



DEBATES

SESSION OF 1942.

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STATE COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

Friday August 21, 1942.

The Council met at 10 a.m.; MR. SPEAKER [THE HON. SIR WAITIALINGAM DURAISWAMY] in the Chair.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

*Mr. S. Abeywickrama (Udugama): I give notice, Sir, of the following motion:

That in the opinion of this Council cash advances paid to needy cultivators to buy seed paddy for the Yala season should not be recovered but treated as assistance given to them, as such advances were paid as Government had no seed paddy available for free distribution.

I shall move for the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to enable me to move this motion on Wednesday, August 26.

*The Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Minister of Education): On behalf of the Acting Leader of the Council, I beg to give notice of the following motion:

That pursuant to Article 32 (2) of the Ceylon (State Council) Order in Council, 1931, the First Schedule to that Order as amended shall be further amended—

(1) by the deletion from Group V of the function described as "Food Control in Emergencies" and the insertion of the words "other than food-stuffs" after the word "Commodities" in the function described as "Control of Prices of Commodities in emergencies or to prevent profiteering";

(2) by the addition to Group II. of the following functions:—

"Food Control in Emergencies";

"Control of Prices of Food-stuffs in emergencies or to prevent profiteering";

This motion will be moved on Tuesday, August 25, 1942.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) against the name of a Member indicates that his remarks have not been revised by him.]

Mr. G. A. H. Willie (Member): I give notice, Sir, of the following motion:

That the Government should introduce a Bill to amend the Mutual Finance Act, 1931. I hope to move this motion next week. It will not be less than 10 minutes.

†APPROPRIATION BILL, 1942.

Pursuant to order of the Council passed itself into a Committee, the House further to consider a Bill intitled "An Ordinance providing for the Public Services and the Electrical Services for the financial year 1942 and to provide for the payment by way of advance out of Revenue of moneys required during that financial year for special purposes and to provide for the refund of such moneys to Revenue from Grant Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Island for the financial year 1942-43 (Budget Paper tabled on 15th August 1942), and the amendments to the Estimates tabled on August 15, 1942.

In Committee—

MR. SPEAKER presided as Chairman.

SCHEDULE I.

Head 48, Minister of Home Affairs.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments—
Rs. 54,533 (contd.)

*Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale): Yesterday I brought to the notice of the Home Minister the case in which the Police were complained to by the hon. Member for Balapitiya (Mr. Kularatne) about an assault after his election. I have the actual letter of the Police Inspector, and I would ask you, Sir, and the Members of this Council to judge the matter:

"Your complaint at the Kosgoda Police Station has been referred to me and I should be grateful if you could point out your assailants to me as you are not in a position to furnish their names. It is not possible for me to take any action in this matter as it was not possible for the Police to obtain evidence as to who your assailants were, although inquiries were made immediately after the incident. I spoke to you in this connexion at the Ambalangoda Resthouse immediately after you returned from Galle, and you and

† For the Observations of the Financial Secretary and the Report of the Board of Ministers, see HANSARD of July 10, 1942.

[Mr. Aluwil
Mr. R. S. S. Gana... made me understand
that you cannot ev... your assailants.
I cannot really und... at further action
is expected of me... red party is not
in a position to fur... necessary elements
on which action could... taken in Court or
otherwise."

Now you will understand the reason why so many murderers in this country cannot be traced—because, after all, the poor man is dead and he cannot help the Police by identifying his murderer!

Mr. T. Rasuriya (Moratuwa):
Who is the Director?

***Mr. Aluwilare:** For our present purpose, the name is irrelevant. But I would ask Members to judge the Police Force by this kind of thing.

The other day there was the case of that Arachchi in Paldeniya. Because he detected toddy and a certain man who supplied the Police with toddy was prosecuted, the Arachchi was taken to the Police Station and thrashed without mercy. I am not drawing on my imagination. In that case the Police were prosecuted, and they were convicted. This is the administration of the Police in remote parts of the country. It is really a menace.

***Mr. S. Abeywickrama (Udugama):**
As a Member who comes from the district in which Balapitiya is situated, I would like to make a few comments on what the hon. Member has stated.

Sir, it was very unfortunate that rowdiness prevailed that day at the elections. Till about 10 o'clock in the morning everything was all right, but after that a communal clash occurred between two communities living in that area. The two communities are the Karawa community and the Salagama community. [Interruption.] Oh, it is not the Dutch community. They are out of the picture. I can assure the hon. Member (Mr. Wille) that none of his people were in it.

The Police had a very large number of Constables placed at different Stations, and the Superintendent of Police and members of the senior staff supervised affairs. In a clash of castes it is impossible to restore order. I am not holding a brief for the Police, but as one who

intimately knows the conditions that prevailed that day, I wish to bring this fact to the notice of the Home Ministry and of the House.

Sir, when a murder is committed the Police have the right to arrest the murderer without a warrant, to keep him in remand and carry on their investigations. But in a case of threatened assault, the Police have no right to arrest people without a warrant; they cannot strictly apply all their powers in a matter like that. If I am assaulted, I must give the name of my assailant, or I must at least point out the assailant. So the parallel drawn between this case and a case of murder has no bearing at all.

Also, I know this. Both sides kept on complaining to the Superintendent of Police. But when he went about in his car, the people kept out of the roads because they were able to identify the Police car. So he adopted the method of travelling about in a "Yellow" car. When "Yellow" people complained to him that people going in their cars were being assaulted, he himself went in a "Yellow" car, running the risk of being assaulted himself. Then at Kosgoda he received information to the effect that people from Ambalangoda were assaulting the other party; so he got into a "Green" car and went to Ambalangoda.

Another difficulty is that in an election you have to allow the election agents and the voters to move about on the roads freely till 5 o'clock. Ordinarily if there had been a clash between two parties, the Police could have kept them out of the roads; they could have confined them to their houses. But you cannot control an unruly crowd on the road when they are perfectly entitled to unhindered passage on the roads.

In fact, but for the tact of the Superintendent of Police I think a large number of murders would have been committed. The people were afraid to do more violence because at a later stage they did not know in which car he was travelling; as I said, he was going in cars with flags, and they feared that they would be detected.

I telephoned to the Balapitiya Hospital to find out the number of casualties, and I was informed that there were as many as 40. It was a clash of people belonging to two different communities. In a

case of caste trouble of that magnitude, you cannot expect a limited number of Police to prevent every incident.

As I said, I hold no brief for the Police; in fact, I am a severe critic of the Police. But in this matter I think it was unavoidable that there should have been these incidents, and the country should be thankful to the Police for there having been no murders committed and for the number of assault cases being so few, because the clash that occurred was of a gigantic nature.

What is the position to-day? Some people who belong to the Salagama community have removed their boutiques from Ambalangoda and have established themselves somewhere else. Feelings there are still running very high.

Mr. P. de S. Kularatne (Balapitiya): That is wrong.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** There is a market at the 5th mile post established by Salagama people because they do not want to mix with the Ambalangoda people. That is correct, because I see it when I pass that way every week. [*Interruption.*] I am sorry to say that the hon. Member for Balapitiya does not seem to be in touch with the place.

Mr. Kularatne: I must object to that remark of the hon. Member. He does not know the facts.

Mr. Abeywickrama: I know all the facts. I do not misrepresent things in this House.

At Batapola there is a hamlet where people belonging to both the communities in question live. The Apothecary stationed there complained to me that he had been assaulted by some people. Assaults are taking place there even now, as a result of that clash. The Police are helpless, because it is a clash between people living in two important towns along the sea coast who have arrayed themselves on either side purely on caste distinctions. That is the whole trouble. Even the Proctors at Balapitiya had to ask for Police escort to enable them to appear in Court. Now the trouble is gradually dying down, and I think before long things will settle down to normal. I think the Superintendent of Police concerned did his utmost to cope with the situation.

Mr. Kularatne: I protest strongly against the remark made by the hon. Member regarding the Salagama community by-election. It is a fact that in actual fact the Salagama community that polling took place. I should like to know where he was in that case.

The hon. Member said that the boutiques or shops run by members of the Salagama community at Ambalangoda had been removed there. He should like to know where he was in that case. Salagama people who had their shops from Ambalangoda to the 5th mile post. I am aware of the fact that members of the Salagama community had opened a market at Meduruppu. It is a business there, but it has been boycotted by the Salagama people from Ambalangoda. It is a consequence of that that the people belonging to the Salagama community are carrying on their business as usual at Ambalangoda. Changes are not taking place now and are being coming down. I think if the Chief Magistrate, the Minor Headmen and the Police had taken necessary action in time, there would have been no trouble at all and these unpleasant incidents would have been prevented.

I should like to offer a few remarks on the incident that took place on the day that polling took place. That incident took place in broad daylight—at 10 o'clock in the morning—in front of a polling station; and the polling station was the Balapitiya Police Court. There must have been a large number of Police Constables present at the spot as there were a certain number of Police Constables at every polling station. It should have been very easy for the Inspector of Police at Ambalangoda to have obtained from the Police Constables the evidence necessary to bring the offenders to book. As a matter of fact, it was a great surprise to me that the Constables did not come to our rescue. It was not a threatened assault, but an actual assault that was made on us. I was not injured in that incident, but the hon. Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) and two others who were travelling in the car with me were injured; the car was badly damaged. It was indeed a wonder that we were not murdered. The object of the assailants was to murder us.

[Mr. Kulara:
The hon. Member for Udu-
(Mr. Abeywickrama) : What the Police
had no right to do. I question
that statement, because the
very next day, after the polling, an ordinary
man who was loitering on the road
at Balapitiya was brought by the Police
to the station merely because that man
was drunk. Therefore the Police have
the right to arrest people who are drunk.
The Police could have arrested those
who took part in the assault on that elec-
tion day. Those assailants were
not only drunk but also carried stones
and clubs in their hands.

The Inspector of Police in his commu-
nication to me states that he spoke to
me at the Ambalangoda Resthouse on my
return to Galle after the election. I
really have no recollection of his speak-
ing to me on that occasion. He may
have spoken to me. I was very busy at
the moment. There was a large crowd
present there and I might have said that
I could not identify my assailants.

Police Inspectors are not properly
trained as to how they should conduct
investigations into cases of assault. If
the Inspector concerned had spoken to
me later on the subject, I would have
given him all the necessary help to con-
duct an investigation into that incident.
Apparently the Inspector-General of
Police does not give a really efficient
training to his men. The Inspectors
should be trained how to conduct
inquiries in cases of this kind. If neces-
sary, I can give the names of any num-
ber of people who know the assailants.
I do not now wish to see these people
prosecuted. I would rather that they
were not, as I should like to see a spirit
of friendship existing between the two
major communities living in that area.
I do feel, however, that the Hon. Minister
of Home Affairs should take steps to
hold an inquiry into the conduct of the
Police during the election, particularly
with regard to their conduct on that day
in the Ambalangoda and Totagama areas.

