

[Mr. Chairman.]

other speeches—I should like to congratulate Shri Krishnamoorthy Rao on his re-election as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. I wish him a very successful term of office. Success in these matters depends upon patience on your side and on our side. You must give us willing co-operation and compliance with our directions, whether you like them or not. We must put up with even long speeches made by you with great power and charm on absolutely nothing. So, patience on both sides is necessary, and granted that, Mr. Krishnamoorthy Rao's term, I have no doubt, will be quite successful.

SHRI S. V. KRISHNAMOORTHY RAO: Mr. Chairman, I am indeed grateful to the Leader of the House and to the hon. Members of this august House for having re-elected me as Deputy Chairman and placed implicit confidence in me. I assure the hon. Members through you, Sir, that during my further period of office as Deputy Chairman I will do nothing to betray the confidence that the hon. Members have placed in me. I thank you once again.

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1956—continued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dasappa, please finish your speech.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I was referring to Mr. Sapru's statement yesterday that he would prefer direct taxes. Now, what has happened in these few years is just this. I am only quoting from the Final Report of the National Income Committee, which is a very interesting document. It says that in 1948-49 the percentage of Government draft on private income through direct taxes was 2·8 per cent. and in 1950-51, instead of rising, it has even decreased and it is only 2·4 per cent. What has happened with regard to indirect taxation during this very period is: in 1948-49 it was 4·1 per cent. and

in 1950-51, it is 4·5 per cent. Now, I make out this case. In the case of indirect taxation, the incidence falls more heavily on a larger number of people. If it is an excise duty on cloth, more than 85 per cent. of the country that use it are poor and, therefore, they share this incidence of taxation as much as the others. When we are increasing the percentage of indirect taxes here in the land, it weighs more heavily on the poorer classes. So, from both the points of view the poorer sections do not gain. The benefits of the increase in the per capita income do not reach them and the heavy incidence of indirect taxation is going to be to the disadvantage of the poorer classes. I think there must be a review of the whole position and the Government will kindly see that the process is reversed.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity which we get annually to make some observations on the items in the budget and some items on which we have not been able to make suggestions during the budget discussions. Before I proceed with three or four topics which I want to touch during my speech, I would like to refer to some remarks that fell yesterday from one of the Members with regard to an item under Rajya Sabha—the facilities about air travel and telephones. I would particularly refer to this air travel. I feel when we are here making demands to get as much money as possible for the poor and when as the hon. Member, Mr. Dasappa, said that less concentration should be made on housing in the capital and more on the housing for the poor in the rural areas, it does not, in my humble opinion, look proper that we should demand further amenities for ourselves which we can have almost for the asking, such as air travel all over India. I would not mind our asking for air travel passes only for attending meetings of Parliament, or in connection with Government work. But to say that just on the same footing as

we are given railway passes, we should be given air tickets also is not to show in my humble opinion, the same consideration to saving some money for public good.

I would like to touch upon the most important item which, in my opinion, is that of the Health Ministry. But before I begin that, I may make a suggestion to the Finance Ministry that in putting down all the items, it would be a good plan if all the items dealing with a particular Ministry are given in the alphabetical order or put together. For instance, Health is given as item No. 47 and again, at the end, under 'Capital Outlay' it is shown as item No. 130. So, if all the items regarding a particular Ministry are given together and the total shown at the end, it will be easy to focus the attention of the House and the Ministry on them. I believe that this suggestion was made once. But perhaps it was not taken up. Perhaps it is difficult for Government to get out of the stereotyped practice. But when we are doing so many new things, I do not think that it should be difficult for Government to accept this suggestion of presenting this Appropriation Bill in this manner for the benefit of the Members of the House.

Sir, it is said

शरीर माध्यम् खलु धर्मं साधनम्

That is, health is the foundation of everything. Though we lay stress on education which will enable us to do that duty—that 'Dharma'—it is necessary to lay a sound foundation. It is only from that point of view that I would like to make some suggestions in regard to that Ministry.

First and foremost is the population question. There is no doubt that all the plans of Government are not carried out fully or cannot be shown as carried out, because of the ever increasing population at the most rapid rate in the whole world. As a result, if we want to provide 15 million jobs, or solve the problem of 15 million people in the next five years, we would have perhaps ten times that number—if not more—added on,

during that period. So, it is very necessary to make an all-out effort to see what can be done to reduce this ever increasing population, so that the masses in the country may have better health and greater prosperity. Every question like housing, etc. would be solved, if the number of people for whom these things are being done is not so great. It is argued that in a country where education has not spread to the extent that it has in the West, it is very difficult to make the people—especially the people in rural areas who are said to be nearly 80 per cent—appreciate the importance of family planning. So, it is very necessary that with the co-ordination and help of the different Ministries, this can be carried out and the Health Ministry should for this purpose make greater use of the Education Ministry as also the Broadcasting Ministry, that is, through cinemas. They should also give compulsory courses in family planning before giving high school certificates to students. There was a time when first-aid course was a compulsory part of training before students were sent up for matriculation. Some such things ought to be done.

I would again like to refer to the ticklish question of patronage to Ayurveda. I have read fully the debate in the other House and the reply of the hon. Minister in this respect. The argument that there is not enough clinical evidence for the Ayurveda system is begging the issue. Sir, how did the allopathic system come to have all this authority that it has behind it through hospital tests and experiments? It is only because in countries in the West where this system originated, they have allotted vast sums of money for experiment, apart from the fact that people in those countries, being rich themselves, are able to buy these drugs. Of course, there are very big industrialists with large sums of money, who have themselves instituted laboratories, when starting their pharmacies. In the absence of such a spirit in our industrialists, it is necessary for the Government itself to

[Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.] make all its hospitals what are called 'samanvaya' hospitals, that is, all systems like Ayurveda and Biochemistry are given a chance there for experiment.

Sir, to say that Ayurveda and Biochemistry and Homoeopathy cannot stand on their own legs in these modern days without the aid of stethoscope or X-ray is really not understanding the importance of medicine at all. If a certain research has been made in that direction, there is no harm in Ayurveda or Homoeopathy taking the help of it. That is why I suggest to the Health Ministry that in every Government hospital, there should be an arrangement for allotting certain beds to Ayurvedic and Biochemistry treatment and only such hospitals should be given some grants. Sir, unless the grants given or the expenditure incurred by the Health Ministry on improving medicine and giving new facilities in regard to these systems are on a par with the allopathic system—because Allopathy has already made a start—it would not be possible to give a fair trial to these systems of medicine. The reason why it is necessary that Ayurveda, Biochemistry and Homoeopathy should be given a trial is that these medicines are cheaper and within the reach of the poor people.

I must apologise to the House for not using the word 'Unani'. I would like that to be included all along wherever I have mentioned Ayurveda. These two systems have been tried in our country for the last five thousand years. After all, the experience of so many years should not be lost to the country.

I may tell the House about what may perhaps be considered as a superstition. It is about a certain herb in the Himalayas used by saints, which is said to do away with any desire for food without any bad effects for a week at a time. And I am sure that the Food Ministry and others will welcome such a herb

which grows in the Himalayas. If it is taken, it is not necessary to take food for a long time. Anyway, the Army Department may like to investigate into the matter. But if such claims are made, it is necessary to make research in the various laboratories.

I would also like to mention that even in a country like China which is under the spell of westernisation to the extent of renovation of women's dress, indigenous Chinese medicine is being given great impetus. I think that it is good to profit from the experience of countries which are on their march to modernisation.

I would make a reference to the new fad, that is growing everywhere and that is with regard to the various 'week' celebrations—the 'Health Week', the 'Plan Week' and other celebrations. Though they have their propaganda value, I would mention that the time of all the officers—a majority of them—and the resources are spent in just doing propaganda with the result that very little time is left for administrative work and that leads to what is called 'red-tapism'. And people complain of very delayed disposal.

Sir, I would like to say a word about the milk distribution through the Health Ministry. Since the money available to the Ministry and the expenditure is shown here, in my opinion, the amount of foreign aid should also have been shown either within brackets or perhaps in a footnote, for distributing nutritional medicines and other preventive medicines and also for carrying on campaigns like B.C.G., etc. The Health Ministry should have taken care to see that there was only one co-ordinating agency through which the distribution could take place. Today, what is happening is that some of the milk is sent to some private organisations like the missionaries and some is sent perhaps to some other social welfare organisations. So, there are two or three dis-

tributing agencies, and the result is that half the time of the people is wasted in finding out the source from which they should take the milk. The Health Ministry deserves to be complemented for the work that it has done for T. B. and for other diseases like leprosy etc., their prevention and their cure. But with regard to the T.B. Sanatorium, there is a great need felt for using the highly equipped and very expensive hospital for the purpose of diagnosing certain cases. What is happening today is this. They have got very efficient apparatus at their command at the district level. But it is not, according to the rules, permissible for the people to get any help in connection with the diagnosis of certain cases, because they say that they are not able to give attention to outdoor work.

Sir, then with regard to the water-supply, I would like to say only one word. It is a great pity that in the capital itself people cannot be sure of the water that they drink, and the people are asked by the Research Committee to take care and boil the water before drinking it. Sir, the poor people find it difficult to afford money for fuel and for utensils to keep water. Under these circumstances, how is it possible for them to be sure of getting pure water by boiling it? It is absolutely necessary, therefore, to provide them with pure water without their having to boil it. The Government should see to it that pure water is made available at least in the big cities, and in the metropolitan cities.

Sir, I would now like to make a reference to some of the very important things which are happening under our own eyes. I refer to the question of sanitation in the capital itself. I would, in this connection, like hon. Members and the hon. Minister in particular to take a walk in Connaught Circus and see the walls etc. there, which are seen by so many foreigners even. It is really disgraceful because the walls of those corridors and of those shops are almost painted with pan up to two feet in all corners. Spitting everywhere is being

indulged in by the people, and I feel that at least in the capital it should be one of the duties of the Health Ministry to see that such things do not take place, especially when we see so many placards about the health drive, about the killing of flies and about keeping the lanes and by-lanes clean. Even after that health drive, the corridors in front of the shops are not absolutely clean. They are as filthy and as disgraceful as they would be in a slum. Sir, some hon. Member said in the other House that New Delhi was a heaven, if Old Delhi could be called the other place. I would like such people to see some of the lanes of New Delhi which, in my opinion, are not comparable to a heaven.

Sir, the Health Ministry has taken upon itself the legitimate responsibility of seeing that our advertisements are kept up to a certain standard. A Bill in this connection was also passed for controlling the obscene advertisements etc., so that our food is not adulterated. I feel that it should have been the duty of the Ministry to see that pure milk was made available in the capital itself. Here, I would like to refer to the Health Ministry's attempt to introduce a dairy scheme. So much money of the Government was spent on this scheme. And ultimately though the plus and minus figures have been shown, according to the replies to questions—assets being shown against the losses—yet the scheme ran at a loss, and ultimately, it was given to a private agency in U.P. and today, even the M.P.s. here are being supplied milk which is half adulterated with skimmed milk or with milk powder.

Sir, I have always tried to make out a case that there should be co-ordination between different Ministries of the Government in order to get the best out of our expenditure on various items. And in this connection, I would like to refer to the amount of co-ordination that is necessary among the Health Ministry, the Education Ministry and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the Food Ministry. And in that connection, I would

[Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.] first of all refer to the question of supplying free mid-day meals to the school children. It is no use giving a few nutritive things sent from abroad to the children here and there and taking photographs and putting them in our magazines in order to show what big efforts are made. If we look at the health of children in the villages, we will find that they look almost like skeletons, and that is enough for us to feel really, what shall I say, ashamed of ourselves, and really grieved over such a state of affairs. The Health Minister one day told me that she drew up a scheme with regard to mid-day meals, which was under consideration by the Food Ministry and the Education Ministry. But after that it was said that it was not possible for them to pursue that scheme. I really would like to know if she could try and try again, as she did in the case of water-supply and other schemes, asking the Municipal Committee to do their duty. I would request her even now to try again and again to persuade the Food Ministry and the Education Ministry to provide for mid-day meals. In the city of Madras, every child up to the age of 10 is given a free mid-day meal. Sir, this is not a very great thing or a new thing. In England, up to the age of 14 years, in the middle schools, every child is given a free mid-day meal during the afternoon. You are expecting children to participate in games and show excellence in international games, you are expecting them to be fit citizens and to join the army and defend their country. When their bodies are not looked after and properly nourished during the long hours—they leave their homes walking long distances at 9 o'clock and they return home at about 6 o'clock—most of the children are not at all able to participate in any games.

