circumstances, Sir, it would not be proper to say that the conditions are miserable. It is true that the conditions are not what, in the opinion of the Government, they ought to be, but the Central Government is dealing with this case, and let the hon. Members from Travancore-Cochin and other places rest assured that everything possible will be done to see that the lives of these people are made as comfortable as possible. This is so far as Bhopal is concerned.

Then, Sir, something was stated about the land legislation. Now I may point out that when the President took over in March 1956, there were four Land Bills pending in the Legislature. Of these, the first two were pending in the Select Committee of the Legislature. The Compensation for Tenants' Improvement Bill had passed the Select Committee stage, and the second reading had been started. The Special Rights in Lands Abolition Bill was also pending in the Select Committee.

This question naturally has to be considered by the Central Government. Government will have to take a policy decision regarding the utility or otherwise of these Bills and, if as one of my hon. friends has suggested, this legislation is absolutely essential in the interests of the tenants among others, then every step will be taken to see that this legislation is brought into effect according to law, after it has been fully examined by the Government of India.

Then, Sir, complaints were made regarding the payments made by the managements of private schools to their teachers. An hon. Member suggested that actually payment was not made but signatures were taken or that signatures were taken against

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bigger amounts though they actually received much smaller amounts. So far as this is concerned, I may point out the correct position. If payments are made by Managers, all complaints regarding irregularities in payments are enquired into by the Inspectors of Primary and Middle Schools and the District Educational Officers concerned. In some cases where such serious irregularities were detected, the authorities insisted on payments being made in their presence. Therefore, Government are aware of cases where there is abuse. Teachers in private schools have fixity of tenure in their appointments, which is guaranteed by the Government of Travancore-Cochin. And therefore they can assert their rights without fear of being victimised.

Then, Sir, I may point out that only day before yesterday I placed on the Table of the House two statistical information tables regarding the use or want of use of the Preventive Detention Act. I would request my hon. friend who was very eloquent about the so-called excesses of the police and the Government supporting their officers in all cases, to read through this. He will see from this that between the 30th September 1954 and the 31st December 1955—a period of 15 months—there was not a single case of any resort to the provisions of the Preventive Detention Act in the Travancore-Cochin State.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR (Travancore-Cochin): In my speech I mentioned that the Preventive Detention Act is superfluous there, because in place and out of place the security provisions of section 107 are repeatedly being utilised. I would request the hon. Minister to enquire into the cases where action has been taken under this section against political workers, trade union workers, and others.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I only wish to point out that no person has been detained under the Preventive Detention Act.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You detain them under other laws.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: This itself indicates that resort is not being had to the provisions of the Preventive Detention Act. This itself is evidence to show that the police officers in Travancore-Cochin are not using this Act at all, which it was perfectly possible for them to use, but they have never done it. This shows that the statements about police excesses there have to be taken with a large pinch of salt.

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): It is available in plenty in Travancore-Cochin.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Then one hon. Member suggested that an ex-Minister had made a number of complaints against the last Congress Ministry.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR (Madras): Not one ex-Minister.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: So far as this catalogue of complaints was concerned, that was not done at the Government level but entirely at the party level. It was done by certain members who had gone out of the Congress Party, and as one hon. Member in the other House pointed out in this catalogue of complaints there is not a single charge of corruption. That is a matter which has to be understood. Unless these charges are made at the Government level, it is not possible for Government to take any action. It would appear that all these charges are born of circumstances which may be far from legitimate. So far as we are concerned, we cannot take note of what takes place at the party level. At Government level, these charges have not come, and naturally the conclusion is that all these charges are baseless. In any case, so long as the matter has not been brought to the Government, it would not be proper for Government to deal with it. If the matter does not come to Government, then possibly there is no substance in it.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I consider it a great privilege to speak for the first time in this House, and I am grateful to you for offering me this opportunity. Before I come to one or two points of a general nature, I would deal with certain smaller points that have been raised here. The first is about the price of rice which has been alleged to be soring high. It has been ascertained that the price of rice in Travancore-Cochin has not shot up to that unreasonable level which requires any drastic action at this stage, but the Government is prepared with all the weapons in its armoury to pounce upon the rise in price, if it rises beyond the dangerous level. All arrangements have been put in operation, and immediately Government are satisfied that their intervention is necessary, they will resort to direct methods of control. The Government of India are already having rice depots in Cochin and Trivandrum. The State Government have requested the Government of India to open another depot at Quilon and to keep in these 25,000 tons of rice as reserve stock. So, we are well prepared to meet any untoward happening as far as the price of rice is concerned.

Shri Kishen Chand referred to two or three points. One was about the levy of an excise duty on rubber, which should be apportioned to Travancore-Cochin. As the hon. Member knows, excise duty is a Central subject, and the allocation of revenues is a matter allotted by the Constitution to the Finance Commission. Not only this but all revenues to be distributed between the Centre and the States are matters for the Finance Commission. That is the only body which can decide it.