I gave a definite warning to the Ins-
pector of Police at Ambalangoda and also
to the Inspector-General of Police, about
three or four days prior to the election,
that I expected trouble, and I suggested
that the Police in that area should be
strengthened on that day. But no

action appears to have been taken in spite
of that warning. I remember going to
the Ambalangoda Police Station the
evening before the day of election to
complain against certain attempts made
apparently by some rowdies, or maybe
supporters of the opposing candidate, to
damage our cars. I rather regret to
describe what I saw on that occasion.

A large number of Police Inspectors
and Sub-Inspectors had been sent to
Ambalangoda for duty on the day of elec-
tion. The Police Inspector was not at
the station at the time, and I wanted to
go and see him at his bungalow to make
the complaint personally to him. Those
at the Police Station, however, tried to
prevent me from going to the bungalow
of the Inspector of Police. Anyway, I
went to the bungalow of the Police Ins-
pector and found that there was a feast
going on there. I found the Inspector
in the bungalow, and I also found that
the majority of those at the feast were
drunk. I am glad to say that the Ins-
pector stationed at Ambalangoda was not
drunk, nor was the Sub-Inspector. Those
Police officers had to be on duty the next
day, but they spent that evening at a
party, feasting and drinking.

I think the hon. Member for Udu-
gama (Mr. Abeywickrama) should have
got at the real facts before he made his
remarks. If he wishes to have correct
information, and if he has the time to
have a short conversation with me over
the matter, I shall certainly be glad to
tell him what the actual facts are.

**Mr. G. A. H. Wille (Nominated Mem-
ber):** There is one moral that has
emerged from this discussion which
should not be overlooked; that is, that
candidates and Elected Members should
educate their masters.

***The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva (Minis-
ter of Health):** I should like hon. Mem-
bers to realize that before an election,
especially before a by-election, there is
a great deal of personal feelings roused.
That type of feeling is fomented by the
Police and the Headmen. We know
that from experience. I know that in
this case an appeal was made to the
Police to see that a sufficient force was
sent there. It seems as if the Police
cannot even control a crowd at a by-
election; this was a by-election and

the Police force was strengthened. But still they could not control the crowd. That is why I have all along appealed for a larger number of polling booths at elections and by-elections. If sufficient precautions had been taken, the incident complained of would not have taken place.

***The Hon. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Administration):** I should like to offer a few observations on the subject under discussion. I certainly think that the sort of rowdiness complained of should be put a stop to.

I should like to inform this House of what my own experience was in regard to the Moratuwa by-election that took place a short time ago. I am aware of the fact that certain important persons went to certain Headmen and demanded that they should support a particular candidate, and on the refusal of those Headmen to accede to the request, representations were made to the Government Agent, Western Province, for their suspension from duty. On inquiry, the Government Agent found out what the facts were and he refused to suspend the officers concerned from duty. I say that in this House as a definite fact.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya: And one of them is a Minister of this Council.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** Never mind who it is.

I go further than that. Even the Police there took sides, so much so that when meetings were disturbed it was extremely difficult to get the Police to come and adopt an impartial attitude, in view of the fact that influential people under whom the Police are placed were taking an extremely great interest in that by-election. I know that as a fact. Therefore it becomes difficult for the Headmen, for the Police to be absolutely impartial. We want absolute impartiality in these matters; certainly all of us want absolute impartiality on the part of the Police and the Headmen at elections. We do not want anything more than that. Sometimes it becomes difficult for them to adopt a completely impartial attitude. Even at the back of their mind they take the one side or the

other. When they see the other side has to be defended, in self-defence they are required to counteract that. I give this instance that of Mr. Amarasuriya as a definite example.

***Mr. Eruwihare:** Why not have a public inquiry held into it as a definite fact?

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** Statements were made by them that they had been approached by certain persons and proposals had been made for assisting a particular candidate and that they had said they would not willingly do so. The result of the investigation on that point is that with the proposals made to them was a report sent to them to the Government Agent, Western Province, for their suspension and when the Government Agent found out the facts he took no action against the Headmen concerned. I put that instance before the House as a definite fact.

I am sure that what I have said will be borne out both by the hon. Member for Moratuwa (Mr. T. Amarasuriya) and the hon. Member for Galle (Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya).

***Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated Member):** If there is any foundation for what the Hon. Minister for Local Administration has said, I think it is obvious that the House should ask that an inquiry be held into that allegation. It looks as if in some cases the Police themselves are powerless under the influences exercised over them. They are made to act at times even contrary to what they think their correct attitude should be.

I do not know what the circumstances are with regard to the Balapitiya by-election. From what I have heard, the situation which arose there was a very difficult one indeed. If it is true that the Inspectors of Police sent to assist the Ambalangoda Police were feasting and were drunk on the eve of the election, I think it is a very serious state of affairs of which notice has to be taken. There should be an investigation made into that allegation as well.

It is very important that in the case of elections everything should be done to prevent any sort of clash between the rival sections of the people. I know

[Mr. Jayah.] that nothing unopened in the Colombo Central; not that the Police were—far from that; I know that the Police had their own way there might have been trouble—but because the people concerned were more sensible. They saw to it that there was no trouble.

I think at Balapitiya conditions were very different. In fact, it was a very keen contest where the most bitter feelings were roused. Whatever that may be, if the Inspectors of Police who had been there for duty at the elections had forgotten their responsibility I think they should be dealt with.

***Mr. Dudley Senanayake (Dedigama):** I agree with the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah), when he says that the allegations made by the hon. Minister of Local Administration against the Headmen and the Police in connexion with the Moratuwa by-election recently held should be inquired into if there is any foundation for those allegations. I do hope that there will be an inquiry.

I do not know what the particular cases the Hon. Minister referred to are. I myself took part in activities in regard to that by-election, and I can quote one or two cases where Headmen were reported for taking sides. Those Headmen were taking sides and they were reported to the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister, I believe, did take action to prevent public officers from taking any side whatsoever in these matters. There are two cases I know of personally. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister of Local Administration is referring to those particular cases. If there were other cases where Headmen were induced to support a particular candidate, then certainly action should be taken against them. I do hope that there will be an inquiry held into the allegations made. Of course, there may be a certain amount of misunderstanding as to the action taken—

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** It is possible.

***Mr. Dudley Senanayake:** It may be that the Minister of Local Administration had heard a different version about

the two individuals who had definitely taken sides.

I have brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Health the case of another Government Servant taking sides. The Minister said that that officer had no business to take sides, that there was no direction at all issued for supporting any candidate.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I quite agree with my hon. Friend, and I quite appreciate his point of view. I will bring all the details of these particular cases to the notice of the Hon. Acting Minister of Home Affairs and I hope he will go into them very thoroughly.

***Mr. Dudley Senanayake:** I too quite agree with the Hon. Minister of Local Administration when he says that if any Minister used his position, his influence, to support a certain candidate, then it is a gross abuse of his position and we should inquire into it. If no such thing occurred, any vague allegation to that effect is also a serious matter.

***Dr. A. P. de Zoysa (Colombo South):** I should also like to bring to your notice certain matters with regard to elections. That there is corrupt practice and undue influence, everybody knows. One type of undue influence is the influence exercised by Ministers; that is a type of undue influence. Both in the Moratuwa and the Balapitiya by-elections there were Ministers actively and openly working for one candidate or another.

The Chairman: They are entitled to do that.

***Dr. de Zoysa:** We want, not an inquiry, but to find out whether Ministers unduly influenced the electorate, as the hon. Member for Dedigama (Mr. Dudley Senanayake) said, by using their position.

I do not want to go into the matter of the Balapitiya by-election, because that matter is being inquired into. But the facts as revealed to me are different to what the hon. Member for Balapitiya (Mr. Kularatne) has stated. I do not want to go into that matter.

The whole trouble is that feelings are roused during elections. The result is that people who belong to different communities, especially uneducated people

take different views in this matter; they do not treat it as a public matter. If you want the Police or the Headmen not to take sides, the best thing to do is to keep a European Police Force or Indian Police Force in the Island to maintain order during elections. Sometimes if a man's communal feeling is great, he becomes partial. As a matter of fact, if there is a certain community in an area, the candidates bring along a Minister of that community to address the electorate. These things should be stopped as far as possible by educating the people and treating elections as public matters, not as private quarrels between two candidates.

The Hon. Mr. A. Mahadeva (Acting Minister of Home Affairs): Out of everything connected with the Balapitiya by-election, only one specific complaint has transpired; that is, that the Police wanted the hon. Member for Balapitiya (Mr. Kularatne) to supply evidence as to who his assailants were, and that he could not do so. It has also transpired that the Police said that they could not spend time in trying to find out who his assailants were. If so, that is an entirely wrong attitude on the part of the Police and they should certainly have made an attempt to find out, to inquire as to, who the assailants were. If the facts are as stated, I think some inquiry becomes necessary, and I will try to find out the actual facts:

But the other allegations are of a very vague character. I must say that passions rise during election periods, and one side makes one complaint and the other side makes another complaint. The best thing that could be done in the interests of the public to promote good feeling, which is so essential and which should prevail in the area, has been suggested by the hon. Member himself—that this matter be not probed too deeply. I think the hon. Member himself suggested that it is undesirable to probe these matters too deeply.

Mr. Kularatne: Not as far as the Balapitiya matter is concerned.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Certainly, the Police must be made to do their duty. But some specific charge must be brought against them. I promise to investigate every specific charge that is put before me.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I do not believe that it is possible for one of the other charges as the Acting Minister would have made. You have to remember that any charge in this House the integrity of the House, their integrity, and the questions put by Ministers, and by Members of the House. The impartiality of the administration is called in question in connection with every election. But if there are instances, specific charges given where Ministers go and all the Ministers with them in the course of their duties during an election, and I think it is a matter which is an inquiry into. I think it becomes a matter of privilege almost in this House.

The person who is in charge of the conducting of elections, namely, the Legal Secretary. I think we have had one of the Ministers in this House make a very specific charge and come with that statement that some investigation should also be made that an inquiry has been made. Surely, it is in the public interest that those facts be known and that this House should take some action against a Minister who does try to interfere with the administration in that way. I would ask the Hon. the Legal Secretary whether he could not consent to an inquiry into the matter and a publication of the report thereafter.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Someone must make a definite charge.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** The charge has been made.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Will the hon. Member please give way?

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I am not giving way. We are in Committee; we can both fly at each other as many times as we like. The Hon. Acting Minister of Home Affairs said that no specific charge was made. It is true that no names were mentioned. But the charge was specific enough that certain prominent people had taken part. Then, the hon. Member for Moratuwa (Mr. Amarasuriya) chimed in with the statement that it was one of the Ministers. This is specific enough to carry it down to the Ministerial benches.