Sir, another way by which these Ministries can co-ordinate with each other is this. There should be a concerted effort. I am glad the Deputy Minister for Education is sitting here. Sir, we are doing so many things and

frittering away the resources of the Government. I would mention here just one thing. The Education Ministry is indulging in making films for education at the high school stage in the name of audio-visual education. Of course, I do not doubt the benefits of that sort of education. That is very necessary. But then, Sir, we must do first things first. The hon. Deputy Minister was on the Secondary Education Commission, and we expect him to make use of the evidence that was laid before him and do the things that were demanded by the people. Sir, it is not possible to give even the primary education to children. And yet we are helping the public schools; we are helping the Kindergarten schools; we are helping the schools for the children of the rich people. Sir, in a socialist pattern of society, we have first of all to meet the demands of the poor and we have to fulfil the Directive Principles in our Constitution, by giving compulsory education to children up to the age of 14. We must see that all other extravagant expenditure is avoided. And for that reason, Sir, I would incidentally refer to the expenditure that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting intends to incur on television. Everybody knows, Sir, that television is available for people only within a radius of 20 miles, and the sets are so very expensive.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN): There is no provision for television this year.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, I am on that Committee. And we know fully well that it is coming. We have discussed that question already, and I would like to take the whole House into confidence.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: It is not in this year's Budget, Sir.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, television can be used by people within a radius of only 20 miles. And it can be used by only those people who have got plenty of

money. Apart from that, Sir, America is now regretting the harmful effects of television on the younger generation through the commercialised broadcasting in that country. The argument that has been advanced by the Ministry in favour of having television is that we want to be abreast of the research or other things that are taking place in other countries. We have been behind many other countries in many other respects, but we have been making up by sending out people for technical education. Nothing would be lost by postponing this expensive, luxurious and almost criminal experiment of introducing television in this country until this country is able to manufacture all the parts that are required for our broadcasting sets, so that the foreign exchange required for importing these sets is not really heavy. I think that through the medium of broadcasting by ordinary radios, education in the rural areas, not only of ordinary children but also of the whole population about the programmes and plans of the Government must be carried out according to our requirements. It is not at all right that we should waste money on television sets.

Then, a word about mines, since the Minister for Mines is sitting here now, and that is with regard to the nationalisation of mines. There is an item called Government mines. The Government also intends to take up by and by coal mines as nationalised ventures. I would suggest to the Labour Minister, though this is under the purview of the Production Ministry, that in the interests of the strength of labour unions, he should press that the Production Ministry should start at least one Government mine in every important coal field so as to make it a model of treatment of labour and so as to reduce the grievances and the harassment of labour by private mine owners.

With regard to pensions, I would like to make one suggestion and that is that Government is giving dearness allowance to many people, but

the pensions of the people who have served the country loyally and faithfully for many years and who happen to draw pensions below Rs. 300 remain where they were. With the prices of many things having gone up three times as admitted by Government, it is not proper and just that the pension of these people should remain where they were.

I would like to make one suggestion to the Agricultural Ministry, with regard to items 42 and 128 about the purchase of foodgrains, that whatever grain is in excess of current requirements, rather than being kept for two years or so because of the difficulties of transport, etc., should be made available at concessional rates for the purpose of providing mid-day meals for children.

I would like to make one suggestion with regard to the Law Commission. On this Law Commission, there is not a single woman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Biswas to note.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Then, I would say one thing which I had omitted to say about education, and that is about women's education. We ought to realise that women's education is more important than the education of boys. It has been often said, as was pointed out on the floor of this House by my hon. friend to my left, in one of her very first speeches in this House, that when you educate a woman, you educate a nation, and when you educate a man, you educate an individual. We have often made demands in this House, but I would like the education Ministry to take note that things have not improved in this respect even by one per cent. during the period of five years. Some special effort should be made in this direction, and for this purpose, a one hundred per cent. women's body should be formed to advise the Education Minister. Thank you.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): The hon. Member was making

[Shri H. P. Saksena.]

an abject discrimination when she was differentiating between man and woman.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, I find that the spectre of inflation has been raised.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Chairman, before I continue further, I would like to offer you my wholehearted congratulations on your re-election to this high office.

Sir, the spectre of inflation has been raised. It is said that the monster of inflation is raising its hideous head, and that there must be an effort all round to bring down prices. I would like to examine whether there is any justification for raising such a scare and whether there is any inflationary pressure at all on our economy. A false alarm has been raised by our critics to hamper our developmental expenditure and the development of our economy. While we must maintain a watchful approach, a cautious approach, with a view to develop our economy and implement our plans, an alarmist approach will only mean that we hamper the growth of our economy and our developmental expenditure.

I admit that there has been, of late, a rise in prices. Now, we have to examine whether this rise in prices is due to inflationary pressure. We all know that this is the peak season when there is the greatest demand for money in our economy. This demand for money is due to two factors at the present moment. It is due partly to the rise in our economic activity and partly due to seasonal factors. The figures of money supply which have stood at Rs. 2,150 crores at the end of March may taper off to Rs. 2,000 crores after the busy season is over. We have to see whether this supply of money is at all inflationary. What I feel is that in time to come, when the produces reach the market, the supply of goods will match the money supply position. But we can also examine,

apart from the money supply position, the rise in the price itself. The current statistics reveal that there has been a rise in the prices of food articles, industrial raw material and semi-manufactured articles, but there has been a steady price for the manufactured articles. The price index for food articles in May 1955 was 276.1, and in the week ending 27th March 1956 it is 358.8—a rise of 82.7. Similarly, you will find that industrial raw materials have risen from 396.4 to 477.8 a rise of 21.2. There has been a rise of 45.4 in the semi-manufactured articles and the price of semi-manufactured has remained steady. Now, I am sure, the House will agree with me that we must maintain a certain parity in our economy between the agricultural products and the manufactured articles. We should see that our agriculturists don't suffer in our economic policies. We must examine whether the parity that is in existence today between the manufactured goods and the agricultural products is a correct one or not, and whether the parity is in favour of the agriculturist. We can measure this with the pre-war parity that existed between the prices of agricultural products and the industrial products. I don't say that the pre-war standards were quite good or were ideal but that has been a measure of a standard and we have been trying to go back at least to pre-war levels of standards. A study has been made of this parity index for food articles and index for manufactured articles with the pre-war index as its level and I find that in 1954 April, this ratio stood at 100.2 which is more or less the equilibrium level. From that month onwards, it started declining and in April 1955, it stood at 75.3, that is to say, there was a fall of about 25 per cent. in this ratio and it was the time when we initiated the policy of price support. In April 1955, and from that month onwards we made a conscious effort.....

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): What study is he referring to?

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I can give it to the hon. Minister. This is a study by some economic institutions regarding the parity index.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know which report it is.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: This is the *Eastern Economist Quarterly Report*—Report 5 of April 1955. I have calculated after that the present figures. I will give you the present figures. So because of this decrease in the price level of the agricultural products, we started a policy of price support. Now, as a result of that policy, this parity index in April 1956 stands at 97 i.e., it is still 3 per cent. against the agriculturists. The point that I am making is this that there has been a rise in the price of the agricultural products and this rise has been brought about by a conscious planned effort. But there is no question of alarm in this rise of the price of the agricultural products, because as compared with the pre-war levels of price index between the agricultural products and the manufactured articles, the prices which the agriculturist gets for his products is still 3 per cent. against him. Now, if we want to reduce the prices, we must reduce the prices of both the agricultural and the manufactured goods. There is no point in becoming alarmists only when the price of the agricultural products are rising, because I am certain that there is still room for a rise of 3 points in this index, that is to say, there is still room for a slight rise in the agricultural prices before a pre-war parity could be achieved. Therefore, I maintain that there is no room for alarm or scare for the prices that have risen of the agricultural products. This has been as a result of a conscious effort and there is no inflationary pressure in this rise of prices.

Now, I also maintain that we should keep a watchful eye and we should not be complacent, because it is not my intention to advocate inflation. I would merely want that a proper parity should be maintained and in

the name of inflation we should not curtail our developmental expenditure in the Plan. But for keeping this economy steady; we have to see that the supply of goods and services keep on increasing with the demand that is made on them with the rise in our economy, and we should not hesitate if there is a necessity, to whittle down even our foreign resources and import large quantities of food in order to keep the prices down, when our production of rice has not been better than last year and our Rabi Crop will not be as good as last year. We have already provided for a two million ton import of foodgrains in order to keep the prices at proper level. I was referring to the Reserve Bank Bulletin for the month of March 1956, in which they have stated:

“Over the year 1955 as a whole, there was a significant improvement in the current account position as compared to the previous year, as a result mainly of a much larger rise in exports than in imports and partly of the increase in receipts under invisibles, excluding official donations.”

Therefore, I would beg of the Finance Minister and the Government not to take a timid view of the situation, but to take a bolder step to implement the Plan and, in order to maintain the economy and the prices at the proper level, they should not hesitate to make large imports if necessary.

We have also to see that the industrial production in the country keeps pace with the rise in demands. It is gratifying to note that in the year 1955 our industrial production is 8 per cent. higher than in 1954, and the prospects are that in the current year, this rising tendency will be maintained. For the Second Plan, we are going to depend mostly on village industries, on the handloom industry and the cottage industries and their products to keep up the supply of consumer goods. I find that during the First Plan, they could not make use of all the financial provisions for the

[Shri Rajendra Pratap Sinha]
development of this sector of the industrial economy, mainly because they did not have the organisational resources to develop the cottage and village industries. But there is a difference between the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan. In the First Five Year Plan we mainly depended upon the organised sector of industry for the supply of consumer goods. In the Second Five Year Plan, we are more largely depending for this supply on the cottage industry section of industry. Therefore, unless the Government takes some very drastic and emergent steps to organise this sector of the industry, I am afraid that, although a provision has been made of Rs. 200 crores for the development of this sector, this sector will be found to lag behind and not be able to meet the demands made for consumer goods, and this alone will bring on inflationary pressures in our economy and a rise in the prices.

Another point that I would like to urge upon the Government is this. They should maintain a watchful eye. They must curb all the speculative tendencies that may grow up as a result of our spendings and as a result of our financial policy. What I expect is this. Our financial policy has given confidence to the primary producers and the tradesmen. Both the primary producer and the businessman feel confident that they are not going to lose on the stocks, that whatever stocks they keep, they will appreciate in value, because it is the policy of the Government not to allow the prices to go down. They will be at least maintained, and the expectation is that the prices will even rise. This confidence has given rise to speculative tendencies in our economy and both the producer and the tradesman are apt to withhold stocks in order to make a profit on them. Therefore, I would advocate a vigilant attitude on the part of the Government and adequate steps in order to curb this tendency. I am also convinced from our experience in the past that physical measures alone will not do. We must

resort to state-trading and we should maintain large stocks of consumer goods, particularly of good articles, in order to keep down the prices and to curb speculative tendencies and unsocial elements in our society.

I am appreciative of the fact that the Reserve Bank has called for fortnightly statements from banks of their advance position. But I would like to warn that the Reserve Bank should not manipulate the credit policies in such a manner that there is a curb on genuine production and genuine wholesale trade. Our credit policy should not be such that production and legitimate trade suffer, because our economy and production can only develop by our providing enough credit through the banking channels to the industry and to the trade. The Reserve Bank should see that there are no speculative advances, that the advances made do not help hoarding. If the goods keep on moving, there should be no curbs against such advances.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to close before lunch. There are eleven Members yet to speak.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I am at your disposal, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please close your speech before the lunch break.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Very well, Sir. In the end, I would only draw the attention of the Government to the fact that advances against bullion should be strictly restricted and every effort should be made to bring down the price of bullion. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghubir Singh.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINGH (Madhya Bharat): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am grateful for my being called now. I wanted to be called some time in the morning and at least it is morning now.

The Budget before us, on which we have been called upon at this hour

to speak, is very closely interlinked with the Second Five Year Plan which, however, is still in the formative stage. In his Budget speech, the Finance Minister said that the Second Plan is a bolder step forward in the direction of developing the economy and as such, I believe, it will be too early to speak more on policies at this stage. Hence, on this occasion, I would rather like to restrict myself to only two points which I want to emphasise before hon. Ministers. One point that I want to stress is that a stage has been reached now, when a definite attempt should be made for ensuring economy and efficiency in the administration. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that in his Budget speech, the hon. Finance Minister has himself felt the need for ensuring economy and has said:

"We are keeping a continuous watch over the growth of expenditure and securing economy, wherever possible, as part of our day to day control over expenditure."

I am also happy, Sir, that a special unit is being established for ensuring a closer watch over the expenditure, especially in the second Five Year Plan. Those of us who have had some knowledge about the working of the first Five Year Plan know that in the name of social welfare and in the name of social education, there has been much wastage. We have already heard here in this House at one stage in the question hour about how our funds were misused in certain States which were allotted for the social welfare departments.

Then again, Sir, I have got before me, the Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will please continue in the afternoon.

The House stands adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock

The House reassembled after lunch at half-past two of the clock, Mr. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, when the House adjourned, I was discussing the proposal made by the Finance Minister about the setting up of a high-powered committee of Ministers and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to organise a thorough investigation including the inspection of important projects on hand both at the Centre and at the States. I wanted to bring to your notice—and I am sure Members of the House must have seen these Audit Reports—the Audit Reports on the Damodar Valley Corporation. There are quite a few items here for example, loss through fraud, loss through infructuous expenditure, etc. which could have been avoided. These are some of the items that were discovered. We have already heard quite a good deal about the case of defalcation and misappropriation that has taken place in the Bhakra-Nangal Project. The case is being investigated and I believe some lakhs and lakhs of rupees are involved. Those of us with a little experience of the expenditure on the development projects and development units in the States know that there are quite a few cases in which moneys intended for certain projects have not been paid off, while the money contributed or subscribed thus by the Government was actually not spent on the particular object for which it was allotted. Only the other day, a friend of mine was mentioning in connection with some river valley project where certain expenditure was supposed to have been incurred for the laying down of a channel. Later on, when somebody enquired as to where was the canal that had been dug and duly constructed, it was said that the Bihar floods had washed away this canal. All these matters need proper looking into. I do hope that when this high-powered committee is appointed, something will be done to set these things right.