Then he referred to anti-sea erosion works and the allocation for forest development. If he refers to the Budget demands, he will find that there has been an increase under these two heads. For example, for anti-sea erosion works, in 1955-56

there was a provision of Rs. 9,77,000, but in this year the Budget provision for current works—works in progress—is Rs. 8,45,000; and for new works it is Rs. 19,55,000. I think the hon. Member would be satisfied that the Government is alive to the needs of the situation about this particular matter also.

So far as forest development is concerned, a sum of Rs. 15.99 lakhs has been provided in the Budget for 1956-57.

Now, a number of points were raised by Mr. Govindan Nair regarding co-operatives for handloom and coir industries. At the short time at my disposal, I do not want to go into details, but I may say that as far as the handloom co-operative scheme is concerned, during 1955-56, 126 weavers' co-operative societies were organised, bringing 20,000 weavers into the co-operative fold. The current up to date figure is 29,000 and the number of societies is 271. Out of these, 145 societies are allowing rebate on the sale of handloom cloth. They have set up 42 Sales Depots where rebate sales are conducted. Similarly it has been said that the coir industry is in a very bad way and there are a number of difficulties facing it. I think it may be safely stated that by the end of March 1956, 187 Coir Cooperative Societies were organised consisting of 160 Primary Societies, 25 Husk Societies and 2 Central Coir Marketing Societies and a sum of Rs. 64 lakhs was provided during the First Five Year Plan which has been fully utilized. The Societies which started functioning before the close of the Plan period collected a total paid-up share capital of Rs. 6.34 lakhs enlisting 37,880 persons as members and so about 38 per cent. of the coir workers are represented in this society. Similarly a point was made about a second shipyard by a number of hon. Members, that it should be established at Cochin which is a very good port and has all the natural facilities. As the House is

[Shri B. R. Bhagat.]

aware, these matters are decided at a very high technical level. I am sure that this question will be considered on its merits and Travancore-Cochin's claims, particularly the advantages which Cochin has, will be borne in mind by the Committee and I would request the hon. Members to await consideration by the Committee. But certainly I can assure that the claims of Travancore-Cochin will not be ignored.

Now I would refer to another point about the development of rubber and the very hon. Member Mr. Nair referred to it rather emotionally that although Cochin is the biggest rubber producing State, nothing is being done to process it or develop the manufacturing process. I think although it is a fact that the manufacturing process has not been developed, and manufacture has not started, but it is wrong to say that the State Government or the Government of India or the Ministry of Commerce and Industry were sleeping over the matter. The matter has been in consultation between the State Government and the Central Government and its was decided at a certain stage that this industry should form part of the private sector and arrangements were negotiated with the famous rubber producing company—Goodrich—of the U.S.A. and at one stage it was at a very advanced level but later on the company decided not to have the manufacturing concern there. Therefore, that proved infructuous. Now the present position is that the Dunlop Rubber Company are expanding their manufacturing process in Calcutta. Also they want to have some manufacturing unit in South India and it is expected that this manufacturing unit may be in Travancore-Cochin State but it is still too early to say. I think before long it is expected that some manufacturing process for rubber may be developed in Travancore-Cochin State.

Similarly, I will refer briefly to one or two more points. About the sheet-glass, it was said that the State Government sent plans for this scheme as well as about sand-lined brick manufacture but nothing was done by the Centre. I think the hon. Member is under a great misapprehension. The sheet-glass manufacture plan which came here was also a private venture. It was technically examined and it was not found feasible. So it was rejected on technical grounds. The sand-line brick manufacturing scheme was also examined and it was also a private venture and it has been accepted by the Government of India and it has been included in the Second Five Year Plan of the Travancore Cochin Government.

Now I want to come to the general but more important point. This is about the unemployment. A general—rather serious—charge was made that since the popular Government in Travancore-Cochin came, not a single industry has been started. The whole question of industrialising the State, unemployment and the allocations in the Second Five Year Plan are all inter-linked. So I want to take them together. It is wrong to say that during the last few years of the popular rule, no industry has been started. It is a fact that the industrial development in Travancore-Cochin has been inadequate and it is rather unfortunate considering the high density of population that industries could not be started there but it is accepted on all counts that unless that particular part of the country is industrialised, the pressure on land cannot be reduced and the unemployment problem cannot be solved. But this is due to certain historical factors which I will explain later. Just now I want to controvert this allegation that no new industry had been started during the advent of the popular rule. For example the following industries were started after the advent of popular rule in Travancore-Cochin:

1. The Jamuna Thread Mills, Koratty;

2. The Travancore-Cochin Chemicals, Alwaye (Caustic Soda Plant); and

3. The Indian Rare Earths, Alwaye.

But I don't say they are very adequate. Now it has been said by hon. Members, Mr. Nair and by my friend the most vocal Mr. Gupta that nothing has been done in this Budget to provide for unemployment. I may humbly submit that does he look to this Budget just as a panacea for solving all this problem of unemployment? What to speak of this one Budget, a series of Five Year Plans are required to reduce or eliminate unemployment from this country and also from the State of Travancore-Cochin. So, to say that this Budget should be looked at from the angle, to what extent it reduces unemployment, is not a very correct thing. Many hon. Members have emphasised that there should be proper development of power potential in that State. It is true. Therefore, a provision of Rs. 17.63 crores was made in the First Five Year Plan and Rs. 15.90 crores were utilized. Similarly, for Transport Rs. 2.47 crores were provided. It has exceeded that, and Rs. 3.25 crores were spent. The social and economic overheads are being completed in the State on which the structure of industrialisation can take place. If you see the Second Five Year Plan, the total allocation is about Rs. 72 crores of which Irrigation and Power is 28 crores, Industry and Mining Rs. 6.25 crores, Transport and Communication Rs. 3 crores. I think these are the ways to go ahead with industrialisation. In the allocation for Second Five Year Plan, the State has received fair treatment from the Planning Commission. As a matter of fact, from all considerations, it should have got an allocation of about Rs. 55 crores but it has been given Rs. 71 crores actually because we realise that in the Second Plan we have accepted the principle that all depressed areas should be specially treated—areas like Travancore-Cochin,

Orissa, certain parts of Bihar or areas round about Calcutta or these areas which have a special problem. In respect of allocation per person Travancore-Cochin compares very favourably with one of the most advanced States in India, namely, Bombay. For Travancore-Cochin the allocation is Rs. 72 per person, for Bombay it is Rs. 70, Bihar, another depressed area, has only Rs. 48 per person. Orissa has Rs. 66 per person. So to say that the special difficulties of Travancore-Cochin has not been realized, is saying half-truth.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: But the proof of the pudding after all is in the eating of it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The Planning Commission and the Central Government have been fully alive to the problems of the State. Similarly on the question of unemployment, I may submit that in the Second Plan there is the scheme of starting special pilot centres for giving technical training in order to absorb the educated unemployed. But as I have submitted, the problem of unemployment is one linked up with the general problem of achieving all round prosperity and industrial development and as the country progresses and the pace of development gets faster, unemployment also will be liquidated. I don't think we should take the short term aspect of the problem. We have to take the longer aspect of the development of the country and of Travancore-Cochin. I would emphasise that Travancore-Cochin has been specially treated in the Second Plan in all respects, whether it be in the matter of irrigation, whether it be in the matter of social overheads, economic overheads, industries or agriculture. One hon. Member said that there are no heavy industries in the State of Travancore-Cochin and he linked it up with the question of unemployment. Sir, there is an element of contradiction in this. Of course, the location of heavy industries is decided on the availability of raw materials, markets, transport and various other

[Shri B. R. Bhagat.] factors. So that has nothing to do with the State's allocations. I would like to emphasise that the real question of unemployment, particularly that of the educated unemployment, in Travancore-Cochin can only be solved by the speedy organisation of small industries. If hon. Members will only see, they can find out that the Government have sanctioned two industrial estates. The third is on the anvil. Similarly there are workshops for the technical training of the educated unemployed being built up. Therefore, slowly, but effectively, the foundations are being built up and before long the State of Travancore-Cochin will be lit up with factories and small industries where the educated would be employed and this endemic malady of the educated unemployed would be completely liquidated. That is the picture that I would like to draw, not a pessimistic picture as was drawn by hon. Members opposite, but rather a very optimistic but a real picture and I commend it to this House. The future of Travancore-Cochin as well as future of the whole country is going to be bright and prosperous. That is the truth and none need worry about it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So the general discussion is concluded.

THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN APPROPRIATION 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 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."

Sir, I do not think I should make a very long speech, but as this House has not got an opportunity of discus-

sing the Demands for Grants, I think it will be only in the fitness of things if I say something on the various aspects of this Appropriation Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Half an hour is the time set apart for all stages of this Bill.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes, Sir. I shall be brief and I shall in fairness explain, not in detail, but in brief what this Bill contains.

As hon. Members are aware, the Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956, for meeting the requirements of the Travancore-Cochin State for the first three months of the year was approved by the House on 27th April, 1956. The amounts included in the present Bill are inclusive of the sums provided for in that Vote on Account.

The budgetary position of the State is explained in the State Finance Minister's speech introducing the Budget before the State Legislature in March last, a copy of which has already been circulated to the hon. Members along with the other Budget documents. Briefly, the position is that the Budget for the current year provides for a revenue of Rs. 18.9 crores and an expenditure of Rs. 21.98 crores leaving a deficit of Rs. 308 lakhs; as compared with the revenue deficit of Rs. 141 lakhs in the revised estimates for the preceding year. Except for a credit of Rs. 15 lakhs from betterment levy, for which the necessary legislation was under consideration by the State Legislature before its dissolution, the revenue estimates for the current year do not take credit for any new measures of taxation. The estimates of expenditure allow for transfer from the revenue to capital account of certain items of a capital nature, amounting to Rs. 225 lakhs. This transfer follows the general re-classification of expenditure between capital and revenue, suggested last year, by the Centre with the approval of the Comptroller and Auditor-General for