***Mr. S. Samarakody (Narammala):** Why not mention the name?

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I suppose the name will be mentioned in the inquiry.

***Mr. Samarakody:** I want to know it now.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** Actually, the name has been mentioned to me. But until an inquiry is decided on, I do not think I should divulge it. The Hon. Minister of Local Administration seems to be able to adduce proof; and what he says goes much further. The Hon. Minister says that an inquiry was held by the Government Agent and that the Government Agent found it unnecessary, in those circumstances, to take action against the Headmen accused.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I go further. I say that the statement made by the Headmen, on which presumably the Government Agent did not take action, will be of a very startling nature. That is my opinion.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** Now you have the fat in the fire completely; why not light it? Surely, it is to the interest of this House that these things should be known. It is not good enough merely to have Headmen pilloried every time. After all, a Headman who is told by a Minister to act in a particular way must find it almost impossible to refuse to act accordingly.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I want to make the matter clear. I did not make a statement that in this particular case the Headmen were requested by any Minister to act in a certain way. The Minister, I understood, reported them to the Government Agent for action to be taken against them, as they were supposed to be taking sides. My information is that they made explanations of a very interesting and startling nature and the Government Agent, after inquiry, found that no action could be taken against them. I do not, of course, know the details.

Mr. Samarakody rose.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I am on my feet. I merely gave way to the Hon. Minister of Local Administration.

I did not take the statement of the Hon. Minister alone. There was an aside from the hon. Member for Moratuwa (Mr. T. Amarasuriya) who said that

it was interference by a Minister. It is of the utmost importance that we should get at this matter, because very often I have heard the accusation that all these election rows are the result of manhood suffrage when actually they are not due to manhood suffrage at all but are the result of interference by trousered hooligans. Actually, if democracy becomes impossible in this country, it will be as a result of the interference of the richer hooligans during these elections. It is they who engineer the murders; if the man in the street is left to his own devices, he will exercise his vote as a gentleman would.

***Mr. Samarakody:** The Hon. Minister made some rather vague accusations and it is nothing but fair that we should look into the matter. The Hon. Minister has not inquired into the matter; he has repeated what other people told him; he said, "I heard from somebody else".

It appears that there were two Headmen—this is according to the information of some people, some workers for one of the candidates—who were definitely taking sides. This matter was brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, who referred the complaint to the Government Agent for inquiry. That is all, as far as I know. I did not take any part in that election. But it is very unfair to have these accusations made; accusations must be made on sufficient grounds. Simply because two political parties took part in the election, it is not fair for one Hon. Minister to come here and throw mud at another Minister.

I do not know whether it is the Home Minister who is being referred to, but if it is the Home Minister or any other Minister let the Hon. Minister of Local Administration mention the name and let us have an inquiry held.

The Chairman: That is what is suggested.

The Hon. Mr. J. H. B. Nihill (Legal Secretary): In view of the remarks of the hon. Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare), I think perhaps I should just intervene for a moment in this debate to point out that I think this fact must be generally recognized by the Committee—that I am not responsible to this House for the preservation of order during times of election; that is a matter for another

Department. But, of course, I am responsible for what might be called—I have the word from my hon. Friend on my right—the mechanics of elections; that is to say, the compilation and revision of the registers, provision of polling stations, and so on, but beyond that my responsibility to this House does not go.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: I must endorse the remarks made by the hon. Member for Naramala (Mr. Samarakody), that it is undesirable that Members of this House should make charges against other Members without making sure of the truth of all the facts, and if they feel, after satisfying themselves, not merely proceeding on rumour, that there is a case, then only should they come here and move in open Council for an inquiry on those facts. As far as I know, Sir, that is not the position today. It is all going on rumours. One Member says one thing, and another Member another thing. If the Hon. Minister of Local Administration has a definite charge to make against any Member, past or present, of the Board of Ministers, I think it is his duty to move in open Council for an inquiry into his allegations after satisfying himself that there is substance in them as far as he is concerned.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I am sorry, Sir, I appear to be misunderstood. There was no accusation or charge that I made against any Minister or Member, except that I stated that a complaint had been made against certain Headmen. That complaint was inquired into by the Government Agent, and the Government Agent did not take any action, presumably as a result of what appeared to him to be the fact disclosed during his inquiry. That is all I know about it. All that I am now definitely and categorically asking the Acting Minister of Home Affairs to do is to obtain from the Government Agent any minutes of the inquiries that he held into the allegation made, and find out what explanations had been given by the Headmen; why it was that he did not take action against those Headmen, and what were the explanations he accepted as a result of the inquiry.

The Chairman: I think the matter must be dropped now. I think this subject might be dropped now.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** We are going to drop this matter as well as the other one.

The Chairman: If we have sufficient matter under the Ministry of Home Affairs, I am only appealing to Members to restrain themselves and not to prolong this matter. We have already had a prolonged discussion on it.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** It is not nearly so long as I thought. That is the reason.

***The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva:** I go further, Sir, to the other allegation and it is the same as the one made by the Hon. Member for Naramala (Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya) who was disturbed from his sleep by the violent firing of the people stationed at the entrance of the Police. They came to the spot, and after they came there the same performances were allowed to continue without any attempt being made to stop them. I make that allegation now, though I did not bother about it then. I did not want to kick a fallen enemy, especially after our victory, but I say this now as the matter has arisen.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** Anyway, that is beside the point, because the most important thing to my mind is the statement made by the hon. Member for Moratuwa (Mr. T. Amarasuriya) that a member of the administration of this Council went to officials and attempted to interfere in the election.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Who? Are you making that statement on your personal knowledge of the facts?

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I am making it on the statement made by the hon. Member for Moratuwa (Mr. T. Amarasuriya).

A Member: Did he say so?

Mr. T. Amarasuriya: Yes.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** There you are. I am not drawing on my imagination. The hon. Member said it.

***Mr. T. A. Amarasinghe:** As the Hon. Minister of Local Government and Administration complained that the Minister just said "a Minister". I do not know what further.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** It may be a Minister of religion!

***Mr. Aluwihare:** It is no use our trying to gloss over something that is unpleasant when actually lives of people depend on these elections. The hon. Member for Balapitiya (Mr. Kularatne) has told us that the Minister on him was made in the hope that he would be killed. You cannot gloss over these things. It is much better at the early stages, to face the unpleasantness than to attend funerals and make very tearful orations. You cannot have cleanness of elections if you are going to gloss over any unpleasantness that you come across. Here is a statement made by the Member for Moratuwa (Mr. T. Amarasinghe) that it was a Minister who had interfered.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** Religious Minister!

***Mr. Aluwihare:** The hon. Member says that it was a religious minister. I would ask the hon. Member, in spite of his partiality, to face things with a certain clearness of mind which is usual with him.

Here the interpolation and the speech taken together indicate that a Minister was concerned in this matter. It is of the highest importance that a Minister should not use administrative machinery for the purpose of an election. I say that it should not be used, because how many times have Members in this House heard that the Minister of Education used the Education Department to further his elections?

The Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Minister of Education): I must say that I object to that.

Mr. Aluwihare: Of course, the Hon. Minister did not. We have never asked for an inquiry into the allegation.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Why did you not ask for an inquiry?

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I am saying that the allegation has been made.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: We hear all sorts of things.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** Now another allegation is made, and it is recent enough for us to have an inquiry into it. I would request the Hon. Acting Minister of Home Affairs to ask the hon. Member whether he will name the Minister to enable an inquiry to be held. Either it was an unfounded charge which the hon. Member made—then he had no business to make it—or it had a good foundation.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** As in many other instances, this trouble has been brought about by the Board of Ministers. They divided themselves into two camps. When a Minister identifies himself on the platform with a particular candidate, the villagers think that the Departments under him too support that candidate; though there may not be strict instructions issued about it, that is the feeling.

But, Sir, I am at a loss to understand the safe position created for himself by the Hon. the Legal Secretary. That is a rather serious matter. He is responsible for the elections; the appointment of Returning Officers; reporting to the Governor and the Secretary of State any incidents that occur, and to the House. He says, "I am only a mechanic"—the head of the mechanics of election—and as a mechanic he prepares the registers, and goes thus far and no further.

There are provincial organizations to be utilized for elections, such as the Police, the Headmen, and so on. It is the duty of the Hon. the Legal Secretary to impress on the various Departments whose assistance he enrolls in conducting elections, that they should take all the necessary steps. He cannot simply say, "I only prepare registers, and I do not care about the rest". He must get the Home Minister to do what he wants done when he is conducting elections, and also make the same request of other Departments.

If he says that he has only to prepare the registers and then ascertain the result of the election, who is responsible to this House for the proper conducting of elections? The Police and the Headmen are incidentally concerned in elections, but the person who is directly concerned and to whom the vote is always allocated is the Legal Secretary,

I think our position will be very bad if we simply allow him to say that he is responsible only to some degree.

The Chairman: We are not dealing with elections under this vote.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I was dealing with the by-election.

The Hon. Mr. Nihill: I must just say the same thing over again: my Department is not responsible for the preservation of order during elections. Of course, if the hon. Member would like to move a motion for the re-allocation of subjects and functions, he may do so.

***Dr. de Zoysa:** All these incidents come to the notice of the Hon. the Legal Secretary when the Returning Officers make their reports; so that he can then know whether there had been any unhealthy activity or not.

I do not blame Ministers for taking part in... or even asking the Headmaster... to support candidates... The mistake is that if... do not carry out the orders of... Ministers or refuse to support them... the officers are said to be taking sides. That is a mistake. A Minister may ask a Headmaster to support a candidate but the Headmaster may be caught the Minister should not think that the Headmaster is partial. It is when a Minister thinks the Headmaster is partial he does not support the Minister's candidate that all these troubles arise.

Sub-head 1 was passed without amendment.

Sub-heads 3 to 5 were passed without amendment.

Head 48 was passed without amendment.

Head 49, Provincial Administration.

Sub-head 1, Personal Emoluments, Rs. 3,619,405.

Amendment moved [*Minister of Home Affairs*]

(1) The number of Clerks for 1942-43 for Colombo Kachecheri to be increased from 44 to 45 and in the details of the make-up of the number of clerks, the 26 Clerks in Class III., Grades I. and II., to be increased to 27 and the money provision for 1942-43 to be increased from Rs. 77,047 to Rs. 77,647.

(2) The number of clerks for 1942-43 under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Colombo Kachecheri, to be increased from 29 to 30 and in the details of the make-up of the number of clerks, the 5 Clerks (General Clerical Service) to be increased to 6 and the number of clerks in Class III., Grade II., to be increased from 1 to 2 and the money provision for 1942-43 to be increased from Rs. 58,158 to Rs. 58,878.