[Dr. Raghubir Singh.]

More than all these, I want to bring to the notice of the Government the continued inefficiency prevalent in many of the departments of the Government. Was it necessary for the Central Budget to be leaked and made known to the common man, for the Minister in charge of the Government press to think of re-organising and modernising the Government of India Press where these Budget speeches were being printed? I think, you yourself are aware that four months back, on the floor of this House, I raised the question of the continued inefficiency of the Government of India Press. I am rather amazed at the patience that the Chairman, yourself and the Secretary of this House have shown towards the Government of India Press which continues to print the Question papers with a series of mis-prints. I have had to do with the presses as one who has to publish books. In that connection, I had to deal with many presses. I can assure you, Sir, that I would never have anything to do with a press which would repeat such inaccurate printing more than twice. When this question was raised on the floor of the House four months ago, the Minister assured us that he would do everything possible to set things right. Even then, Sir, today and every day, series of errata papers are sent to us. Probably the Minister in charge would have said that these were small things but, Sir, I beg to say that it is in these small things that we test the efficiency of the Ministries. There are matters which are not known to us and if such is the inefficiency in these known cases, I do not know what must be happening behind those closed doors. The matter needs to be looked into.

Finally, Sir, I want to come to a Ministry about which I spoke last year. I refer to the Ministry of Communications. I raised the question of the inefficiency of the Posts and Telegraphs Department on the floor

of the House. I spoke of so many lost letters, miscarried invitations, and so on. When I raised this question of lost letters, the Minister glibly told me, "We deal with thousands and lakhs of letters. If some are lost, what is there?" Probably, the Minister has not to deal with his personal correspondence and hence he does not know what happens to his letters. Sir, imagine the condition of that man who may be getting only a couple of letters on and off, who is anxiously waiting for some message from his home which he never receives. I have got here a cutting of a letter published in the 'Hindustan Times'. It is said that three invitation letters posted on the same day, March 1, by a foreign Embassy in the capital to three persons belonging to the same institution in the capital, were delivered on three different dates, one was received on March 2, the second on March 3 and the third on March 6, a day after the function, despite the fact that they were posted under a Certificate of Posting and were marked "Express Delivery". The Postal Department charges two annas for the Express Delivery and also charges something for the certificate of posting, and yet this is how things happen. I am saying this, now particularly, because the Postal Department, on the basis of loss, has asked for a rise in the charges for the registration of articles. Nobody will deny, nobody will grudge the extra payment, provided the services are efficiently carried out, but this is how the services are being carried out at present.

The inefficiency is not only in this respect; the inefficiency is there in respect of the bills collected also. I can quote from personal experience. On the 15th February, 1956, I received a notification from the Administrative Officer, Telephone Revenues, saying that he regretted to inform me that the telephone rental Bill, dated the 15th September, 1953, was not paid by me. I was threatened that if

the payment was not made within seven days, my telephone connection would be cut off. Fortunately for me, and unfortunately for the Ministry, I am in the habit of carefully keeping the papers with me. I know it for certain, Sir, that all our telephone bills are not paid by us direct but that they are paid by us through the Rajya Sabha Secretariat office here, and hence, I knew that the bills could not have remained unpaid. I looked into my bills and there I found that I had a receipt with me dated the 16th November, 1953, from that very same department, from that very same officer, certifying that the bill was paid. If this is the condition in respect of financial entries, if this is the condition in respect of even Members of Parliament, who are served with notices about payments which that very department has certified as having been made, I do not know what must be happening to the ordinary subscriber.

I can tell you one more thing, Sir. When this Jaipur Division was opened, when this special division was formed by the Postal Department, we thought that some efficiency would have come in, more so because the hon. Minister himself—I am afraid he is not here—comes from that State and he was particularly anxious that this should be formed. With what result? I will quote here what is the condition of the Postal Department in Jaipur. This is from the Rajasthan Newsletter, published in the 'Times of India' dated May 28, 1955. This letter says, "Believe it or not, but it is true that post, telegraph and telephone facilities in Jaipur are woefully poor. That it should be so in Jaipur which, besides being the capital of Rajasthan, is the headquarters of a Circle Director of Posts and Telegraphs is surprising." Then it says further, "Wrong delivery, late delivery and non-delivery of mail and telegrams are not infrequent." It is not here that the tale

ends. It goes a little longer. Unfortunately my own area has come into that postal circle. Just a few months before this Circle was formed, I had got my new trunk telephone connection. Will you believe me, Sir, that the bills for 1953 and 1954 have not been sent to me. I have received and made payment for all the bills from 1954 onwards. I do not know what has happened to the dues of 1953 and 1954. Probably some day some one in the Ministry will take it up, or somebody auditing the accounts will find out that the bills are not paid, and we will be served with notices for things never sent to us. Sir, this is a state of affairs which, I think, needs to be looked into, especially at a time when we are going to be faced with increased charges in the case of the postal services. Sir, I do hope that the Postal Department would be more careful and would be more humane in these matters. Sir, the story is long and the time is short; I must cut down the tale, for my hon. colleague here is anxious to speak.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA (Bombay): You carry on.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Thank you very much. Now, Sir, I should switch on to something more interesting for the House. I think we have heard here a little about the trouble and confusion between the various systems of medicine. Probably, the House very little knows that when the first Surgeon-General of the Allopathic system was appointed in India, what was his function. His function was—I am reading from the Standing Orders—his function was: "They shall also cut the hair of the carpenters, sailors, labourers and any other workmen in the Companies' said yards." And do you know, Sir, how much was the Surgeon-General of the Allopathic system of medicine to be paid? He was to be paid only two pence every month, two pence per head per month. I am quoting this from the

[Dr. Raghubir Singh.]
History of the Indian Medical Service.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN (Bihar):
What year was it?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: It was 1821. I am only saying that the surgeons had to cut the hair of the carpenters, etc. In addition to this, Sir, there is another point I want to bring to the notice of the House. We are all talking of harmonising the various systems of medicine, but probably, very few persons know that there was an event on the 10th of January, 1836, in Calcutta. The incident occurred there; the Eastern system of medicine was wedded to the Western system of medicine. What happened? That day was celebrated in Calcutta by a public holiday, illuminations and universal exultation.

AN HON. MEMBER: The outcome?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: My hon. friend is probably thinking of the family planning which is going on now. It must have been begun then, and the outcome is nothing.

Finally, Sir, I have only one point to make and it is in this cutting; which some others might have also read in the 'Times of India', dated the 6th April, 1956. I believe my hon. colleague Dr. Gilder has repeatedly said in this House as to what is the condition of the air travel in India. We have heard a little more, that air travel was not very good at any time. I have got with me here a cutting from the 'Times of India'. It is not about air travel. It is relating to Indian tourism, and it says, "An Australian and a German journalist who have been on a visit to India and have done a good deal of travelling around the country have declared themselves charmed by our immense potential as a tourist country...."—so, India is a country of potentialities, not actualities—"....but rather disappointed with the stand-

ard of efficiency and the inducements to tourism they have encountered." It goes on to say, "Their overall impression is that 'disappointed tourists are leaving India nearly every day.'" With all this country's tourist potential, I will beg of the hon. Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, to see that we get more of dollars, and more of foreign exchange, by improving the standard of efficiency and publicity, and making things attractive for the foreign tourists here, and seeing that all the potentiality really becomes effective.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, may I ask at the outset if there is any time limit prescribed?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all self-restriction now. We will have the time prescribed to-day a little later.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE (Uttar Pradesh): If a time limit will be fixed later, let us have it now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is self-restriction now.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: She may use the entire period.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: I shall leave enough time for the hon. Member. I shall devote my time only to one item in the Bill before us, namely, Defence, and we have so much data to talk on it. My neighbour and colleague here regaled the House with facts and figures, and as they were too many, he tried to cut a long tale short. On Defence, we have hardly any tales to tell, because it is a closed subject. We do not know how to get facts and figures. So we depend on the appropriations that are placed in the Bill that is being discussed to-day.

Sir, compared to the Revised Estimates for 1955-56, the Budget Estimates for this year show an increase

to the extent of Rs. 18.9 crores in expenditure to be met from revenue, and Rs. 5.9 crores in the capital expenditure. Sir, the sum of Rs. 18.9 crores is for the larger expansion, in respect of the expanding navy and air force—both expanding very rapidly and should expand very rapidly in the present context of circumstances that we find ourselves in, in this country—and army expenditure for carry-over demands for stores.

Sir, secondly Rs. 5.9 crores is for the procurement of naval vessels and investment in the share capital of H.A.L., less realisation made on sale proceeds of surplus stores. Sir, the Defence Budget is about 50 per cent I think, and every year the Defence Budget figure is rising slightly. We accept this rise in the figure to have a better army, a better navy and a better air force. Especially in the face of the military pacts with which we are surrounded so closely, with the inroads from Pakistan, and with the hostile atmosphere that we encounter on our borders, with the Baghdad Pact, the SEATO and what not, we really do not mind if even more than 50 per cent. goes to Defence. But, Sir, what happens? It is necessary that we Members of Parliament should know something more than just voting these large figures for the Defence Services. I may here point out a few facts, not my own, but taken from the Audit Report, 1955, in which it is stated—I shall here read out paragraph 2 of Chapter I—"In the last Report, special mention was made regarding the lapses of appropriation which were indicative of defects in the preparation of estimates. The position in this regard had not shown any improvement. The savings on the Budget as a whole were of the order of Rs. 25 crores, representing 10.5 per cent. of the total grant voted by Parliament."

Sir, this is the state of affairs after voting more than 50 per cent. of

the Budget. Lapses of funds immobilised large sums of money which could have been utilised for more beneficial purposes by the Government in other departments or spheres of activities, especially when we have set our hearts and souls to build up a welfare State. I shall carry on further from the same Report: "The savings on Defence capital outlay continued to be abnormally high, being nearly two-fifths of the total vote." Two-fifths of the total vote was the savings and still the increases go on. "This indicates that the tendency to over-estimate persists despite the known limitations as regards the availability of supplies and the spending capacity of the Services." Something is wrong somewhere.

Now, I come to one or two cases. There are quite a number given here, but I will only quote one or two. In one case, nearly 42 per cent. of the total cost of stores collected were in excess of the actual requirements. In another case, stores were procured even before administrative approval has been accorded and funds obtained. A sum of Rs. 2 crores was outstanding at the end of the year, the bulk of which was recoverable from State Governments and Central Ministries. I shall refer to one more aspect before I come to the other points. There was an undue rush of expenditure during the last month of the year—and this is what we must beware of as Members of Parliament, this tendency—the expenditure in the last month of the year being nearly three times the monthly average of the eleven months. There are a number of examples given here. In one particular case a sum of Rs. 7 crores was spent in buying motor vehicles of which there was already a surplus. And so on, it goes.

Sir, there is something wrong somewhere on the development and organisational side in the Defence Ministry. Here on page 119 of the Defence Services Estimates it is

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 stated: "With a view to ensuring expeditious and efficient...handing of work of great complexity. . . ."—I wish Defence Minister was here.

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): I have sent for him.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: "..... and extending over many subjects, a net-work of committees has been established at different levels." Now, that is exactly where the fault lies—different committees at different levels. The spending authority is one; the indenting authority is another, and they never co-ordinate, and that is why we get such remarks in the Audit Report. These procedural difficulties have to be ironed out before we can achieve maximum efficiency with the minimum of wastage. And that can be done if the organisational wing of the Defence Ministry pays a little more attention and handles the job in a more dynamic fashion. Sir, in the United Kingdom and in the United States it is the Chiefs of Staff that function as a Committee with the Minister. In the United Kingdom, it is the Chiefs of Staff who advise the Prime Minister, who is the Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet of the United Kingdom Parliament. I merely want to say that Parliament has to be taken into greater confidence as years go by, especially in view of the fact that there is so much saving every year. We have to evolve a system, and I am quite sure that we shall not lag behind the other democracies in doing so. We have already changed the designations of the Chiefs of Staff last year. When we gave the appellation of Chief to the Commanders of our Army, Navy and the Air Force, I think, it was our Prime Minister—I stand subject to correction—who said that we would now have Boards or Councils which would expedite the work and put it on a more efficient level. I do not think that that idea

has been worked out yet. I do not know whether it has been worked out, or whether it has been abandoned, and we would like to know what has happened to that idea. For this is the idea that is taken from the United Kingdom and the United States where it has worked very well. Sir, in a democracy—once again I repeat—we should know more and more of the working of the Defence Ministry and the Defence Forces.

Then, I would like to read from a statement of the Defence Minister in the United Kingdom to show how they take the people of the country into their confidence. This is what he has said: "The new problems posed for Home Defence by the advent of the thermo-nuclear weapons do not admit of simple or immediate solution." What is said here will be amplified further by the statement. They tell their people all the plans that they have on their table. "Further as studies and plans proceed, the Government believe that the country is entitled to know the gravity of the possible threat and to be given an indication of the lines on which they are working to meet it. They are confident that the people as a whole will be ready and willing to play their part in building up that will to resist which is an essential part of the deterrents to aggression." Where do we find ourselves today in the country? Is it not time enough? Are we not already facing crises on our borders? The atmosphere is getting tense. When shall we take the people of our country into confidence? You may say that it must be tempered in the name of security, as it is said in one of the publications here that we cannot say much because secrecy has to be preserved for the security of the country. In other countries also, secrecy has to be preserved but the people share in that secrecy and also in the sense of security that they have to build up.

3 P.M.

So, the argument that is given in the brief statement, in the nature of a book, that the picture has to be tempered by requirements of security, has to be altered. We need a little re-orientation in the approach and thinking. Then, on the Defence side, the amounts are not properly handled, as I have shown you from the Audit Report. Our regular forces should be well equipped, especially when Pakistan is getting NATO weapons. Especially when the other military pact countries are tuning themselves to new weapons, we still are with the '303 rifle. It is there with the Air Force—I again stand to correction that the Air Force has already adopted the new bore, namely, the '5, or if the Minister is here, he could give me the correct point of rifle bores. Why are we delaying to put it in the hands of our army and the naval forces as well? The NATO bore rifle is everywhere. We cannot continue with the '303 bore. And I would like to know, of course, it may be in the name of secrecy he may not be able to answer, but he should take a suggestion for whatever it is worth, as to why it is not changed rapidly, and how long it will be before the new bore could be handed over to the Army, which has been handed over to the Air Force.

Then, Sir, I come to the Engineering Corps, a very commonplace thing for the Defence Ministry, but very important, when they are able to show us a surplus of Rs. 25 crores every year. We are still depending on military contractors to do jobs for us for the Services. Why? In other countries, the M.E.S. take up civilian jobs. They are so efficient. And in personnel, they are so adequate that they are able to give their time and energy for civilian purposes. Here even for our Services, we take military contractors. Sir, here I may point out a few facts. We have not adequate Sapper and Miner units. Why, what happens with all this money? We have three units of

Sappers and Miners, two hundred each in Bengal, Madras and Bombay. We have another set which is called the specialist units. Twentyfive such units, with a 150 strength in each, are inadequate for a country of the size of India.

You should put your heads together, the three Chiefs of Staff and the Minister and enthuse the Ministry that at least as far as the M.E.S., as far as our Engineering Corps goes, let us build up something to be proud of. We shall need it not only on our borders—God forbid—but we will need it for our civilian purposes. Today, all the leaders talk about more engineers and more engineers. Every country talks about more engineers and more engineers. It was very recently in an editorial on the subject—I forget the name, it was an English paper, probably 'Spectator and Nation'—they said that diplomacy has changed and Sir Anthony Eden will have to meet the four million engineers that the Soviet Union will produce in four years. That was the editorial comment of a British paper. How soon we are moving away from the active warfare diplomacy to a diplomacy of build and live and defend! Here, if that argument is to be taken, India must build up her Engineering Corps. Today, the country that is leading is perhaps America, but very soon as it is said and argued by great economists, Russia will beat America; and England is still lagging behind. England produces only 8 engineers to every 23 in America, if I am not wrong, but I have not got the figures with me. Therefore, I would suggest to the Defence Minister that proper planning is necessary to increase efficiency and to use this fifty per cent. and more votes that come under the Budget proposals.

Now, Sir, I come to the Naval Dockyard in Bombay. The Naval Dockyard in Bombay is to be rebuilt at a cost of Rs. 25 crores. Maybe, we have not got an Indian architect and an Indian planner to do the job for us. We have a foreigner there. And I am

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saying that because there is a cry for Indianisation. There is a foreigner. I do not know his name. I shall not try to guess, but he is supposed to be a man who built the naval dockyards in Singapore. Nothing wrong. If we do not have the personnel, we must get somebody from somewhere to build up our things fast, and efficiently. But I do not understand why he passes the bills. When this gentleman has to pass the specifications, it is all right, as far as his job goes. We accept it. But when he goes further than that and he passes the bills on measurements, I would like the Defence Minister to take this into account, why have we not got our own men to do that job? It is not a big job. We get an architect to plan. Then, we allow him to pass the measurement bills. I personally think that it is a wrong way to do the right thing.

Then, Sir, I come to Indianisation. And when we come to Indianisation we are very happy to note that we are fast Indianising. There is only one naval signaller who is a foreigner, and we are going to replace him with an Indian this year. That is a very happy prospect for a country like ours, when we have lined up in so few years. But when we come to the Ordnance Factories we find another picture. Out of every twenty officers, there are ten British. May I know why? Are there not sufficient Indians qualified and trained abroad to come round and take these jobs? What is the recent state of affairs in the Ordnance Factories in the last four years? How many strikes and lock-outs, to which we have not been given sufficient and satisfactory answer on the floor of this House?

Then, Sir, there is the question of retrenchment. From ten to thirteen thousand are going to be retrenched. Why? At the same time, when we speak of retrenchment we are ordering stores from abroad which could be manufactured in our Ordnance Factories. That is number one. Num-

ber two, we have special machinery lying idle. Something should be done to put this work, time and programme into action. And also find out the reason why the labour is not satisfied with the atmosphere that prevails in the Ordnance Factories.

Then, Sir, I will here refer you, when I talk of Ordnance Factories, to the fourteenth report of the Public Accounts Committee, which I have not got here. But I know, the P.A.C. had suggested that the top men be changed. I have told you, if the top men are changed, if our own experts are put into the Ordnance Factories, why should we not produce many more items that we are not able to produce today. Sir, we have to bear in mind the objectives and targets and the methods of control of the financial side, as well as the administrative side, and above all the incentive for better working for the labour. That is as far as the Ordnance Factories go.

Then, Sir, I come to the Kunzru Committee's recommendation. Pandit Kunzru is there. It is a small thing about the N.D.A.—the National Defence Academy. I have not been able to lay my hands on the copy of this report of the recommendations of the Kunzru Committee. But the framer of these recommendations is here in front of us. I hope that at least he would be able to tell us and throw more light on what we do not know. In the Kunzru Committee Report, which was submitted in April, 1955, it was said that the Committee went through the syllabus of the National Defence Academy. They found out the reason why there were so few cadets for the Air Wing and how they could raise the standard of education for the cadets.

But I may here draw attention to one very minor thing, which may look very minor but which also has to be considered with the same sense of importance as the other details, and that is about the age of recruitment to the National Defence Academy. I do not know whether the Kunzru Committee went into the details of the different standards—or shall I say,

the classes up to the S.S.C. in the States. In Bombay, today we have eleven standards. A boy or a girl who goes into school goes at the age of six—that is the limit. When he leaves the school he is 17 and if he is delayed for one year for some reason or other, he is 18. This disqualifies him for the Defence Academy. I would request the Defence Ministry to go into this small point, because I have heard a few parents saying, "How can my boy go there? He is over-age. He lost one year this way or that way. And our schools insist on that age that he should pass the S.S.C. at 17." This is the inequality between the North and the other States where the educational standards vary. I merely want to suggest, "Could it not be planned in such a manner that boys from all States have equality of opportunity to join the National Defence Academy?" I do not know, but Dr. Kunzru—I see him stirring in his seat—must have gone through this point. I should at least like to know from the Minister, who is not here, as to whether they considered this point of age, and how it works in view of the State Governments laying down age-limits for secondary education.

Then, I come to the Educational Corps. Very much like the Engineering Corps, the Educational Corps of the Defence Services has to be built up. It is a very skeleton Corps today. And the certificates and diplomas that they issue do not carry any weight in civilian life. It is the other way round in the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, after the Caldwell Report of 1871, they improved their Educational Corps to such an extent that their diplomas and certificates today stand on an equal footing with civilian institutes and universities.

In view of these few small points that I have placed before this House, greater planning, greater liaison, is necessary. If the Prime Minister—he is here—had thought of the Board or Council, as they exist in the United Kingdom, after the change of designations of the different Chiefs of Staff, it

could be worked in the same fashion as it is done in the United Kingdom, so that greater information is directly given to the people—the masses—through the Defence Minister and through him to Parliament, rather than that it should remain in the Secretariat, at various committee levels, at different levels, where it is so unco-ordinated that we generally come to grief, as I have shown to you in the Audit Report.

Sir, I do not wish to make many more points excepting one—coming to the people of the country. We have to build up reserves, and for that, some kind of mass training is necessary. It may sound foolish to say 'mass training', when there are the Lok Senas, the N.C.C., the Auxiliary Corps, etc. We have got everything. We have to enthuse our people—that is what I mean—with new ideas, with new ideals that this country has to be defended in her hour of crisis. Just as we speak of Sanskrit and Hindi with passion and love for the languages, so must we learn to speak of defence. Every man, woman and child has to imbibe the ideals. However safe we may be, however much we may subscribe to the ideals of Panchashila, however much we may be wedded to non-violence, there is such a thing as self-defence, and unless you inculcate this idea into your children, your women and your men, how can you enthuse the nation? I suggest that we place a few more ideals before us—not slogans, for I do not believe in slogans—a proper psychology and ideas to explain to the people that such times may come—God forbid they should ever come, for we are a peace-loving nation by tradition, by culture and by education built up under the Mahatma—but should they come, we must stand like a thick wall alongside our border and this is the new education that the Defence Minister could impart.

I shall only strike the last note on the coastal line, because I come from the coast. We have a coast line of three thousand miles. All along the line, we have the fisherfolk—great adepts at the sea. Why not use these

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youths and give them defence training? I read somewhere just the other day—in somebody's note—that in the Soviet Union in the early days, they took illiterate men, trained them for four years and they became not only literate; but also educated and well-informed to do skilled jobs. We can also do that, but we need a purpose, a planning and I am sure that the Defence Ministry can do it and will do it. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the presence of the Deputy Minister for Education, Dr. Shrimali, encourages me to speak first about education. I think, Sir, this is the most important subject that we can be called upon to consider at the present time. We have had the First Five Year Plan and we shall soon have the Second Five Year Plan. But I think that it is an efficient system of education alone that can form the foundation of our national greatness. If our educational system weakens, and our schools and colleges become inefficient, even a hundred five-year plans will never be able to provide the country with that human material that it needs for the carrying out of its schemes, and for taking the country to the stage of development, which the more advanced countries expect to reach in a few years. This being the importance of education, I make no apology for dwelling on it for a few minutes.

Sir, I should first like to say that it is a matter of concern to us that, although the University Grants Commission Act was passed about two months ago, it has not yet been brought into force. This is due, I suppose, to the fact that the Education Ministry has not yet been able either to appoint anybody as the Chairman of the Commission or to select its members. I know, Sir, that as the new Act has not come into force, the Commission as it was, before the Act was passed, can continue its work. But the Education Ministry ought to realise and understand the psychological effect of the passing of the new Act.

The Commission appointed a number of committees which have not yet completed their work. In theory, it is quite correct to say that these committees can continue to work as they were doing before. But the members of the committees who are members of the Commission feel some awkwardness in engaging themselves in new activities, because they may cease, in a short time, to be members of the Commission. I hope, therefore, Sir, that in view of the good work that the Commission was doing, and the powerful influence that it can exercise over the growth and development of university education, Government will take early steps to appoint a Chairman and to select the personnel of the Commission.

Sir, while speaking on university education, I should like to draw attention to another matter, which is of the profoundest importance to the country. According to the Constitution, English is to be the language of administration for fifteen years. What the linguistic policy of the Government of India will be in future will depend, I suppose, in part, on the recommendations of the Language Commission. But whatever the recommendations of this Commission may be, it is clear that at the present time, it is necessary in the interests of the country, in the interests of advanced education, and in the interest of the scientific and technical development of the country, that those young persons, who go to our colleges and universities, should have a good knowledge of one of the most important foreign languages, so that they may be in touch with the latest researches and the latest developments of thought. While students may be free in our country to study either English or French or German or any other language, considering the past history of the country, English provides us with the best means of acquiring the knowledge that I have already referred to. Now, many universities, with a very laudable aim, have made the mother-tongue of the students the medium of education. Educationally, Sir, there is nothing wrong about it

But we have to consider what the practical effect of such a policy will be. If the main languages of India were well-developed, and if a man who knew them could acquire the latest knowledge in any branch of study, and could come into contact with persons interested in his branch of knowledge, some of the difficulties that are attendant on the present policy would disappear.

But there is one other question, Sir, that we have to consider. English, today, is not merely a means of acquiring modern knowledge for ourselves, but is also a means of maintaining the unity of the country. It can be no matter of pride to us that we should have to use a foreign language in order to communicate our ideas to others and to enable the intelligentsia to understand the thoughts that are pervading the minds of the educated people in the country. But we have to take facts as they are. We hope a time will come when at least one of our own languages, and I suppose, Hindi, will be in an advantageous position than any other language, and will be in a position to give to our young men and women, and to the country, what the English language is able to give at the present time. But this is not a fact at present. We shall have to wait for some years before we can see Hindi take its place in education, before Hindi is developed sufficiently well to enable the educated men from different parts of the country to converse with one another in that language. Till that time comes, it is necessary for us to bear in mind, however unpleasant it may be, that an adequate knowledge of English is necessary in the largest interests of the country. If every State, at the present time, thinks of giving higher education in the language of the people, I cannot but think that its effect on the solidarity of the country will be anything but satisfactory.