(3) The following new items to be inserted under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Kalutara Kachecheri:—

	1942-43.
	Rs.
1 Clerk at Rs. 77.59 per mensem	932
Messenger allowance to D. R. O., Panadura totamune, for 3 months	45
Allowance for clerical assistance to D. R. O., Panadura totamune, for 3 months	210

(4) The vote of Rs. 137 for 1942-43 for Rent allowance under the same caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control" to be increased to Rs. 359.

(5) The vote of Rs. 44,392 for 1942-43 for the Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, and Office Assistant, Kandy Kachecheri, to be reduced to Rs. 42,812 and the salary scale of the Office Assistant to be altered to Rs. 5,400—400, 500 & 600—15,000.

(6) The vote of Rs. 27,026 for 1942-43 for Ratamahatmayas and D. R. O., Kandy Kachecheri, to be reduced to Rs. 26,547 and footnote "a" to be amended to read as follows:—

a Includes 5 Ratamahatmayas and 3 Divisional Revenue Officers.

(7) The vote of Rs. 56,855 for 1942-43 for Clerks (General Clerical Service), Kandy Kachecheri, to be increased to Rs. 62,581 and in the details of the make-up of the number of Clerks, the 7 Clerks in Class II. on Rs. 900—120—2,820 to be increased to 9 and the 4 clerks at Rs. 720—108—2,448 to be reduced to 2.

(8) The vote of Rs. 5,191 for 1942-43 for Peons, Kandy Kachcheri, to be reduced to Rs. 5,032. Details of the make-up of the number of Peons, the 7 Peons at Rs. 304 to be reduced to 6 and the 4 peons at Rs. 264—6—408 to be increased to 5.

(9) The number of labourers for 1942-43, Kandy Kachcheri, to be reduced from 9 to 8 and an asterisk "d" and footnote added as follows. In the details of the number of labourers, the 6 labourers at Rs. 240—6—300 to be reduced to 5 and the item "1 at the Office Assistant's bungalow" to be deleted. The money provision for 1942-43 to be reduced from Rs. 2,585 to Rs. 2,285.

d One post suppressed.

(10) The vote of Rs. 8,792 for 1942-43 for Rent Allowance to be increased to Rs. 9,528.

(11) The vote of Rs. 4,715 for 1942-43 for Clerks (General Clerical Service) under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Kandy Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 5,325.

(12) The vote of Rs. 23,024 for 1942-43 for Temporary Staff under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Kandy Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 24,423 and in the details of the make-up of this item, the 31 clerks at Re. 1.70 per diem to be reduced to 29 and a new item "2 clerks at Rs. 110 per mensem" to be added.

(13) The vote of Rs. 248 for 1942-43 for Rent allowance under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Kandy Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 1,049.

(14) The "1 Inspecting Officer—Food Control—for 1942-43" under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Matale Kachcheri, to be increased to 2 and the money provision for 1942-43 to be increased from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,800. The designation of the item to be altered to "Supervisor—Food Control."

(15) Delete the item "1 Inspecting Officer, Price Control" appearing under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Matale Kachcheri. The sum of Rs. 1,800 provided against this item for 1942-43 to be deleted.

(16) The number of Clerks (General Clerical Service) for 1942-43 for the Nuwara Eliya Kachcheri to be increased from 15 to 17 and the following footnote added, and the number of clerks in Class III., (Grades I. & II.) shown in the details of the make-up of the number of Clerks to be increased from 8 to 10. Two new appointments in Grade II. of the General Clerical Class. The money provision should also be increased from Rs. 25,336 to Rs. 26,536.

(17) The vote of Rs. 1,120 for 1942-43 for the Shroff, Class II., Nuwara Eliya Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 3,000.

(18) The vote of Rs. 2,637 for 1942-43 for Rent allowance, Nuwara Eliya Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 2,907.

(19) The vote of Rs. 1,634 for Station Allowance, Nuwara Eliya Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 1,737.

(20) The following new items to be inserted under "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Galle Kachcheri, above the item "Allowance for Clerical Assistance to D. R. O., Bentota-Walallawita korale, for 3 clerks":—

1941-42. 1942-43.

—	1	Extra Office Assistant	}	11,528
	6	*Clerks (General Clerical Service):				
		Class I., 1 at Rs. 3,000—180—4,260	..			
		Class III., 5 at Grade I. Rs. 1,440—45—1,800	..			
		Grade II. Rs. 600—42—1,398	..			
		Temporary Staff:			}	12,276
		34 Extra Clerks	..	..
		6 Peons	..	..
		Overtime to Staff and Rent Allowance		9,200

(21) The vote for Rs. 41,226 for 1942-43 for Clerk Matara Kacheheri, to be reduced to Rs. 39,600f and note as follows:—

f Provision for 2 clerks included under Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control.

(22) Increase the reduced vote for 1942-43 for Clerk Matara Kacheheri by Rs. 144.

(23) The vote of Rs. 660 for 1942-43 for an Assistant Shroff, Matara Kacheheri, to be deleted and an asterisk " g " to be inserted in the budget for 1942-43 with a footnote as follows:—

g Provision for the Assistant Shroff included under Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control.

(24) The vote of Rs. 2,806 for 1942-43 for peons Matara Kacheheri, to be reduced to Rs. 2,536h, and an asterisk " h " with a footnote as follows:—

h Provision for the peons (Gansabhawa Establishment) included under Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control.

(25) The vote of Rs. 73,560 for 1942-43 under the item " Minor Headmen," Matara Kacheheri, to be reduced to Rs. 68,030 and in the details of the make-up of this item, the 29 Vidanmensem to be reduced to 28 and the money provision reduced from Rs. 15,600 to Rs. 15,120.

(26) The following items to be inserted under a caption " Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control " below the item " Rent Allowance," Matara Kacheheri, on page 94 of the Second Budget for 1941-42. 1942-43.

—	3	* Clerks (General Clerical Service):		
		Class III., 2 at Rs. 600—42—1,398	..	} 2,604
		1 at Rs. 480—43—1,200	..	
	1	Peon, Rs. 264—6—408	..	270
	1	Peon (temporary) at 75 cents a day	..	270
	1	Assistant Shroff, Rs. 390—30—660	..	660
	4	Storekeepers: 1 at Rs. 390—30—660	..	} 61,200
		3 at .. ..	..
	2	Assistant Storekeepers at Re. 2.50 a day	..	1,800
	4	Clerks (temporary) at Re. 1.70 a day	..	2,448
	20	Watchers at 75 cents a day	..	5,400
		Rent allowance	..	54

b Provision for 2 Storekeepers (part time) not included as they are paid from Head 111.

(27) The following new items to be inserted under a caption " Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control " below the item " Rent Allowance," Hambantota Kacheheri:—

1941-42. 1942-43.

—	2	* Clerks (General Clerical Service):		
		Class III., Grade II., Rs. 600—42—1,398	..	1,200
		Temporary Staff:		
		7 Superintending Supervisors at Rs. 2.50 a day	..	} 99,553
		31 Supervisors at Rs 2 a day	..	
		159 Guards at Re 1 a day	..	
		42 Patrols at 75 cents a day	..	
		4 Patrols at 50 cents a day	..	

(28) The number of Clerks (General Clerical Service) for 1942-43 for the Hambantota Kacheheri to be increased from 21 to 22, and the following footnote added, and the number of clerks in Class III. (Grades I. and II.) shown in the details of the make-up of the number of clerks to be increased from 12 to 13. Two new appointments in Grade II. of the General Clerical Class. The money provision to be increased from Rs. 30,113 to Rs. 30,713.

(29) The vote of Rs. 37,150 for 1942-43 for the Government Agent, Assistant Agent, and Extra Office Assistant, Jaffna Kacheheri, to be reduced to Rs. 35,106.

(30) The number of clerks for Divisional Revenue Officers for 1942-43, Jaffna Kachcheri, to be increased from 12 to 14 and the number of clerks on the salary scale of Rs. 300 to Rs. 400, shown in the details of the make-up of the number of clerks to be increased from 4 to 6. The money provision to be increased from Rs. 5,856 to Rs. 6,720.

(31) The vote of Rs. 6,933 for 1942-43 for Rent allowance, Jaffna Kachcheri, to be reduced to Rs. 6,764.

(32) The vote of Rs. 25,522 for 1942-43 for the Assistant Government Agent and the Office Assistant, Mannar Kachcheri, to be reduced to Rs. 24,092.

(33) The vote of Rs. 1,536 for clerks for D. R. O. to be reduced to Rs. 1,464.

(34) The vote of Rs. 940 for 1942-43 for Messengers for D. R. O. to be reduced to Rs. 910.

(35) The following new item to be inserted under a caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control," Mannar Kachcheri, below the item "Rent Allowance", Mannar Kachcheri:—

1941-42.	1942-43.	Rs.
—	32 Frontier and Coast Guards	8,928

(36) The following new item to be inserted under a caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control" below the item "Rent Allowance", Mannar Kachcheri:—

1941-42.	1942-43.	Rs.
—	2 Frontier Guards at 75 cents a day	558

(37) The vote of Rs. 16,273 for 1942-43 for the Assistant Government Agent, C.C.S., Class II., Vavuniya Kachcheri, to be reduced to Rs. 14,880.

(38) The following new post for 1942-43 to be inserted after the item "Assistant Government Agent, C.C.S., Class II.":—

1941-42.	1942-43.	Rs.
—	1 Office Assistant C.C.S., Class II., Rs. 540—400 and 500 and 600—15,000	

and a sum of Rs. 6,897 provided for 1942-43.

(39) The vote of Rs. 20,941 for 1942-43 for Clerks (General Clerical Service), Vavuniya Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 22,167.

(40) Delete the items "allowance for clerical assistance to Acting D. R. O., Vavuniya South" and "Messenger Allowance to Acting D. R. O., Vavuniya South" appearing under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Vavuniya Kachcheri, and the money provision for 1942-43, viz., Rs. 840 and Rs. 288.

(41) The sum of Rs. 375 for 1942-43 for overtime to permanent staff under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Vavuniya Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 1,200.

(42) The following new items to be inserted under a caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control" below the item "Rent allowance", Batticaloa Kachcheri:—

Temporary Staff:	Rs.
1 Clerk at Re. 1-70 per day	} 6,492
14 Guards at Rs. 30 per month	
Overtime for staff	600
Allowance for clerical assistance to D. R. O. Akkaraiyattu South, for 3 months	90
Messenger allowance to D. R. O., Akkaraiyattu South, for 3 months	36

(43) The following new items to be inserted under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services", Trincomalee Kachcheri:—

	Rs.
4 Clerks (temporary) for 2 months at Re. 1-70 a day	422
1 Clerk (temporary) for 3 months at Re. 1-70 a day	159
4 Guards at 75 cents a day	1,116

(44) Increase the number of Clerks (temporary) at D. R. O. under the same caption by 1 and increase the money provision under the same caption by Rs. 621.