Let me make it clear, Sir, that I do not want to place the slightest obstacle in the way of the development of Hindi or of any of the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule of our

Constitution. But, Sir, we must be realists. Even while we are patriotic, we must take account of all those forces on which the progress of our country depends at the present time. And I should like to know, Sir, what the policy of the Central Education Ministry in this respect is. I know the animated debate that took place on this subject in the Constituent Assembly. But I am not aware whether during the last five years, the Central Education Ministry has taken any steps, either by calling a conference of the Education Ministers of the different States, or in any other way, of impressing on those who are in charge of the destinies of the States, the importance of following a co-ordinated policy, which would be in the best interests of the country in this matter. This is, Sir, one of the most important subjects that the country should devote its attention to. The University Grants Commission has appointed a committee to consider this matter. It has done some work already, but the future progress of its work is being hampered by the uncertainty with regard to the future of the Commission.

I shall refer to only one other subject, and that is the connection between secondary and higher education. I hear from time to time, views expressed about the duration of university education and the period during which secondary education ought to be given. I may be doing an injustice to those who are concerned with this matter, but it seems to me that it is being considered that more attention should be devoted to the total period of education than to the consideration of how long a person should receive a particular kind of education, so that he may be on the same level as the people of other advanced countries, who have reached the same level of education as he has. I think that, when we consider secondary education, it is not enough for us to say that it should last for five, six or seven years or anything like that; we ought to consider what we should do to make our secondary education as efficient as it is, say in England or in

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Scotland, and then to consider, in how many years such education can be given. The mere fact that a student has matriculated or graduated will not be of the slightest use to the country unless he has reached a standard proper to his stage of education, and as the whole world is one, it is clear, that we cannot afford to let our young men receive a lower standard of education than young men of other countries are receiving, because, whether we are aware of it or not, both in war-like as well as in peaceful activities, we are all of us, every minute in our lives competing with the people of other countries.

I know that there was a Secondary Education Commission, which had considered this question carefully. I am not altogether unfamiliar with its report, but frankly speaking, I am not convinced that even that report has dealt with this question very satisfactorily. The hope of those who have dealt with this matter is that, when instruction is given through the medium of the mother tongue, fewer years will suffice to coach students up to a fairly high standard than at present. In England or in Scotland education is not given through the medium of any foreign language, but just think of the age of the students when they matriculate. Again, in Scotland, the standard of secondary education is not lower than that in England. Yet, a student has to study for four years before he can take his first degree. These things, I think, have not received the attention that they deserve. I shall be glad to be told by Dr. Shrimali that I am wrong, but from what I have been able to judge from such reports as I have read, including the proceedings of the Central Advisory Board of Education, it seems to me that adequate attention has not been paid to the question of the standard of education.

I do not wish to say anything more about university education, because the same principles apply to the stage of higher education as to the stage of secondary education, but I should like to say that even at the secondary

stage, it is necessary that proper attention should be devoted to the teaching of English. Otherwise, our matriculates will find themselves in serious difficulty when they want to join a university. In some States already, students have matriculated without knowing English. In one or two States, these students wanted to join the universities, but the universities declined to admit them because of their manifest inability to pursue efficiently the courses laid down by the universities. There is consequently friction between the Governments and the universities concerned. Surely, these matters require the serious attention of the Education Ministry, and I hope that my hon. friend, Dr. Shrimali, who is as keenly interested in education, as anyone in the country, will, realising the importance of the points that I have raised, howsoever unsatisfactorily I may have explained them, be able to assure us that the policy of the Central Government is such as to subserve the best interests of the country. I do not know for how many minutes I have spoken already.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Twenty-two minutes.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Then I shall speak only for another seven or eight minutes. I had intended to speak both about the recruitment to the higher services and the policy of the Government with regard to the purchase of the products of the cottage and small scale industries, but I wish to drop the latter subject and confine my attention only to the recruitment to the higher ranks of the Defence and Civil Services. Sir, it is a matter of profound concern to us that the material that we are obtaining for our Defence and Civil Services is not of a very satisfactory character. Having a little more knowledge of the efficiency of the students who try to enter the N.D.A., the National Defence Academy, I think, I can say with some confidence that we have no reason to be proud of the material that we are obtaining for our National Defence Academy. Indeed persons competent to

speak on this subject have said to me from time to time that they are afraid that the standard has deteriorated in the last few years. Sir, this is another matter which ought to receive the earnest attention of the Government.

What I have said about the Defence Services is, I think, true also of the Civil Services. I know that our country is poor and that if our young people want high salaries and the allowances that men in their positions are getting in other countries, we cannot gratify their desire. We have to think not merely of the poverty of the country but of the resources that are needed at the present time to develop it as quickly as possible. But we ought to bear in mind that in other countries, for example, in England, care has been taken to create conditions which will attract the best material to the service of the country. In England—I am speaking of the Defence Services—the scales of salaries and allowances have been revised twice during the last six or seven years. I think they were revised in 1950 and they have again been revised this year. Anyone who knows the scale in force at the present time is aware of the great difference between our scales of salaries and pensions and the British scale of salaries and pensions. To mention only one matter, a Captain gets a pension of £500 and in addition a gratuity of £1,500 or Rs. 20,000. Now, it will be unreasonable of our officers to ask for similar terms here. But we ought to consider the fact that Great Britain cannot be called a rich country at the present time although it is spending much more on Defence than we are. England is a much poorer country today than it was but it is finding itself compelled to revise scales of salary and allowances because it cannot afford to allow its army or even its administrative services to decline in efficiency. I understand that some time ago, when the scales of salary and allowances for the Defence Services were revised, the conditions of service in the higher civil services were also revised, but I don't know how far this revision went and to

which services this applied, but the moral of all this is clear. There is need for an enquiry into this matter. We should find out what it is that is holding young men of high calibre back from joining our highest services. Do they want a higher salary? Do they want better allowances? Do they want better education for their children or is it anything else? Is it the comparatively young age at which officers of the Defence Services retire that deters them from joining the Defence Services, or is our system of education such as to prevent the country from having young men of the stamp that we require at the present time?

Just, one word more on this subject before I sit down. In our National Defence Academy, there are 800 or 900 cadets. I have tried to find out how many of these cadets were sons of officers. I do not know whether the information that I have obtained is correct or not, but I understand that they can be counted on the fingers of one hand. I am not at all sorry if there are sons of J.C.Os. and other ranks in the National Defence Academy, or sons of people belonging to humble stations in life who have been able to pass the tests laid down for admission to the Academy. Indeed, it is a matter of pleasure to me to see that young men from all walks of life can now find it possible to join the Academy, but I cannot lightly brush aside the fact that the officers of the army supply only a few young men to our Defence Services. I do not know whether Government have made any enquiry into this matter but I understand that either the Government, or the Commander-in-Chief, has had this matter investigated. If so, I think it will be of great advantage, if a copy of the report that may have been submitted to the Government or the Commander-in-Chief is placed in the Library of the House, or is at least supplied to those Members who are interested in the efficiency and proper development of the Defence Services.

Sir, I leave the other subjects alone, but perhaps you will allow me to ask the Government to tell us what the

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present situation in the Naga Hills District is. That district has been disturbed for, I think, about a year. At present, our army is taking such action as is considered necessary by the authorities. But we would like to have a full account of the situation there. We should like to know what it is that has prevented the Government from bringing the rebellious elements there under control. Not long ago, the district adjoining the Naga Hills District, which formed part of NEFA, was in a disturbed state. But I understand that it is now quiet. Why is it that there are disturbances going on still in the Naga Hills District? I think, Parliament has a right to be informed of this and perhaps, if we obtain a comprehensive account of the matter, it may be possible for us to see whether any further action can be taken to assure those who have not committed crimes of violence, that their future, or the future of their race, will not be jeopardised in the least, if they follow the path of self-restraint and wisdom.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, yesterday, while speaking on the Appropriation Bill, one of the hon. Members from the Congress Party drew the attention of the House to Vote No. 56 regarding the privy purse and the allowances of Indian rulers, and he stated that something like Rs. 545 lakhs of valuable money is being wasted on a few individuals. Sir, I feel that this is a subject which requires a little clarification, because it appears that in this House there is a lot of misunderstanding in regard to the position of the former rulers. Those of us who have come from Part B States, in our Legislature, we hear a lot of abuses. It has become a fashion in regard to the former Princes and Jagirdars. Now, both these systems have been abolished and now, the turn comes of the business class. I could well understand, as far as the Part B States are concerned, that their arguments and criticisms are based on spite, or on personal grounds. But yesterday, one hon. Member of

this House wanted to point out the incongruity of spending such huge amounts on such a small number of individuals. I was, however, glad to note that he did not show any bitterness, but he genuinely felt that it was a misuse of the money. I felt that it was in the mind of the hon. Member that those of the ex-rulers, who received these huge privy purses, they spend all this amount mostly on themselves. This is not at all true. To give one example and specially from the State from which I come, namely, Bikaner, I would submit, that at the time of the integration of the State of Bikaner, the former ruler, or the late ruler, received a privy purse of Rs. 17 lakhs per annum. According to the Covenant, the successor ruler is to receive a maximum amount of Rs. 10 lakhs only. And in 1950, when the late ruler's demise took place, and the present Maharaja of Bikaner became the Maharaja, his privy purse automatically, and according to the Covenant and agreement, was reduced to Rs. 10 lakhs. It may appear that even this sum of Rs. 10 lakhs is too big an amount for being given to one individual. But I would submit that out of this amount of Rs. 10 lakhs, we should see what the Maharaja himself gets. He has a tradition to keep.

Right down from the time of the integration to the time when he became the Maharaja, and because his privy purse was reduced from Rs. 17 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, he had to reduce some 2,000 people from his staff and these 2,000 people up to this day are out of employment. They are going through hardships which it is pitiful to see. Not only that, but according to traditions, he has to give hundreds of poor students scholarships, so that they could prosecute their studies further. Otherwise too, the people of Bikaner still expect him to keep a certain standard, which if he does not keep then his position would become very awkward. I can say that his personal expenditure in all respects—and I can say with certainty because I had to do quite a lot with his household—is only about Rs. 70,000 a year,

and all the remaining part of it is spent for public purposes, and for the expenditure on establishments employing thousands of people who are still dependent on him.

Moreover, why have these pensions and privy purses been given to these ex-rulers? At the time India became independent, for the unity of the country, the princes played a very big part, and at that time, to the appeals of our national leaders and especially of the late Sardar Patel, they responded so well that in so many words and on so many occasions, the late Sardar Patel, as well as our Prime Minister, have paid the highest compliments to them on their patriotism. I would give one instance. Take the case of Kashmir. When the integration of the States took place, being independent, the rulers were considered by our national leaders as the sole authorities to hand over the State, to integrate the State with the Indian Union. The people, according to the leaders also, were not considered competent to give their voice on the question whether the State should be integrated or not integrated with the Union. When the crisis of Kashmir took place, it was solely the Maharaja of Kashmir who agreed to integrate his State with the Indian Union. And what is the result of it? What would have happened if the Maharaja had done otherwise, or if he had sat on the fence.....

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA (Madhya Bharat): It was very late when he thought of it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Whatever it was, can India be too indebted to the Maharaja of Kashmir for the action that he took? Now, the Maharaja of Kashmir is being paid, I think, about Rs. 10 lakhs, or maybe it is Rs. 5 lakhs, and you may feel satisfied if you cut his pension by Rs. 5 lakhs. But the service that the princes rendered to the country is so invaluable that times out of number, our Prime Minister as well as the late Sardar Patel have told us in Parliament and in public that the country can never be too grateful to them.

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This amount of the privy purse is no measure of the sacrifices that they made and these services they have rendered to the country.

There is another point on which I would like to say a few words, and that refers to Vote No. 39—Grants-in-aid to States. According to this item, Rs. 20,69,00,000 are voted by Parliament and Rs. 17,26,00,000 are charged to the Consolidated Fund. We have got the federal system of government in our country. It is not a federation of the kind where the federating units are independent of the Centre, barring a few subjects. Ours is a federation where the Centre is the whole and sole authority, and in fact, the federating units are often spoon-fed by the Centre when they are in financial difficulties. Therefore, whenever any of the units is either misgoverned or when the government there cannot be properly run, it becomes the duty of the Centre to intervene. Yesterday, while speaking of the Travancore-Cochin State and the Proclamation of the President, the Home Minister himself stated on the floor of this House that it has become a very good thing for Travancore-Cochin, because they will be having a good government, and they will be rid of a bad government. I would submit that in our country, there are many States which would heave a sigh of relief if the governments there are replaced by the Presidential rule, and it is a fact that one such State is the State of Rajasthan from where I come. Undoubtedly, there is a stable government, but there is complete chaos and misrule.