(45) The following new items to be inserted under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Kurunegala Kachcheri:—

Allowance to D. R. O., Koddiyar pattu, for clerical assistance to Chief Headmaster, Kurunegala Kachcheri, to be increased from Rs. 90 to Rs. 120.
 Messenger allowance to D. R. O., Koddiyar pattu, for 2 messengers, Kurunegala Kachcheri, to be increased from Rs. 24 to Rs. 36.

(46) The vote of Rs. 43,100 for 1942-43 for the Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, and Office Assistant, Kurunegala Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 43,820.

(47) The number of clerks for D. R. O. at Kurunegala Kachcheri, to be increased from 18 to 19 and the number of clerks at Kurunegala Kachcheri, to be increased from 12 to 13. The money provision for 1942-43 to be increased from Rs. 300—12—540 shown in the details of the vote for 1941-42 to Rs. 7,960.

(48) Delete the item "Allowance for Clerical Assistance to D. R. O. Wadduwa Hatpattu" and insert the following new item:—

Allowance for Clerical Assistance to Chief Headmaster, Kurunegala Kachcheri, 2 clerks each for 3 Headmaster's Offices, Kurunegala Kachcheri, to be increased from Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 2,100.

(49) The following new items to be inserted under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Kurunegala Kachcheri, above the item "Allowance for clerical assistance to D. R. O. Wadduwa Hatpattu":—

1941-42. 1942-43.

—	5	1 *Clerk (Survey Clerical Service) Class II. Rs. 900—120—2,820	} Rs. 5,722
		3 *Clerks (General Clerical Service) Class III. 600—42—1,800	
		1 Clerk, Rs. 720—60—1,800	

Temporary Staff:

7 Clerks at Re. 1.70 a day	} Rs. 19,512
1 Assistant Shroff at Re. 1.50 a day	..	..
1 Counter at 90 cents a day	..	..
3 Peons at 75 cents a day	..	..
48 Guards do.	..	..
Overtime to permanent staff, peons and clerical assistance	Rs. 7,500

(50) The following new items to be inserted under caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control":—

1941-42. 1942-43.

—	1	Stenographer at Rs. 2.50 per diem	..	900
—	1	Asst. Shroff at Re. 1.50 per diem	..	500
—	1	Guards at 75 cents per diem	..	1,080

(51) The number of Temporary Clerks for 1942-43 under the caption "Additional Staff or Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Puttalam Kachcheri, to be increased from 12 to 13, and the money provision for 1942-43, increased from Rs. 7,344 to Rs. 7,956.

(52) The number of Clerks (General Clerical Service) for 1942-43, Anuradhapura Kachcheri, to be increased to 32 and in the details of this item the number of clerks in Class II. at Rs. 900—120—2,820 to be increased from 6 to 7. The money provision for 1942-43 to be increased from Rs. 49,022 to Rs. 51,842.

(53) The vote of Rs. 2,060 for 1942-43 for Rent Allowance, Anuradhapura Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 2,342.

(54) The following items under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Anuradhapura Kachcheri, to be deleted:—

1942-43.

1	Clerk (General Clerical Service) Rs. 900—120—2,820	..	..	2,820
	Rent allowance	..	..	282

(55) The vote of Rs. 18,690 for 1942-43 for Temporary Staff under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Anuradhapura Kachcheri, to be reduced to Rs. 16,114.

(56) The vote of Rs. 2,600 for 1942-43 for overtime to staff under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Anuradhapura Kachcheri, to be reduced to Rs. 2,500.

(57) The following new items to be inserted under a caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control" below the item "Rent Allowance", Badulla Kachcheri:—

1941-	1942-43.		Rs.	
—	1	Assistant Food Controller	7,800	
—	5	*Clerks (General Clerical Service):	}	
		Class II., 1 at Rs. 900—120—2,820		5,590
		Class III., Grade II., 4 at 600—42—1,398		
—		Assistant Shroff	480	
—		Peons (1 part time)	475	
		Temporary Staff:		
		Clerks for Food and Price Control work	3,500	
		16 Guards	4,416	
		Overtime to staff	500	
		Allowance to Headman, &c.	1,000	
		Rent allowance	1,062	

(58) The following new items to be inserted under a caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", below the item "Rent Allowance", Ratnapura Kachcheri:—

Temporary Staff:—

	Rs.
9 Clerks at Re. 1.70 a day	}
1 Clerk at Rs. 60 a month	
2 Assistant Shroffs at Re. 1.50 a day	
1 Peon at 75 cents a day	
Additional temporary clerks and peons (Rs. 300)	
Overtime to staff	6,500

(59) The following new item to be inserted under a caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Ratnapura Kachcheri:—

1942-43.
Rs.

Messenger allowance to D. R. O., Kadawata and Meda korales 144

(60) The vote of Rs. 9,509 for Temporary Staff under the caption "Additional Staff for Emergency Services: Food and Price Control", Kegalla Kachcheri, to be increased to Rs. 9,907 and the details under this item to be amended as follows:—

- 14 clerks at Re. 1.70 per day
- 2 Assistant Shroffs:
 - 1 at Rs. 390—30—660.
 - 1 at Re. 1.50 per day.
- 1 Peon at 75 cents per day.

(61) The vote of Rs. 86,853 for 1942-43 for Divisional Revenue Officers and Probationers to be increased to Rs. 107,853 and the details of the make-up of this item to be amended as follows:—

	Rs.
11 Divisional Revenue Officers at Rs. 3,000 each for 12 months with increments ..	33,453
16 Probationary Divisional Revenue Officers at Rs. 3,000 each per annum for six months	24,000
18 Probationary Divisional Revenue Officers at Rs. 1,800 each per annum	32,400
20 Probationary Divisional Revenue Officers at Rs. 1,800 each per annum for six months	18,000
	<hr/>
	107,853

65d

Footnote d. Provision for 29 Divisional Revenue Officers included under different districts.

***Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Trincomalee-Batticaloa):** I wish to draw the attention of the House to an insignificant item on page 100, where a great injustice has been perpetrated.

You will find on page 100, "Eastern Province", lower down an item "10 Paddan Kaddies at Rs. 5 per mensem". These Paddan Kaddies are Headmen really of Veddah villages, and for various reasons these Headmen or Paddan Kaddies have received no pay. When it actually came to paying Headmen, they were left out; only the other Headmen were paid. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Hon. Minister on several occasions.

These Paddan Kaddies were given books, and their work was checked; although they are in charge of small villages, some of them at least do more responsible work than the Arachchies or Headmen. They have as much work to do as the Headmen, and they cannot follow any other occupation, like chena cultivation and so on. It was decided that some remuneration should be paid to them. But the Government Agent, still going on the advice of some people, thought that Rs. 5 per mensem was sufficient.

I brought the fact to the notice of my Committee that a great deal of work is being done by these people and that they deserve something more. These days, Rs. 5 means nothing; even as coolies these people can get much more. So we decided that they should be given Rs. 10 a month. The Committee agreed to that, and sent in its recommendation, I suppose, in the usual course to the Treasury; and I am surprised to find the sum of Rs. 5 still appearing in the Estimates. It may either be an error or the matter must have been overlooked. I do not think I can move an increase at this stage; I would, therefore, ask that this item be referred back to the Board of Ministers for consideration.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: As stated by the hon. Member the Executive Committee wanted the amount increased from Rs. 5 per mensem to Rs. 10 per mensem. I do not know how it was that it has not been embodied in the Estimates. The amendment was moved when we were considering the Draft Estimates in our Committee and probably it

was raised in the Board of Ministers. I am afraid in these circumstances, if the Board of Ministers will permit it, I will speak in the Board of Ministers. The Board of Ministers will have to pass supplementary Estimates. I will bring forward the Board of Ministers to approve it.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** A supplementary Estimate will never come up. I do not see any possibility of increasing this amount.

The Chairman: They will look into the matter before the Board of Ministers is passed.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** It should not be passed.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: We cannot increase the amount without the sanction of the Board of Ministers. That is the difficulty.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** I agree that the item be referred.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: The Board can come to a decision before the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill is over.

The Chairman: The Board can come to a decision on that matter before the Committee stage is concluded.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Will it not be satisfactory if I promise to bring this item before the Board?

***Mr. E. W. Abeygunasekera (Nuwara Eliya):** May I ask the Hon. Acting Minister of Home Affairs what he proposes to do in regard to these Superior Headmen? We have passed a scheme to discontinue the Superior Headmen as well as the Muhandirams. The Muhandirams were sent away long ago. In my area some of the Korals, Vidane Arachchies and Udaiyars have been sent away, while in some other areas they are being retained because of the war. I think this is very unfair by those Headmen who have been sent away. They were sent away not because of inefficiency but because of the scheme adopted.

Then, some Superior Headmen have been retained in service because their services are wanted in connexion with the food "drive". I know almost all the Superior Headmen in my area. But in the case of the Korals who were sent away, they were sent away for no fault of theirs; and when they were discontinued they were told that they could apply

[Mr. Abeygona.]
 for a vacancy which occurred in any other Government Department. But when they apply, applications are never entertained.

This fact was brought to my notice by the Hon. Minister of Education in connexion with the case of a certain Vidane Arachchi in his constituency—one Jayasekera—who had been sent away because of the scheme. He was given a certificate to the effect that his discontinuance was no bar to his applying for any other work in any Government Department. I understand a petition has been sent to the Minister of Home Affairs asking that that very Vidane Arachchiship be restored, and the Minister of Home Affairs has authorized the Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara, to fill that vacancy. But, that very Vidane Arachchi who was sent away under the scheme is not allowed to apply for the vacancy. I really cannot understand it. Let us either do away with these Superior Headmen, or let all those who were sent away be ordered to resume work.

I presume, that the permanent Minister, either through inefficiency or owing to lack of foresight or vision, has not been able to carry out the policy that was approved by this Council. I do not know whether the Acting Minister would before long be able to do something in regard to these Headmen. Either all these people should be sent away for good, or they should all be reinstated. Let us decide this matter one way or the other. Before the permanent Minister returns, something must be done; otherwise, no sooner he returns he will say, "I want to retain the Vidane Arachchi of Kelaniya, or Matara," or something like that. I would, therefore, beg of the Hon. Acting Minister to take steps to do away with the Superior Headmen at an early date.

***Mr. H. L. Ratwatte (Doggala):** I would like the Hon. Acting Minister to consider the case of these Minor Headmen. Most of these Minor Headmen do quite a lot of work just now in connexion with the food "drive", but they are not paid any travelling allowance. Most of them have to come to the Kacheheri twice a week and have to attend meetings at different places about three times a week. I would ask the Hon. Acting Minister, who is a very considerate man

to consider the case of these poor Minor Headmen, and pay them an allowance.