I submit that for a year now, from June 1955, an agitation has been started by a group of individuals and that agitation is a purely economic agitation. That agitation was purely an economic agitation in the sense that they are petty landholders who are mis-called jagirdars. They were serving in large numbers, either in the military or in the police. After the integration of the States, the Indian State Forces were disbanded and, for some

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reason or other, from the police also large numbers were disbanded. The result is that between 60,000 and 70,000 of these petty landholders, 95 per cent. of whom are Rajputs, had to go back to their homes and to whatever little lands they had. While they were in service their lands used to be given to others for cultivation and they used to share in produce. For technical reasons, the Rajasthan Government refuses to return the lands to these people. The problem before these 70,000 people is that either they starve or become robbers or dacoits. 95 per cent. of them are Rajputs and we were hoping that the Rajasthan Government would be able to solve their difficulties. Some truce was arrived at for three or four months, but then this truce broke, and for the last five months, this trouble is going on there. It is a purely economic trouble. Today, there are something like 15,000 people in jail. Some of them have even died in the jails. The situation has become so difficult that it is every day causing serious anxiety to the people, and is also getting out of the hands of the Rajasthan Government.

There is another serious trouble that is going to take place in this frontier State. In Punjab, another frontier State, there unfortunately was trouble between the Hindus and the Sikhs. The difficulty created by the reorganisation will be solved or will not be solved, but here in Rajasthan, another frontier State, there is a huge group of Rajputs undergoing difficulties and hardships. This is really very very serious and the question of their own rehabilitation has become a matter of very great importance. However, the Rajasthan Government has completely failed in this regard. New tactics are being adopted, and if the Centre does not intervene immediately, during the next two or three months, God forbid, this will result in the flow of blood, and communalism of the worst type will take roots in Rajasthan. There is a news item in today's *Hindustan*

Times, the Rajasthan News letter. The Rajasthan Government is being fed and supported by, or is in existence on the support of, the Jats. Unfortunately, the Jats and Rajputs are at serious loggerheads. In this agitation, the Rajputs are taking part and nearly 15,000 of them are in jail.

Now, the Government of Rajasthan, in what wisdom, I do not know, has come out with the idea of holding on the 1st May, a Kisan meeting or, in other words, a Jat meeting. One of the communal leaders, who is also the Secretary of the Legislature Congress Party, Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha and Mr. Mathura Das Mathur, Secretary of the Rajasthan P.C.C., have issued invitations to these Jats. They want each village to send at least two men to gather at Jaipur. They want about a lakh of people to gather there and demonstrate saying that the Government should put down these petty landholders and their agitation. God knows where this matter will lead to, and what amount of bloodshed will result out of this. I will read only one paragraph from the *Hindustan Times* and then resume my seat. It says:

"Analysing for a moment the Bhooswami agitation, one will realise that all those who have been arrested belong to the rural areas and a very high percentage of them are themselves cultivators. If one were to say that the agitation has been started solely to restore the jagirs, it will not convince many. There are very few big jagirdars taking part in the agitation. Most of the big Jagirdars have settled their claims for compensation and do not bother about the problem now."

It goes on to say,

"The present agitation should not be viewed as an isolated one. There is an undercurrent of discontent and dissatisfaction among these rural masses. In recent months and years, there have been several incidents in which the villagers have taken the law in their own hands, attacked police stations and Gov-

ernment servants. All these incidents, removed as they are from one another and not organised or planned by any political party show unmistakable signs of rural unrest and disorder."

This is the difficulty of this State.

Last year, Mr. Dhebar, President of the Congress, happened to tour Rajasthan and some of us contacted him and requested him to see as to where this frontier State was going to. He was good enough to go over many parts of the State, and made a statement after the conclusion of his tour. That statement was very significant. He said that in Rajasthan, it is not so much the question of personal differences between the leaders, as of solving the basic problems. It is necessary to bring about a psychological integration between the Jats and the Rajputs. Even the President of the Indian National Congress has come to that view by personal contacts. The main trouble in Rajasthan is not the Congress leaders fighting amongst themselves—though that is there undoubtedly, and they are fighting very nicely and very well—but one group, the ruling group, is supporting the Jats because that group is being kept on the *gadi* by the Jats, while the other group led by Shri Jai Narayan Vyas, it is stated, is being backed by the Rajputs, and the fight between the two parties is going on. It will lead to trouble if the Centre does not intervene; it may lead to dire consequences. The Centre is giving something like thirty eight crores as grants-in-aid to the States. If the States do not behave well, if they do not rule properly, well, this money is very nicely and properly wasted. I would, therefore, submit that both from the law and order point of view and from the point of view of the high ideals that our country has laid before the world—that communalism should be uprooted, if the country has to progress—a beginning has to be made in Rajasthan by removing the Government, and the President having a direct rule

there, in which case, in the words of the Home Minister, the people will heave a sigh of relief, and there will be good Government. It will be good for the interests of the people and they will receive justice.

With these words, Sir, I thank you and resume my seat.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): Mr. Deputy Chairman, during the course of the debate, a few points have been raised with regard to the Ministry of Education and I am intervening in the debate just to clarify some of the points that have been raised. The hon. Shri Dasappa said—he is not here—that the Government has been lukewarm with regard to primary education and the fulfilment of the Directive in the Constitution.

Sir, the House might remember that the Ministry of Education had made a plan of nearly a thousand crores of rupees for the next Five Year Plan. Unfortunately, when the Planning Commission took stock of the situation, it was found that this amount will not be available for the schemes of the Ministry of Education. Now, Sir, that does not mean by any means that either the Ministry of Education or the Planning Commission are sleeping over the matter, or are in any way indifferent or lukewarm towards the problem of primary education. As far as the Directive is concerned, it only says that the State will endeavour to extend primary education to all children until they complete the age of fourteen years, within a period of ten years. In spite of the best endeavours, it seems, we may not be able to realise the objective within the limited period which the Constitution has laid down. The Government are greatly disturbed about the whole situation. We cannot talk of a socialist society on the one hand and keep millions of our children without school education. On the one hand we find that our resources are limited; on the other hand this is the moral obligation of a democratic State. Sir,

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this is the difficult situation which faces the Government. Now, Sir, in the Second Five Year Plan, we propose to allocate a sum of Rs. 106 crores for the spread of primary, including junior basic education and middle school, including senior basic education, that is, for the children belonging to the age group of 6 to 14 years. If the Plan materialises, we shall be able to give educational facilities to nearly 62 per cent. of the children in the age group of 6 to 11, and 82 per cent. of the boys and 42 per cent. of the girls of this age group will be covered during this period.

We have to remember that in 1947-48, the percentage of children of the age group of 6 to 11 was only 36.3. It rose to 47 in 1953-54 and we shall have nearly 62 per cent. of the children in the age group of 6 to 11 by the end of the next Five Year Plan. Sir, our target is to make provision for free and compulsory education for the age group of 6 to 14 within the next ten years, that is, by the end of the third Plan period. I am very doubtful if, with the limited resources at our disposal, we shall be able to achieve this objective, but the Ministry of Education and the Planning Commission have been seriously considering the question whether we can reduce expenditure in certain fields and expand primary education. The proposals which we have before us aim at introducing the shift system in schools on a limited scale. We are also proposing to make an educational survey of the whole country to find out where the new schools have to be established, and how the uneconomical schools can be improved.

Then, we are also trying to explore the possibility of levying an educational cess to find increased funds for expansion of elementary education. Sir, the position is that, most of the States, so far as the question of expansion is concerned, have nearly reached the saturation point. They do not have resources to expand education, unless they get Central assistance, or they try to explore some

new methods of raising funds. So we have been trying to find out, from the Planning Commission and in consultation with the State Governments, whether an education cess could be levied, so that this Directive in the Constitution could be realised, and we are also finding out if certain reductions could be brought about in the expenditure on buildings. Then, we shall also try to see if we can find more funds for elementary education by adjustment in the various sectors.

These are the various steps which we are proposing to take in order that the constitutional Directive can be realised, if not by the end of the second Five Year Plan period, at least by the end of the third Five Year Plan period.

Sir, as I said, it is not merely a question of a Directive in the Constitution. It is the moral obligation of a democratic society. It is the moral obligation of a socialist society which proposes to remove all kinds of inequalities and give equal opportunities to everybody and therefore, expansion of primary education is the real need of the country, and no democratic Government can be indifferent or lukewarm towards this problem. So I want to tell my friend, Mr. Dasappa, that, in spite of the difficult situation which confronts the Government to-day, on account of the limited resources, we are not sleeping over the situation, and we are by no means lukewarm about the problem. We shall explore every possible means to enable every child in the country to get his right of free and compulsory education.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I just put a question? When the Government constituted a Commission for university education and for secondary education, why is it that they are hesitant to constitute a similar Commission for primary education?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, the question of primary education has been very thoroughly examined by the Government. The question of re-

construction of primary education was started with the first conference which was called by Gandhiji in Wardah. Later on the Central Advisory Board through its various committees has drawn a general picture of free and compulsory basic education. As far as the content and the pattern of elementary education is concerned, there is no doubt about it. We have drawn a clear picture and laid it before the country. Later on, the whole question was examined by the Kher Committee. They went into the question of educational finance. Now, Sir, the whole problem is to find those resources in order to spread education. Our difficulty.....

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: On a point of order, Sir, I would like to know whether the plan of basic education that is being propounded now is not a little different from the original outline as drafted by Mahatmaji, and later as developed by the Kher Committee? As I have said on this very point in the course of a Resolution, Sir, actually there are three or four different types of basic education, and I personally feel that Mr. Dasappa's view is very correct that a final picture should emerge and not what is going on now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Really it is not a point of order.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am afraid there is a sort of misunderstanding about the whole situation. It is true that the plan was started at Wardah, but the Central Advisory Board went into the whole question very thoroughly. They examined every aspect of basic education and they have framed their own proposals as far as the basic education is concerned. As far as the Government is concerned, they can only talk of the pattern of basic education which the Central Advisory Board has evolved and not any other pattern. I personally do not think that there is any further need of having any Commission on Primary Education. We are now in the process of implementing

the schemes which have been put forward by the various Commissions. As far as a national plan of education is concerned, the Ministry of Education has placed a plan before the country and it is already in the process of being implemented.

Now, with regard to secondary education, a point was raised by my esteemed friend, Dr. Kunzru, who said that we were not very clear as regards the standards of secondary and university education. The House would remember that both the Secondary Education Commission and the University Education Commission went into this question very thoroughly and after a good deal of deliberation, came to the conclusion—and that was finally approved by the Central Advisory Board also—that we shall have an eight-year course of integrated elementary education. This stage will generally cover the period from six to fourteen but the last year of this stage may well be used as an exploratory year to find out the aptitude and interests of the pupils. This will be followed by three years of secondary education where probably there will be a marked diversification of courses. This will generally cover the period from 14 to 17 and this will be followed by three years of university education leading to the first Degree. Now, the situation with regard to the duration of elementary or secondary or university education differs from one country to another.

I do not think that all over the world there is complete uniformity as regards the duration of education. Personally, I would have very much liked that we could add one year more to the period of secondary education, but when we made a survey of the whole system of secondary education we found that the country just did not have the resources. The State Governments told us that if we put in one year more, it would only mean that that recommendation would remain on paper and they would never be able to implement it. The finance is the whole question. A country

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can have only that plan of education which it can finance and which it can afford. Under the circumstances, however much we may wish, it is just not possible to extend the duration of secondary education. We certainly hope that as the country's finances improve we shall be able to keep our students a year longer.

The main purpose with which the Secondary Education Commission approached the problem was not to make secondary education dependent on the university stage, but to make it self-contained, so that the students going out of the secondary schools might be able to adjust themselves in life and find suitable occupations. Out of the whole lot of students who study in secondary schools, only about 20 per cent. go to the universities and the rest leave the secondary schools. Therefore, when we made our proposals with regard to secondary education, we had mainly to consider the interests of these 80 per cent of students who leave the secondary schools, and the courses that we have devised—the multi-purpose courses have been devised in order to remove that defect of the unilateral system of secondary education. Sir, as I just now said, the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission are already being implemented. We have set up an All-India Council of Secondary Education which is going into the question of standards, curricula and the various other problems relating to the implementation of these recommendations. The replies that we have received from the State Governments are hopeful and we are hoping that by next July, many of our schemes will be in the process of implementation.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: From whom have you received replies?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The Governments of Travancore-Cochin, Bihar, Madras, Ajmer, Vindhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bombay, Assam, Kutch, PEPSU, and Andamans have

written to us saying that they are attending to the matter urgently. Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad and Punjab have said that they have already accepted the pattern and that they are working at it. I am hoping that by the beginning of July, or at least by the end of the next year, most of the States will have accepted the pattern which we have put before the country after a good deal of consideration.

SHRI J. S. BISHT (Uttar Pradesh): What is the policy with regard to the introduction of one compulsory language in all the universities?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I will come to that a little later.

The hon. Mr. P. N. Saprú raised the question of university education and he said that the greatest problem in the universities today was that there was too much of overcrowding. In fact, that was what the Radhakrishnan Commission had also said after making a survey of the whole country. The Government have been making efforts to solve this problem. One of the measures which was recommended by the University Education Commission was that we should reduce the number of admissions to colleges and universities. I would like to state briefly the various steps which the Government have taken in order to remove this overcrowding. The Ministry has been considering for some time a proposal that a university degree need not be insisted upon as an essential qualification for recruitment to public services. Now, to examine this question, we had appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Ramaswami Mudaliar. The Report of that Committee has already been received and is being examined and we hope, we shall be able to take necessary action after that examination is over.

The Ministry has also recommended to the University Grants Commission that some of the students should be diverted to new utilitarian courses

like Business Administration, Public Administration, Industrial Relations and various other similar professional studies. Grants have been given to universities to encourage these studies. Grants have been given to the Universities of Delhi, Bombay and Madras in order that some of the students might be diverted to these professional courses. While we are thinking of this problem of overcrowding, we must remember, that there has been considerable expansion of higher education. It is not our policy to expand university education. We would rather like to consolidate, rather than expand it. But in spite of that we must remember that there has been a considerable expansion in various fields. In 1947, the total number of universities was 21, and in 1954 it was 30, and now it is 33. The State of Uttar Pradesh, to which my hon. friend Mr. Sapru belongs, has today a large number of universities, and they are multiplying further. I hope that both Mr. Sapru and Dr. Kunzru would exercise their influence with the Uttar Pradesh Government to see that they do not multiply as many universities as they have been doing, but consolidate the work that is being done.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA (Uttar Pradesh): But they are doing it because of the demand, and also because of congestion which you want to remove.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: To some extent, the pressure of democracy is there, and the demand for more higher education is irresistible, but we have to think of priorities. As far as the Government of India are concerned, they do not want to multiply universities; they would rather like to consolidate.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: They are doing it in various departments, such as agricultural university, engineering university, and so on.....

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am coming to that

SHRI B. B. SHARMA:.....which you are not doing anything about.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: In 1948, the total number of colleges was 414, and in 1953, it has gone up to 679. These are the problems of higher education. And while we wish to encourage research and higher education, we must try to divert the students from the universities to other professional courses. Now, I would like to say what the Ministry has done, as far as technical education is concerned. I do not know what my hon. friend, Mr. Sapru, meant when he said that we were not trying to co-ordinate research with the universities. Research, particularly in the technical field, has become so specialised that sometimes it is necessary to start independent research centres. I think, the Government have acted wisely in setting up the various national laboratories where research of a highly specialised kind is being carried on. But at the same time, Government have given grants to develop technical research at the various universities. We are developing post-graduate courses on research work and advanced studies in various branches of engineering and technology. We are developing advanced studies and research in the Roorkee University in soil mechanics, foundation engineering, hydraulics irrigation engineering and electrical machine designing. The Benares Hindu University is being developed for post-graduate research work in electrical engineering, metallurgy, mining and chemical engineering, Calcutta University is being developed for post-graduate studies and research on electrical communication engineering and electronics. The Bombay University is being developed in the department of chemical technology and the Poona Engineering College is being developed for civil engineering and metallurgy. Now, Sir, research is becoming highly specialised, and it is not possible for every university to have research departments in all the subjects. We shall have to choose,

[Dr. K. L. Shrimali.]
and that is what the Ministry of Education has been doing.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI (Nominated): Calcutta University has nuclear physics also.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Mr. Sapru also said in his speech that the Government were doing very little as regards rural education. The House would remember that the University Education Commission had recommended the establishment of rural universities. That question was again examined by a committee on rural higher education and that committee recommended that, instead of establishing rural universities for the time being, we should develop a number of institutions into rural institutes. The Government have already decided and have even given grants to ten institutions in the country to develop into rural institutes. I hope that these institutes will not only be centres of teaching in rural subjects, but will also be centres of research and extension programmes and will be a connecting link between the various kinds of developmental activities that are taking place in the country.

Sir, I am concluding within a few minutes. I will take a few minutes more. I should like to reply to some of the points which were raised by Pandit Kunzru. One was with regard to language. The House would remember that when we were discussing the University Grants Commission Bill, both Houses of Parliament—the Rajya Sabha as well as the Lok Sabha—emphasised that the autonomy of the universities should be maintained, that the Government should not interfere in the autonomy of the universities. The Government are anxious to maintain the autonomy of the universities. And as far as the language is concerned, Government do not want to interfere and do not want to prescribe what medium of instruction should be used at the university stage. I personally would like to use language as a means and not an end

in itself. Language is a medium of instruction, but it should not be an end in itself. But this is a matter which may be left to the universities. My friend, Pandit Kunzru, is a member of the University Grants Commission and I hope, he would exercise his personal moral influence over the University Grants Commission, as well as over the universities, that language is not made an issue to endanger national unity.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Will the Government of India do anything in the matter or not? Will it use its great influence or not?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am only respecting the wishes of the House. We have appointed a committee of which Pandit Kunzru himself is the chairman. The committee is going into the whole question as to how far lowering of general standards is due to the lowering of the standard of teaching of English. As soon as the recommendations of that committee are examined, Government will certainly take action. But I am quite certain that Pandit Kunzru would not like the Government to interfere as far as the question of medium of instruction at the university stage is concerned. We do not wish to impose our views on the universities. In this matter, I think, universities must be free.....

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Sir, you will remember, all that I asked was whether the Central Government had ever convened a conference of the Ministers of Education, or in any other way, tried to impress upon those who are directing the affairs of the States the importance of this question to the future of the country?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I would like to assure him that as soon as the report is available, Government would take necessary steps in order to tackle this problem. Since the Prime Minister is speaking after this, I would like to finish at this stage, because I am sure, the House is anxious to listen to the Prime Minister. Thank you very much.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): Sir, I have risen to say a few words in response I understand, to a query from the hon. Dr. Kunzru about the situation in the Naga Hills District. Dr. Kunzru, I understand, demanded why these troubles had not been adequately dealt with and put an end to much more speedily. Well, it is rather difficult to answer that question that way. We must remember the terrain of this area where we are working. It is a very wide area, and I am for the moment including under this the Tuensang Frontier Division and the Naga Hills District. As a matter of fact, sometimes, it extends beyond that too. Now, Dr. Kunzru will remember that last year we had some trouble in the Tuensang Frontier Division. This Division has been fairly recently brought under administrative control. Communications are almost entirely lacking all over this place. The terrain is difficult and hilly. It is very difficult to go from one place to another. Sometimes, in some places one can go by some very small aircraft, and land there. In parts of N.E.F.A., if one want by some kind of forest path, it would take three weeks to get there.

Now, when these trouble took place in the Tuensang Frontier Division, we had to make special arrangements, and I think we dealt with them adequately, in spite of these grave difficulties about communications and the rest. It appears that a number of people then, who were creating trouble there, managed to escape to the Naga Hills District, which is an adjoining district, and prepared to give trouble later on, which they did, there being two administrations, one in the Tuensang Frontier Division—that is part of N.E.F.A.—and the other in the Naga Hills District, which is in essence once of the autonomous districts of Assam, where we have had some incipient trouble throughout these several years, because of the attitude of some of the Nagas there under the Naga National Council, as they call it.

Now, when the Tuensang Division was more or less adequately under

control and there was no further trouble happening there, gradually troubles began in this district. Probably, it would have been easier, if both had been dealt with together at the same time, if both had been under a single administration. But, anyhow, that is a question of the past. When these troubles arose, the same administration naturally took action. But the only forces that it had were the armed police and partly the Assam Rifles were spread over a large number of posts. These were totally inadequate; because of lack of communications and the rest. The places were too isolated to take any action. Thereupon, we decided to reinforce them and further army units were sent there. I do not exactly know, and I do not have in my mind, the exact forces sent, but some armed police and some army units were sent there. And about a month back or so, all these forces were put under the command of an Army General of experience. Previously again, there was some slight difficulty because of the varying commands, that is, the Army was under one command, the Assam Rifles under another and the Armed Police under a third. They evolved a joint—I forget what it is called—directorates, where the army commanders and the Assam Rifles and the representatives of the Assam Government and the police were present at joint headquarters, and they used to confer together. We found that even that was not very convenient or successful because reference had continually to be made by each party there to its senior officer—may be in Shillong, may be in Delhi. Therefore, all these operations were put in charge of an Indian Army Officer of experience.

I might make it clear that this did not mean the promulgation of anything like martial law or the army being put in charge of the civil administration. The civil administration continued and continues still, but all the operations had been put in command of the Army Officer and both the armed forces and the Assam Rifles function under him. I believe he has

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.]

divided both these areas—Tuensang Frontier Division and the Naga Hills District—into three sectors, and he is gradually sending his forces to the places where there is supposed to be some concentration of these hostile Nagas. Hon. Members must remember that we are not engaged in what might be called a battle. There is nobody to fight a battle; I mean, they do not stand there as one army and another army meeting. They are small groups of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 together who commit ambush, who go sometimes to a village and loot, who have committed a number of murders; and murders of their own people, that is, Nagas, because they did not join them and some very leading Nagas. And, therefore, it is not a very easy to reach them, because when you reach a place, they got to some other place in the interior, as happens everywhere one has to deal with a bad terrain where there is no communication, and there are mobile hostile elements, and when one approaches them, they escape through the gap to some other place. Therefore, all this takes time. I believe that the situation is developing fairly well. But I cannot promise any very quick results. Of course, the capacity of the Nagas—of the hostile Nagas—to do mischief is being more and more limited and many of them have surrendered or have been captured. Nevertheless, there is a fairly wide terrain where they can function.

Another recent development has been that while our armed forces are engaged with them there, a group of them might come out of that area completely and go into an adjoining area in the hills and do some mischief. So, all I can say is, to the best of my belief, the present arrangements are working satisfactorily. But they will take time to cover the whole field. I think, the mischief will be limited in an area presently before the rains. After that, the rains come and the rains make it exceedingly difficult for any widespread movements in those places. That is all I can say at this stage. I shall gladly

keep this House informed of the developments.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: I should like to know to what extent the persons who were terrorised or misled by the mischief makers are now on the side of Governments? Has that been the result of the policy of Government or not?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Government's policy obviously, Sir, has been to give protection to all these elements as the hon. Member has mentioned. It is true that protection has not reached them sometimes in time, or sometimes, before we function, something might happen somewhere, or before we reach that place, some village has been despoiled or looted by these hostile elements.

Now, I should like the House to remember that in spite of all these hostiles working there, there are a very considerable number of the Naga elements who are friendly to the Government and co-operate with the Government. It is true that sometimes there are some difficulties in the sense that they might be attacked by some group, just as even in a much nearer field, say in Madhya Bharat. There, a gang of dacoits has been giving trouble for years, living in the ravines there and often attacking innocent villagers or anybody who gives evidence against them. Imagine that on a bigger scale in the Naga Hills District, because there the conditions are even more favourable for that kind of activity. All this is a great nuisance, but, of course, from a strictly military point of view, it has no great importance. But it is a nuisance. The worst part of that nuisance is that people, innocent Nagas and others, sometimes suffer. We try to give them protection and I think, soon we shall be in a position to ensure this protection to almost all in that area.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Hyderabad): Is it encouraged by any political party?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Not to my knowledge, Sir. But another factor is that this area is full of old war

dumps left by the various armies deployed there—the Americans, the British perhaps, old British Indian armies. The Japanese came somewhere in that area, so that these people have got these old weapons, plenty of them. Whether the old ammunition is still functioning or not, I do not know, but anyhow, they had a stock and still they have a stock to carry on.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: May I ask a question about the press report that it is suspected that some quantities of ammunition and arms were smuggled through some unfriendly power? How far is it true?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have no information on that. There are some rumours about that. But we have received no correct information on this subject.

I might mention, Sir, that one difficulty perhaps has been, that towards the end of last year—in summer and later in the autumn—the Assam Government, after the Tuensang operation or in the middle of it, relied on certain assurances and promises—firm promises—given to them by the South Naga chiefs of the Naga Council. Well, those Naga chiefs played false. While they were giving assurances and promises, they were actively and privately preparing for trouble. I think, the Assam Government is quite justified in not having done anything; it is quite justified because our policy always has been and will continue to be to make friends and sometimes we are making friends. We are deluded by somebody who pretends to be a friend and turns out to be an enemy.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, a few points have been raised in regard to the work of the Health Ministry and I am glad to have the opportunity of replying to some of the points that have been mentioned by the Members who spoke.

First of all, one hon. Member talked about tuberculosis sanatoria, and

while she congratulated the Health Ministry on the work done for the control of malaria and leprosy, she said that even though tuberculosis sanatoria were well-equipped, they were out of the reach of the common man. Well, I would like to assure her that that is not the case. T.B. treatment is expensive, but the T. B. sanatoria really maintain themselves through those people who are able to afford to come and pay for their beds; all the same a number of beds are reserved for the poor. And what is more, the treatment to people who cannot afford to pay is being given to them now increasingly in the tuberculosis clinics which have been opened in several States which are going to be opened in more States. And we have advised the State Governments to put aside beds for T. B. patients in their hospitals, so that the recurring expenditure that is involved in T.B. sanatoria shall not form part of their burden. I can assure the hon. Members that everything possible is being done in the matter of T. B. For the first time, the attention of the Government has been drawn to the treatment of children who suffer from tuberculosis. They have been sadly neglected in the past. We have at last got one institution for children in the South and one in the North, at Mehrauli, mostly financed by the Centre. And if any hon. Members here would like to see what is being done there, I shall be only too glad to take them round.