The Superior Headmen in my district are also doing a great deal of work connected with the food "drive". Of course, there was a time when they were considered useless, but just now they are doing plenty of work in connexion with the food "drive" and, I think, they should be retained in service for at least another year.

***Mr. Abeygunasekera:** It is a wrong policy to pay an allowance to Minor Headmen who are supposed to travel within their sub-division, the korale or pattu. If the hon. Member desires to pay these men a bonus, he can do so out of his own pocket to satisfy the men in his constituency.

***Mr. Ratwatte:** After all, these men are paid only a paltry salary.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: I want to make a few references to the matter of Superior Headmen about which the hon. Member for Nuwara Eliya (Mr. Abeygunasekera) has spoken. He is in our Committee, and he knows the considerations that govern the reduction in the number of Superior Headmen. We have done our best to reduce the number as much as possible, but after the emergency arose certain Government Agents reported that much work has been thrown on them and on the Minor Headmen and that for purposes of supervision, in particular instances, certain Superior Headmen should be retained. They are not retained automatically, but only when a particular request is made and has been considered by our Committee; only in those cases, are Superior Headmen retained. But if the Hon. Member can bring to our notice any instance where Superior Headmen are not wanted and the post can be suppressed, the Committee will certainly consider the matter.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** With regard to this sum of Rs. 5 per mensem provided for Paddan Kaddies, may I ask whether anything can be done.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: I have given the assurance to the hon. Member that I will bring the matter up. It is not possible to increase the amount without the consent of the Board of Ministers.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** Can the item stand down now?

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: That would be rather inconvenient. If it can be done at a subsequent stage, we can alter the amount.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** I want the assurance that these men will be paid the higher amount in October. I do not care how it is done.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: I can give that assurance, if the Board of Ministers will agree to provide the money.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** We will consider the matter.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** The hon. Member's point is that this is the only stage at which we can catch you by your neck, because your promise that you will bring up a Supplementary Estimate is something which is not in our control. Here is the one instance when the hon. Member had you.

The Chairman: Order, please.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** This is the one instance when the hon. Member has him.

The Hon. Colonel J. L. Kotalawala (Minister of Communications & Works): Is this private money?

***Mr. Aluwihare:** It is not good enough for us to be told that he will bring up an Estimate if the Board of Ministers consent. Why I insist on this is because of the equity of it. Most of these people are asked to do their duty in addition to their private business; unfortunately, however, such duties are cast on them that their work really becomes a whole-time business. They are paid very little or nothing for it, and it inevitably means that they have to reimburse themselves for services rendered, from the private parties they serve. You do not pay them, and then you come here and grumble that they take bribes. I understand that the Home Committee has passed the proposal to pay these Paddan Kaddies Rs. 10 per mensem.

***The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva:** I might say that, as the Acting Minister of Home Affairs has explained, though the Committee may have passed it, it has not been brought before the Board of Ministers. If the Committee has passed it, I can say that the Board of Ministers will consider the matter. It is only a

very small amount. There is no necessity to refer it back. The Board of Ministers will consider it and will I am sure, all

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** There is another matter in part 105 under "Advances" you will find that two Headmen are being paid at Rs. 5 per mensem. So that issue the matter will all have to be considered.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** With regard to these Superior Headmen, I thought very clearly to the hon. Member for Kegalla last year the injustice of those who have been discontinued of service and to those who are now in service. The whole of the Provincial Administration is working very unsatisfactorily. I say that for very good reasons.

After the Council had passed the resolution that Superior Headmen should be discontinued, we found the favourites of the Ministers hanging on and hanging on within the sabana while an unfortunate lot was discontinued without good reason. If anything has to be done by these people with regard to our food "drive", as was stated by the hon. Member for Kegalla (Mr. Ratwatte), why should the Vidane Arachchies in the Minuwangoda and Kelaniya areas, where there is not an inch of Crown land available, be kept on?

The Chairman: Order, please. I do not think the hon. Member is right in making insinuations against the Ministers in that way.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I never mentioned the Ministers. A little while ago the hon. Member mentioned the favourites of the Ministers. The village of Kelaniya does not belong to a Minister, nor does Minuwangoda belong to a Minister.

I say that there is great injustice being done by discontinuing certain people and retaining certain other people in office; and the people who are retained in office are the favourites of certain people, because there does not seem to be any special qualification in the people retained.

Then, Minor Headmen, are paid salaries ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 35. In certain cases a Minor Headman is paid Rs. 10; in certain other cases Rs. 15, and in some cases Rs. 35. The work done by different Headmen is more or less the

[Mr. Abeywickrama:] same. Apart from criminal work that the Headmen are doing, they are now required to do control and food-production work; and so happens that in the most undeveloped places where the population is very small the Headmen are called upon to do the greatest amount of work. In spite of this increase of work their salaries have not been adjusted. Last year and the year before this matter was brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister; but nothing has been done so far. What is the use of making any constructive proposals here when the Ministers do not take any action?

When I listened to the hon. Member for Trincomalee-Batticaloa (Mr. Tambimuttu), I was reminded of the Sinhalese saying, "If the fence and field are both eating up the crop, who can protect it?" The hon. Member himself is a Member of the Executive Committee of Home Affairs, and he should have got what he wanted done in that Committee when the Estimates went to it for scrutiny. He should have raised the matter in his Committee and improved the salary of the Headmen he referred to.

*Mr. Tambimuttu: I moved the proposal in the Committee, and it was passed.

*Mr. Abeywickrama: I do not know where we are in these matters.

Then, I wish to raise another important matter. The Divisional Revenue Officers have been trained; their period of training is over, and there are a number of them awaiting appointment. What has the Home Ministry done? The Home Ministry has extended the period of service of Chief Headmen under various pretexts.

In some cases, especially in the Southern Province, certain Chief Headmen who have passed their sixtieth year are retained in service, while the Divisional Revenue Officers are marking time awaiting appointment. In the case of one Pattu the Divisional Revenue Officer has completed his training and is due to assume duties. But the Chief Headman is retained, with the result that the Divisional Revenue Officer has to await the man's demise or retirement. That is the position.

The position is very unsatisfactory. At great expense we have trained these Divisional Revenue Officers, and after being trained they are awaiting appointment. They are willing to put their best foot forward, and yet the Home Ministry has not the courage to retire the Chief Headmen even after they have reached the age of sixty years. I could understand it if the principle enunciated by the Hon. Minister of Health, of getting these Chief Headmen to revert to the respective departments from which they came is given effect to. But now although they have attained the age of sixty years they are still accommodated and given work.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: In what area is this happening?

*Mr. Abeywickrama: In the Bentota-Walallawiti Korale. The Mudaliyar there is over sixty. He is a good friend of mine, but I cannot help saying it. The Divisional Revenue Officer is resident at Elpitiya, in one corner of the Korale. He complains, "I have no work. The food work is taken by the Mudaliyar, and the land work is done by the Mudaliyar".

That is the position. The Divisional Revenue Officer who has passed his period of training must be installed in office at once. Otherwise the corrupt practices of the Mudaliyar may be copied by the Divisional Revenue Officer. The Divisional Revenue Officer, when he sees the old Mudaliyar accepting parcels and other things, may want to do the same.

I do not think there is any use in appealing to the Board of Ministers in regard to these matters, because they never take action. Ours is a voice in the wilderness. When we discuss a matter in Committee, sometimes the Minister camouflages a matter and says that the Board of Ministers do not sanction it. Then here some of the Ministers turn to the back-benchers and say that our Minister did not bring up the matter. Various excuses are offered for postponing a matter or for not taking action on it.

This is one matter which I want the Hon. Acting Minister and the Committee of Home Affairs to take up immediately the Estimates are passed.

Either they should remove all Headmen who are above the age of sixty from office—[*Interruption.*] The normal regulations require a man to be retired at least at the age of sixty. But even that is not done. I would welcome the whole of our scheme being put into operation at once, and even the people who have not attained their sixtieth year being retired. Then, Superior Headmen should be discontinued and higher salaries should be paid to Minor Headmen who are doing the work. There must be one scale of salary for all Minor Headmen.

I would ask the Home Ministry to consider the matters I have brought forward.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** There is just one point that I would like to make. I can understand some of these Chief Headmen and other Headmen being continued in service, even temporarily, in view of the present emergency. But there does not seem to be any principle that is adopted in dealing with this question. For instance, one of the points just mentioned by the hon. Member for Udugama (Mr. Abeywickrama) is very interesting. The Korale referred to is in the constituency of Balapitiya. The Mudaliyar of Bentota-Walallawiti Korale is over 60 years of age and he is continued in service, while the Mudaliyar of the adjoining Pattu, Wellaboda Pattu, that is Mudaliyar Kanakarathne, who is 54 years is being discontinued and is being succeeded by a Divisional Revenue Officer.

I mention that as a specific instance that has recently come to my notice. It would be very interesting to know on what principle people are retained even after the age of 60 when entirely apart from the resolution passed by this Council they would normally be retired, while others who have not reached even the age of 55 years and against whom there are, as far as I am aware, no charges of inefficiency in the conduct of their duties are being quietly sent away and succeeded by Divisional Revenue Officers.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** That is important.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I merely mention the facts without drawing

any inference. I have not intended to criticise any of my hon. Friends, who are members of Home Affairs. That is all. I just state the opportunity of continuing to work. I would be very much obliged to him if he would be so good as to inquire into it.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I would like to state the story a bit further. You will remember that this House passed a resolution to the effect that those who wanted to retire should be allowed to do so. Well, there are a good many Headmen who have notified us of their intent that they want to retire. But we have been the Government's party. They have replied, "We cannot allow you to retire because you are indispensable."

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** In what part of the country has that happened?

***Mr. Aluwihare:** In our part of the country. Anyway, there are people who have sent in their papers, but they are not allowed to retire. Will the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs or the Chief Secretary tell us what principle governs these cases? I ask that question for this reason. A man at 45 or 50 may not be too old to start again in life, but a man a few years older may have lost his opportunities.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Man is as old as he feels!

***Mr. Auwihare:** Sir, the Hon. Minister must not invite me to be rude to him.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I said that man is as old as he feels.

Mr. Aluwihare: Sometimes in experiments a man may find himself older than he thinks he is.

Sir, actually in these matters a man may, a few years later, have lost all his chances of starting again in life and these delays do handicap people. I know of two or three specific instances where people would take to other vocations, but the Government has refused them permission to retire. I think that is rather unfair. It was quite right that Government should give them advantageous terms of retiring, but it seems very unfair that they should not be allowed to retire.