Then, in regard to pure water-supply, for the first time, I think, the Ministers for Local Self-Government met in a conference year before last, where plans for water-supply were suggested to them and were ultimately accepted by them. And now, the policy is to give loans to municipalities for giving a proper water-supply to the urban areas. For rural areas, it will be on the basis of an outright grant by the Centre of 50 per cent. and 50 per cent. to be raised by State revenues. The scheme has been accepted and is going ahead. Sometimes, the execution of plans has been held up simply because pipes have not been available.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: There is some overlapping of the machinery of the public health giving water-supply and the mining and other welfare schemes. The Public Health Department, through the Health Ministry of the Government of India, is carrying out the work without consulting the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. There is some overlapping actually.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: That is not so. Central Government, for all the schemes concerned with health, have to give the money to the State Governments, and it is up to the State Governments to see that there is no overlapping. But I may here say, that as far as the water-supply schemes of the State Governments are concerned, they are totally different from the water-supply schemes that are taken up by the Social Welfare Board. I can assure the hon. Member that we shall see to it that there is no overlapping, for money is in far too short a supply for us to indulge in overlapping.

Then, Sir, I have been criticised for the sanitation in Delhi. I have said more than once that sanitation in Delhi is not at all what it should be. But there again, it is really the State Government which comes in; though we are working in collaboration with them. As far as the jaundice epidemic is concerned, we have had a great deal said about it. There is no doubt that the epidemic came about because of the contamination of water. It was not the concern again of the Central Ministry of Health as such. Nevertheless, wherever the health of the people is injured, it is up to the Central Ministry to see to it that steps are taken to avoid such happenings in the future. So, now, this question has been taken up by the Central Ministry of Health, and I hope that even before the monsoon comes, the immediate danger that were subjected to this year will have been avoided. By the end of the year, further progress will have been made by sewage plans and pumping stations

having been put up, and within a period of 18 months, I am hoping that perhaps we shall be enabled to divert all the sewage and sullage, that today goes into the Jamuna, away from flowing into the river. We are doing all we can in the matter.

Now, I have also been asked about feeding programmes in schools.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Sir, I would like to put one question before the hon. Minister goes to the next point. Sir, there was recently a report that the water-supply in the south of Delhi was contaminated. There was a fresh contamination. It was near Okhla. I would like to know whether the purity of the water-supply has been restored. I would also like to know the damage likely to be caused by this fresh contamination of the water.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Sir, the moment the health authorities of Delhi State reported that there was contamination, we sent our top men down there. They have been working there day and night to see that the contamination ceases. And every precaution that can possibly be taken has been taken in conjunction with the Delhi State. As I said, again it is the State machinery that works. But the Centre is helping them to the fullest extent possible, and everything that can possibly be done is being done in this respect.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Sir, what I want to know is whether the contamination has been removed or not, or whether the purity of the water-supply there has been restored.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I telephoned in the morning to find out the state in which the contamination was. And I was told that it had been removed. My people are working there for 24 hours of the day.

Now, in regard to the health of schools children, as a matter of fact,

the Health Ministry had proposed a scheme for a school-feeding programme but it was not included in the Second Five-Year Plan of the Health Ministry. I understood from the Health Panel of the Planning Commission that the scheme would be included in the schemes of the Ministry of Education. Nevertheless, my Ministry has put aside a provision of Rs. 12.6 lakhs during this year, i.e., 1956-57, on an *ad hoc* basis, which will include routine medical examination of children immediately on admission, once in the middle school stage and finally in the high school stage, correction of defects, treatment of minor ailments, vaccination of children, environmental sanitation, water-supply, excreta and refuse disposal, cleanliness of school premises, etc., etc. So, we are collaborating with the Education Ministry to see that something is done.

Sir, I want a few minutes more with your permission. Does the House rise at 5 O'clock?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I may be given five minutes more, because...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raj Bahadur also wants two minutes.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I am sorry, I have not been given even five minutes. Anyway, I will try to finish soon.

Then, Sir, Ayurveda has also been mentioned in this House, as it was in the other House. I would like to say with all the emphasis at my command that research in Ayurveda has not been neglected by the Central Ministry of Health. In the First Five Year Plan, there was a provision of Rs. 37.5 lakhs in respect of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic systems. And in the Second Five Year Plan a provision of Rs. 100 lakhs has been made. I would have the House remember that the actual service through Ayurvedic or Unani or Homoeopathic sys-

tems to the people is rendered by the State Governments. The Central Government helps any institution which the State Governments recommend. It is the important question of research which has been taken up in right earnest by the Central Ministry of Health. An Indian Pharmacopoeia Committee was appointed, which has just now published an excellent Pharmacopoeia, including all the drugs that belong to India and have been included in modern medicine. In addition....

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Is the hon. Minister satisfied with the progress in the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Yes. The progress in research is satisfactory. If the hon. Members would visit the Central Institute of Research in Ayurvedic, Unani and other systems of medicine at Jamnagar, they would be able to see what work has been done.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What is the proportion of the expenditure on allopathy to the expenditure on Ayurveda?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Naturally, because the modern system of medicine is the accredited system in India, there can be no comparison between the expenditure on modern medicine and the expenditure on Ayurveda, but there is an amount of Rs. 5 to 6 crores being spent on Ayurveda by the States, and there is a further sum of Rs. 1 crore spent by the Centre on research. If hon. Members want that more medical relief should be given through the Ayurvedic system, then they must go to the States to increase their expenditure on Ayurvedic dispensaries. We have nothing to do with it, but what do the Health Ministers of the various States themselves say? They say that even the doctors that are trained to administer Ayurvedic remedies, actually administer the remedies of modern medicine.

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.]

Now twenty medicines have been prepared in Jamnagar from among the Ayurvedic drugs. The future plan of work includes development of the Siddha system of medicine, out-door clinical research, establishment of a Unani section, Animal Experiment Laboratory, Pancha Karma and Naturopathy, Manuscript and publication department and history of medicine. When the Prime Minister visited this Institute, this is what he wrote about it:

"This is a fascinating inquiry going on in this research Institute and it may well lead to very fruitful results. The so-called conflict between Ayurvedic and modern medicine has to be studied and resolved. The only right approach has to be the one of science, that is of experiment, trial and error. In whatever type of medicine we may deal with, we cannot profit by its study unless we apply the methods of science. In this way, there should not be many conflicting methods but various aspects of one scientific approach."

This is what I too want. You cannot expect this country to lag behind in modern scientific medicine. But to say that I am not willing to give attention to Ayurveda is wrong, because a good deal is being done.

I am sorry, I have so little time to explain more in detail. Schemes for Ayurvedic research that are sent to the Central Ministry are examined by Vaidyas, and if they accept them, money is given for them. If they don't they are sent back for revision and sent up again; several institutions, have been helped and lakhs of rupees have been spent on this feature, and if I am assured by the vaidyas, who are my advisers, that the schemes are worthy of consideration, I always help them. I would ask the House to take this assurance from me and to believe that I am not against any system, but I am against throwing money away without knowing whether it will be

properly spent or not. India cannot, with the progress that she is making and which she is expected to make, remain behind in the science of modern medicine. I am glad to say that India has taken the lead in this part of the world in modern medicine and I do not want India to lose it. I want Ayurveda also to contribute to the broad stream of modern medicine.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: May I ask a question? Since the hon. the Health Minister looks upon the indigenous systems of Ayurveda and Unani as unscientific, I would like to know why she is wasting public money on them.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I have never said that Ayurveda is unscientific. I challenge him if he can produce any written evidence to that effect. I have never said so, but what I have said is that whatever is unscientific should not be accepted. If a vaidya comes to me and says that he has got a cure for leprosy or a recipe for T. B., I will say that I will try it, but if he says, 'Pay me and I will give you the medicine', how can I do that? That will be unscientific. I want scientific proof. All I say is that we should try out Ayurvedic medicines side by side with modern drugs, as we are doing in Jamnagar. Lastly, I say to this House that you will not be able to resist the demand of the man in the street who wants modern medicine in preference to Ayurveda.

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Sir, I am grateful to the House for giving me this opportunity to say something about the points that have been raised during the course of the debate. I would first refer to the point that was made by Kishenchandji about the increase in the rates of registration. I would only quote a few figures to show how we stand in relation to these rates. The cost per registered article in India is annas 12 and 11·3 pies. We were previously charging only six annas, and now, even after this increase, we shall

be losing at the rate of annas four and 11/3 pies. The loss has been enormous. We have not increased the cost of the post card or the money order. We have been trying to increase the rates only on such items which are used by the commercial men, and by those people who can afford to pay for them.

Then, about the telegraphic charges also he said something. I may inform him that the Telegraphic Department of the P. and T. have been working at a loss. The losses were:

1953-54	Rs. 39 lakhs.
1954-55	Rs. 55 lakhs.
1955-56	Rs. 97 lakhs.

I can assure him that our telegraphic rates compare favourably with the rates in other countries. Apart from that, the present rates are the same as were charged before 1st April, 1950. We have only reverted to the rates before 1st April, 1950. I may also point out that in the neighbouring country of Pakistan, it is fourteen annas for the first eight words.

Then, he said that the I.A.C. has been incurring losses, and that the losses have been mounting. I may point out that originally the forecast was that the losses would amount to Rs. 1 crore 15 lakhs for the year 1954-55, but on later assessment, the losses were only Rs. 98 lakhs. As against that, on aviation petrol, the I.A.C. have been paying to the national exchequer Rs. 95 lakhs. When people make use of these services, they are paying for it in some form or other, viz., by way of duty on petrol. As a matter of fact, we have got to bear in mind that air companies, particularly internal air companies all over the world, are usually running at a loss, and we ourselves, before nationalisation, were running at a loss, and the then companies were getting heavy subsidies from the Government. We are getting no subsidies. One important point is that we are paying the huge amount of Rs. 95 lakhs to the national exchequer by way of duty on aviation petrol, and our losses, as I

said just now, amount to only Rs. 98 lakhs. So, we cannot say that these services are a burden on the common man.

Mr. Bisht said that we are opening too many post offices, although they are not justified and very few letters are received there. I may submit that the policy about the opening of post offices was laid down with the approval of Parliament. We have been trying to expand these postal facilities to the remotest corners of our country in the rural areas, and it was only in pursuance of that policy that these offices are opened. It is, of course, true that in certain cases, there have been very few letters coming to the post offices in the rural areas. At any rate, those losses are controlled. In the post offices in the rural areas, we can have a loss upto Rs. 750 in the rural areas and upto Rs. 1,000 in the backward areas. So, our losses don't go beyond that. All that is provided for, and I can assure him that we will try this for five years. If at the end of five years, the losses don't come down to Rs. 240 per annum, the post offices will be closed and we are keeping a strict eye on that.

Then about Dr. Raghubir Singh, I am told that he has very serious complaints to make about the postal delays and loss of letters. I will be grateful to him if he could give cases I would have been grateful to him, had he brought such cases to my notice and we could have enquired into them. I can only assure him that I will not criticise whatever remarks he has made, because ours is a commercial department, and we always hold that the customer is right. So I will take that in that spirit. I will sympathise with him on the losses of letters, of whatever nature they might have been.....

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the insinuation?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: If the Minister would like to know, if you complain, the result is you lose more letters.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I will plead with the hon lady Member that she has not given me any complaint.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I have given to the local P. M. G. of the State.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: But please give me an opportunity to set things right. I will only repeat again: let us bear in mind that during the course of the last 7 or 8 years, postal work has increased enormously. We have increased double-fold and treble-fold. Crores of letters are being sent. In this state of things, if a few are to fail here and there, we have got to bear in mind the number of letters that we are getting regularly in time, and without any delay, and if a proportion is taken we have experienced that—we have a very small percentage of letters lost, or letters delayed, and the complaints also are very few. But I say again that a customer is always in the right and my department will take good care to see that no letters are lost, whatever their nature.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the nature?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They carry good tidings, they carry amorous tidings. A point was made by Mr. J. S. Bisht about the facility of free air-travel and free telephone to the Mem-

bers of Parliament. So far as this matter is concerned, as Shri Jagjivan Ramji, my senior, has made a statement in the other House, ours is a commercial department. Parliament pays for it, and we provide the services because, after all, we are asked to run the department on commercial-cum-utility basis and we are doing that. The Railways have given the facility of travel to Members of Parliament, but it is Parliament, I think, that foots the bill. Similarly, if it is decided by this august Parliament and this august House that the same should be done, it is entirely a matter for the House, but I think, we are answerable to millions and millions of our countrymen outside also, and we have got to take note of the fact of what reactions it will have on the minds of the people whom we have all assembled here to serve.

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to explain. Thank you Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister will reply tomorrow. The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fourteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 26th April 1956.