Mr. Kula. With regard to the Mudaliyar of Patu, I think the Hon. Minister for Provincial Administration is misinformed. His services are not being discontinued. He himself told me that he was given the opportunity of retiring at £ or reverting to the Clerical Service, and he has unconditionally agreed to revert to the Clerical Service. I am now informed that he has been asked to go back to the Clerical Service.

***Mr. D. Rajapaksa (Hambantota):** Sir, the discussion about the Headmen clearly shows that this Council made a mistake in not abolishing the Headmen System. The Council should have abolished the system and then we would have had no trouble.

My hon. Friend the Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) in that famous debate condemned the Headmen System as a hydra-headed monster. I agree that this monster has not been sufficiently battered down. It shows one of its heads in the Kachcheri at Matara. Under the guise of the emergency food-production "drive", these corrupt Headmen are again resorting to the old practices for which they have been rightly condemned in this House and outside it.

In Matara, the ex-Mudaliyar of Weligam Korale has been installed as the Food Production Officer. You will see from the Estimates that every Kachcheri has been given an (Emergency) A. G. A., but at Matara they have made provision for a Food Production Officer. This is calculated to bring in an ex-Chief Headman who is known as an aligator in the Southern Province—"goda-kimbula" is the Sinhalese word. He is known by that term to every villager.

What will happen to the whole country if this type of man is brought in under the guise of a Food Production Officer? In the Kachcheri he has been given a staff, and he will come in contact with all the Minor Headmen whom he can influence. He will carry on and strengthen the old Headmen System. I very strongly protest against this sort of arrangement.

I understand that in some areas the Divisional Revenue Officers are stationed along with the Chief Headmen. That is a very bad practice indeed.

This particular ex-Chief Headman of Weligam Korale went to the Hambantota District as Food Production Officer, with another Mudaliyar of Matara, and exploited the villagers by buying up seed kurakkan. This was reported to the Assistant Government Agent, Matara, and he was driven out of the Hambantota District. The Assistant Government Agent, Hambantota, informed me that the Assistant Government Agent, Matara, was on the point of reporting to the Chief Secretary the other Chief Headman who had accompanied this ex-Mudaliyar to Hambantota, but on an appeal made by the Assistant Government Agent, Hambantota, the man was not reported.

The Chief Headmen should never be allowed to come in contact with these young Divisional Revenue Officers. I have great faith in the Divisional Revenue Officers system. Whatever shortcomings these young men may have, I know that they are absolutely honest. They—99 per cent. of them—do not take bribes, and that is a feature which we must warmly welcome.

As for the Mudaliyar of Bentota Walallawiti, and the other Mudaliyar mentioned there is nothing to choose between them. It is a case of the kettle and the pot: they are all in the game—these old Mudaliyars in whom the people of the country have absolutely no faith.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** The Mudaliyar of Welaboda Pattu, came and spoke to me also. About two years ago he was asked by the Government Agent whether he would like to revert to the Clerical Service to which he belonged before he was appointed Mudaliyar. He replied that he would be glad to go back to the Clerical Service. The Government Agent availed himself of that opportunity, and now this Mudaliyar has been written to to revert to the Clerical Service. His salary in the Clerical Service will be Rs. 4,500 a year, whereas as Mudaliyar he would draw only Rs. 3,000.

I asked this Mudaliyar whether he would not be better off in the Clerical Service, as he would draw Rs. 1,500 more than the salary he drew as Chief Headmen. I could not get from him any satisfactory reason as to why he preferred to remain a Mudaliyar, except that he liked the work. I told him, "Mudaliyar, you are now drawing only Rs. 3,000

but you will get Rs. 4,500 in the Clerical Service, and you will have less arduous duties to perform; no travelling; no petition inquiries; no work connected with rice rationing. So why not instal yourself in a good office, at your present age of 55, and work for Rs. 4,500 a year?" But he did not seem enamoured of the prospect of reverting to the Clerical Service!

What can we do with people like that? I would have taken his side if it was a case of his being discontinued from Government Service, but as a matter of fact he was being offered a salary of Rs. 4,500 in the Clerical Service, Rs. 1,500 more than his salary as Chief Headman.

The reasons for this preference for the Headman service should be inquired into. Why should they be allowed to take root in these areas, and why does a man refuse to take up a post with a salary of Rs. 4,500 and prefer a post carrying a salary of Rs. 3,000 a year?

***Mr. D. Wanigasekera (Weligama):** With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member for Hambantota (Mr. Rajapaksa), at a meeting held at the Matara Kachcheri one and a half months ago, the Chairman of the Local Assistance Committee pointed out that the Mudaliyar who had been posted there as Food Production Officer was indulging in bribery and corruption of the worst type. The discussion became so heated that when all this was pointed out and the Government Agent was questioned by the Chairman of the Local Assistance Committee, the Government Agent started shivering and asked the Chairman of the Local Assistance Committee to get out of the meeting room. Mr. R. C. Kannangara, the Member for Morawaka, was present at this meeting, and there were about twenty others. After speaking for about fifteen minutes, ventilating his grievances against this Mudaliyar, the man left the meeting, and it was only after some ten letters had been sent to him by the Government Agent, that last week the Chairman of that Committee came to the Kachcheri to hold a meeting.

The whole system at the Matara Kachcheri is full of bribery and corruption. There is the Kachcheri Mudaliyar; and this ex-Mudaliyar who was once sent away has been put over the Kachcheri Mudaliyar, and a Department put in his

charge. The Government Agent, a provision for the salary of Rs. 3,000 a year. When the emergency is over, I shall be entering suit.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Which sum?

***Mr. Wanigasekera:** Under the emergency provisions for the Matara Kachcheri.

***Mr. A. Mahadeva:** It is a case like this, is it the fault of the Revenue Officer—the Government Agent or whoever he is—that he does not listen to these complaints but drive the Chairman of the Local Assistance Committee out? The hon. Member for Weligama (Mr. Wanigasekera) says that when this Chief Headman was removed, the only result was that the Government Agent drove the Chairman out. Can the Minister tell us whether this has come to his notice before? What is he doing about it?

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Sir, this is the first time that this matter has been brought to my notice—that the Chairman of a Local Assistance Committee had been driven out from a meeting by the Assistant Government Agent of the District, for making certain statements. If the hon. Member wishes, I will make inquiry whether such action was justified or not. It is necessary for me to know the facts. I will make inquiries regarding the matter.

As regards the Food Production Officer in the Matara District, the hon. Member will see from the List of Amendments tabled that it is proposed to replace that Food Production Officer by a Surveyor, Grade I, and the provision asked for is to be deleted.

***Mr. Wanigasekera:** Will he go out of the Kachcheri?

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Someone will have to pay him, otherwise. I think the object desired by Members will be attained. If not, I will look into the matter and see what can be done.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 1, as amended, was then passed.

Sub-head 2, Travelling, Rs. 200,000.

Sub-head 3, Stationery, Office Furniture, and Office requisites, Rs. 37,114.

Amendment moved [Minister of Home Affairs] :

Amendment moved [Minister of Home Affairs] :

The vote of Rs. 200,000 under Sub-head 2, Travelling, to be increased to Rs. 213,250 and the details of the make-up of this sub-head on page 110 to be amended as follows:—

The vote of Rs. 37,114 for 1942-43 under Sub-head 3, Stationery, office furniture and office requisites, to be increased to Rs. 39,864, and in the details of the make-up of this sub-head, the details shown under the caption "Emergency Services: Food and Price Control Work" to be amended as follows:—

Apportionments.

	Rs.
1. Colombo	11,000
2. Kalutara	7,000
3. Kandy	9,000
4. Matale	5,000
5. Nuwar	4,300
6. Galle	8,500
7. Matara	6,000
8. Hambantota	8,500
9. Jaffna	9,200
10. Mannar	3,700
11. Vavuniya	7,430
12. Batticaloa	9,000
13. Trincomalee	4,250
14. Kurunegala	9,710
15. Puttalam and Chilaw	10,180
16. Anuradhapura	9,200
17. Badulla	9,500
18. Ratnapura	9,000
19. Kegalla	5,500
	146,020

	Rs.
Colombo	1,500
Kalutara	600
Kandy	1,500
Matale	2,000
Galle	250
Matara	260
Hambantota	500
Jaffna	1,000
Mannar	50
Vavuniya	50
Batticaloa	200
Kurunegala	500
Puttalam	300
Badulla	800
Ratnapura	500
Kegalla	750
	10,700

All Districts (Recurrent Expenses)—

Amendment agreed to.

External travelling expenses of Divisional Revenue Officers in connection with their training in Agriculture, Police work, Health, &c.	13,500
Payment of extra mileage to Chief Headmen who draw fixed transport allowance of Rs. 50 a month for excess mileage over 450 miles in one month within their divisions	5,000

Sub-head 3, as amended, was passed.
Sub-head 4 was passed without amendment.

Sub-head 5, Remuneration to Headmen, Rs. 56,646.

Emergency Services: Food and Price Control Work.

	Rs.
1. Colombo	12,080
2. Kalutara	3,200
3. Kandy	12,000
4. Matale	3,600
5. Galle	750
6. Matara	1,200
7. Hambantota	1,900
8. Jaffna	2,250
9. Mannar	150
10. Vavuniya	600
11. Kurunegala	3,600
12. Puttalam	3,000
13. Badulla	1,000
14. Ratnapura	500
15. Kegalla	3,600
	48,730

Amendment moved [Minister of Home Affairs] :

The vote of Rs. 56,646 for 1942-43 under Sub-head 5, Remuneration to Headmen, to be increased to Rs. 58,176 and in the details of the make-up of this sub-head on page 111, the sum of Rs. 2,210 provided for the Ratnapura Kachcheri to be increased to Rs. 3,740.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 5, as amended, was passed.
Sub-heads 6 to 8 were passed without amendment.

Sub-head 9, Incidental Expenses, Rs. 22,715.

Total of sub-head ... 213,250

Amendment moved [Minister of Home Affairs] :

Amendment agreed to.
Sub-head 2, as amended, was passed.

(a) The vote of Rs. 22,715 for 1942-43 under Sub-head 9, Incidental expenses, to be increased to Rs. 40,240 and in the details of the make-up of this sub-head the details shown under the

caption "Emergency Services: Food and Price Control Work" to be amended as follows:—

	Rs.
Colombo	500
Kalutara	1,300
Kandy	1,020
Matale	300
Galle	1,250
Matara	950
Hambantota	5,000
Jaffna	500
Mannar	125
Vavuniya	430
Batticaloa	650
Kuruncgala	5,500
Puttalam	250
Badulla	1,700
Ratnapura	3,600
Kegalla	800
	23,875

A sum of Rs. 5,560 to be provided for 1942-43 under a new sub-head "Rent of Rice Stores, Maintenance of Temporary Sheds, Lights, &c." and the following make-up of the sub-head should be inserted:—

11. Rent of Rice Stores, Maintenance of Temporary Sheds Lights, &c.

	Rs.
Matara	5,530
Ratnapura	30

Total of sub-head ... 5,560

A sum of Rs. 9,000 to be provided for 1942-43 under a new-sub-head "Cost of Preparation of Householders' Lists and issue of Ration Books" and the following make-up of the sub-head should be inserted.

12. Cost of preparation of Householders' Lists and issue of Ration Books.

	Rs.
Kuruncgala	5,000
Ratnapura	4,000

Total of sub-head ... 9,000

(b) The vote of Rs. 22,715 for 1942-43 under Sub-head 9, Incidental expenses (proposed to be increased to Rs. 40,240) to be reduced to Rs. 39,540 and in the details of the make-up of this sub-head on page 111 of the amounts of Rs. 1,020 for Kandy Kachcheri, Rs. 300 for Matale Kachcheri, and Rs. 430 for Vavuniya Kachcheri shown in the details under the caption "Emergency Services: Food and Price Control Work" to be reduced to Rs. 470, Rs. 200, and Rs. 300 respectively.

The alterations in the totals which these amendments involve (pages 84, 86, 87, 89, 90, 92, 94, 98, 99, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, and 109) should also be made.

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-head 9, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 10 was passed without amendment.

Head 49, as amended, was passed.

Sub-head 9, Incidental Expenses
Amendment of Sub-head 9
Affairs

(a) The amount of Rs. 43,435 against the item "Village, District and Watership Distilleries and Factories" to be increased from Rs. 42,077 to Rs. 43,435 by providing for 1942-43 Rs. 1,358 but an asterisk is put against the figure of Rs. 1,358.

a money provision made for 1942-43 and the amount of Rs. 1,358 is the temporary closure of the Department.

(b) The existing estimate and estimate on page 111 of the estimates.

(c) The vote of Rs. 7,311 for 1942-43 for Rent Allowance to be increased to Rs. 7,311.

(d) The vote of Rs. 30 for 1942-43 for the Allowance to subsidize the cost of printing of Ranges of Rs. 3 per season to be increased to Rs. 2,000.

*Mr. Aluwihare: I would like to know how many of the Excise officers are employed on their legitimate duties and how many are performing duties outside the Department.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: If the hon. Member will look at the estimates, he will see a footnote to the effect that money provision is included for only 37 Clerks—

*Mr. Aluwihare: That is with regard to Clerks.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: With regard to Inspectors, hon. Members will recall that a number of these officers were lent for coast-watching service, but now the proposal is that they should all return to the Department. Other arrangements will be made for coast-watching. The number to be released has not been finally settled, nor when they are to return to the Department.

*Mr. Aluwihare: Then the question scarcely arises.

Mr. U. Batuwantudawe (Kalutara): There is a fairly important matter which I would like to raise in connexion with the present Excise policy. To-day foreign liquor is not obtainable except at a prohibitive price, and more often than not people are supplied with adulterated liquor. This is an opportune moment to give a fillip to the local arrack industry. Most hotels are not allowed to sell arrack to consumers, owing to some antiquated and obsolete regulation formulated by the Excise Department.

[Mr. Batuwantudawe.]

I would like to see steps taken to take steps forthwith to see that arrack is placed on sale at every hotel and irrespective of these regulations.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: I am not sure about these hotels, but I should have imagined that the same position applies to hotels as well as to Resthouses. The position regarding Resthouses is that arrack could be sold in Resthouses provided the Resthouse Keeper obtains the arrack from the arrack rentee in that area. I do not know why a similar arrangement is not possible in the case of hotels, except that hotels may not want to sell arrack. But is the hon. Member sure that the Excise Regulation prevents its sale? I will look into the matter.

Mr. Batuwantudawe: Sir, there are certain areas called "dry" areas, and in those areas even hotels are not permitted to sell arrack. I think all these regulations are out of keeping with the times. We should take steps to have those regulations done away with and arrack placed on sale in every Resthouse and hotel in Ceylon.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Owing to the policy adopted by this House, we cannot allow the sale of arrack in certain areas. If the hon. Member will move a resolution to the required effect and get the present policy altered, we have no objection to the sale of arrack in Resthouses.

Mr. Batuwantudawe: But in those very areas cheap gin and whisky are available. It is only the local product which is prohibited.

***Mr. Tambimuttu:** Sir, I have brought it to the notice of this House that Resthouses should be allowed to sell arrack. The motion is still before the Committee, and I hope hon. Members of this House will support it because in out-of-the-way places Resthouse Keepers cannot afford to keep expensive liquors. It is said that certain areas are "dry" areas, but they are only "dry" areas in the books of the Excise Department. I say so because illicit arrack floods whole districts. The Department is adhering to antiquated regulations and saying that in dry areas the Resthouses should not be allowed to sell arrack. I trust hon. Members will support my motion.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle): This is a matter that requires careful consideration, because, if that permission is granted, I am sure Resthouses will turn into arrack taverns. Any member of the public can go into a Resthouse, not for the sake of taking meals, but for the purpose of drinking arrack. Every Resthouse will be converted into a tavern and Government will lose a considerable amount of revenue, because the taverns are rented out and the leases are sold by public auction and the highest bidder gets the lease. This is a matter which requires very careful consideration and I do not think we should rush to any decision on a matter of this nature.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that at one time the greatest temperance worker in Matale town was the owner of a foreign liquor shop. That has been an anomaly that has always struck me as interesting; and the statement of the hon. Member for Galle (Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya) that everybody would go to Resthouses if arrack is sold in them, is scarcely one that can commend itself to most of us. The restriction may be that you could not serve arrack in Resthouses unless you did so with a meal. But to say that arrack should not be supplied in any area because everybody would have access to it is to nullify the suffrage on which the hon. Member has entered this House.

Anyway, I think arrack should be allowed to be sold in Resthouses. But can the Hon. Minister not do anything about the smell? I hold very strong views about temperance. I myself do not drink. But the smell of arrack is offensive. After all, most people, when they are drunk, are much more delightful than when they are sober. It is the smell that is offensive.

***Mr. H. de Z. Siriwardana (Negombo):** Sir, everywhere in the Negombo District pot arrack is sold. I think if the price is reduced, the sale of pot arrack will be put a stop to. You can get pot arrack anywhere.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: Sir, I am sorry I could not hear what the hon. Member said.

***The Hon. Mr. Kannangara:** He said that the sale of pot arrack was on the increase.

***Mr. Siriwardana:** All over the Negombo District pot arrack is sold. So the question we ought to consider is whether it is not possible to reduce the price of arrack.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva: If the hon. Member will speak to me on that question, I can go into it with the Excise Commissioner.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I would like to elicit some information from the Hon. the Chief Secretary on this vote, with regard to an officer who was once employed in the Excise Department. I believe he was an Excise Inspector. I understand that he was wrongly dismissed from the service and that he appealed to His Excellency the Governor. When his appeal to the Governor did not succeed, he made further representations to the Secretary of State. My information is that the Secretary of State has requested this Government either to reinstate the officer concerned or to pay him compensation.

I would like to know whether that information is correct, and if so, why no action has been taken by the Hon. the Chief Secretary to give effect to the decision of the Secretary of State.

The Hon. Mr. R. H. Drayton (Chief Secretary): Mr. Chairman, I am afraid the anonymity which the hon. Member correctly found it necessary to observe compels me to say that I do not know the case to which he is referring, but perhaps he can be more precise outside this Council.

***Mr. Abeygunasekera:** Sir, I would like to know whether we are doing justice by the ratepayer by maintaining the Excise Department. I think, of all Departments this is the most unnecessary, because it does no work.

I wish to state that once, when I was proceeding from the Kandy Railway Station to my constituency by motor car I noticed that for about one mile from Kandy—from Malabar Street up to the 37th milepost—there were illicit sales of toddy all the way. I met one of the Excise Inspectors, and I told him, "Send someone along with me, and I will show him the places where illicit toddy is sold." He said, "We do not have the men."

Sir, toddy is sold all over the 37th mile post from Kandy to another place where Padiyapola Inspectors have taken up land and twelve wells away from Kandy. They say that at Kandakumbura, if you go there at any time you can see bottles, they sell a bottle of 25 cents. There are several unlicensed toddy bars.

Why should you get the Excise Commissioner who is so inefficient? The Excise Commissioner has told me that I was doing a disservice to the State and that of all Ministers I was neglecting him. That is not the question. Great bodies and in good faith because these irregularities should be brought to the notice of all and particularly of hon. Members of this House. I say that if a Class III Clerk is placed at the head of the Excise Department, he will manage it much better.

I would appeal to the Hon. the Chief Secretary to find out whether there have been any cases of pot arrack. I go with a necessity. I will be able to detect twenty-five cases of illicit sales; and what more evidence than that do you want?

When we criticize the Excise Commissioner, he reads all the papers and says, "Oh, I will eat my hat, I will eat my coat" and all sorts of things. For the Head of a Department, everything is right. I understand that he has sent a report to the Hon. Minister of Local Administration—it is a diabolical report—complaining that he is not in a position to carry on in the Department. Why? He allows people to tap for sweet toddy. That is another way of taking revenge on Members of this House. He does not attend to his work. The Hon. the Chief Secretary should send him away.

Sir, if you will go to your own constituency, you will see that fermented toddy is procurable under every tree. If you go to the Central Province, the Negombo District or to Kelaniya which is only six miles away from Colombo, you will see the same thing. If the Hon. the Chief Secretary will send a detective along with me now, I shall be in a position to detect two or three cases of sales of pot arrack.

Why should we have a Department which allows these irregularities? Ganja and opium are being sold. Ganja is

[Mr. Aluwihare.]
taken from the constituency
of the hon. Member (Mr. Aluwihare). I have one, although I have not been it.

The Chairman: The sitting is suspended till 2 P.M.

Sitting suspended accordingly.

[2.1 P.M.] MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER [MR. SUSANLA DE Fonseka] *presided as Chairman.*

A quorum present, and division bells rung. 5 P.M.] House counted, and a quorum being present—

The Chairman: Council will now resume.

The Council having resumed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: For want of a quorum the Council stands adjourned—

***The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva:** We might wait a few minutes more, Sir.

***Mr. Aluwihare:** I would ask that a few more minutes be given, because we do not want to extend the Committee stage. Members have been sitting every morning this week.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I rise to a point of order.

Five minutes have passed, and we must adjourn till 2 o'clock on Tuesday next. That was the motion of the Acting Leader of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: For want of a quorum, the Council stands adjourned till 2 o'clock on Tuesday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.07 P.M. until 2 P.M. on Tuesday, August 25, 1942.